Fairies and Their Friends in Merion Botanical Park:

Solve these riddles and you’ll find all the fairy houses. All of them are visible from the lawn side of the park and are listed in order from the City Ave. end of the park towards the post office.

You can also find these riddles on the Botanical Society of Lower Merion facebook page and web site. See bottom of the page for links.

Please make sure you do not touch the houses so don’t disturb the fairies. 

Thank you.

1. **Lacebark Pine Fairy**

This fairy girl lives in a home

with pinecone roof hanging from

a young pine near the sidewalk

that has colorful peeling bark.

1. **Yew Sprite**

* Do you know what’s a yew?
* No. How about you?
* They are evergreen shrubs

with dark green narrow leaves.

Often used for hedges.

Great for nesting birds or hiding fairy houses.

(Left side of the azalea bed.)

1. **Dawn redwood**

These large trees near the stream

in the corner of the park

have “armpits” under their limbs,

reddish bark, and a wide- based trunk.

They were known from fossils

and thought to be extinct,

then re-discovered in China

now planted as shade trees.

(Dawn redwoods have armpit-like structures under the branches where they connect to the trunk, while the native bald cypress does not.)

1. **Kentucky Coffee Tree**

Kentucky coffee tree is a unique tree,

its seeds grow in large pods just like a giant pea.

huge Ice Age mammals ate these very large seeds,

they were also roasted by the pioneers just like coffee beans.

(Leaves are food for the honey locust moths. Tree is near the stream between the redwoods and the walking path.)

1. **Kousa Dogwood Sprite**

Pass the lower stepping-stones,

and a few other trees,

to find this patchy-barked

pretty kousa dogwood in the park.

1. **White Pine Fairy south of bridge**

My home is made of wood

and stone, oh so nice,

hanging from the trunk

of an eastern white pine.

1. **Redtwig dogwood**

This planting bed is so wet most of the year

people don’t need to water, so I could move right in.

I love the sight of the wetland plants: blueflag,

red-osier dogwood, golden ragwort and turtlehead.

1. **Dragonfly Fairy**

My house hangs over the stream,

and I will tell you why,

I like to sit and watch

dragonflies passing by.

1. **Sweetbay Magnolia Elf**

I live near the stepping-stones in the base of a tree,

a semi-evergreen native that is very pretty.

Its leaves were used to make soups or a tea,

its fragrant white flowers will make you happy.

1. **Day Fairy**

The day fairy’s, Silverbell’s

house is on this plant.

She enjoys the flowers

that look like little bells.

1. **Amur Cork Tree**

These trees in a small group have bark that’s soft and squishy

just like the cork for bottles made of the bark of the cork oak tree.

Cork tree is used in Chinese medicine to keep people healthy.

Here, it is invasive, bad for our forests and is just a bully.

(Group of small trees by the creek bank.)

1. **Bald Cypress Fairy**

My house is hidden

among the cypress knees,

these unique structures

that make bald cypress trees

so stable in the swamps

that they’re rarely toppled

by even the strongest wind.

(Bald cypress tree is on the other side of the creek can be seen from the path.)

1. **Silver Maple/Creek Maple**

Looks like a townhouse hidden in a tree

that has grayish bark and flowers early.

Its fruit is a samara, or a “helicopter”,

that is carried by wind and sometimes by water.

(Tree is on the right of the path.)

Brought to you by**:**

**Orsi Lazar**



**Learn Do Thrive**