
Appendix B:

Glossary of Terms

Achene: A dry, single-seeded fruit that does not have an opening. Example: hickory nut

Alternate leaves: Characteristic of plant in which single leaves are on opposite sides of a stem but at different levels (may apply to branches also).

Annual: A plant that completes its life cycle (germination, reproduction, death) in one season or year.

Anther: Part of the stamen (male filament of a flower) that bears pollen.

Anterior: The front of an organism; usually head.

Autecology: Biological relationship between a single species and its environment; ecology of a single organism.

Bivalve: A mussel with two hinged shells, such as a clam.

Bloom: A waxy layer on the surface of certain fruits, such as grapes; a blossom or flower.

Boreal: Similar to that found in the north (geographical area).

Brackish: Mixture of fresh and salt water.

Canopy: Highest layer of vegetation in a forest, usually of tree tops.

Capsule: A dry fruit that opens and sheds its contents.

Carapace: Upper half of a turtle shell.

Carnivore: Flesh-eating animal; certain plants that trap and digest insects and other small animals are considered “carnivorous” (example: pitcher plants).

Carolina bay: A coastal plain wetland habitat of unknown origin with a distinct oval/elliptical shape and depressed in the ground.

Chelicerae: Pair of appendages, at the extreme anterior of an arachnid, that are modified into fangs to inject poison into prey.

Compound leaf: A leaf made up of more than one leaflet on a common stem.

Coniferous: Cone-bearing tree, usually evergreen.

Critical habitat: Geographical area where an endangered or threatened species occurs at the time it is listed, which is essential for conservation of the species; may require special management considerations. Not all listed species have designated critical habitat. (Federal designation.)

Cyme: An inflorescence type characterized by flowers that

bloom from the center outward or apex down.

Diabase: A fine-grained rock of altered basalt (igneous).

Dioecious: Having the male and female flowers on separate plants.

Disjunct population: Population separated from the species' primary range by 300 miles or more.

Dorsal: The back surface of an organism (in bivalves, the side where the shells hinge).

Early succession: The first stages of plant growth in an area where the vegetation has been cleared; primary succession.

Ecotone: Vegetation transition zone between ecological communities.

Emergent plants: Plants that grow up out of, and above, the water's surface.

Endangered: In danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of (a species') range.

Endemic: A native of, and restricted to, a limited area.

Extant: Currently existing; not destroyed or lost.

Extirpated: Completely exterminated from an area.

Exotic: Not native to a locality; imported.

Fecundity: The capacity of an individual or a species to multiply rapidly.

Filament: Stalk that holds the pollen-bearing organ in a flower.

Foredune: Base of a beach dune nearest the ocean.

Habitat: The particular type of environmental circumstance, often highly specific in character, in which individuals or populations of a species of animal or plant typically live.

Herb: Seed-producing plant with nonwoody green stem.

Herbaceous: Plants having the characteristics of an herb.

Herbivore: An animal that feeds exclusively on plants.

Hydrology: The properties, distribution, and circulation of water on the surface of the land and in the soil and underlying rocks.

Hydric: Having an abundance of moisture.

Indigenous: Native, belonging to the locality.

Lanceolate: Tapering, widest near the base.

Lateral tooth: A tooth that flanks or is posterior to the hinge of a bivalve.

Leaflet: Any of the single pieces or blades of a compound leaf.

Length: For animals, measured from head to tail. For leaves,

does not include leaf stem (petiole).

Lichen: An organism made up of fungi and algae in a mutually dependent relationship. Not a true plant.

Lobe: Area of a leaf that is bordered by deep, widely spaced indentations.

Mesic: Environment with a balanced or intermediate supply of moisture; neither wet (hydric) nor dry (xeric).

Mollusk (mollusc): Group of invertebrates with a soft, unsegmented body and hard shell.

Monoecious: Having male and female flowers on the same plant.

Mussel: A bivalve mollusk.

Omnivore: Animal that eats both plant and animal tissue.

Opposite arrangement: An arrangement of leaves on a stem or petiole where single leaves are opposite each other but on the same level thereby forming a pair. Also applies to branches.

Palmate: Divided so that leaflets point outward like fingers on a hand.

Perennial: A plant that lives for longer than one year; may take longer than one year or season to complete the life cycle.

Petiole: The stem at the base of a leaf.

Pinnate: Leaflets arranged along each side of a common stem like a feather.

Pistil: A component of the female reproductive part of a flower; composed of a stigma, style, and placenta.

Plastron: Lower half of a turtle shell.

Pocosin: A nonriverine (non-alluvial) wetland located in the coastal plain, dominated by evergreen shrubs over peat soil.

Posterior: Rear half of an organism.

Proposed Species: Species that is proposed for federal endangered or threatened status; receives the same protection as species already listed federally.

Pseudocardinal tooth: Anterior pair of hinge teeth found in certain bivalves.

Rhizome: An underground, horizontal shoot that a plant uses to propagate itself.

Riffle: Shallow rapids in a stream where water breaks into waves.

Scute: Large horny scale or plate (example: outer surface of turtle shell).

Secondary succession: The pattern of changing plant community composition that occurs over time following interruption of primary succession.

Sepal: Part of a flower located below the petals, which may be green or colored like a petal. The sepals of a flower are collectively called the calyx.

Serrated: Toothed or saw-like, as in some leaf margins.

Sessile: A leaf attached to the plant stem at its base, without a leaf stem (petiole).

Speciation: The process of evolution of new species.

Spinnerets: In spiders, the organ perforated with tubes that connects silk-producing glands, enabling liquid silk to be released for use in building webs and encasing prey.

Stamen: Male reproductive part of a flower, consisting of a stalk bearing an anther in which pollen is produced.

Stolon: An aboveground shoot that a plant uses to propagate itself.

Substrate: The material or surface upon which an organism lives.

Succession: The sequence of different natural communities (especially plant communities) that develops over time in the same area, leading to a dynamic climax community.

Teeth: In mussels, a set of interlocking ridges that enable the two shells to close tightly.

Threatened: Likely to become endangered in the near future.

Understory: Vegetation layer between canopy and the ground cover in a forest; composed of shrubs and small trees.

Valve: One shell from a bivalve mollusc, such as a clam shell.

Ventral: Pertaining to the abdominal side of an animal.

Whorl: Circle of leaves or flowers around a stalk on the same level.

Winged: A flat extension. Often runs along the length of a plant stem.

Xeric: Dry, arid conditions.