

## 22 of Corkscrew's common vines identified

Vines proliferate and are easily sighted in the spring and summer. Here are some of the more common vines that might be seen from the boardwalk.

**Climbing Aster** (*Aster caroliniaus*) is in bloom with numerous showy lavender ray flowers that are about a half inch in length. The leaves are alternate and simple, elliptical to lanceolate from about 3/4 inch to 2-1/4 inches in length and 1/2 inch wide. It can be seen throughout the sanctuary, especially in the wet prairie areas.

**Hempweed** (*Mikania scandens*) is a member of the Aster family. It has heads of four flowers which are white to pinkish florets. Flowering occurs throughout the year. Leaves are somewhat triangular. The best place to observe Hempweed is the observation platform ramp where the Hempweed has interwoven with White Vine in the willows.

**White Vine** (*Sarcostemma clausa*) bears flower clusters on stems that are twice as long as the 2-1/2 to 2-3/4 inch long ovate leaves. Petals appear more thick or "fleshy" and are very fragrant up close. When the vine is cut, it oozes a thick white sap which has the appearance and consistency of Elmer's Glue. White Vine occurs in sunnier areas in the Sanctuary wherever there is a plant or trunk to climb up.

**Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is often confused with Poison Ivy, but it can be distinguished because it has five leaflets rather than three. The leaves are alternate, palmately compound, typically with five leaflets but sometimes three or four. It turns a dark red in the fall and winter. It is present throughout the Sanctuary.

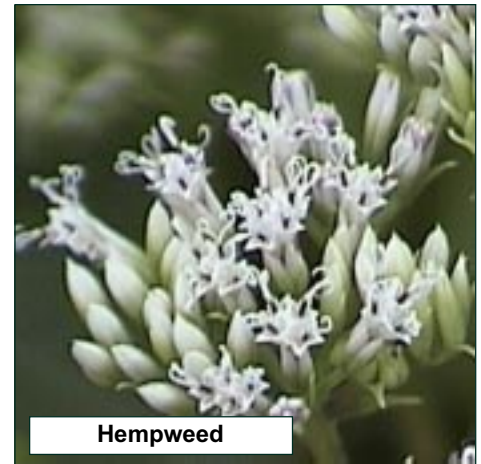
**Poison Ivy** (*Toxicodendron radicans*) is a trailing to somewhat erect vine. Leaves are alternate and occur as three leaflets. The leaves are shiny and usually a deep green on reddish stems. Leaves turn to a burnt red-orange color in late fall/early winter in Florida. Flowers are tiny and white, and the berries are a whitish color. The active poison is urushiol, a derivative of catechol, which is a derivative of benzene.

**Rattan Vine** (*Berchemia scandens*) is a deciduous woody vine. Mature specimens have large, corkscrewlike twining stems. Leaves are alternate, simple, oval and from 1-1/4 to 3 inches long. Upper leaf surfaces are shiny green and veins are conspicuous and parallel. Flowers are small and greenish white on branchlets at the end of the leaf axils and bloom in spring. It is found toward the end of the Plume Hunter spur.

**Groundnut** (*Apios americana*) belongs to the bean or legume plant family. It has a vinelike growth form that twines upon and through the shrubbery beneath the forest. Groundnut's once-pinnately compound leaves have 5-7 leaflets. The flowers occur in clusters and are brownish-red, the fruits are bean pods 2-4 inches in length. The plant has underground stems growing 2-3 inches beneath the soil; the stems have periodic swellings (the groundnut itself) that are a couple of inches in diameter. Botanically these swollen stems are tubers and are the edible portions of the plant. The tubers function as storage organs for the plant. Groundnut tubers are high in starch and protein; in fact, on a dry weight basis, groundnut tubers have three times the protein as potatoes. Groundnut is along the boardwalk toward the end of the observation platform spur.



Climbing Aster



Hempweed



White Vine seeds



Rattan Vine

## Corkscrew's common vines identified (continued)

**Dodder** (*Cuscuta spp*) is a parasitic vine with smooth, wiry, twining stems that attach to a host plant with tiny suckers. Only the seedlings have roots. Dodder's tangled stems are usually orange, but may be yellowish, whitish, or greenish or even tinged with red or purple. The stems turn black when the plant dies. The tiny leaves are scalelike and almost invisible, whereas the numerous clusters of little waxy cream colored 5-petaled flowers and subsequent 1/8 inch seed pods are more noticeable. Botanists recognize some 150 species of dodder. Dodder species cannot be identified until they develop mature flowers and most people can't tell them apart even then. Dodder is most obvious along the exit trail in the pine flatwood just past the wet prairie.



Dodder

**Love Vine** (*Cassytha filiformis*) is almost identical to Dodder, but it can be distinguished from the vegetatively similar but unrelated Dodder by its spicy odor and inconspicuous, petal-less greenish-white flowers that produce 5–7 mm white berrylike drupes.

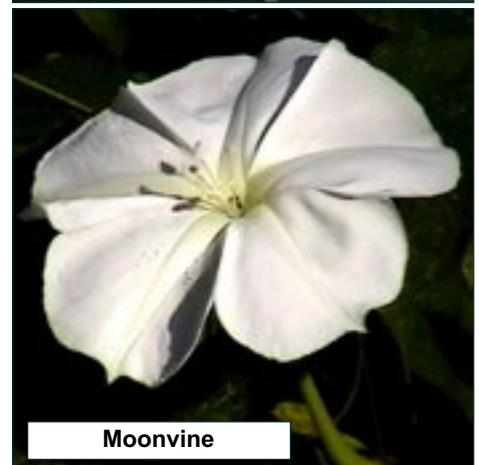
**Sand Vetch** (*Vicia acutifolia*) is a slender, twining, perennial with smooth stems that branch at the base. Compound leaves are to 1-1/4" long with two to six leaflets; each leaflet is from 1/2–1" long and 1/16" wide with pointed tip. Small light blue flowers with purple tips are 1/4–3/8" long and less than 1/4" wide. It is between the Otter Watch shelter and the Ed Carlson bench, and on the shortcut trail.



Sand Vetch

**Passionvines** (*Passiflora spp.*) are the preferred larval host plants for the Zebra Longwing, Julia, and Gulf Fritillary butterflies. There are two native passionvines

- **Corksystem Passionvine** (*Passiflora suberosa*) with small greenish white blooms (3/8–1/2" wide). Leaves vary in length to 4" and in shape; it is identifiable by the mature, corky bark.
- **Pale Passionvine** (*Passiflora pallens*) which has whitish blooms about 2" wide with numerous threadlike white and pinkish filaments: its leaves are equally 3-lobed to 3" long.
- Other passionvines found in Florida are native to Central and South America, including ones with large purple blooms. Passionvine in Corkscrew is found mainly in the thicket between the library and the parking lot.

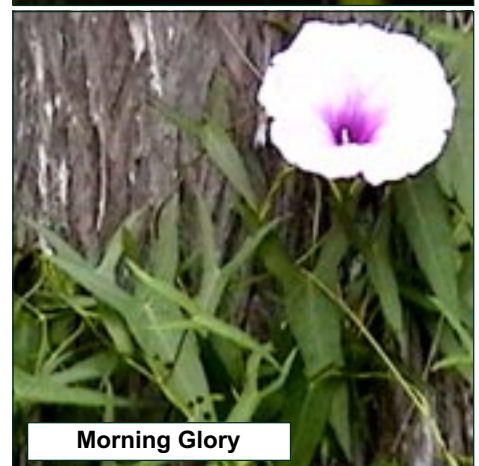


Moonvine

### Members of the morning glory family...

**Moonvine** (*Ipomoea alba*) is also called Moonflower and is found throughout the Sanctuary, blanketing many shrubs and trees during certain years. It's most noticeable around the two lettuce lakes in the summer and fall. Leaves are large, heart-shaped and smooth. It can flower any time during the year, but it does more so in the late summer and early autumn. Flowers are large, showy white or pink nighttime bloomers with five lobes. Each bloom lasts only one night, but more appear in succeeding nights.

**Glades Morning Glory** (*Ipomoea sagittata*) is a climbing vine with smooth stems and pink or bright purple funnel-shaped flowers that are up to three inches long and solitary or in clusters of two or three. Leaves are up to four inches long and arrowhead-shaped, with long diverging basal lobes. At Corkscrew, it is found at edges of wet prairie/pond cypress



Morning Glory

## Corkscrew's common vines identified (continued)

### Members of the grape family...

**Muscadine Grape** (*Vitis rotundifolia*) is a high climbing vine with unbranched tendrils. A member of the grape family, the fruiting body is a purplish berry (when ripe) and is used for making jam and wine. Leaves are alternate and simple, generally heart-shaped in overall outline, and about as wide as long. Leaf margins are predominately dentate. It is common near the boardwalk in the pine to the edge of the wet prairie.

**Summer Grape** (*Vitis aestivalis*) is a high-climbing deciduous vine with divided tendrils and simple, alternate leaves of varying size to six inches in length. Leaves are generally heart-shaped in overall shape with three to five deep lobes. The undersides of the leaves are whitish and sort of hairy, and the berries have a whitish cast, distinguishing it from other *Vitis* species. It can be found near the Guest cabin and around the Living Machine.

**Peppervine** (*Ampelopsis arborea*) is a member of the grape family with small, ivy-like leaves. It usually climbs by tendrils. Leaves are small, from 1/2 inch to 2-1/2 inches long. Fruit are small, rounded, and shiny black to dark purple. It is common in wet woods and is found along the entrance trail in the pine flatwood to the wildlife crossing.

### Members of the smilax family...

**Catbrier** (*Smilax bonanox*) has numerous sharp brownish spikes and the vine is quite thick with a diameter of .4-.8 inches thick. Clusters of shiny black berries can be seen hanging from a few vines. The leaf is heart-shaped and some have prickles along the edges. Catbrier has conspicuous tendrils. Catbrier is in the pine area of the entrance trail to the Bunting House, around the CLASS spur, and around the two lettuce lake areas. It is also called Greenbrier.

**Wild Bamboo** (*Smilax auriculata*) has a pinkish cast on the lower stems which help distinguish it from other *Smilax* species. It has a visible groove along the leaf margins and slightly raised veins on the lower surfaces of the leaves. Leaves are oblong. Stems have sparse, small thorns. It is along the boardwalk between the Gator Hole and Bunting House and is also called Greenbrier.

**Bamboo Vine** (*Smilax laurifolia*) has alternate, simple oblong leaves between 2 and 6 inches long. Leaves have raised midveins with obscure lateral veins on he lower surfaces. These characteristics help distinguish it from other *Smilax*. It has many small thorns on the stems and is found going into the pond cypress from the wet prairie, beyond the Plume Hunter rain shelter. It is also called Blaspheme Vine and in some books Catbrier.

**Wild Sarsaparilla** (*Smilax glauca*) has a distinctly grayish-white cast to the undersurfaces of the leaves. It also has slender prickles with an ovate, simple leaf. It can be found in the north lettuce lake area as well as between the Bunting House and the Guest Cabin.



Muscadine, left; Summer right



Peppervine



Smilax



smilax bloom