

Fairies and Their Friends in Merion Botanical Park

Solve these riddles and find the fairy homes walking on the lawn-side of the park from the south to the north (City Ave. to post office). Please, do not disturb the houses. And definitely don't let the trolls know! Thank you.



1. Lacebark Pine Fairy

This fairy girl lives in a home,
with pine cone roof, hanging from
a young pine near the sidewalk,
that has colorful peeling bark.

2. Umbrella Magnolia Gnome

Among the southern evergreens
hides this native understory tree.
Boring without flowers or leaves.

But when summer comes
It has huge white flowers
and 2-foot-long leaves.

3. Yew Sprite

-Do you know a yew?
-No. How about you?
-Evergreen shrubs or trees
with dark green needles
often used for hedges.
Great for nesting birds
or hiding fairy houses.

(Find one between the azaleas
and the umbrella tree.)

4. Hinoki False Cypress Elf

Near the group of dawn redwoods,
And under a large hinoki,
with green door and red windows,
a house. Wonder where's the key?

5. Night Fairy on Flowering Dogwood

The Night fairy appears only when it is dark,
she enjoys the sight of the moon and the stars.
Her house is on a dogwood tree,
just behind a bench. Do you see?

6. Ganoderma Mushroom

The red mushroom
on this gnome house
is called Ganoderma
and grows on wood.

(It is used in Chinese medicine.
By a stump close to the lower stepping-stones.)

7. Kousa Dogwood Sprite

Pass the lower stepping-stones,
and many other trees,
to find this patchy barked
nicest dogwood in the park.

8. White Pine Fairy south of bridge

My home is made of stone
and needles all in line,
hanging from a nice
Eastern white pine.

9. Door in Shrub

By the stream, in a base of a bush,
A hidden door. It may open.
Pull it gently, instead of giving a push.

10. Round door by Norway Maple

This little door might be a gnome's
home among the big maple roots,
south of the bridge, near the creek,
near a bench to take a break.

11. Sawtooth Oak

This is the largest oak tree here,
third biggest of its kind in the state.
Its leaves have teeth, it's called "serrate".

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12. American Strawberry Bush Sprite
Burning bushes are tough
and you might think they are pretty
with their red fall colors
when most other shrubs are drabby.

(In the burning bushes by Latches Ln entrance.
Burning bushes are invasive! Choose native shrubs
instead to support wildlife: American strawberry bush,
blueberry, sweetspire, chokeberry, and more.)

13. Fairy Inn
This dining hall is in a stump,
but it is not at all a dump.
If you take a peek within,
you will find a fairy inn.

14. American Holly Fairy
This tree is green when others are brown,
its red berries feed the birds in the wintertime.
Compared to its cousins, its leaves are dull and yellow,
but it's lived here before them, so appreciate it fellow.
My little green house is hanging up above
facing a bench along the walking path.

15. Dragonfly Fairy
My home is over the stream
and I will tell you why,
I like to sit and watch
dragonflies passing by.

(House hanging from a box elder tree.)

16. Azalea Fairy
In the azalea bed
near the beech trees
a kind fairy resides
in a thatched cottage.

17. Day fairy
The day fairy's, Silverbell's
house is in this plant.
She enjoys the flowers
that look like little bells.

18. With a tower
Hiding near a big holly,
right behind a stump.
Follow these clues
to find this house
and you won't be a grump.

19. River Birch Fairy
Left of the path this young tree
has peeling bark that's papery.
It really is 3 trees
planted very closely.

20. Silver Maple/Creek Maple
Two-story house hidden in a tree
that has grayish bark and flowers early.
Its fruit is a samara, or a "helicopter",
That's carried by wind, and also by water.

