

# Mounts Botanical Garden TREASURE TREK

***In West Palm Beach, where the weather is hot,  
Mounts Botanical Garden is where X marks the spot.  
The trek through the garden will bring you great pleasure,  
as you discover each unique garden treasure!***

Welcome to Mounts Botanical Garden, a 20-acre tropical oasis with 25 unique garden areas and 7,000 species of tropical and sub-tropical plants. Your trek will take you on a tour throughout the garden highlighting unique and noteworthy specimens. Photos and background information will help you with plant identification. We hope you enjoy your time strolling the garden and meeting some of our Garden residents!



## **Before You Begin:**

- It is important to note that Mounts Botanical Garden is a living space and the Garden changes constantly. Your Treasure Trek Map is a guide for general areas where whatever you seek can be found. It is up to you to use your best detective skills to decipher the clues and find success.
- Read the clues carefully. Many of the riddles have words that will give you a hint!
- Your treasure trek will follow a general path and will not jump around the garden.
- Not everything you find will be next to the concrete paths. You may need to follow the mulch paths and trek across grass, especially in the Tropical Forest and by The Palms.



## **For the Supersleuths!**

Here are some Garden extras that were created by artists that you may want to look for:

- Walkway/Bridge: *My Lovely Distraction*
- Statue: *Educating Sarah*
- Sculpture: *Bird in a Tree*





## 1) CANDLE TREE

***At a fork in the path stands a tree with great spunk, growing flowers and peculiar long fruit from its trunk. Resembling yellow wax candles, eaten raw or cooked, one taste of its fruit and you just might be hooked!***

If you look closely, this tree has a very strange appearance. The flowers and fruits grow directly from the trunk, not from the ends of the branches like most trees. Fruits range from yellow to green, can grow to over a foot long, and resemble tapered candles. Fruits and seeds are edible, juicy and taste a lot like sugarcane. It is believed the fruit can be used to help treat colds.



## 2) CINNAMON TREE

***Next to the Garden of Well-Being it stands, a tree with a bark that will give you a hand. You can use it when making a pie or a cake, a red spice that you can't live without if you bake!***

Native to Sri Lanka and parts of India, the Cinnamon tree grows to heights of over 50 feet. The coveted spice comes from the inner part of the bark and was once even more valuable than gold! Cinnamon is mostly found as sticks or powder and used in cooking. Oil can be extracted from the bark and is used in everything from cooking to fragrances.



## 3) RAINBOW EUCALYPTUS

***Out by the bridge and the dry stream bed, stands a colorful tree growing high above your head. Trunk and branches in the color of the rainbow you'll see; purple, orange, red and green...what a remarkable tree!***

This tree is native to Indonesia and the Philippines. It can live over 100 years and grows quickly, in some instances up to 3 feet a year, reaching heights of over 200 feet. The amazing colors come from patches of the outer bark shedding at different times. Underneath, the bark is bright green. As the patches of exposed under-bark mature, they darken into blue, purple and maroon tones.



## 4) SILK FLOSS TREE

***Out by the path where the large trees grow, stands a tree that is covered in thorns don't you know? Its thorns are quite helpful, collecting water when it's dry and silky floss puffs found in branches up high!***

Native to Argentina, the silk floss tree is named for the silky floss that forms around its seeds. Fruits are pear shaped. Flower petals in some varieties grow up to 6" wide. The trunk is covered in sharp thorns. These thorns are beneficial to the tree. They are very efficient at collecting water droplets and morning dew where they can funnel the water down to the tree roots, helping it to survive during dry times.





## 5) ROYAL POINCIANA

***A very large tree where the branches reach wide, long pods may hang down where seeds rattle inside. Flowers of bright orange to the deepest of reds, this regal beauty will keep the sun's rays off of your head!***

This beautiful tree may be found all over South Florida but it is actually native to Madagascar. They can grow over 40 feet tall with a canopy over 60 feet wide. The flowers, which appear in late spring or early summer, cover the canopy with colors from orange to deep red and resemble orchids in shape. Large bean pods can reach lengths of 1-2 feet and make a rattling sound when the wind blows.



## 6) ZEBRA LONGWING

***In the Butterfly Garden, take a good look about, I'm sure you will see it, the long wings, they stand out. They are blackest of black, striped with bands of bright yellow, the state butterfly and the handsomest fellow!***

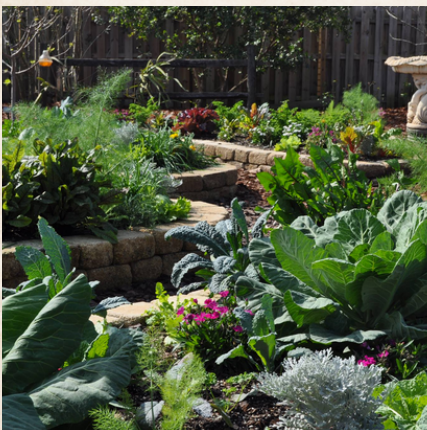
Common throughout the state, the Zebra Longwing is Florida's state butterfly. It is easily identified by its narrow, elongated wings that are black with several bold, narrow, yellow stripes. Eggs are small, yellow and laid singly or in clusters on new growth of its host plants which include different varieties of passionflowers. Caterpillars are white with black spots and black spines. Adults live for several months, which is longer than most butterflies, and they tend to roost with other adults in the same place every night.



## 7) BLACK OLIVE TREES

***Past the Trial Garden to the gazebo we go, two tall shady trees in this area grow. Though their name sounds as if they grow small, dark, briny fruit...it's a trick, they don't really grow fruit, what a hoot!***

Though commonly called 'black olive tree,' this native of the upper Florida Keys does not actually produce the edible olive we know of, but does produce a small, black seed capsule. Common shade trees throughout South Florida, these trees can reach heights of 40-50 feet tall.



## 8) EDIBLE GARDEN

***This is a garden filled with foods you can eat. Some things here are crunchy and some things are sweet. Look very closely and see how they grow. You can eat different parts of them, tasty treats don't you know?!***

- a) Find plants in which you eat the roots (Root Vegetables)...
- b) Find plants in which you eat the stem (Stem Vegetables)...
- c) Find plants in which you eat the leaves (Leafy Vegetables)...
- d) Find plants in which you eat the flowers...
- e) Find plants in which you eat the seeds...
- f) Find plants and trees in which you eat the fruit...





## 9) GUMBO LIMBO TREE

***At the curve in the path by the lake you will see, a tree of soft wood so it bends easily. It looks like a peeling tourist whose been burned in the sun. Once used to carve carousel horses...how fun!***

This South Florida native is also known as the tourist tree because the thin, shiny, reddish bark peels all over, looking like a sunburned tourist. It is a quick growing tree, which causes the wood to be soft and enables it to bend easily so it can withstand high winds. Since the wood is soft, it can be easily carved, which is why it was once a popular wood used to make carousel horses.



## 10) BAOBOB TREE

***Native to Africa and useful to all, called the Tree of Life, its root like branches sprawl. Some Baobobs are ancient, over 1,500 years old, and 1,200 gallons of water their tree trunks can hold!***

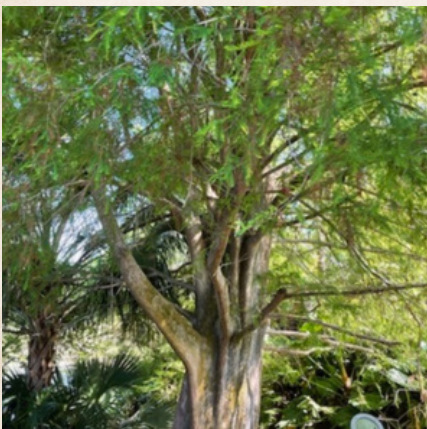
The largest known Baobab tree is over 1,700 years old and the trunk is 109 feet wide! It is often referred to as the upside down tree because its branches grow in a pattern that resembles roots. Native to Africa, it is often called the 'Tree of Life' because of its many useful properties. Up to 80% of the trunk is water. In older trees, the enormous trunks start to hollow out, providing shelter for all living creatures, and its fruit and leaves are edible.



## 11) RED MANGROVE TREES

***Down by the water take a good look around, a group of trees with a tangle of roots above ground. They can live in salt water, in truth no small feat, and the shelter those roots provide fish is a treat!***

These Florida natives tend to grow in clumps. Their most distinguishable feature is the above ground prop roots that provide shelter and safety to a wide variety of small and/or juvenile marine critters ranging from fish and sharks to stingrays and crabs. Red Mangroves can actually grow in salt water. The root membranes prevent salt from entering while allowing water to pass through, effectively removing the majority of salt from the water.



## 12) BALD CYPRESS

***A large tree with woody structures peeking out at the shore. These roots are called knees, no-one knows what they're for. Loses needles in the winter, don't grow back until spring, a tree that is "bald"... what a curious thing!***

These massive trees are native to the Southeastern U.S. They can grow over 100 feet tall and up to 6 feet in diameter. They get the name "bald" because they lose their leaves for a significant part of the year. Because the tree grows very slowly, the wood is very hard and dense and is rot resistant, which makes it sought after for building furniture. Root outgrowths are known as knees and help prevent erosion on riverbanks. Why they grow these roots in such a way is still not known by scientists.





### 13) BAMBOO

***We look like trees but we're really a woody grass, our centers are hollow and we grow in great mass. Fastest growing plant on Earth, some nearly 3 feet a day, one of the coolest things ever, I think some would say!***

Bamboo is a woody grass that grows in tropical to sub-tropical regions with mild temperatures. There are over 1,000 different species and they are the fastest growing plant on earth. Bamboo only grows for a short period of time, about 90 days, but during that time it is on overdrive. Some species can grow up to 3 feet a day and can reach heights up to 130 feet! Because they are hollow and grow so quickly, they are a strong, light weight, renewable resource for building materials and are used to make furniture and flooring, as well as fishing poles and the occasional walking stick.



### 14) YLANG YLANG

***At the fork in the path, stop and take a deep sniff. Did you catch a most wonderful smell with your whiff? A tall tree with yellow flowers brings your senses alive, the flowers, they're used in Chanel No. 5.***

Native to tropical Asia, Indonesia and Australia, this fast growing tree can start blooming at only 3-4 years old and reach heights of over 60 feet. Fruit is small, green and matures to dark purple. Flowers start as pale green and are nearly invisible, blending in with the leaves. As blooms mature, they turn yellow and chartreuse. Its fragrant blossoms are most intense at night when it attracts nocturnal pollinators such as moths. Ylang Ylang flowers are a key ingredient in the perfume Chanel No 5.



### 15) SAUSAGE TREE

***Hidden across the path from the Garden of Well-Being, is a very large tree with some fruit that's worth seeing. A 30-pound fruit that can grow 3 feet long, they hang from long, thick rope-like stalks that are strong!***

Native to tropical Africa. Flowers are deep red, tulip shaped, and bloom mainly at night to attract nocturnal pollinators such as bats and insects. Fruits grow on long rope-like stalks and can weigh a whopping 30 pounds! Unripe fruit is poisonous, but once ripened, it is eaten by elephants, giraffe and hippos. Most parts of the tree can be eaten. The fruit can be baked, the seeds can be roasted and leaves have a high nutritional content.



### 16) MOUSE TRAP TREE

***In the Garden of Extremes stands a strange little tree, with a name that might cause a small rodent to flee. The seed pods are sticky and attach to its fur, so it spreads seeds around like a tiny chauffer!***

Native to Madagascar, this thick stemmed tree has soft, velvety leaves and yellow flowers with a burgundy center. The small seed pods give this tree its unusual name. They have sticky hair-like structures that can attach to animal fur. When the seed is knocked off by the animal, it is usually a distance away from the mother tree, causing the seed to be dispersed.





## 17) MOAI STATUES

***Off the path in the Tropical Forest, you'll see giant statues hidden amongst the tall trees. They are known as the moai and carved out of stone, Easter Island's the place these gentle giants call home!***

Easter Island, also known as Rapa Nui, is a small island in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Chile. It is famous for its giant stone statues, called "moai," of which there are more than 600 ranging in size from 6 feet to over 30 feet tall. It is believed that each individual statue represents an important person who has passed on. The moai were carved out of the volcanic rocks found in quarries located around the island, although most come from the main quarry, called Rano Raraku, located on the south coast. How the moai were moved from the quarries to their final resting places is unknown and although there are many theories as to how it was done, one thing is for sure, it was an incredible engineering feat to have successfully completed with nothing but primitive means to accomplish them. Many moai can be found standing on "ahus", which are masterfully constructed stone platforms made of fitted stones and rubble. These platforms had anywhere from 1 to 15 moai placed on them, always looking over a ceremonial area and village with their backs to the sea. The red "pukao" on the tops of some of the moai are believed to signify hats, hair tied up into a knot, or possibly a headdress. The interesting thing about the pukao is that they come from a different quarry from where the moai were carved, and they are not attached to the statues, but rather they have been placed on top of them. How this was done is not truly known, which just adds to the mysteries of the Rapa Nui people and history of Easter Island.



## 18) ELEPHANT APPLE TREE

***There's a very tall tree in the middle of the field, strange large, yellow fruit called an apple it yields. The fruit is sour, used in jams and in jellies, and elephants eat them and fill up their bellies!***

Native to forest riverbanks from India to Southwest China. This tree plays a major role in forest ecology and is valued for its medicinal properties. Fruit is sour, textured almost like an onion, and is used pickled and in jams and jellies, and is a favorite treat for elephants, deer and monkeys. The tree tends to flower from June to August. Medicinal benefits: used as hair wash, to prevent baldness and even for treating diabetes and cancer.



***You've finished your hunt, hope it wasn't too tough.  
Maybe visit the Gift Shop, it's filled with great stuff!  
We hope you had fun and learned along the way,  
if you wish to explore more, you are welcome to stay!***

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