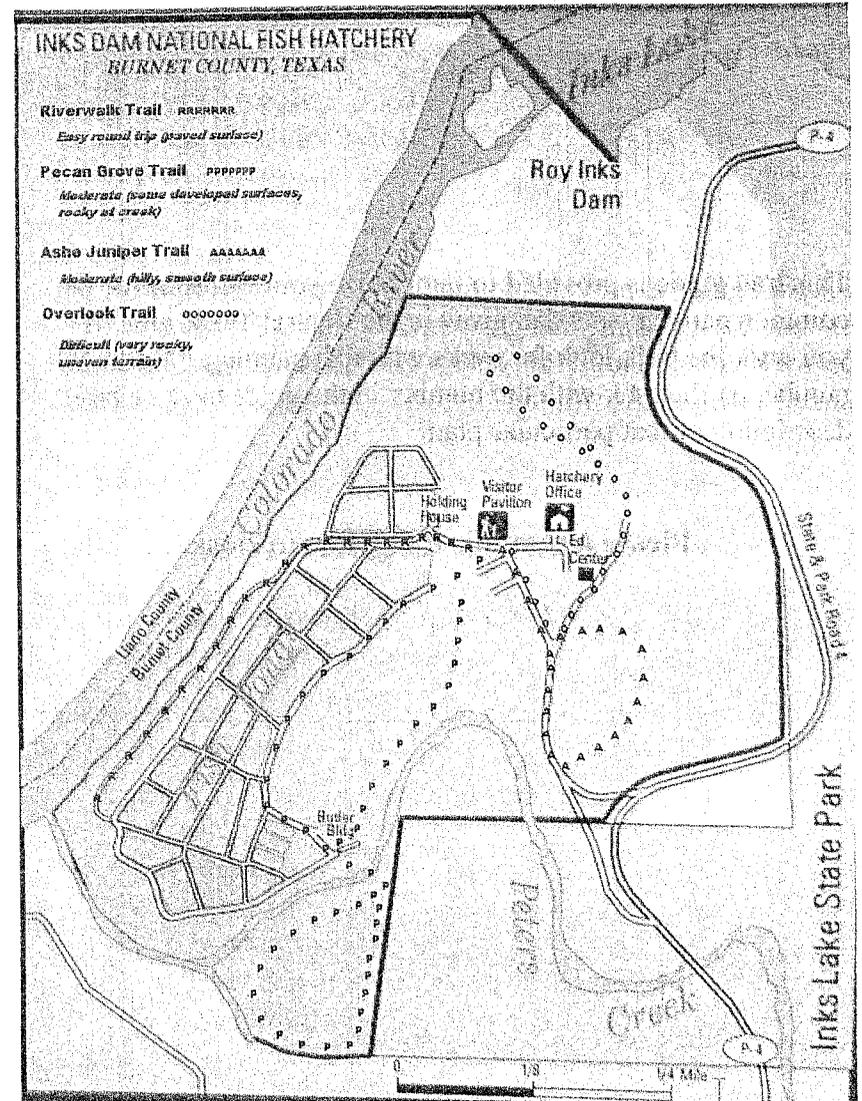


GUIDE
FOR THE

ASHE JUNIPER TRAIL



Map of all hatchery trails.

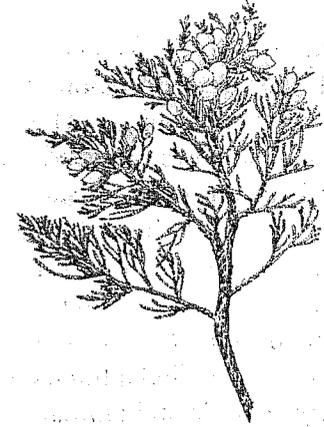
Trail guide developed by:
Friends of Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery

This trail guide is provided to familiarize you with some of the common native plants that grow in the Central Texas area. As you walk the trail, look for rocks with fish paintings. Match the number on the rock with the number in the guide to see a brief description of that particular plant.

Please return this trail guide to kiosk.

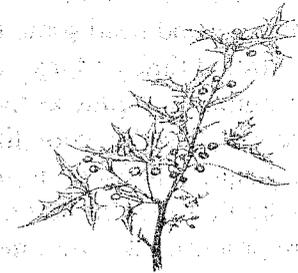
1. ASHE JUNIPER

Ashe juniper, commonly called "Cedar", is the dominate evergreen tree in our area. Male and female trees grow separately. The male tree produces a yellowish pollen, which gives many people with "cedar fever" much discomfort during fall and winter. Female trees produce a small, blue berry that is consumed by many birds and animals. Ashe juniper wood is very rot resistant and was an important source for fence posts in early settler days and is still used today for that purpose. Mature Ashe juniper bark is the primary nesting material for the endangered Golden-cheeked warbler, which is endemic to the Central Texas area.



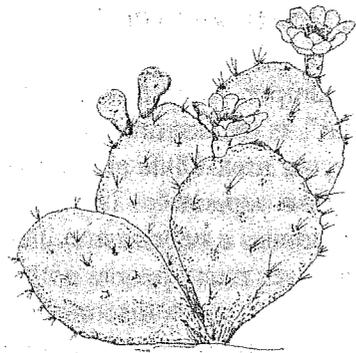
2. AGARITA

Agarita is a very common evergreen plant in the Texas hill country. It blooms in early spring with fragrant yellow flowers, followed by numerous red berries, which are a favorite food source for many birds. The berries can also be made into a great tasting jelly. Agarita's sharp pointed leaves make it a good cover plant for birds and small animals and the wood and roots can be used to make a yellow dye.



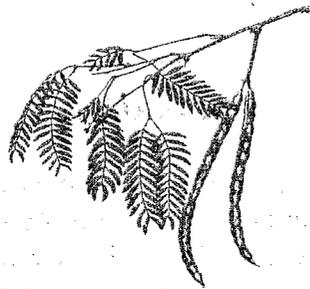
3. PRICKLY PEAR

Prickly pear is the Texas state plant. It grows throughout Texas in a variety of habitats. The flattened stems, called pads, can store large amounts of water allowing it to withstand long drought periods. In the spring, Prickly pear produces showy yellow flowers with red centers. The pear fruit that develops after the flower is called a tuna, contains many seeds, and is eaten by a variety of birds and animals. People make a food dish from the pads, called nopalitos, and a delicious jelly is made from the fruit.



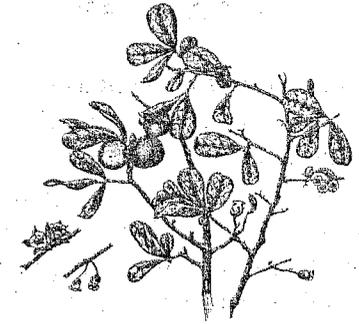
4. MESQUITE

The mesquite is a very common tree across Texas that can become invasive and need some kind of control at times. Many people will recognize mesquite as the source of the wood used to cook the best Texas barbeque. The wood is also used to make flooring, furniture, and fireplace mantles. Long seed pods are produced that become a food source for a variety of wildlife and livestock. Dried seeds were used by Native Americans to make flour. While blooming, bees collect the pollen for honey.



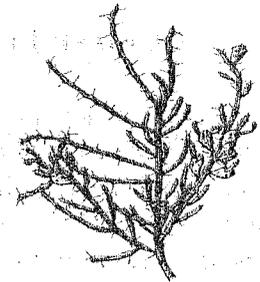
5. TEXAS PERSIMMON

Texas persimmon is a common small tree in our area that is easily recognized by its smooth gray trunk and branches. Male and female trees grow separately with only the female trees producing the small round fruits. The fruit with its many seeds is an important wildlife food that is consumed by a multitude of birds and animals. You can eat the fruit raw, but it must be dark purple to black to assure it is ripe. Be careful of the dark juice as it will produce a hard stain in clothing. In Mexico, the juice is used to dye leather.



6. TASAJILLO

Also called pencil cactus or Christmas cactus, Tasajillo can grow singly or in dense thickets. The spiny segments of this plant break away easily, so if you brush against one, you may accidentally take a piece home with you. Tasajillo produces a small bright red fruit that is full of small seeds and eaten by many birds and animals.



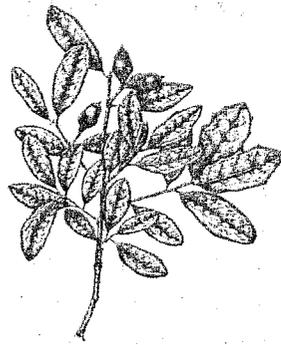
7. FISHHOOK CACTUS

There are a variety of fishhook cacti in Texas. Look closely at the spine clusters and notice the long hooked central spine. This is what gives this cactus its name.



12. LIVE OAK

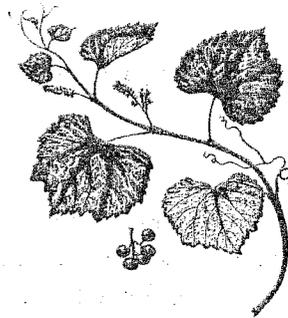
The live oak is a very common tree in the Central Texas area. It stays green all year, so it appears to be an evergreen, but actually sheds its leaves each spring as new leaves are growing. Live oaks can grow quite large with some in Texas reaching about 60 feet tall having a trunk



circumference of about 35 feet. The acorns of oaks provide an important food source for wildlife, such as turkeys, deer, and squirrels.

13. MUSTANG GRAPE

The common Mustang grape can cover a large area of bushes and trees with a mass of long vines. In moist areas, the vines can reach 40 feet in length with trunk bases as large as small trees. It is very drought, heat, and disease tolerant.



Mustang grape is easily recognized by its large leaves covered on the underside with little white hairs. The fruit grows in groups, ripens to a dark purple color in the summer, and is edible. The outside skin is sour, so try squeezing out the center when you first give it a try.