Red Buckeye
*Aesculus pavia*

The Horsechestnut Family
(Hippocastanaceae)

**Basic Description:** Deciduous shrub or short tree with opposite, palmately compound leaves and gray-brown, smooth, “splotchy” bark.

**Interesting Facts:** The Red Buckeye’s large seed, which is said to resemble a deer’s eye, is considered a good luck charm. Native Americans pulverized seeds and broadcast the powder to stun fish for fishing purposes. Toxic chemicals found in the roots and seeds can be used as a soap substitute.

**Flower:** Upright cluster of dark-red tubular flowers, cluster 6 to 10” long, appearing in spring.

**Fruit:** Three-part smooth husk containing 1 to 3 large shiny brown seeds, maturing in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** Although the nectar is a favorite food for hummingbirds, the high content of toxins in the rest of the plant makes it a poor food source for birds and mammals.

**Habitat:** Common in woods, along streams, in thickets, and on rocky hills.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEAF TYPE</th>
<th>POLLINATOR</th>
<th>WILDLIFE VALUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMPOUND</td>
<td>BIRDS &amp; INSECTS</td>
<td>LOW</td>
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Height range 10-40’