Dear Tree Spotters,

I did a little poking around on the internet and found this quote I thought you might enjoy:

"The most serious charge which can be brought against New England is not Puritanism but February."
- Joseph Wood Krutch

I also discovered, however, that in Finnish, February is called *helmikuu*, meaning "month of the pearl". When snow melts on tree branches, it forms droplets, and as these freeze again, they are like pearls of ice. Here's a photo I took on February 14, 2017 that illustrates this perfectly!

February is also the last month of meteorological winter in the Northern Hemisphere. Even better :-)

I hope you enjoy these last few days February, however you wish to characterize it - and I hope you enjoy this edition of Spot On! as well.

Suzanne Mrozak,
Tree Spotters Volunteer Coordinator
TreeSpotters@fas.harvard.edu

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**Topics in this issue:**
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- March Spotting Together and Focus Tree Gathering
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**Tree Spotter Updates**

**2019 Tree Spotters training update**
Our spring schedule is now all set. (See below.) I hope to see many of you at one of the refresher classes. Not only will you get a chance to ask us questions, but you'll also be able to pick up one of our lovely limited edition Tree Spotters mugs.

You are also welcome to take a Basics or Beyond the Basics classes if you like. In any case, please spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested in joining us this season.

**IMPORTANT:** If you are a returning Tree Spotter and only want to attend a Beyond the Basics class, please email TreeSpotters@fas.harvard.edu and let us know which class(es) you want to register for. The Arboretum system isn't set up to handle that request, but we will be happy to take care of it for you.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please pass them along!

**Refresher training**
Saturday, March 23, 1:30 - 3:00 PM
Hunnewell Building Lecture Hall

Sunday, April 7, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**Beyond the Basics training**
Sunday, March 24, 1:00 - 3:30 PM
Hunnewell Building Lecture Hall
Focus on *Acer rubrum* and *Acer saccharum*
March Spotting Together and Focus Tree Gathering

Days are getting longer and buds are getting ready to break - time to start our on-the-ground sessions. Hope to see many of you there.

Spotting Together: Birch Route
Thursday, March 28, 5:30 - 6:30 PM
Meet at tree #1, *Betula nigra* (River Birch) 1199*J.

Focus Tree Gathering: *Hamamelis virginiana* (Common Witch-hazel)
Sunday, March 31, 1:00 - 1:45 PM
Meet at shrub #10, 22947*B.

Check the Tree Spotters Event Calendar for more information.

If the weather is iffy, text or call me at 857-321-2825.

Next Book Club meeting is March 7
At our next Tree Spotters Book Club meeting on March 7 we will be talking about *The Hidden Half of Nature*, by David Montgomery and Anne Bikle.

We will meet from 7:00 - 8:30 PM in the Weld Hill Research Building Lecture Hall. Nicole Uhre-Balk and Betsey Henkels are again sharing the facilitator role this season.

You are welcome to join us at any meeting, even if you haven’t signed up in advance for the season. The schedule is posted in the Tree Spotters Event Calendar.

Next Botany Blast is March 14
Botany Blasts are created for the Arboretum’s Tree Spotter Volunteers to help them better understand the phenological events they are recording in the landscape, but all are welcome to participate. Feel free to spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested.

Our second Botany Blast of the 2019 season, *Triggers in Trees*, is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, from 6:30 – 7:45 PM at the Hunnewell Building.

*Jacob Grossman*, a plant ecophysiologist and community ecologist who is currently a Putnam Fellow at the Arboretum, will explain what’s happening inside a tree that makes leaf buds break, initiates flowering or the dropping of leaves.

Bring your questions and delve into the signals and processes that trigger events in trees.

Free, but registration requested. Register at my.arboretum.harvard.edu or call 617-384-5277.

Hope to see many of you there!

NOTE: There is one more Botany Blast in the
Do you have phenophase questions?
The National Phenology Network is hosting a special webinar on March 1st to “answer your pressing phenophase questions”. All Tree Spotters are welcome to participate. I plan to attend and will give you an update in the March Spot On!

If you have phenophase questions you’d like them to answer, email them to phenophases@usanpn.org. Questions will be accepted through Wednesday, February 27th at 8pm ET.

If you prefer, email them to TreeSpotters@fas.harvard.edu before the deadline and I will be happy to pass them along in a batch.

Webinar details
Phenophase Question and Answer Zoom Meeting
Friday, March 1st at 1pm Eastern Time.
https://arizona.zoom.us/j/754366911
Meeting ID: 754 366 911

Featured links

Spring optics sale
This 15% off sale, which runs from March 15 - 25 at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln, is for Mass Audubon Society members (an incentive to join if you haven’t already done so). The people there are very knowledgeable and helpful, so if you are thinking of buying a pair of binoculars to help you make observations, this would be a great time to visit the store.

What is phenology?
Brought to us by the National Earth Science Teachers Association, this site provides an excellent overview of phenology and climate change. Plus you Tree Spotters who are also teachers may find some useful resources here.

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.

Despite appearances, trees are social beings.
In old English the word treow means both tree and truth. Etymologically, truth and tree grow out of the same root.
This Harvard GSD course takes students into Harvard’s Arnold Arboretum, where plants come to life.

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. The month, I wanted to let you know about an event I will be...
attending in Raleigh, NC, to help spread the word about the Tree Spotters program. I'll post some highlights of the conference in the next edition of Spot On!

Spotlight: Suzanne Mrozak at the 2019 CitSci Conference
Date: Monday, March 13 - 17, 2019
Location: Raleigh, NC

I will be presenting a 5-minute "Lightning Talk" on the Tree Spotters program as well as a poster. I also plan to attend a bunch of workshops and presentations, check out other posters and talks, and meet some of the folks from the National Phenology Network in person. There are many, many events going on and people coming from around the world. I'm really looking forward to it!

If you are interested in learning more about the conference, just visit their website.

NOTE: I should be able to include a photo of our poster in the March Spot On! and we also hope to have it on display during our training classes this spring, so you'll get a chance to see it :-)!

For the next edition...
Reminder: If you have an event or an activity that you would like me to Spotlight, please let me know in advance. Many of you participate in pursuits that I'm sure would be of interest to your fellow Tree Spotters, so here's your chance to spread the word.

Wrap Up

The deadline for the next edition of Spot On! is March 21. 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