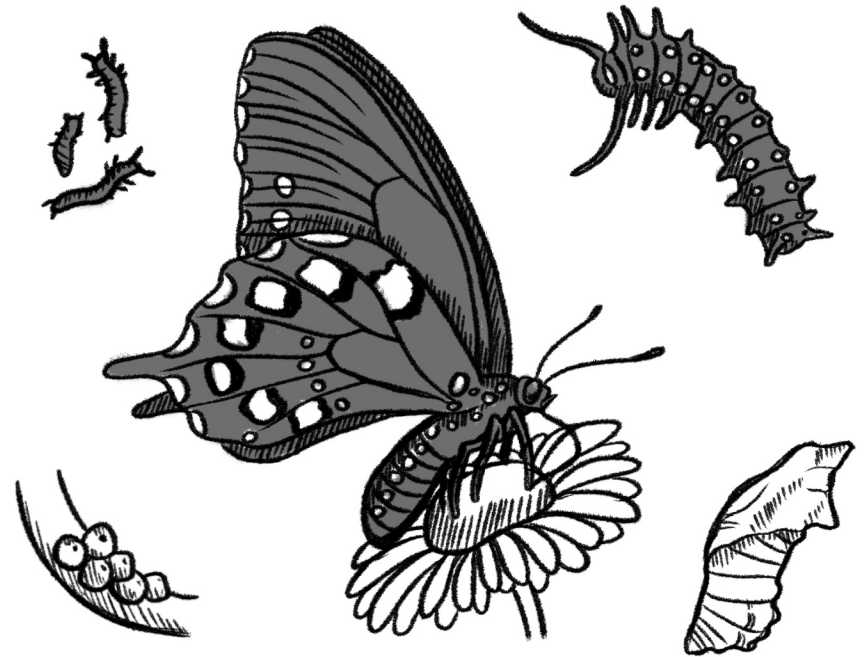


*Hallberg Butterfly Gardens*

# **A Tour Guide for Kids and Families**



## **Garden Rules:**

✈ Please stay on the paths ✈

Please don't pick plants or touch caterpillars

Please pack out all your trash

Please don't take strollers on paths

No dogs and no smoking

## **Station 19: Luther Burbank Tree**

This tree is called a Cedar of Lebanon tree, made from a small cutting of an older damaged tree. A single little branch, planted in the ground and protected from predators, was able to grow into this very large tree!

Q: Have you ever planted anything in a garden? If so, how did the plant change as it grew?

## **Station 20: Courthouse Stone**

This piece of rock is called granite, and it used to be part of a courthouse in Santa Rosa that was torn down. Now it makes a lovely decoration for our gardens!

## **Station 21: Picnic Tables**

You are welcome to relax here at our picnic tables. It is a lovely place to watch for birds and butterflies. Please make sure to take any trash with you when you leave today!

## Station 17: Black Oak

This black oak tree is over 150 years old! It currently has steel cables helping to keep it together, as it has grown so big. There are lots of different types of trees in the garden. You can tell them apart by examining their features: their leaves, their bark, their shape, and more.

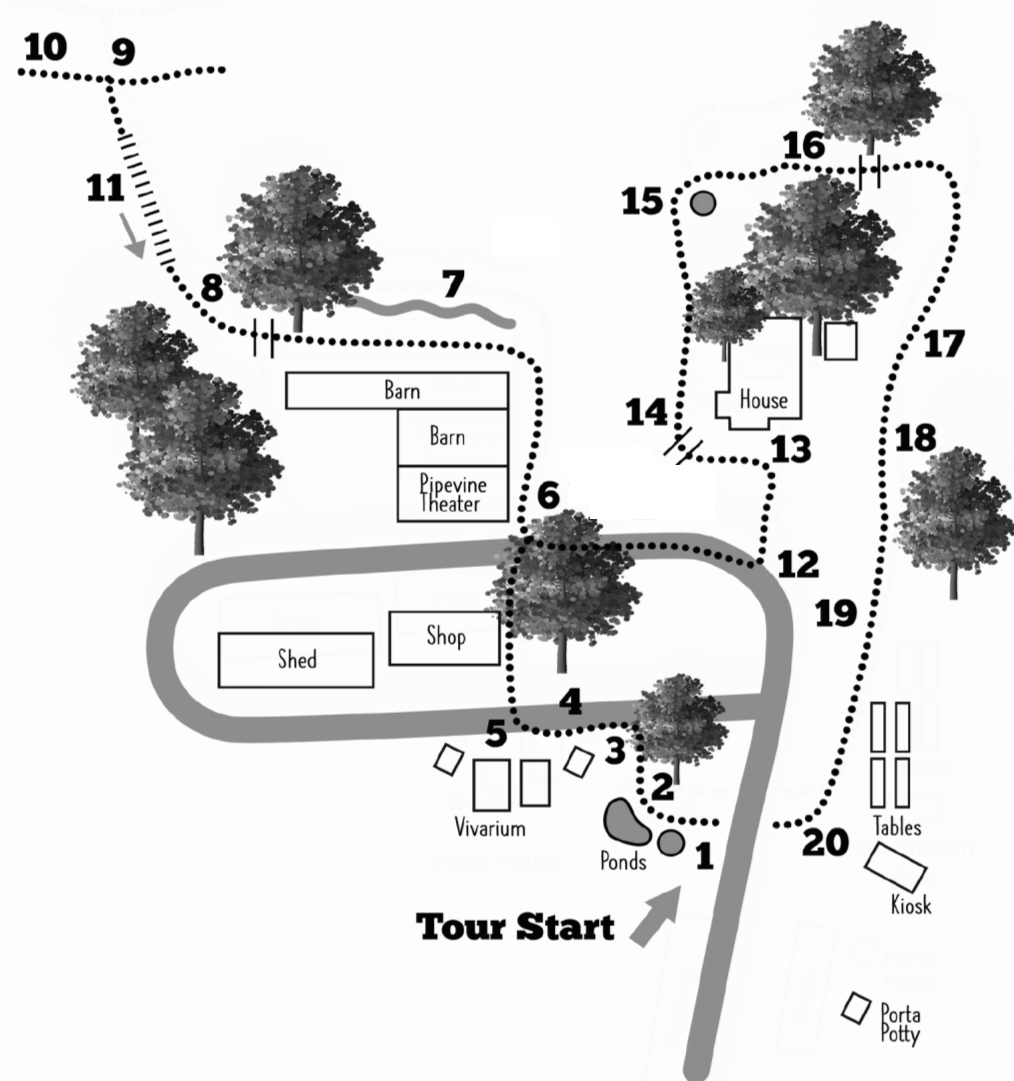
Q: How many different types of trees can you see from where you're standing?

## Station 18: Orchard

These apple trees were planted long ago, back in 1948. Many critters enjoy wandering through the trees- deer, quail, turkeys, and more. Birds love to perch in their branches.

Q: If you keep calm and quiet, can you hear any birds singing now? Can you see any perched nearby?

## Garden Map



## Station 15: Secret Garden

Louise's mom used to love spending time in this quiet area, and would call it her "secret garden". This area is well-loved by birds, who stroll through the thick forest, pecking at the bugs and worms on the ground.

**Q: How does this area feel different than the rest of the garden? What do you see and hear?**

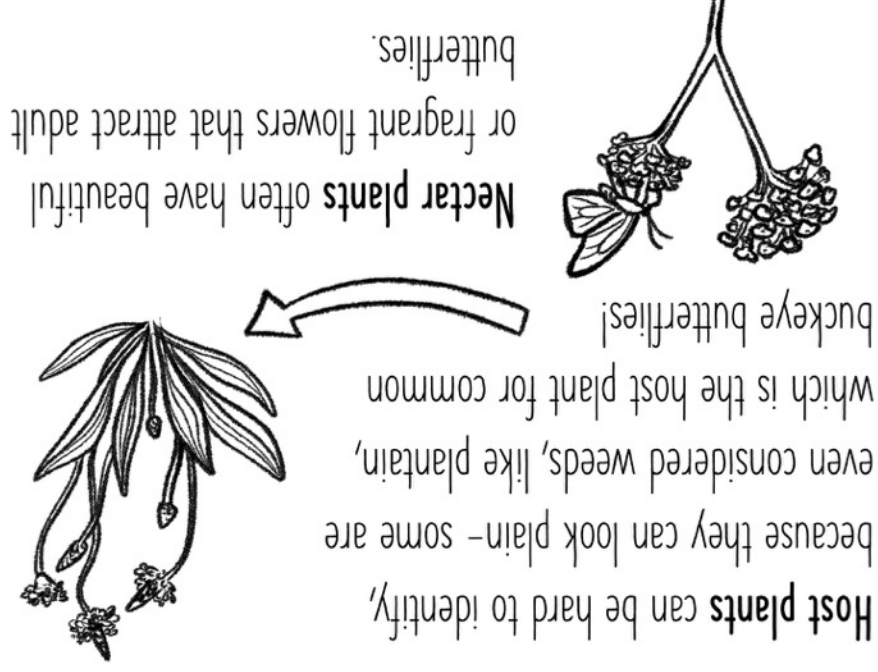
## Station 16: Heart Pond

This small pond doesn't currently have any fish or frogs living in it, but sometimes mosquitoes lay their eggs here. However, healthy ecosystems always have checks and balances. If you look closely in the bushes, you may find a harmless sheet weaver spider in its web – these helpful spiders eat lots of mosquitoes which keeps the mosquito population under control. That helps prevent us humans from getting as many mosquito bites. We are grateful to have our spider friends here in the garden!

## Station 1: Tour Start

Along this path, you can find examples of both host and nectar plants. These two types of plants play very different and important roles in a butterfly's life cycle. **Host plants** provide food for caterpillars, while **nectar plants** provide tasty food (nectar) for adult butterflies. Both types of plants are necessary for a happy, healthy butterfly population.

**Host plants** can be hard to identify, because they can look plain – some are even considered weeds, like plantain, which is the host plant for common buckeye butterflies!

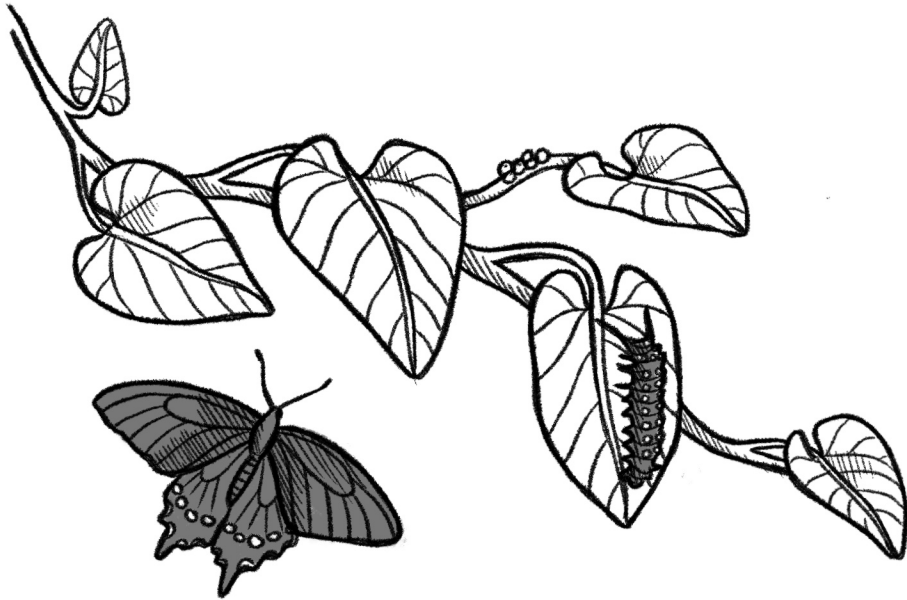


**Q: Can you see any insects feeding on a nectar plant around you?**



## Station 14: Dutchman's Pipevine

The plant that grows up the white lattice against the house is called Dutchman's pipevine. It is the host plant for the pipevine swallowtail butterfly. This area, first planted almost 100 years ago, is a great place to look for caterpillars and butterfly eggs. The red-colored eggs are laid in groups along the vines and leaves, and the black and orange caterpillars can be seen crawling around and munching on the leaves.



Q: Can you find any eggs or caterpillars on the pipevine plants?

## Station 2: The Ponds

These ponds provide important habitat for many creatures that live in the garden: dragonflies, frogs, birds, and more! Frogs and dragonflies both lay their eggs in these ponds, and birds love to take baths in the flowing water.

Q: Take a look at the plants growing in and around the pond- can you see any insects crawling or resting on the plants?

## Station 3: Apple Tree

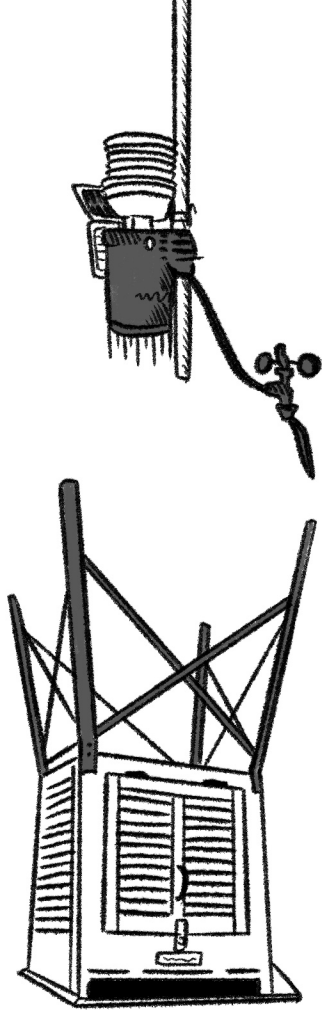
This tree is a very rare type of apple tree, a variety called "Best Ever". The tree's blossoms provide delicious nectar for bees and butterflies in the spring, and the branches provide a safe place for birds to perch and sing their songs.

Q: Can you see any critters in or around the apple tree right now?

## Station 4: Weather Stations

These two antique white cabinets held equipment that was used to record the daily temperatures. Louise Hallberg, the founder of the gardens, kept records of the weather every day since 1968. Every morning, she would go outside and write down the numbers displayed on the thermometers.

You may notice a third weather station that looks very different. That one is powered by the sun, and electronically records the weather every day. This one was installed in 2018.



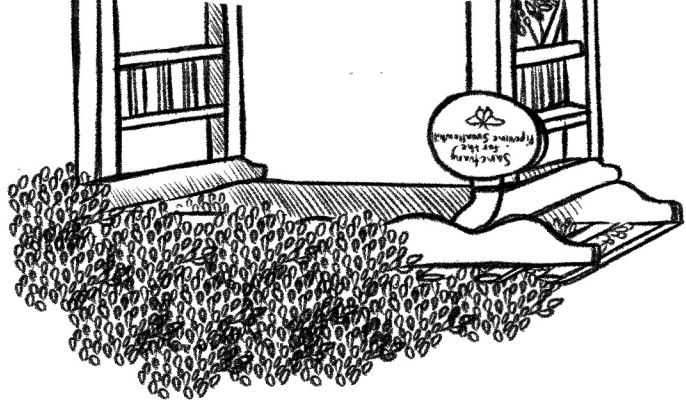
Q: How does your family get information about the weather? How is it different from Ms. Hallberg did it?

## Station 12: New Path

Next, you'll be heading back past the barn and through the white arbor that leads to the house.

## Station 13: Hallberg House

Louise Hallberg was born in this house in 1917 and lived here until 2017—that's 100 years! When you pass under the white arbor, you're walking in the footsteps of over 25,000 visitors who have come to enjoy the gardens.



Q: What is your favorite thing that you've seen in the gardens so far?

## Station 10: Meadow Garden

At Hallberg Butterfly Gardens, it's important for us to keep track of how many butterflies we see, so that we can make sure their populations are doing well. We spend a lot of time counting butterflies here in the meadow!

**Q: Do you see any butterflies flying overhead? If so, how many can you count?**

## Station 11: Up the Hill

On your way back up the hill, keep an eye out for an interesting plant– thistle! It's very sharp and pointy. Many people think of it as a weed, but it's actually a host plant as well as a nectar plant. It hurts for humans to touch it, but it doesn't hurt the caterpillars or butterflies.



**Q: Can you spot any insects on the thistle plants?**

## Station 5: Crawford Vivarium

The vivarium is where we keep our seedlings safe. A seedling is a plant that has just begun to grow, and lots of critters like to eat them– like deer, gophers, and many kinds of bugs. We keep them protected in the vivarium until they are big enough to plant in the gardens.

## Station 6: Pipevine Theater

This barn is over 100 years old! It used to be a home for animals like horses and cows, but now it holds our gift shop and other equipment. In the storage room, you can see the original Oak Grove School sign from when the school first opened in 1854. If you keep walking around the side of the barn toward the creek, you can see a beautiful hand-painted illustration of a pipevine swallowtail butterfly.

**Q: Have you ever made art of a butterfly? What type of materials did you use?**

## Station 9: Woodpecker Granary



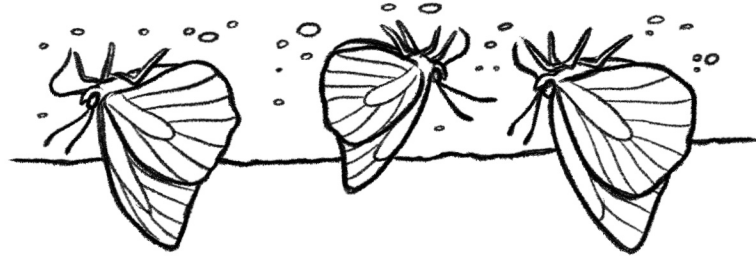
When these trees were still standing tall many years ago, birds called acorn woodpeckers used their beaks to drill tons of tiny holes in the trees to store their food in. Can you guess what they liked to eat?

You may have guessed – acorns! They stored their acorns in the holes to keep them safe from other birds and squirrels. It is sort of like a refrigerator for birds! Now, some bees and wasps live in the empty holes.

**Q: Do you see any insects flying around nearby? Is there anything flying in and out of the empty holes?**

## Station 7: Butterfly Creek

This creek provides lots of moist ground for butterflies to drink from. This behavior is called 'puddling', and happens when a butterfly lands on the ground to drink salt and other minerals from the dirt. Butterflies that puddle often can live longer than butterflies that only drink sugary nectar.



**Q: Why do you think butterflies can live longer if they drink something besides just sweet flower nectar?**

## Station 8: Stop, Look, Listen

Pause for a moment at the top of the hill. What do you see? What do you hear? This is one of our favorite places to observe wildlife. Take some time to share what you see and hear with your group.