Starting at the entrance gate and moving to the parking lot surrounds:

1. **Longleaf pine seedlings.** Some have yellow needles and lack green pigment caused by low iron in soil. Need to take a soil sample to Clemson extension lab located on Hilton Head Island near Folly Field.

2. **Bluebirds striking bulletin board glass.** Put a window cling on the bulletin board’s glass.

3. **More bird houses needed.** Not necessarily bluebird houses. Birds need dead tree (snag) cavities to nest in. Many snags were lost in the hurricanes or removed for trail safety purposes.

4. **Sensitive plant sign is correct.** (Since we did the walk, deer stripped the leaves.)

5. **Redbays and Ambrosia beetle fungus blight.** The beetle and the tree are in what is known as a Predator-Prey Relationship. In the beginning, the beetles thrive and the redbays turn brown and die. Over time, with few trees left, the number of beetles declines. Then, the redbays rebound—which is happening now. Their aroma wafts over the trails.

6. **True Indigo sign is correct.**

7. **Passionflower vines.** New in the preserve last spring, they are growing rapidly, with some coming up through the asphalt in the parking lot. Sally recommended transplanting them. They pull out easily.

8. **White American Easter Lily (non-native).** Sally says to double check; it may be native. Xerigraph garden at Town Hall has one.

9. **Spiderwort.** New plant made its appearance this spring in front of birdbath. Sally: good plant to have. Birds love the seeds.

10. **Spiraling Ladies’ Tresses plant.** Tiny white flowers in orchid family that grow upward in a tight coil. I will make a sign for it—when I see it for myself.

11. **Rattlebox bean pods.** Legume plants restore nitrogen to the soil. These are good.

12. **Pecan tree.** Good for wildlife food.
13. Staked trees more than a year old. (HH Rotary). Remove all stakes. Trees need to stand upright on their own and become flexible, because in a hurricane they will snap.

14. Deer eating and rubbing saplings. Various methods discussed. Sally said we might want to buy some clear plastic tubes with holes online to try. So far, Lynn’s Irish Spring Soap is working. I’ve been supporting her in this endeavor. So far, so good. No harm to trees.

15. Sedges and rushes. (Sedges have edges; rushes are round, meaning stems). We have the grassy plant “soft rush” growing now. It grows in clumps to 5’ and appears to be stiff and rough, but when you run your fingers through it, it feels very soft.

16. Grasses. We have a good variety of grasses in the preserve. “Good diversity!, says Sally.

17. Hercules Club. Needs to stand up on its own. I removed the stakes from both plants, and some others that were too tight. I explained that Lynn restaked many with a non-plastic velcro tape loosely. She put the Irish soap on the stake which I thought was a good idea because we were still experimenting with it. The Sunset Rotary trees will be unstaked after Oct. 6, which was when they were planted.

18. Florida Scrub. Sally recommended we call this area of saw palmetto at the beginning of the Newhall Trail, the “Carolina Scrub” since our scrub contains different plants unique to SC. Todd Ballentine is said to have named it Florida Scrub originally.

19. Green Tree Frogs. A chorus of clacking ensued as we walked. Sally said there is one leader frog that sets the others off.

20. Tim Evans, new Audubon Forest Manager. Sally asked for his email address.

21. Pondspice. Extremely aromatic with allspice and sassafras aroma. Sally said to be on the alert for this. Another name for it is “spicebush.” She is hoping some of it is on the island someplace. It was decimated during Hurricane Matthew. It’s a 5’ shrub with broad, oval leaves. The edible red berry is oval, not round, with a very hard seed. When berry is crushed between the fingers, it becomes oily and slippery and has that allspice/sassafras smell. Beware of non-edible, look-alike berries.

22. Rough-leaved Dogwood. Sign now says Swamp Dogwood. This small tree is located at the stone memorial to Caroline “Beany” Newhall. I changed the Latin from Cornus asperifolia to Cornus stricta.

23. Pocosin. The tree by the slash pine is not a “loblolly bay (Gordonia) after all. It is a redbay! Sally says the galls on the leaves are proof. The galls, tiny, light greenish white capsules, contain a louse-like insect (psyllid) that causes the leaves to curl up. They are harmless to the leaf and tree. The insect emerges in May. The redbay is the principal host for the psyllid. (The gall is not to be confused with a baygall, a small swamp with
sweetbay trees.) Sally suggested we purchase a loblolly bay (Gordonia) from Home Depot or order one from the Greenery and place it in the empty space behind the persimmon tree.

24. **Black Willow Tree (on pond edge beyond the observation deck).** I need to check to see if this might be a Carolina Willow. Update: It is a Black Willow.

25. **Wood Duck Box.** We have no wood ducks in the pond. How can we bring them back?

26. **Alligatorweed.** Definitely Identified by Sally. I will replace its sign or make a new one. It is highly invasive, but pretty in the water. This has a long, reddish stem with small, white clover-like bloom that floats on the pond water.

27. **Red-banded Water Snake.** Slithered through the water amongst the alligator-weeds.

*There is a stand of loblolly bay trees in bloom through June on the side of Lowe’s parking lot. When Lowes was built, much fill dirt was brought in to raise the ground 10 feet! Facing Lowes, walk to the left, and by the guard rail look over and down at the tops of these lovely trees with big, white gardenia-like blossoms.

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