

Our trails have numbered posts that correlate with the stations described below. Each provides information about a plant or other interest.

Station 1: How many different types of trees are here? Touch the bark. Look closely at the leaves. What do you see?

Station 2: Beware of poison ivy on the trail! Look for hairy vines climbing on tree trunks. Remember: "Leaves of three, let it be."



Station 3: This brush pile is a home for wildlife. Who do you think might live in here and in this neighborhood? In winter, look for signs of animals.

Station 4: Watch out! This area is being invaded by non-native plants. How many different invaders do you see?

Station 5: Look for the fallen limb of a black cherry tree. The tree it fell from has a huge scar. What signs of decay do you see on the fallen limb?

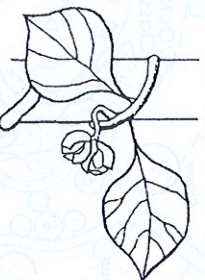
Station 6: The sassafras tree is all mixed up. The leaves look like mittens, dinosaur tracks and footballs. Can you spot one of each leaf type? The green twigs were used for a lemon-flavored toothbrush and the original root beer came from sassafras roots.

Station 7: Welcome to our Redcedar Grove! These "Pioneer trees" of an old field habitat are being shaded out and are dead or dying. How would you describe the bark of this evergreen? Notice the smooth boulders under the cedars. They weren't always here. How did they get here? Why are they so smooth?

Station 8: The edge of the woods is brighter. Look for low growing plants here. Are there any wildflowers blooming?

Station 9: Can you find the invasive plant here called "Burning Bush" or Winged Euonymus"? Its unusual winged stems and colorful fall leaves give it these two names. Watch for more invaders on the trail as you go around the corner.

Asiatic Bittersweet



Station 10: Here's a tree that pumps iron! Look for bark that's smooth and grey. How many Ironwoods can you find?

Station 11: A "wolf tree" is a large old tree that was here before the forest grew up around it — the lone wolf of a much younger forest. Do you think this "wolf tree" likes being hugged by these grape vines?

Station 12: Why is an apple tree here in the middle of the woods? The stone wall behind it gives us a clue.

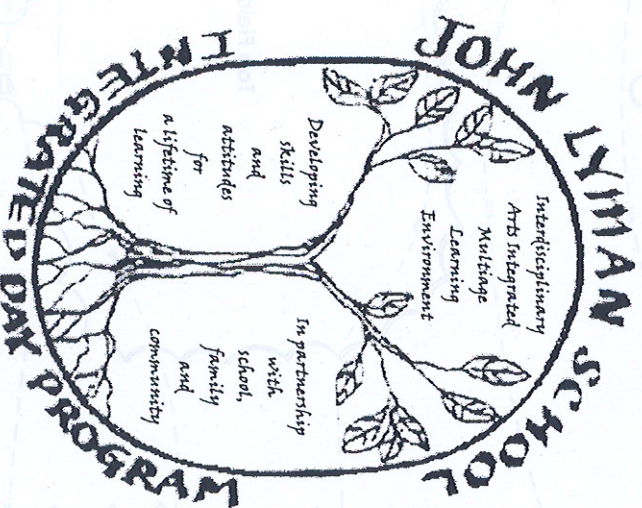
Station 13 & 14: What creatures live under rocks and inside rotting logs? These creatures speed decay. Don't let them bug you!

Station 15: Walk over to the basketball pole. In the distance you can see Tri-Mountain, the volcanic ridge that was uplifted by faulting and smoothed by glaciers.

John Lyman School

Nature Trail &

Outdoor Classroom



John Lyman School

106 Way Road

Middlefield, CT. 06455

www.rsdl3ct.org/lyman