

LAKE HAIGLER NATURE WALK



STOP 4

Note the climbing vine with hairy globules on the Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*) tree. This is Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). Many people are allergic to the toxic chemical in the form of oil found in all parts of the plant. "Leaflets of three, let it be."

STOP 5

The vegetation on this hilltop is representative of the upland, with the dry, mixed hardwood forest that is so common in this area. Within five steps from this marker are five species of trees. Can you find these five trees based on the leaves on the right?



Dogwood (*Cornus florida*): medium leaves, curved side veins with smooth leaf margins



Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboretum*): large leaves, straight side veins with small teeth along the margin of the leaf



Mockernut Hickory (*Carya tomentosa*): seven leaflets on a stem



Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*): pointed lobed leaves



White Oak (*Quercus alba*): round lobed leaves

STOP 6

This area was heavily damaged by Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Most of the large trees were toppled (windthrow), and many young trees have begun to replace these fallen giants. Windthrows permit more light to reach the forest floor, allowing plants that have been shaded by the large canopy to grow and fill in the new gaps in the canopy. You can now see that nature has the ability to "lick its wounds" and rebound.

STOP 8

On the left is a tree with a shaggy bark Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*). The nuts from this species are quite oily and were highly prized by the Native Americans and early settlers. As firewood, shagbark is unsurpassed. A cord of this wood (4'x4'x8') produces more heat than a ton of coal. Green hickory was used to cure meat like hickory smoked ham and barbecue. Note the short trees with smooth bark that look like twisted muscled Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*). This species occurs along the edges of streams and lakes, grows slowly, and produces wood that is hard, heavy, close-grained and reputed to be as strong as steel. In Native American and early pioneer days, anything that had to withstand strain was made of this wood, such as rake teeth, wedges, cogs and tool handles.

STOP 9

This large tree is the American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Beech nuts are a favorite food for wildlife. Beech wood is very close grained so that it is hard, strong and does not absorb liquids. It has been used for making wooden bowls, tool handles and furniture. Medicinally, Native Americans chewed the nuts as a worm expellant. A leaf tea was used for burns, frostbite and poison ivy rash. On the slope behind the beech is a grove of small, dark-barked, crooked-stemmed Storax shrubs (*Styrax grandifolia*). If you are here during the April-May blooming time, the groups of white flowers produce a very nice display.

STOP 7

This slope is covered with Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*). The common name is derived from the evergreen character of this species. It is visible during the winter. This slope retains more moisture than others along the trail, so the ferns are more successful. You may note that the tips of some of the leaves look smaller and somewhat misshapen. If you look on the lower surface, you will see where spores are produced. Spores are part of the reproductive cycle of ferns.



STOP 3

This land bridge was built as part of a pond restoration project in 1993. It serves as a convenient crossing as well as a dam. The resulting pond to the west serves as a settling basin for silt from the watershed. Lake Haigler provides habitat for animals such as Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and Beaver (*Castor canadensis*). The Beaver, a vegetarian, is North America's largest native rodent. The "busy beaver" is constantly cutting trees, eating the inner bark and using the rest of the tree to build lodges and dams. Primarily nocturnal, the best time for viewing beavers is in the evening. Beavers commonly grow to 3-4 feet in length and weigh 45-60 pounds.

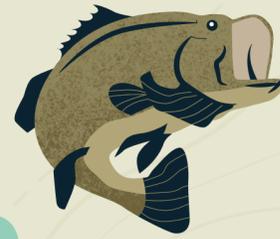
STOP 2

Lake Haigler was built in 1952 by Colonel Elliott W. Springs and named for a great Catawba Indian King. It has been stocked with Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), Shellcracker (*Lepomis microlophus*) and Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*).

Triploid Grass Carp, which are sterile, have been added to control aquatic vegetation. Enjoy your walk around Lake Haigler as we tell you about some of its features.

STOP 1

Take a look at the old road bed under this bridge. This is part of Nation Ford Road that ran from Pennsylvania to the Catawba Nation and southward to Augusta, Georgia. Imagine the year is 1640. You can see Catawba Native Americans, trappers and traders riding horses and walking along the trail. As you keep looking down through history, you will see American Revolutionary war troops in 1779 and Confederate soldiers nearly a hundred years later. Now it is your turn to walk this way.



STOP 13

On your right is a mature pine stand. This pine stand has been here for at least 40 years. Pines are usually one of the first tree species to establish after an area has been disturbed. We use controlled burns in this area to help restore native plants, control invasive species and replenish the soil with nutrients. If you look closely you can see black marks on the base of the trees. These are remnants from previous burns in this area.

STOP 12

This nest box was provided for Wood Ducks, which feed on aquatic plants, acorns and insects. The circular metal guard on the post keeps snakes and raccoons from raiding the nest.



STOP 11

A popular destination for a hike, the Lake Haigler Spillway is located off of Haigler Loop and is created by water coming over the Haigler Dam. Depending on lake levels and rainfall, the Lake Haigler Spillway can be a flowing waterfall or trickling stream.



BLUE STAR TRAIL

RUSH PAVILION

SCOVILLE DOCK

LAKE HAIGLER

KAYAK CENTER

HAIGLER LOOP