

Squirrel Nest



When not snuggling in tree cavities, Gray Squirrels build nests known as “dreys” with twigs and leaves in hardwood trees.

Whirl-i-gig Beetle



Easily spotted by their whirling dance on water, these carnivorous beetles have divided eyes that help them see above and below the water simultaneously.

Pond Cypress



Pond Cypress thrives in our nutrient-poor shallow waters. It has thick, fire-resistant bark and “knees”, part of the root structure above the water.

Pond Apple



These floating fruits are eaten by alligators, wild boar, birds, raccoons, squirrels and turtles. The fruit is relatively sweet and used in jams.

Slash Pine



Up to 100 ft. tall, this fast growing tree’s seeds are eaten by deer, wild turkeys and squirrels. Tea made from its needles is rich in vitamin C.

Chickee Hut



Beginning in the 1830s, Chickee huts were built by Florida Seminole Indians as temporary homes in the Everglades. The roof is made of palm fronds.

Bladderwort Flower



This tiny (5mm) flower sets atop an underwater stem with small bladders that contract to catch aquatic organisms, making this a carnivorous plant.

Alligator Flag



A water loving plant, frequently hiding alligators. It was important to the Seminoles who ate the roots and flowers and used the leaves to wrap food for cooking.

Sawgrass



There’s a reason its called sawgrass: these stalks have sharp saw-like edges. Sawgrass excels in low nutrient environments and grows on the border of our cypress swamps and tree islands.