

Habitat

Bottomland Hardwood Forest

What is a Bottomland Hardwood Forest?

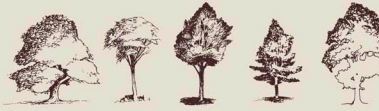
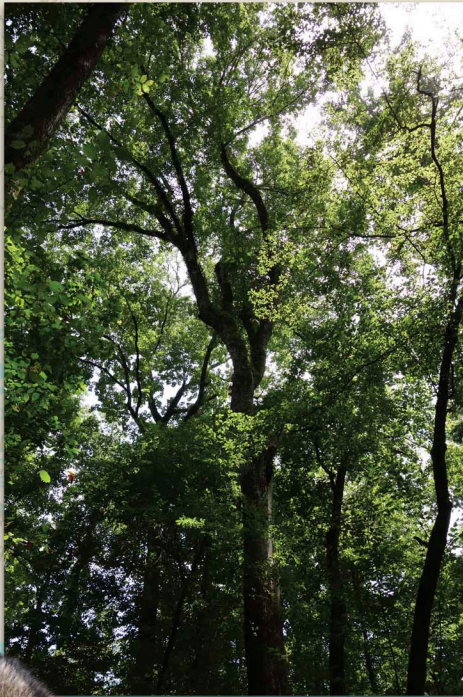
A hardwood forest that occurs in low-lying floodplain areas surrounding rivers and lakes.

What is important about Bottomland Hardwood Forests?

Hickories, oaks, and other plants provide food for wildlife. In addition, Bottomland Hardwood Forests act as a floodplain by storing water and filtering out pollutants from the water.

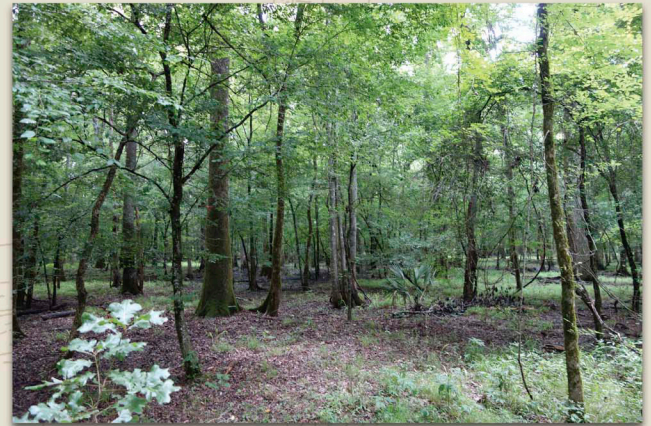


Cutleaf Coneflower



What are the primary hardwood trees that are located in these forests in the Arboretum?

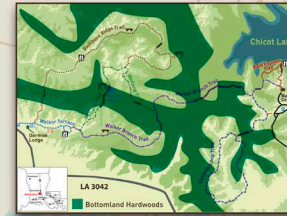
Pignut Hickory, American Elm, Water Oak, Sweetgum and Swamp Red Maple. Sweetgums have distinctive star-shaped leaves and Swamp Red Maple leaves are white on the back and can turn bright red in the fall. Pignut Hickories have a distinctive criss-crossed bark while American Elms have a flat, wide ridged, gray bark.



Black Bear Cubs



Barred Owl



Where in the Louisiana State Arboretum do Bottomland Hardwood Forests tend to occur?

This location is the best example of a Bottomland Hardwood Forest in the Arboretum. When the water level in Chicot Lake rises this low-lying area will flood. There are also examples of a Bottomland Hardwood Forest along the Wetland Trail and on other parts of the Walker Branch Trail.

Green Treefrog



Summer Tanagers

What animals can be found in a Bottomland Hardwood Forest?

Louisiana Black Bears, Eastern Cottonmouths, White-tailed Deer and Barred Owls. Although this habitat is ideal for black bears because of trees suitable for their dens and plentiful nuts and acorns, they are seldom seen in our area. The Bottomland Hardwood Forest supplies the wet environment that cottonmouths require, as well as food in the form of frogs and small fish. Barred Owls thrive in these areas due to natural tree cavities suitable for nesting. Other birds that frequent this forest include Summer Tanagers, Great-crested Flycatchers, Carolina Wrens, Yellow-throated Warblers, Tufted Titmice and Red-bellied Woodpeckers.



Carolina Wren



White-tailed Deer



Raccoon