How You Can Celebrate the Birthday of Trees
Tu B’Shevat
28 January 2021

Take some time from January 24 - 31, 2021 to get to know the trees you see everyday
Email a tree photo to John Snell jsnelljr@gmail.com during this week to be eligible for our prize drawing

You can take more time with these trees all year long

Remember, when outside – Stay safe and healthy
Dress for the weather
And follow Vermont’s Pandemic Guidance
“Mask faces, 6 foot spaces, uncrowded places”

SCAVENGER HUNT: Interesting Trees around Montpelier
Take a walk around Montpelier on the Siboinebi Path, to the Montpelier High School, by the State House or in Hubbard Park. Take some time to see how the trees add to the landscape of our city, on the streets, how they protect us from flooding, add shade during summer, provide food to us and animals throughout the year, and share their beauty that changes with the seasons to give us hope, fresh air and improve our comfort with the changing weather.

School Street

BALSAM FIR TREE 32 School Street

The BALSAM FIR is a native evergreen well adapted to cold weather and quite well known as a favorite Christmas tree. With a dark green color and symmetrical in shape, it sports a spire-like crown on top.

Balsam Firs keep their needles all year.
Its wonderful spicy fragrance helps in identification.
It can grow to 75 feet or taller with a life-span of some 90 years. It likes sun or partial shade.
Another asset - Balsam trees welcome snow hanging from their branches.

To find this BALSAM FIR:
• From the corner of School and Main Streets, walk towards the Union Elementary School on the left side of School Street.
• The Balsam Fir is to the right of the front entrance of the house at 32 School Street near the sidewalk at the corner of St Paul Street.
Montpelier Tree Board
School Street

**PAPER BIRCH**

To find this *PAPER BIRCH*:

- Walk toward the Union Elementary School on the right hand side of School Street.
- The *Paper Birch* is in front of the Social Security building, just to the left of the front walkway.

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Look for the peely white bark with black, horizontal marks. *Paper Birch* bark was used by Indigenous peoples to make canoes.

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**RED MAPLE**

To find this *RED MAPLE*:

From the corner of School St and Main St,

- walk on the left side of School Street towards Union Elementary School.
- Cross St Paul Street.
- The *Red Maple* is to the right of the front entrance of the Lighthouse Christian Church, near the sidewalk.

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Look at the reddish clusters of buds on the twigs. These will turn bright red as spring approaches!

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**Cedar Street**

Can you find the Crab Apple Tree on Cedar Street without a picture?

To find the Cedar Street *CRAB APPLE* tree:

- Walk toward the elementary school on the right hand side of School Street, just past the white church on your left.
- The crab apple tree is on Cedar Street near the corner of School Street.

Look for the tiny berry-like crab apples. These are a favorite snack of cedar waxwing birds in late winter and early spring!
To find this *Cottonwood Tree*:

- Turn left onto St Paul Street from School Street
- Walk on the right side of St Paul Street just past the Lighthouse Christian Church
- On the left side of the parking lot near the yellow house is the Cottonwood tree planted by the Pastor’s son*, an 8 year old boy in 1965

*as told by members of the former First Baptist Church of Montpelier

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*Cottonwood Tree*

- can grow from 50 to 75 feet wide
- can grow 75 - 100 feet tall
- live to be well over 200 years
- native to New England, can support 368 species of butterflies and moths
- older trees have gray, ridge like bark
- when measured at 4’ 6” from the ground, this Cottonwood is 38” in diameter
- this 38 inch Cottonwood will intercept 6,213 gallons of storm water runoff this year**
- this year this Cottonwood tree will reduce atmospheric carbon by 743 pounds**

**National Tree Benefit Calculator
http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/
To find this LOCUST tree:

- From Loomis Street walk up Park Avenue on the left side of the street.
- Go past the first house on the corner.
- The black locust is on the far side of that house’s driveway, almost directly opposite the front entrance to the elementary school.

Notice the long, thick, overlapping ridges of the bark and the overall shape of this impressive tree.
**BEECH**

To find this *Beech*:

- Enter Park at the Hubbard Park Dr Gate.
- Walk the road towards the Stone Tower.
- You’ll reach the Boundary Trail on your right. Take it.
- Walk the trail until you see wooden structures, shown in the photo, constructed to protect shrubs.

The beech tree has claw marks that a bear left long ago.

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**GREEN ASH**

To find this *Green Ash*:

Go to the old shelter in Hubbard Park. The green ash is the huge tree right in front of the shelter.

The *Green Ash* has also been called red ash, swamp ash and water ash. It replaced the white ash as the wood most oars and canoe paddles are made of.

The seeds of the green ash are eaten by wood ducks, finches and cardinals. It also provides cover and nesting sites for birds.
Terrace and Clarendon Streets

To find the twin *Silver Maple Trees*:

- Go away from the State House off of Bailey Ave up the first hill of Terrace Street, where it levels off and meets Jordan Street
- On the right, you'll see the first set of magnificent twin silver maples.

Look closely and see the owner has taken good care of them by cabling its heavy branches which have a tendency to break as they get older.

To find the twin *Chinese Chestnuts*, cross Jordan Street and look up!

These chestnuts are a favorite source of food for many, many squirrels. Unfortunately, they are not the type of chestnuts humans eat; those are American Chestnuts. People walking by in the fall collect the nuts, hidden inside a shell, as they are smooth and nice to hold in your hand.

To find this *Oak Tree*:

- Go on Bailey Ave, away from the STATE HOUSE, toward Hubbard Park
- Go up Clarendon Ave
- Pass Jordan St on your left
- The oak is set back from the road, between 52 and 56 Clarendon Ave.

It's one of the only trees that still have some brown leaves on its branches!

An abundance of squirrels can be found on its branches and the surrounding trees.
To find these River Birch trees:

- Approach St. Augustine Catholic Church on Barre Street.
- The trees are to the left of the church, one on either side of a statue.

Look for the reddish-brown bark that is loose and curling. These "scales" of bark are slightly separated from the trunk.
Montpelier High School

*MHS BUR OAK*

To find this *Bur Oak*:
Turn onto High School Drive and walk to the letter sign.

Look for deeply furrowed bark on both the trunk and especially the branches. It is very thick and fire resistant.

Its name comes from the acorns which are the largest acorn and has a fringed cup that resembles chestnut burs.

The *Bur Oak* is a type of white oak, which means the leaves have rounded lobes. The bur oak has very deep lobes on the bottom third of the leaf.

Two views of the same *Bur Oak*

*MHS BUR OAK BRANCH WITH FURROWED BARK*
MHS SYCAMORE

To find this Sycamore:

- Walk to the Bailey Street end of Montpelier High School,
- Go to the Siboinebi Path, formerly called the Bike Path.
- Look for the tree with the yellow-green flagging tape on its trunk

It can attain the largest trunk diameter of eastern hardwoods.

Its leaves are maple-like, but very broad, 4-7 inches.

It has a broad, outreaching canopy.

It can grow up to 30 meters tall.

Sycamores have been known to live up to 600 years.

OLDER SYCAMORE BARK

The Sycamore has a unique “jigsaw” shaped bark pattern reminiscent of camouflage.