



20. "Here's one of my favorite dishes, Carpenter Ant a'la White Cedar. As you hike through the park you'll notice where I've dined on the trunk of a Cedar tree. It's quite common for those pesky ants to attack a Cedar through a wound near the base of the tree."



21. "Not many evergreens can stand to grow in the shade. Hemlock might take 100 years to slowly work its way up to the sunlight above the forest canopy."

22. "You should be proud of the Balsam Fir. The fragrant needles were used by pioneers for "Balsam Pillows." The resin, or oil, in the blisters on the bark is used in mounting slides for microscope work."

23. "Notice the bark of the Striped Maple is different than most trees. This bark is *alive*, not the dead, corky material you are used to seeing."

24. "This is Mount Nebo. During the early 30's a wooden lookout tower was built on this hill. The concrete blocks are the only remains."



25. "Do you see any beechnuts? Chances are if there are any, the squirrels, grouse, raccoons, deer and beer, as well as other birds and animals, are going to beat you humans to those delectable nuts."

26. "These large hemlocks were left by the loggers. They preferred the pine. Now, we've got some 200 year-old trees."



27. "The neighborhood's changing. As the evergreens die, they're being replaced by White Birch, Sugar Maple and Beech."

28. "Engineers could very well take a lesson from this tree, the White Birch. Layer upon layer of thin cork bark insulates the tree from the bright sun and cold winter temperatures."

29. "These Hemlock may seem old to you at 150-200 years old, but they are just reaching maturity and may live for 400 more years."

30. "Well, this is the end of our journey together. I know a nice little clump of popple east of here, just loaded with ants. Guess I'll stop over there and enjoy a meal. If you wish to return to camp, you've got a choice of return routes. You can either go North to the power line and follow the power line back to the goose pond. Or North to the country road and take a left. This will also take you back to camp."

"Sure I can't interest you in some carpenter ants?"



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For additional information or assistance on this publication contact: MDNR PARKS AND RECREATION, VISITOR SERVICES, PO BOX 30257, LANSING MI 48909.

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

4/2000

# WILDERNESS STATE PARK

## RED PINE & HEMLOCK TRAILS



"Enjoy hiking the trails"



Michigan DNR



Department of Natural Resources  
Parks and Recreation

PRINTED BY AUTHORITY OF: Act 451, P.A. of 1994 as amended  
TOTAL NUMBER OF COPIES PRINTED: 5,200  
TOTAL COST: \$ 239.28 COST PER COPY: \$ 0.046

1. "Hi! I'm Woody the Pileated Woodpecker. Being a native of Wilderness State Park, I'd like to be your guide along the Red Pine and Hemlock Trails. I know this forest really well. We will begin at the Goose Pond Dam and walk to Nebo Trail (1¼ miles) where the Hemlock Trail starts. Altogether, by the time we return to camp, we'll have covered 3½ miles."

2. "Sure is clear flying through this area. Those deer have got all the lower foliage stripped from the Cedars. It's awful hard for them to find enough to eat during those long winter months."

3. "Thirsty? I guess not. You humans wouldn't stoop to drinking pond water. It makes an ideal little home for turtles and frogs."



4. "We're just leaving a protective zone. Did you know that? The zone protects the wildlife living in or near the developed portion of the park. It also protects the visitor around park facilities."

5. "Had a pretty good meal here the other day. I know I am a messy eater, but if you had to pick your way through a couple inches of wood just for a few small insects, you'd toss the scraps on the ground too!"

6. "Between deer browsing and the lack of sunlight, all the lower branches have disappeared in this cedar swamp."

7. "I shiver every time I fly through this area and see this fire scar. It reminds me that one careless act could destroy my home. This scar was made by a fire that burned here around 1900."

8. "Red is the key to recognizing this maple tree. All year long I watch the red buds give way to red flowers and small red leaves (which turn green). Finally, in the fall, the leaves once again turn bright red before they drop to the ground."

9. "Sure glad the competition between woodpeckers isn't as great as it is for these trees. They struggle upward to gather all the sunlight possible. The result is that all the younger trees are shaded out."



10. "Bet you've never seen this Maple Tree before. It's called Striped Maple, or Moosewood. It is referred to as this name because moose and deer both love to browse on the tender twigs."

11. "Mother Nature pruned the lower limbs of these trees just like a forester. Guess they died from lack of sunlight."

12. "Here is something you humans will enjoy...wintergreen. All parts of the plant contain the oil of wintergreen so commonly used in soaps and perfumery, as well as medicine."

13. "Old logs? Probably remnants of the logging operations which started about 1878 and continued until 1916."

14. "The spring rain fills this pond every year; it acts as a watering hole for wildlife most years."



15. "Let me introduce one of our northern neighbors. This is Labrador Tea.

That woolly coat on its stem and the underside of the leaves helps prevent water loss during the cold, drying winters."

16. "You should see the red squirrels scurry up these white pine, clip the green cones from their branches, and hide them in a secret cache for a winter food supply."

17. "Here, we can take one of two trail branches to Nebo Trail. I think we better take the right fork. It's a bit easier walking."

18. "Well, we finally made it to Nebo Trail. You know, you've only walked 1¼ miles, even though it probably seems farther. Straight north, Nebo Trails leads to the Country road. Hemlock Trail will take us to Mount Nebo."

19. "Hold it! Do you hear those beetles working in the tree?! You can't? Well, you'd get awful

hungry as a woodpecker, for that's one way we can detect a meal."

