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-feet-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.

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.

(House hanging from a box elder tree.)

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

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.