May 25, 2019

Spot On!
The Arnold Arboretum Tree Spotters Occasional Newsletter

Dear Tree Spotters,

The Arboretum has been gorgeous this spring! While our trees and shrubs may not be as showy as the magnolias, the cherries, and the lilacs, they are quite beautiful in their own right, as you can see from this photo of *Carya glabra* (Pignut Hickory) 2019*R* that I took on April 25th just as the leaves were appearing.

So I hope you've been able to get over to the Arboretum to catch the show - and I also hope you enjoy this edition of Spot On!.

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**Topics in this issue:**
- Welcome to the Tree Spotters who joined us in May
- Spotting Together and Focus Tree Gatherings: June and July
- Tree Mob: What *Tilia* can tell us
- Tree Spotters Potluck BBQ
- New handout available on our website: A master list of all Tree Spotter trees and shrubs
- New Porta Potties on Peters Hill
- New Nature's Notebook app coming soon
- Upcoming Arboretum events of interest
- Featured links: "Early spring: predicting budburst with genetics" and "Arboretum historic personalities"
- Twitter reminder and a selection of Tweets
- Tree Spotters Spotlight

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**Tree Spotters Updates**

Welcome to the 11 new Tree Spotters who joined us for our final Basic Training and Beyond the Basics classes of the spring season on May 5th! We again managed to dodge some pesky rain drops and got out on the grounds - this time to visit our *Vaccinium corymbosum* (Highbush Blueberry) and *Viburnum cassinoides* (Withe-rod).

It was a busy spring, with two formal Refresher Training classes, four Basic Training classes, and four Beyond the Basics classes (a requirement for new Tree Spotters but also open to returning Tree Spotters wanting a refresher). All told we had 150 attendees! We look forward to seeing you again at many of our events during the coming season.

Special thanks go to the Visitor Engagement staff (Kate Stonefoot, Carena Cremin, Regina Mission, and Ana Eder Mulhane), who prepared all of the training packets, arranged for the room, donated the hand lenses, and supplied us with plenty of food and drink :-) 

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**Spotting Together and Focus Tree Gatherings: June and July**

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.

**Spotting Together: Peters Hill Route**
Note new date and time!
Monday, June 3, 6:00 - 7.00pm
Meet at #11, Viburnum cassinoides (Whitethroat) 1104-81*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

Spotting Together: Linden and North Woods Route
Tuesday, July 23, 6:00 - 7:00pm
Meet at tree #1, Tilia americana (American Linden) 1323-82*A

Note: There is no Focus Tree Gathering scheduled in July. Instead we will have our annual Tree Spotters Potluck BBQ at the Weld Hill Building on Tuesday, July 30 from 6:00 - 7:30. (See the post below for more information.)

We suggest that you 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.

Tree Mob: What Tilia can tell us
June 5th at 4:30pm

Dr. Elizabeth M. Wolkovich, Associate Professor of Forest & Conservation Sciences at University of British Columbia and founder of the Tree Spotters program, returns to the Arnold Arboretum for a phenology update. She will discuss how leafing times, flowering times and fruiting times are related — or if there isn't really much of a relationship for some trees — and why it matters.

Meet on Peters Hill at 1323-82*A Tilia americana (American Linden), tree #1 on the Peters Hill Route, on June 5th at 4:30pm. Park along Bussey Street, keeping your tires off the sidewalk.

Tree Spotters Summer Potluck BBQ
Weld Hill Research Building
Tuesday, July 30, 6:00 – 7:30 PM.

Our fourth annual Tree Spotters summer potluck barbecue will be Tuesday, July 30th, from 6:00 – 7:30pm. We will meet at the Weld Hill Research Building, 1300 Centre Street. Plenty of free parking is available in front of the building. Walk in the front door on the ground level and up the stairs and you will find us gathered. (There is also an elevator if you need it.)

The Tree Spotters Team Members will be there as well as members of the Arboretum staff - and hopefully lots of you! We are planning a couple of presentations to enjoy along with the food. Look for details in the June Spot On!

New handout available on our website: A master list of all Tree Spotter trees and shrubs
All of the basic information on all of our specimens is now available in one handy document! We've created a list of all Tree Spotter trees and shrubs that includes the Scientific Name, Common Name, Plant ID number, the Tree Spotter Route and number (e.g., Peters Hill Route #1), the Habit (tree or shrub) and the GPS coordinates. It also includes links to the routes on which the trees/shrubs are located. Our hope is that this list, along with the map that shows all our routes, will help you find any tree or shrub you are looking for. (See links below.) If you still need help finding something, though, please let me know!

Tree and Shrub List
New New Porta Potties on Peters Hill

A welcome alliterative addition to the Peters Hill Route! Use the Peters Hill gate on Bussey street and when the path splits, take the left fork. You will see them on the left, where the road goes down to the crew's work area.

New Nature's Notebook app coming soon

The good folks at the National Phenology Network are about ready to release a brand new Nature's Notebook mobile app to help you make your phenology observations.

At the moment, they are looking for Nature's Notebook observers to try out the app and tell them what they think. The deadline for feedback on the app is Friday, June 7th. They will use that feedback to make final adjustments before releasing the app more widely in mid-June. (I hope to have more information on the new app itself in the June issue of Spot On!)

Whether you are a current user of the Nature's Notebook app or have always used paper datasheets, they would love to have you try out the new app. If you are interested, please contact me at TreeSpotters@fas.harvard.edu and I will send you the details.

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.

Collections Up Close - Ginkgos
Arnold Arboretum Staff and Volunteers
Sunday, June 2, 2019, 1:00pm-3:00pm
Location: The ginkgo collection on Peters Hill

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.

Walking Postscript: Revisiting Plants from the Bulletin of Popular Information
Jonathan Damery, Associate Editor, Arnoldia
Thursday, June 13, 4:00pm-5:30pm
Location: Hunnewell Building

In 1911, Charles Sprague Sargent, the founding director of the Arnold Arboretum, began writing a serialized pamphlet titled the Bulletin of Popular Information, in which he described flowering and fruiting displays at the Arboretum. Because Sargent often focused on plants newly arrived from expeditions to Asia and elsewhere, many of his descriptions provided the first horticultural comparisons between species that had never been grown in the same garden.

On this tour, Damery will revisit plants mentioned throughout Sargent's sixteen years with the Bulletin, comparing the young plants in Sargent's descriptions to the venerable specimens they have become. Special consideration will be paid to plant phenology, examining whether climate change has caused the plants to flower earlier than Sargent noted.

In case of inclement weather, contact 617.384.5209.

Free. Registration requested
William Bryant Logan is a practicing arborist and author of three acclaimed books on nature, "Dirt: The ecstatic Skin of the Earth", "Oak: The Frame of Civilization", and "Air: The Restless Shaper of the World". In his book, "Sprout Lands", Logan uncovers the millennial story of the call-and-response by which people and trees have lived together in the world. He reflects deeply on how we helped woodlands, but also how in a rapidly changing world, the sprouting of trees can save us.

For more information on this book, see the Tweet below.

Free for members, $5 for nonmembers. Register at my.arboretum.harvard.edu or call 617-384-5277.

NOTE: I have added this book to the list of potential Tree Spotters Book Club selections for our 2020 Book Club season. This is a great opportunity to preview it and see what you think!
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 Spotter Community would be interested in. So please let me know if you have something happening in July or August that I can post in the June Spot On!

**Spotlight: This month we are spotlighting the Art of the Arb exhibitors**

Art of the Arb on Saturday, June 1st from 10:00am - 6:00pm at St. Nectarios Church in Roslindale Square. Take part in an artistic celebration of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

This one day show will feature original paintings, photographs, and prints of the Arboretum by 6 painters and 2 photographers. It will be held at St. Nectarios Church in Roslindale Square from 10 am to 6 pm.

The featured artists are Erik Gehring, Barbara Kibler, Gary Koeppel, Harikleia Kuliopulos, Chris Lang, Mary McCusker, Mary Russell, and Carol Schweigert. This group of talented and accomplished artists (several of whom are Tree Spotter supporters) will be showcasing their diverse interpretations of the beauty of the Arnold Arboretum in a kid friendly, open studio format.

**NOTE:** I am re-posting Joann Greenwood's Tempestry photo to remind you that she is 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. At the moment, she is busy enjoying the arrival of her grandson, but I will have an update for you next month!

**Wrap Up**

The deadline for the next edition of Spot On! is June 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

[The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University]