

Skunk cabbage Seek! Spicebush Trail Hunt

Take a selfie with these in the picture!

Trace my path!

An old ash tree stands for a little while longer
It was strong but the emerald ash borer
proved stronger
A non- native pest that tunnels through the
bark
You can see their paths where they chewed in
the dark.

Near the forest floor
a special plant grows
Green and lovely
even when it snows
The smallest frond part
resembles a long stocking hung with care
Or a warm woolen mitten that in winter
you wear.

Find a Christmas fern?

Can you find it?

Heading toward the creek
runs a path narrow and discreet
Worn into the ground
by many hooved feet
Find the deer trail
and stop to think
Of the antlered ones
that may have stopped for a drink.

At the water's edge
a funny tree stands
Branches at strange angles
"muscles" like a man's!
Flowers in spring and nutlets in the fall
The hornbeam tree
most unusual of all
Make sure to feel the ripples
under my bark.

Find and keep a quartz pebble!

Step onto the sandbar
where the ground is soft beneath your feet
And seek a treasure
that is bright white and neat
A small quartz pebble from the old
Appalachian range
Carried here by glaciers,
evidence that all things must change.

Upon this trail spy
a squirrel's left-over snack
Its hard shell you can try
but very tough to crack
A squirrel buries many
and leaves them, lost, alone
By next year
a baby walnut tree will have grown!

*Can you find any nut shells?
Are there nuts still inside?*

In the very early spring
our first flower blooms
In the wettest of places,
in the cold and the gloom
A hoodlike leaf with a spike inside
the perfect place for a bug to hide
Oh Yes!
it's a flower
but it smells bad to our noses
Skunk Cabbage
emerges much earlier than roses.
*Can you find this early
bloomer?*

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