Dear Tree Spotters,

Now is the time for our Common Witch-Hazels to shine - or perhaps "glow" is a better term. Their yellow flowers and yellow leaves are glorious in the low autumn sunlight. The fragrant flowers are creamy yellow, with 4 ribbon-like petals that extend on warm days and curl up when the temperature drops. You might have a little trouble seeing them from afar, hiding amid the golden yellow leaves, but soon those leaves will be gone and you should be able to see the flowers through November and maybe even into December!

I hope you have some time to visit these beauties, even if you aren't planning to Spot them on a regular basis. It's well worth a special trip. I also hope you enjoy this edition of Spot On!

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

Topics in this issue:
- November Spotting Together and Focus Tree Gatherings
- Clarification from NPN on how to record persistent Ripe fruits
- Tree Spotters Holiday Potluck, Thursday, December 5, 6:00 - 7:30pm
- Tree Spotters Book Club 2020 schedule
- Redesigning the Arboretum's website: You still have time to provide feedback!
- Featured link: Hamamelidaceae, Part 1: Exploring the Witch-hazels of the Arnold Arboretum
- Twitter reminder and a selection of Tweets
- Tree Spotters Spotlight

November Spotting Together and Focus Tree Gatherings

We will be wrapping up the 2019 Tree Spotters season with two on-the-grounds events in November. 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
Saturday, November 9, 1:00 – 1:45pm
Meet at Hamamelis virginiana (Common Witch-Hazel) 229474*B*, #10 on the Shrub Route.

Spotting Together: Peters Hill Route
Sunday, November 17, 1:00 – 2:00pm
Meet at Viburnum cassinoides (Withe-rod) 1104-81*A, #11 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.

**Clarification from NPN on how to record persistent Ripe fruits**

If you have been observing our *Viburnum cassinoides* on the Shrub Route, you will have noticed that the fruits are now ripe and many are still hanging on the shrub, making it very clear why one of the common names for this plant is wild raisin!

That has led several Tree Spotters to ask a very good question: "How long do we continue to report Ripe fruits?"

I checked with the NPN folks and they have affirmed that the color change (to dark blue) indicates that the fruit is ripe. Their general guidance on "persistent fruit" - fruit that stays on the plant and "mummifies", as does that of our viburnum - is to continue to say "Yes" to Ripe fruit until it appear unpalatable to wildlife. They feel that as long as it still has the consistency of a moist raisin, a bird might conceivably eat it if it was getting pretty hungry. But if it is as hard as a rock and has no moisture left in it, it probably would not be eaten except in an extreme case, and that is the point at which we should "No" to Ripe fruits. They include some guidance on this on page 78 of their Phenophase Primer if you would like to learn more: https://www.usanpn.org/files/npn/reports/USA-NPN-PhenophasePrimer_Section1-June2017.pdf.

So thanks to you Tree Spotters for the great question - and thanks to the NPN folks for the clarification :-)

---

**Tree Spotters Holiday Potluck, Thursday, December 5, 6:00 - 7:30pm**

Just a quick reminder that we look forward to seeing many of you at our fifth annual Tree Spotters Holiday Potluck Party on December 5th. You will have an opportunity to meet members of the Arboretum staff and your fellow Tree Spotters and their guests. Experience tells me that you can also expect great food - everything from appetizers through to dessert :-)

Invitations for you and a guest will be sent via Paperless Post in mid-November. (If you don’t get one, please check your spam folder and if it’s not there, let me know.)

**Date:** Thursday, December 5.
**Time:** 6:00pm – 7:30pm. Doors open at 5:30.
**Location:** Weld Hill Research Building Lecture Hall, 1300 Centre Street.

Look for additional details in the November Spot On!

In the meantime, we are looking for musicians to participate in our "Music in the Alcove" event. If you sing and/or play any kind of instrument and would like to help provide some pre-dinner background music, please let me know!

---

**Tree Spotters Book Club 2020 schedule**

Our third Book Club season starts in January. I’m really looking forward to curling up with our chosen books to help me get through the winter!

**Location**
The Weld Hill Lecture Hall, 1300 Centre Street. Plenty of free parking available.

**Dates**
- Wednesday, January 22
Thursday, February 13
Tuesday, March 10
Wednesday, April 1 (Backup date in case we get snowed out.)

Books
- The Forest Unseen: A Year’s Watch in Nature, by David George Haskell
- Brilliant Green: The Surprising History and Science of Plant Intelligence, by Stefano Mancuso and Alessandra Viola
- Ecology of a Cracker Childhood, by Janisse Ray
- Ginkgo: The Tree that Time Forgot, by Peter Crane

Details
The doors will open at 6:45pm. The Book Club itself will be from 7:00 - 8:30, with 7:00 - 7:15 set aside for social time.

Once again, Betsey Henkels and Nicole Uhre-Balk will share the role of moderator. (Thanks Nicole and Betsey!)

Tea will be provided. You are welcome to bring snacks to share.

For more information on the Book Club, visit our Book Club webpage.

If you are not already a Book Club member but would like to join us this season, just email us at TreeSpotters@fas.harvard.edu. We are always happy to welcome new members.

Redesigning the Arboretum’s website:
You still have time to provide feedback!

The Arboretum is preparing to redesign its website beginning in 2020 with the help of a local design firm. The first step is to understand the needs of the website users, so your input is crucial!

Please help by participating in this brief anonymous user survey, which should take around 10-15 minutes. All questions are optional.

The deadline is October 31st.

If you have feedback that you would add - suggestions that you don't feel can be captured adequately by the survey - please email us at TreeSpotters@fas.harvard.edu and we will pass them along. We use the website in ways that most visitors don't, so we would really like to hear your thoughts!

Thanks :-)

Featured link

Hamamelidaceae, Part 1: Exploring the Witch-hazels of the Arnold Arboretum, by Andrew Gapinski
As the title suggests, a tour of the Arboretum’s Witch-hazels and the stories that they have to tell. Published in Volume 72 Number 2 of Arnoldia in 2014 and written by the Head of Horticulture at the Arboretum.

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.

"Remembering our boundedness, remembering our tree-like character, might serve an important step in transforming"

"Such great information about autumn #phenology in here! New column: Ask a naturalist"

"All of these trees and bushes are connected with one another belowground in ways we not only cannot see, but ways we..."
the way we think about ourselves, our place and our environmental future: how trees teach different ways of being.

have scarcely begun to understand.” – Merlin Sheldrake, in “Understory,” a chapter from @RobGMacfarlane’s latest book, “Underland”

---

**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 might be interested in, so please let me know if you have something happening in November or December that I can post in the October Spot On!

**Spotlight:** This month the spotlight is on the Proper Bostonian Quilt Show this coming weekend, Tree Spotter Betsey Henkel’s photography exhibit in the Hunnewell Building Lecture Hall (opening reception October 26), and the Trustees’ beautiful Winterlights show at the Cabot Estates November 22 - December 29, with Tree Spotter Michael Leidig providing the music!

---

**Proper Bostonian Quilt Show**

Tree Spotter Ann McNamara, who is a member of the Proper Bostonian’s Quilt Guild, passed along the following information about the Guild’s upcoming Quilt Show. (Thanks, Ann!) See details below.

**Dates**
Friday, October 25, 6-8pm,
Saturday, October 26, 10am-4pm,
Sunday, October 27, 10am-4pm

**Location**
St. Theresa’s School, Msgr. Donahue Hall,
40 St. Theresa Ave, West Roxbury, MA, 02132
Parking available in the lot behind the hall and on the street.

**Admission**
General Admission: $7, Seniors and Students, $5

---

**The Light You Cannot See: Infrared Photography by Betsey Henkels**

October 25, 2019 – February 2, 2020

Opening Reception with the Artist: Saturday, October 26, 1:00-3:00pm
Location: Hunnewell Building

Betsey Henkels, one of our Tree Spotter Book Club moderators, uses the camera to explore the world in two ways--first by noticing and appreciating objects that she might otherwise overlook, and second, by transforming ordinary scenes into prints that are compelling and unexpected. She is intrigued by the magical and mysterious properties of infrared light and has spent many hours in the Arboretum, photographing tree canopies, bark, and above ground roots, hoping to capture their spirits.
Winterlights at the Bradley Estate

Pianist and Tree Spotter Michael Leidig will be performing seasonal music at the Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate's Winterlights event in Canton from 5:00 - 8:00pm every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening from November 22 through December 29 except for December 1 and December 20.

Timed tickets are required, since the event is likely to sell out. Proceeds go to The Trustees, where Michael volunteers regularly. The Trustees care for over 100 parks, farms/CSAs, historic houses, and community gardens in Massachusetts. If you don’t already know about them, I suggest to visit their website!

Parking will be off-site at the DCR Ponkapoag Golf Course at 2167 Washington St, Canton and a free shuttle service will be provided.

Click here for Winterlights ticket information.

Wrap Up

The deadline for the next edition of Spot On! is November 24. If you have any information that you would 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