Dear Tree Spotters,

If you have visited the Arboretum lately, you will have noticed that some of our trees and shrubs have already started to shift gears as they head into fall, with the first colored leaves making their appearance.

Thinking about those leaves getting ready to "fall" in "fall" lead me to do a little research. "Deciduous", the adjective that describes all of the trees and shrubs the Tree Spotters are following, means that the plant so described sheds its leaves at the end of the growing season. It turns out that it comes from the Latin *deciduus* ("falling down or off"). So in fact, "autumn" is alternately called "fall" precisely because it is during this season that the leaves fall from deciduous trees.

So I hope you enjoy these last quiet days of summer before fall begins in earnest and the leaves reach the ground - and I also hope you enjoy this edition of Spot On!.

Suzanne Mrozak,
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**Tree Spotter Updates**

**Spotting Together and Focus Tree Gatherings: September and October**
These events on the Arboretum grounds are a great way to learn more about our trees and shrubs and their phenophases, as well as to meet some of your fellow Tree Spotters.

Remember, you don't have to be spotting these particular species to attend one of these sessions. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Focus Tree Gathering**
Wednesday, September 4, 5:30 – 6:15 PM
Meet at *Fagus grandifolia* (American Beech) 14585*D, tree #2 on the Beech Route.

**Spotting Together: Shrub Route**
Saturday, September 28, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Meet at *Vaccinium corymbosum* (Highbush Blueberry) 386-71*B, shrub #1 on the route.

**Focus Tree Gathering**
Wednesday, October 2, 5:00 – 5:45 PM
Meet at *Acer saccharum* (Sugar Maple) 22834*B*, tree #2 on the Maple Route.

**Spotting Together: Birch Route**
Sunday, October 13, 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Meet at *Betula nigra* (River Birch) 1199*J*, tree #1 on the route.

We suggest that you always check the [Tree Spotters Event Calendar](#) ahead of time. If we have to reschedule for any reason, we will update the listing.

If the weather is iffy at the last minute, you can also text or call me at 857-321-2825 to make sure we are meeting.

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**Fall Tree Spotter training classes reminder**

**NEW! Basic/Beyond the Basics September 7**

Our September 21st training classes is now full, so we have added another set of classes on September 7th. If you have friends who might be interested, please let them know!

You are also welcome to take the Basics and/or Beyond the Basics class if you like. Note, however, that you must register in advance. (See below.)

**Basic training**
Saturday, September 7, 12:00 – 1:30 PM
Hunnewell Building Lecture Hall

**Beyond the Basics training**
Saturday, September 7, 2:00 – 4:30 PM
Hunnewell Building Lecture Hall

Our focus during this session will be on *Quercus rubra* (Northern Red Oak), *Quercus alba* (White Oak) and *Hamamelis virginiana* (Common Witch Hazel).

Free but registration required. Register at my.arboretum.harvard.edu or call 617-384-5209.

Note that new volunteers must take both classes, but returning Tree Spotters are welcome to sign up for either or both.

**Refresher training September 8**

Our fall refresher training for current Tree Spotters will be on Sunday, September 8, from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM at the Hunnewell Building Lecture Hall.

We will review the basics and fill you in on some things we've learned that we hope you will find helpful. Plus it's a great chance to ask any questions you may have.

NOTE: Weather permitting, we will go out after the class to do some Tree Spotting together.

Please make a reservation by emailing us at TreeSpotters@fas.harvard.edu so we can prepare enough handouts and have enough snacks :-)

You are also welcome to take the Basics and/or Beyond the Basics class on September 7th if you like. (See the details on the left.)

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**NOTE: Registration has closed for the September 21st Basics and Beyond the Basics classes, but we are taking names for a waiting list in case someone cancels. Email us at TreeSpotters@fas.harvard.edu if you are interested in that option.**

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**Upcoming Arboretum events of interest**

As always, the Arboretum has many events of interest to Tree Spotters. I suggest you check the [Calendar of Events](#) regularly! Here's just a sample.

**Weld Hill: Research on View**

Monday, September 16, 2:30-3:30 PM
Location: Weld Hill

Take a guided tour of the state-of-the-art Weld Hill Research and Administration Building. lead

**From Seed to Tree**

Tuesday, September 3, 1:00pm-1:45 PM
Location: Bonsai and Penjing Pavilion

Did you know that almost all of the plants in the Arboretum begin their lives in the Dana
This is a great opportunity for Tree Spotters to learn about some of the cutting edge plant research being done at the Arboretum as well as explore the "green" building design.

Free, but registration is limited.

Register online at my.arboretum.harvard.edu or call 617-384-5209.

Greenhouses? Come to the Bonsai and Penjing Pavilion on September 3rd and the Dana Greenhouses staff will give you a behind-the-scenes look of the greenhouse growing process, from seed to sprout to seedling to tree.

Free, but registration is limited to 15.

Register online at my.arboretum.harvard.edu or call 617-384-5209.

Research Talks at Weld Hill

The Arboretum holds a weekly seminar series most Mondays during the academic year at 12:10 PM at the Weld Hill Lecture Hall (unless otherwise noted). All talks are free and open to everyone.

Al Kovaleski, Arboretum Putnam Fellow, will kick off the series on September 9th with a talk titled "Winter physiology matters".

To receive announcements, sign up for the AA Research Talks mailing list.

If you can't attend in person, you can watch on the Arboretum’s YouTube channel. The streaming video, which is visible only when a live stream is scheduled or in progress, is titled "AA Research Talks Live".

You will get more out of these talks if you have a science background, but some of them are less technical than others. If you want to test the waters, I suggest you come on November 18th to hear Peter Del Tredici, Senior Research Scientist Emeritus at the Arnold Arboretum, talk on "Closing the Book on Sargent's Weeping Hemlock". He is an engaging speaker who lectures widely in North America and Europe and is the author of more than 130 scientific and popular articles.

Featured link

Boston Sunday Review: Ned Friedman
The Director of the Arnold Arboretum gives an oral history of Boston’s famed botanical collection and talks about whether it has a special role in a time of climate change.

Twitter reminder and a selection of Tweets

You can follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/ArbTreeSpotters. We post things of interest to Tree Spotters – facts about trees, links to articles on climate change and citizen science, etc. Please check us out! Here are a few recent Tweets in case you missed them.

Tweets show that visits to green space improve your mood. The greener the park the bigger the effect, and it lasts for hours. Big data, clever study, important findings.

Join us for Nature, the mythic telling of Emerson and Thoreau’s mutual love affair with the natural world. The Old Manse in Concord provides a fitting location. Performances begin September 13 and Tickets are on sale now!

Have you ever wondered what trees do when the sun sets? It is believed that like humans trees take a rest during the evening. Some studies have shown that branches and leaves may droop at night but during the day they are stretched up to catch as
Tree Spotters Spotlight

The Tree Spotters Spotlight is an opportunity to let all of the Tree Spotters know what you are engaged in when you are not Tree Spotting. I know that many of you are involved in things that the Tree Spotter Community would be interested in, so please let me know if you have something happening this fall that I can post in the September Spot On!

**Spotlight: This month the spotlight is on Steffanie Schwam’s Art Workshop: Revealing the Wild Print on September 28th.**

**Art Workshop: Revealing the Wild Print**
Steffanie Schwam, Artist
Saturday, September 28, 1:00–3:00pm
Location: Hunnewell Building

Join the Arboretum’s exhibiting artist, Steffanie Schwam, in this hands-on workshop. Create a print to include in a small book. You will make your own unique monoprint on paper or fabric, using leaves from the Arboretum’s collections, paint, printmaking tools, recycled materials, and the inspiration of the surrounding landscape. Bring your creativity, we’ll supply the rest.

Appropriate for ages 8 and above. An adult must accompany anyone between 8 and 12.

This workshop will take place on the Hunnewell lawn if the weather is appropriate, in the Hunnewell lecture hall if weather is inclement.

Fee $15 member, $25 nonmember
Register at my.arboretum.harvard.edu or call 617-384-5277.

**Reminder: Fabric, Fiber & Phenology,** The Art Prints of Steffanie Schwam & The Arnold Arboretum Tree Spotters Program, will be on display at the Hunnewell Visitor Center through October 6.

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Wrap Up

The deadline for the next edition of Spot On! is September 23. If you have any information that you’d like to share with your fellow Tree Spotters, please let me know by then.

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions regarding this issue of Spot On!, suggestions for future issues, or feedback on the Tree Spotters program in general, please email us at TreeSpotters@fas.harvard.edu.
To contribute to the Tree Spotters Fund, go here and click on "Tree Spotters" from the "Select a Fund" drop down menu.

Visit the Tree Spotters Website