Join us on a Letterboxing Journey through

Logee's Retail Greenhouses

141 North Street
Danielson, CT 06239
www.logees.com
The Long House: The Hobbit Hole

Start the journey in the retail store and go down 7 steps and to the left. You are in The Long House, so named because it is the longest greenhouse on the property.

Look up. Do the long, pink furry shapes look like caterpillars? This is a popular plant known as Acalypha Pendula, Strawberry Firetails. It comes from New Guinea, but looks like a character from Dr. Seuss.

Do you hear running water? Stop at the tiny waterfall. Do you see the frogs? Are they home? They spend their winters here when it's too cold outside. If you have a penny, you can drop it in the pond and make a wish.

Turn the corner to the right and stop in front of the large Ivy plant. Don't worry it is not poison ivy. Can you find the plant across from it that looks like a pipe? It is the Dutchman's Pipe, Aristolochia Ringens, smell it if you dare!

Be careful walking past the small plants on the left that look like paper lanterns. These are the Bougainvilleas. They have thorns, but are certainly beautiful to look at! How many different colored blooms do you see today? Circle the colors you find. Gold  Orange  Pink  Purple  Red  White

Take five giant steps forward. On the right, you will find green plants with dark spots in the shape of feathers. Did fairies paint these leaves? What do they look like? These plants are known as “Rattle Snake Calathea.” They come from the deep jungles of the Amazon, where the big snakes also live.

Keep walking, and look to the left. Can you find the Gardenias and the Jasmines? Hint: All the plants are in alphabetical order. If any of these plants are flowering, you should smell them. The finest perfumes use these pure, whole flowers, for their rich scent. They grow in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Also on your left, just a little further, you will find a plant whose flowers are named after something found in the ocean that you can eat. Can you find it? Justica Brandegeana. Yes, this is the 'Shrimp Plant’ that is native to Mexico and is also found in Florida.

Turn right, step up next to the ‘Blue Ginger’ plant and tiptoe across the center aisle under the pink Bougainvillea umbrella tree. Step down and take a right. You’ll find one particular old vine wrapped around a vertical pipe with a blue pictured tag on it. If you visit Logee’s in the late winter and early spring, you can catch a glimpse of this most amazing turquoise colored bloom. Strongylodon Macrobotrys is also known as the Jade Vine and is found in the tropical forests of the Philippines.

**Tucked under the vine is where you will find your first stamp within the Hobbit Hole.**
The Potting House: The Caged Flower

From here, turn around and look for the chimney.

Walk straight towards it until you are in a three way path, with the brick chimney on your left and the wall of red flowers, “Red Passion Flower” (Passiflora miniata) on your right.

Turn left so the chimney is to your right. Look up and you will find a canopy of yellow trumpets. Its vines have created a woven pattern. Wouldn’t this make a great fort! This is the *Allamanda Cathartica*, also known as the Golden Trumpet. This plant is native to the Americas and it is almost always in bloom!

Follow the vines into the Potting House and look to your right. Find the plant sign with the teacup and saucer? Do you see the tiny Tasmanian Violets (viola banksii) sitting in a row? Looney Tunes are the only other ones with these fast growers.

Turn and face the white exit door and start walking toward it. On the left are passion flower plants that appear to be stars within the stars. The Passifloras are unique and vining in habit. Are any of them blooming? Can you find the ones that are hardy to this area?

Look above the passion flower bench and find one of our most popular Hibiscus. It is usually in bloom. This orange yellowish flower is known as "The Path" and comes from Hawaii. Our growers take cuttings from this "Mother" plant and we sell 4" versions of this beautiful Hibiscus.

Turn to the left, but don’t go out the door quite yet. Go left, past the big Passion Flower vine, *Passiflora xalato-caerulea*. Go past the middle aisle and turn left. Walk under the drip lines and find the plants on the left side with bulging trunks and roots that twist and curve around. These are *Adeniums* and come from Thailand. Their common name is Desert Rose because they like warm weather and do not require a lot of water, like being in a desert. When these plants are extremely thirsty, their trunks will start to shrivel. Once watered, they will fill back out.

Look down to the right at the end of the bench to a vining plant that is trying to climb out of the greenhouse. The yellow flower with a black-eye is known as *Thunbergia ‘Sunlady’* or black-eyed Susan vine. It is native to Eastern Africa. If it is not blooming, find its tag. Then, look to the right and you can find its relative in a wire cage.

*Inside this cage, you will find your next stamp.*
The Herb House: Please Water Me!

From the Potting House, go out the white door, under the passion flower arch. Take a right and look to your right. Find the wooden door with the black handle, but do not enter. Turn left and go down the 6 steps into the Greenhouse that sits under the ground. This is our Herb House.

In this house, you will need to use 3 of your 5 senses, while investigating the plants located on the left side of the greenhouse.

Some of these plants are used for perfumes, teas, food seasoning or healing.

First: Find the plant that matches the leaves in each of the pictures.

Next: Touch the leaves. Are they smooth, rough, soft, or sticky?

Then: Smell the leaves or smell the oils that they have left on your fingertips.

Write the name of each of the 6 identified plans. Did you like the textures? Did you enjoy their fragrance?

Are you running out of time? Turn around after you find the last plant clue. Walk back the way you came in. Follow the vertical heat pipe, past the big Rosemary stock plants and beyond the ‘Fairy Rose’ bush. After the wheel that opens the greenhouse vent, find the two tiered wooden display benches.

You’ll find the hidden stamp in a flowered watering can.
The Fern House: A Greenhouse Within A Greenhouse

Go up the stairs of the Herb House and turn left. Enter into the next greenhouse with the wooden door and the black handle. You are now entering the oldest of our greenhouses, dated 1892. This is where the Logee’s story began. This house is called The Fern House.

On either side of the Fern House door, stand the guards, the Staghorn Ferns. Majestic plants that have no need for soil only air and trees for support.

See the big banana planted in the ground? Turn right and walk around the center island of mother plants so you are on the Papyrus and fern side. Look for the Snowflake plant, Trevesia Palmate from southeast Asia. See how its leaves branch out to make a unique snowflake design. Hint: This plant is not white like snow. If you can’t find it, find the tag first.

Turn around and go down the left aisle where you will find “Winter Sweet,” Acokanthera spectabilis. This mother plant, when blooming in clusters of white flowers, smells wonderful; just be careful, this plant is poisonous.

Next on either side of you, are the Elephant Ear plants. The leaves on these plants can become quite large in some varieties; up to 3 feet wide! That’s bigger than some 3-year old children. We sell a small elephant ear named after a sea creature. Can you locate it? It is Alocasia ‘Sting Ray.’

Follow the center planting area around and to the other side. Go past the huge Brunfelsia australis, known as Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. This is a very fragrant plant when blooming. Here you will find some mini plants that don’t mind the wet, rainy weather. These are known as terrarium plants and require very little attention.

Find the small glass greenhouse inside this greenhouse. Your next stamp will be here.
The Citrus House: Knock, Knock!

Turn around, and follow the wooden rails. Take 3 steps up into our most popular house. The treasure which many seek resides in here! Take the path to the left. First, you'll see the Gardenia. Oh how wonderful these flowers smell. Their scent can fill this greenhouse with such beautiful perfume.

Now let's make the coffee...Lots and lots of coffee. Can you find this plant? The beans of the *Coffea Arabica* can be planted to produce more coffee plants, or processed into coffee beans for brewing.

At last, you have reached the treasure. This is a very old tree that has been reproduced by cuttings, hundreds of thousands of times. The *Citrus Limon* tree (Ponderosa Lemon) also known as “The American Wonder Lemon” has been growing since 1900. Can you guess how old this tree is? Do a little math and you have the age-today's year minus 1900. Do you see the lemons? Can you guess how big they grow? Some of the lemons grow to be the size of a football. How much do you think they weigh? Lemons have a pulpy center, so they are heavier than your regular football and can weigh up to 5 lbs. when grown that big! That is a LOT of lemonade!

Now look on both the left and right, and you will find a beautiful selection of Hibiscus plants. They come in many colors, ranging from yellow to red to orange to blue. The hibiscus is a state flower of which state?

Do not go out the Exit door, but look to the right and in the corner you will see strange, bumpy looking fruit. This comes from the plant Citron ‘Etrog’ (*Citrus medica*). If you don’t see any fruit, check the label in the plant.

*The next stamp is hidden in a house, but it is not a house for plants. Did you find it? KNOCK! KNOCK! Is anybody home?*
The Big House: Just Truckin’

From the Lemon Tree House, exit the back door, where you see the red EXIT sign. Go up 3 steps and out the door. Turn right and enter the next door ahead. This is the Big House, so named because it is our biggest retail greenhouse. The plants in the Big House can tolerate and actually require colder temperatures (down to 40 degrees) including cacti and succulents.

Look to your left, and you will find a tall tree planted in the ground. It will produce small yellow fruit. This tree is the Lemon Guava, \((Psidium litorale)\) native to Brazil.

Continue on the pathway, and notice the Roses of Winter, the Camellias, on your left. Before you reach the garden bench, can you find a fruit tree with 10 different fruit? This Washington Navel tree is now a citrus salad and has Grapefruit, Tempo, Tangerine, Valencia Orange, Kumquats, and Fujitsu Sweet Limes on it.

Continue past the garden bench to find another fruiting tree called \(Fortunella Margarita\) Nagami Kumquat. Did you know that you can eat the skin of a kumquat? Continue to the end of the path and look on your right to find the White Champaca \((Michelia Alba)\). Its star-like flower packs a super scent that will perfume the greenhouse through the summer and fall. These trees grow everywhere in China and Hawaii.

Take a right, but do not go up the stairs. Say hello to the Palm Tree and keep it on your left, and go down the middle aisle with the concrete blocks. Do you see a huge papyrus on the left? Centuries ago, Egyptians made paper out of this plant. Continue walking and find the fruit that combines an apple and a rose. The tree is tagged \(Syzygium Jambos\) and is known as the Rose Apple. It has a very interesting flavor if you ever have an opportunity to try it.

Continue straight at the four way path and look up to the left to see the Angel Trumpets in the sky. Brugmansia have a sweet scent and bloom in colors of pink, yellow, red and white. Keep walking and look up to the right. Can you find the staghorn fern growing in the tree? Staghorn ferns \((Platycerium bifurcatum)\) are epiphytes or air plants and grow naturally in trees in the tropics.

Take a left at the end of the bench and squeeze past the wall of flowers when in bloom that we call Pink Floyd. When in bloom this New Zealand tea tree plant is magnificent. Also known as \(Leptospermum\) Ruby Glow, the tag to identify this plant is on the left, attached to an iron pipe.

Next, look for the succulent shoe that will point you in the next direction. Turn in that direction and take 5 giant steps to the plants in little pots on the left that look like pebbles. These are known as Living Stones (Lithops) from South Africa and will flower periodically.

\textit{After the Orchid Cactus (Epiphyllums) on the left, look for the next letterbox site. Unique in its succulent design, it might drive off if you stamp it quickly.}
Congratulations!

You have completed your letterboxing journey. Continue walking down the concrete pathway past the geraniums on the left. Touch the leaves and smell your hands to experience the fragrance of apples, cinnamon, lemon, and some unique Logee’s own varieties. When you reach the end of the concrete pathway, please turn left, go past the huge planter and go up the steps to the right of the sign that says Gift Shop and Exit.

Don’t forget to sign Logee’s Letterboxing Guest Book. Show your 6 completed letterboxing stamps to the cashier who will give you a $5.00 coupon to be used in Logee’s Greenhouses or Retail Store (on orders of $10 or more, no expiration date.)

We, at Logee’s, hope you have enjoyed your tropical journey into the world of plants, hosted by our Greenhouses. We hope you have learned some fun facts along the way and will visit us again soon.

Thank you.