Dear Tree Spotters,

We set a new record this month and it probably won't surprise you. April 2019 was the first month (going back to 1872) that we've had 20 days of rain in Boston. Since 1872 was the year that the Arboretum came into existence, that means that this April marks the most days of rain in a month that the Arboretum has ever experienced! No wonder the ponds are so high and the grounds are so muddy.

The vernal pool that is home to two of our *Vaccinium corymbosum* (Highbush Blueberries) and two of our *Acer rubrum* (Red Maples) is especially high, as you can see from the photo on the right, taken on the 25th. If you look closely, you will see the ground sign under the water :-) So please be prepared when you come Tree Spotting. Waterproof footwear and binoculars will definitely come in handy.

I do hope that May is drier and sunnier - and I also hope you enjoy this edition of Spot On!.

Suzanne Mrozak,
Tree Spotters Volunteer Coordinator
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**Topics in this issue:**
- Welcome to our new Tree Spotters
- Spotting Together and Focus Tree Gatherings: May and June
- Upcoming Arboretum events of interest
- Featured links: The Tempestry Project and Help NASA Measure Trees with Your Smartphone
- Twitter reminder and a selection of Tweets
- Tree Spotters Spotlight

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**Tree Spotter Updates**

Welcome to the 32 new Tree Spotters who joined us in April! We managed to dodge the rain drops for our April 27th class and got out on the grounds to visit out *Aesculus flava* (Yellow Buckeye) and *Betula nigra* (River Birch). We look forward to see you again at many of our events during the coming season!
Our trees and shrubs have awakened and are getting into high gear, so there's a lot to observe right now. Hope you can join us for as many of these events as possible.

Remember, you don't have to be spotting these particular species to attend one of these sessions. It's a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have, as well as get to meet some of your fellow Tree Spotters.

**Spotting Together: Oak and Beech Routes**
Friday, May 10, 6:00 - 7:00pm (rescheduled from Thursday May 2)
Meet at tree #1 on the Oak Route, *Quercus rubra* (Northern Red Oak) 11253*A*

**Focus Tree Gathering: Acer rubrum (Red Maple)**
Thursday, May 16, 6:00 - 6:45pm
Meet at tree #5 on the Maple Route, 1196-84*A*

**Spotting Together: Peters Hill Route**
Saturday, June 2, 1:00 - 2:00pm
Meet at tree #1, *Tilia americana* (American Linden) 1323-82*A*

**Focus Tree Gathering: Tilia americana (American Linden)**
Monday, June 17, 6:00 - 6:45pm
Meet at tree #1 on the Linden and North Woods Route, 17527*D*

Check the [Tree Spotters Event Calendar](#) for more information.

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

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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 are just a few of the things coming up.

**Dissection Dramatics! - Flower Form**
Arnold Arboretum Staff and Volunteers
2:00pm-4:00pm
Sunday, May 26 2019

This is part of the new Science in Our Park Series. Come to the Arnold Arboretum and be a scientist! Get your hands onto scientific tools, use your observation skills and share your findings with others.

Dissection Dramatics will give you ample opportunity to fiddle with microscopes, hand lenses and digital scopes. Discover the secrets contained in a flower as you pull it apart piece by piece. Then test your puzzle making abilities as you attempt to put it back together.

One adult may bring a maximum of three children; suitable for children ages five and up. This is a drop in activity. The event will be taking place on the Hunnewell Lawn inside the main entrance to the Arnold Arboretum.

**Collections Up Close - Ginkgos**
Arnold Arboretum Staff and Volunteers
1:00pm-3:00pm
Sunday, June 2 2019

Celebrate plant diversity, natural history, and the work of public gardens by spotlighting plants and their families. Join us for tours, family activities and festivities in the ginkgo collection on Peters Hill. Most people can identify a ginkgo leaf – but what do you really know about the tree itself? Come learn more about this “living fossil” and explore a collection that reflects the greatest known genetic diversity of wild-collected ginkgos in North America.

This is a drop in activity. The event will be taking place in the ginkgo collection on Peters Hill. Street parking is available on Bussey Street.

Note: Our June Spotting Together session will be on Peters Hill, so you can easily stop by the Ginkgos after Tree Spotting!

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**Featured links**

The Tempestry Project
One of the ongoing problems inherent in discussions about climate change is the vast scale of the conversation. The Tempestry Project’s goal is to scale this down into something that is accurate, tangible, relatable, and beautiful.

Help NASA Measure Trees with Your Smartphone
Healthy forests play a crucial role in Earth’s ecosystem as growing trees take up carbon from the atmosphere. NASA satellites and airborne missions study forests to see how carbon moves through ecosystems – and now
citizen scientists can help investigate this key question as well by using their smartphone to measure tree height.

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.

- **In the span of a decade, the number of studies indicating that time spent in natural surroundings—whether groomed urban parks or unruly wilderness landscapes—can improve people’s well-being has increased from dozens to hundreds.**
- **Crown shyness, the phenomenon in which the crowns of fully stocked trees do not touch each other, is usually shown from below. This is what it looks like from above.**
- **Scientists have found that the edges of the tropics have been moving at about 0.2-0.3 degrees of latitude per decade since the 1970s. The result is that the boundary between wet and dry climates is pushing out, expanding the zone of the tropics.**

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 for certain that many of you are involved in things that the Tree Spotters Community would be interested in. So please let me know if you have something happening in June or July that I can post in the May Spot On!

**Spotlight: This month we are spotlighting Lelia Stokes Weinstein and Joann Greenwood.**

- **Lelia Stokes Weinstein** (www.leliart.com) has had two pieces juried into the Order/Chaos show at the South Shore Art Center in Cohasset MA. The show is up until May 19. Enjoy!

- **Joann Greenwood** has finished knitting her Tempestry and it’s gorgeous. She can even wear it! (See the Featured Link above for more information on Tempestries.) Joann is looking for other folks who would like to make Tempestries with her. I have my kit and I’m planning to join her soon. I will have an update for you next month!

Wrap Up

The deadline for the next edition of Spot On! is May 24. 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