Spot On!
The Arnold Arboretum Tree Spotters Occasional Newsletter

Dear Tree Spotters,

What was it that Mark Twain said about New England weather? I did a little research and it turns out that it’s a bit more verbose than we are generally led to believe, but I love it:

“I reverently believe that the Maker who made us all makes everything in New England but the weather. I don't know who makes that, but I think it must be raw apprentices in the weather-clerk's factory who experiment and learn how, in New England, for board and clothes, and then are promoted to make weather for countries that require a good article, and will take their custom elsewhere if they don't get it.

There is a sumptuous variety about the New England weather that compels the stranger's admiration - and regret. The weather is always doing something there; always attending strictly to business; always getting up new designs and trying them on the people to see how they will go.”

*Speech delivered by Mark Twain at the New England Society's Seventy-First Annual Dinner, New York City, Dec. 22, 1876.*

I hope you are able to negotiate what those “raw apprentices in the weather-clerk’s factory” have in store for us and find time to visit the Arboretum this winter. There are plenty of indoor activities available to enjoy if the outdoor ones prove too challenging.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Spot On! as well!

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**Topics in this issue:**

- Botany Blast schedule
- Book Club meets January 30
- Permanent signs coming soon for our new trees and shrubs
- 2019 Tree Spotters training preview
- Featured links: Best plant stories of 2018; Crafting takes a dark turn in the age of climate crisis
- Sampling of upcoming Arboretum events
- Twitter reminder and a selection of Tweets
- Tree Spotters Spotlight: Roslindale Open Mike Jan 28
- A new look for Spot On!

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**Tree Spotter Updates**

**Botany Blast schedule**

Botany Blasts are designed to encourage Tree Spotters - as well as recreational naturalists - to learn more about our trees and their role in the environment during the Tree Spotters’ off-season.

Our first Botany Blast of the 2019 season is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, from 6:00 – 7:00 PM at the Hunnewell Building. The topic is *New and Emerging Pests at the Arnold Arboretum*, presented by Jared Rubinstein, Living Collections Fellow, Arnold Arboretum, and Javier Marin, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, Crop & Pest Services, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

See details [here](#). Hope to see many of you there!

**Book Club meets January 30**


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

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](#).

You are also welcome to bring knitting or other hand work to the meetings if you like. It turns out we have quite a few knitters in the group and it’s fun to see the projects people are working on.
Permanent signs coming soon for our new trees and shrubs

Danny Schissler and Kyle Port (Manager of Plant Records) are in the process of getting the signs made for our 20 new specimens: 5 *Acer rubrum* (Red Maple), 5 *Vaccinium corymbosum* (Highbush Blueberry), 5 *Viburnum cassinoides* (Withe-Rod), and 5 *Hamamelis virginiana* (Common Witch-Hazel).

After a soft roll-out last year, we are looking forward to officially incorporating these new trees and shrubs into the Tree Spotters program this spring. There will be hanging tags on the shrubs, as well ground stakes, and the trees will either have a trunk label (as most of our trees do now) or a ground stake. They are red and white to match our existing signs and they look great! (See an example of one of the hanging tags below.) We should have them all on the trees by the time spring training starts. Many thanks to Danny and Kyle.

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2019 Tree Spotters training preview

We are revamping the Tree Spotter training this year to reduce the classroom time and get people out on the grounds sooner. Of course, we can’t control those “raw apprentices in the weather-clerk’s factory”, so we can’t guarantee the on-the-grounds time, but we’re going to give it a try.

We will have two refresher classes for returning Tree Spotters and eight classes for new volunteers. New Tree Spotters will be required to take a 1½ hour introductory class (which we will offer four times), followed by at least one 2½ hour class that will include an hour of actual Tree Spotting (weather pertaining). We will offer four of these longer sessions, focusing on two different species/class. All classes will be open to returning Tree Spotters as well.

Once we firm up the dates, the classes will be posted on the Tree Spotters Events Calendar and people will be able to register for the new training classes on the Arboretum website.

I will post an update in the next edition of Spot On! In the meantime, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please pass them along!

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Featured links

- **The best plant stories of 2018 compiled by Andy Murdock**
  - A stroll through the forest of great botanical writing from the past year. What a treasure!

- **Crafting takes a dark turn in the age of climate crisis**
  - People across the country are working through their climate induced-anxiety – and their desire to raise awareness – through yarn.

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Sampling of Arboretum events

- **Integrated Orchid Conservation at Longwood Gardens**
  - Peter Zale, PhD, Associate Director, Conservation, Plant Breeding and Collections, Longwood Gardens
  - **Tuesday, January 29, 12:10pm**, Hunnewell Building,
  - To harness and build upon the 100-year legacy of the Longwood Gardens orchid collection, an integrated orchid conservation program has been initiated that incorporates field work, conservation horticulture, collections development, and repatriation of native orchids of the mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Peter Zale will give an overview of the program and then present case-studies to illustrate taxon-specific research.
  - Free. Bring your own lunch.

- **Plant Collecting in Western Hubei, China**
  - Andrew Gapinski, Head of Horticulture, Arnold Arboretum and Peter Zale, PhD, Associate Director, Conservation, Plant Breeding and Collections, Longwood Gardens
  - **Tuesday, January 29, 6:30–7:30pm**, Hunnewell Building,
  - Valued for its rich diversity of temperate flora, Hubei, China has long been a destination for Arboretum explorers, from the time of E. H. Wilson on his first Arboretum trip, to the 1980 Sino-American Botanical Expedition, and in more recent times, the 1994 North America-China Plant Exploration Consortium (NACPEC) expedition to explore the “Horticultural Heaven” of Wudang Mountain. Among Hubei’s botanical fame includes holding the remaining living wild-populations of dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) in the province’s southwest county of Lichuan. Please join Andrew Gapinski and Peter Zale as they
share the history of exploration of the Province and tales of the their three-week Western Hubei plant collecting journey as part of the 2018 NACPEC expedition.

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

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.

25 Tree Songs collected by J. Eric Smith. Thanks :-)  
Beech trees are dying, and nobody's sure why  
Art and observations - a wonderful journal by Nanci Olesen. Her "nature scratchings in words and artwork" are a treat!

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 we are reminding you of a musical event in January and giving you a heads up re a musical event in February.

Spotlight: Roslindale Open Mike
Brian Cartwright & Suzanne Mrozak
Date: Monday, January 28

My partner Brian Cartwright and I will be the featured act at ROM on January 28. Those of you who came to the holiday party might remember Brian as the singer and co-author of our Tree Spotters anthem, "Spotting Together". We will be on stage for about 25 minutes starting around 9:00, playing guitar and autoharp and singing mostly traditional folk songs with a few contemporary songs thrown in.

Spotlight: Roslindale Open Mike
Ana Eder-Mulhane
Date: Monday, February 11

Ana Eder-Mulhane, who works at the Hunnewell Building Visitor Center and who sang that lovely Spanish lullaby at our Tree Spotters holiday party, will be doing a mini-set at ROM on February 11.

The Roslindale Open Mike (ROM)

Doors open at 6:00pm, open mike starts at 7:00, mini-set is at 8:45, and the feature is at 9:00. Location: Boston School of English, 814 South Street, Roslindale, MA 02131 (across from the Roslindale commuter rail station)  
Admission: Free

Click here for details about ROM. If you are a singer, instrumentalist, or do spoken word, you can sign up to perform yourself! We’d love to see you there.

A new look for Spot On!

This issue marks our transition to Constant Contact, the marketing tool used by the Arboretum for its email publications. If you have any comments, suggestions, or tips for using Constant Contact, please pass them along. I'm still working my way up the learning curve, so you can expect to see things change over the next few months and I welcome your feedback.

Wrap Up

The deadline for the next edition of Spot On! is February 20. 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 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