• Start by remembering the mnemonic M.A.Dog.Honeysuckle which stands for Maple Ash Dogwood Honeysuckle. These are virtually the only native trees/shrubs which have an opposite branching pattern.
- Maple has slender twigs with red buds (red or silver maple) or brown buds (sugar maple)
- Ash has very stout twigs - the tree actually looks dead
- If it is shrub-like
  - dogwood - has bright red branches
  - moose maple - has some pale red
  - honeysuckle - very thin branches and no red

• Look at the bark.
  - is it smooth and light colored? (birch & aspen)
  - if a greenish tint (quaking aspen, large toothed aspen, or balsam poplar)
  - if white and peely (white or paper birch)
  - is it smooth and dark brown with white dots (speckled alder)

• The others that you may encounter: red oak, basswood, ironwood, hazel, juneberry, ?

Describe the buds from an American Basswood:

Describe the bark of an Ironwood (hop-hornbeam):
What does the bark of an Aspen taste like?

What do the buds of a yellow birch taste like?

Where does black ash typically grow?

What is distinctive about speckled alder?

Describe the buds from a balsam poplar:

What is the difference between a fir and a spruce needle?