

### **1 Squirrel**

*Squirrels bury acorns, nuts, that grow into trees.*

Squirrels have four teeth in the front of their mouth that constantly grow throughout their lives. This ensures that their teeth don't wear down to nubs from gnawing on nuts and other objects.

### **2 Indian Blanket**

*Brilliant colors of red, orange and yellow look like brightly woven blankets.*

During May & June, they grow abundantly and blanket the land.

### **3 Milkweed**

*The white flower cluster is round like a tennis ball.*

The monarch butterfly lays its eggs on this plant. Therefore, its caterpillars develop here.

### **4 Bee**

*Native bees pollinate most flowering plants.*

Native bees are super-important pollinators for flowering plants. This means that they help other plants grow!

### **5 Live Oak Tree**

*One of the live oaks at Twelve Hills is very large with spreading limbs.*

Galls are round growths on some live oak leaves, and are caused by an insect. Several hundred years ago galls were used to make ink. Gall ink was used to write the Declaration of Independence.

### **6 Prairie Grass**

*80% of the plant species on native prairies are various grasses.*

They provide food for birds, animals and insects. People eat grasses too; some grasses we eat are wheat, oats and corn.

### **7 Cottonwood Tree**

Cottonwood trees are usually found close to water. Wind blowing through their leaves sounds like rain or flowing water. *Their seeds are carried in cotton-like fibers that float in the air.* This is not the plant that cotton clothing is made from. When beavers live near cottonwood trees, they build their homes from them.

### **8 Blue Jay**

*Blue jays have blue, white and black feathers.*

They are often found near oak trees, which provide acorns, their preferred food and a major part of their diet.

### **9 Ant**

*There are many different types of ants.*

They live in colonies. An ant can lift 20 times its body weight. Ants do not have ears.