

## SUMMER 2011 WALK FROM THE UPPER CAR PARK

The map on the reverse is an enlarged section of the general map of the garden inside the brochure and shows the location of this month's plants



This summer trail is an easy stroll with no steep paths to bother the walker on even the hottest day, but before leaving the carpark, there is a wonderful display of daylily or ***Hemerocallis*** along the lower bank. The flowers of these perennial plants, whose name originates from the Greek words for 'day' and 'beautiful', generally open at sunrise and wither at sunset, to be replaced by another flower on the same stalk the next day. They are native to Eurasia, but now popular worldwide with over 60,000 registered cultivars.

On the corner of the road leading down from the car park, the curious leaves of **tulip tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera* (A)** can be seen. A member of the Magnolia family, they are pollinated by insects and bees, though they do not flower until about 20 years old. Those growing in the lower car park flower profusely in December. Turning the corner brush your hand over the leaves of ***Tagetes lemonii*** with its vivid yellow flowers to enjoy its pungent lemon scent. The hillside of *Salvia* spp. on the right should continue flowering throughout the summer. The brilliant cerise flowers, with a pinky calyx, hidden behind the taller mauve species at the front, is *Salvia* 'Wendy's Wish'.

Keeping to the bitumen road, look down over the Dwarf Conifer Collection. You may choose to make a short detour down to ***western allspice, Calycanthus occidentalis*** which has complex red flowers with reflex petals which will be followed by interesting pods. The oldest known member of the genus that has found its way into gardens, *C. florida*, which Mark Catesby noted (1732) in the woodlands of Piedmont Carolina; he described it, with its bark "as odoriferous as cinnamon" but did not name it. The planters of Carolina gathered it into their gardens, and Peter Collinson imported it into England from Charleston, South Carolina about 1756; he described it to Linnaeus

Continuing along the bitumen road the Ilex or holly collection will be on your right, showing variations in leaf colour and many red berries. A delightful story from "Hollies" by H. Harold Hume, published in 1953 notes that

*"somewhere in the dim past, the pagans of Europe brought into their dwellings sprays of native holly so that tiny, fairy, friendly peoples of the forest might find refuge in them from the frigid blasts of winter. The thought was a kindly one, and so the use of holly in interior decorations began."*

It was the early Christians of Rome who first used holly as decoration in their Christmas season, and it has featured since then in superstition, legend, folklore, songs and stories.

Take the road to the right of the summer-house, where you will glimpse through the trees Greg Johns' "Guardian Figure" set out on the lawn. On the left the tall, straight trunks of *Eucalyptus obliqua* grow well in this dry environment, while a little further on the left note the serrated edges of the leaves on ***Viburnum dentatum* (B)**. The flower heads will develop bright berries in the winter. Taking the first path on the left we find an attractive *Berberis* with variegated leaves, followed by **winged spindle tree, *Euonymus alatus* (C)**. The name becomes obvious when you examine the branches and comes from the Latin for winged. In north-eastern USA it is known as "burning bush" for its vibrant autumn colour, but has become an invasive plant and is banned in Massachusetts.

Take the steps down to the road and turn left through the native bushland. On the left you will find **wayfaring tree, *Viburnum lantana* (D)**, a native of Europe, Africa and Asia. An older name is "hoarwithy". "Hoar" means grey-haired and refers to the hairs under the leaves, and "withy" means a pliant stem. On the right hand side of the road, ***Illicium lanceolatum* (E)** from eastern-China has small, bright red flowers and is related to the plant from which we derive star anise much loved in Asian cooking. In Chinese medicine an extract from *Illicium lanceolatum* is used to control flatulence and nausea.

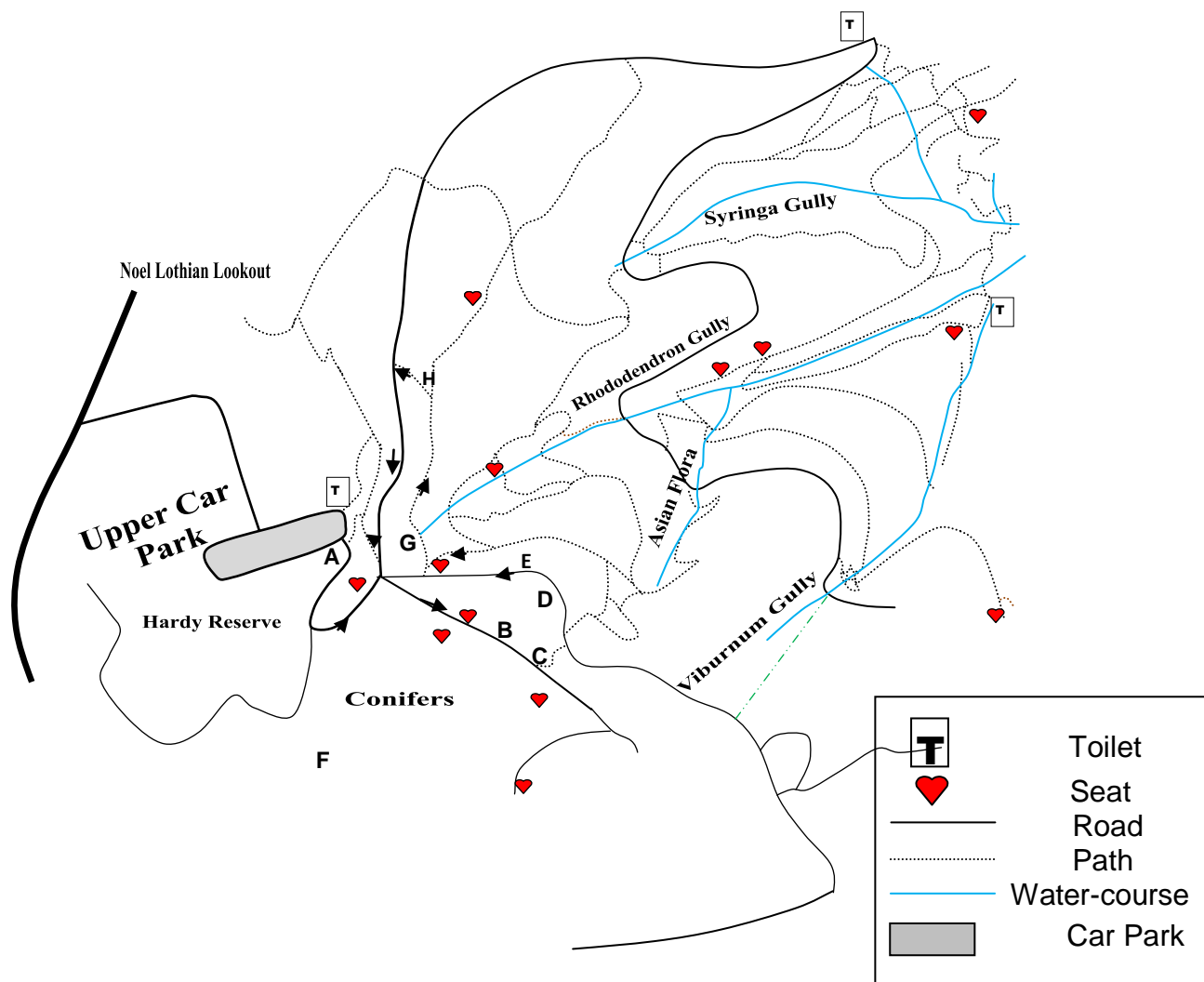
At the seat take a sharp right for a short detour where on the right hand side **Chinese quinine, *Dichroa febrifuga* (F)**, an evergreen member of the hydrangea family, will flower profusely throughout the summer followed by bright blue berries in the winter. This, too, is an important herb in traditional Chinese medicine,

where it is considered one of the 50 fundamental herbs. Nearby is another *Illicium lanceolata* showing the red flowers. Return to the seat and take the path on the right leading across the hills face. On the left there are several **Katsura**, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* (G) with soft, heart-shaped leaves making a cool display for a hot day. In autumn the tree has a delicious burnt-toffee aroma from the brilliantly coloured leaves.

On the right of the path, *Rhododendron basilicum* (H) has very large leathery leaves with a fawn indumentum on the underside, the new growth very upright. Nearby *Calocedrus macrolepis* from Burma and China has soft foliage, and the stems have an interesting zig-zag appearance. The bushland on the right looks almost tidy, but the heavy foliage and many fallen tree trunks offer a habitat for lizards and butterflies and no doubt refuge for the small native animals.

After passing another Greg Johns' sculpture, 'Between Earth and Sky', take the path on the left where on the right are several interesting **snakebark maples**, *Acer capillipes* (H). They are distinguished by the markings on the smooth bark, red leaf stalks or petioles, and racemes of small samaras. At the road turn left and walk beside Stan's Wall. On the left of the road a collection of *Viburnum* spp. Which have now finished flowering but are setting many berries for a colourful autumn and winter display. Take the path up through the camellias to return to the car park.

BF, HM 11-11



### MT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDEN

This leaflet has been prepared by the Garden Guides and funded by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide Inc.  
For information about the Friends and/or guided walks, please telephone 8222 9367