

ARBORETUM WALK 1

(Revised June 23, 2022)

Start at the Bistro Patio. There are two trees in the garden on the south side of the patio.

1. Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia sp.*)

A beautiful small ornamental tree which blooms in late summer. Native to China, Korea and India.

2. River Birch (*Betula nigra*)

Grows throughout eastern and central U.S. Its bark peels off in long strips making it look a bit unkempt.

Looking straight ahead from the patio toward the south side of the long sidewalk leading east to west, there are two trees.

**3. Bradford Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*
'Bradford')**

It produces lots of white flowers in early spring which give way to glossy green leaves throughout the summer and then to yellowish or orange in the fall.

4. **Judy Zuk Magnolia (*Magnolia`Judy Zuk`*)**

This tree was given to the arboretum by Scot Medbury, former President of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. It was planted at the official opening of the arboretum in June 2015. Its most exceptional feature is the deep gold color of its flowers along with its narrow upright habit of growth.

Follow the walk between Bedford and Cambridge going west. Look to your right just at the end of the Bistro Patio.

**5. Flowering Cherry (*Prunus serrulata*
'Kanzan')**

In the spring it has a profusion of pink flowers. It spreads broadly as it grows, but is smaller than most other cherry trees. It is named after the Kanzan Mountain in Japan.

6. Cistena Plum (*Prunus x cistena*)

Its leaves are purple-red turning more reddish in the fall. The light pink flowers which appear in the spring are delicate and fragrant.

Continue to look to the south side of the sidewalk.

**7. Redspire Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*
'Redspire')**

This pear usually features a pyramidal pattern of growth and may achieve a

height of 35 feet. It produces abundant white flowers in the spring.

Look beyond the Pear closer to the building (Cambridge) on the south side of the walk at the corner of the fence around the Bocce Court.

8. Variegated Dogwood (Cornus sp.)

Quite by accident as the result of crosses between different species of Dogwoods, variegated leaves resulted. These leaves have color patterns involving green, yellow and white.

Look further west on the same side of the walk.

9. Weeping Crabapple (Malus 'Louisa' wpg.)

A beautiful small tree whose branches cascade gracefully down to the ground. Buds open in May to reveal single, pink, sweet smelling flowers. Honeybees will search them out.

Now look to your right to the north.

10. Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)

Introduced into the U.S. in 1875, it grows widely throughout temperate regions. Flowers are creamy white or pinkish white.

Walk further west beyond the two maples (one on either side of the walk). Look to the south toward the Cambridge Bldg.

**11. Sugar Tyme Crabapple (*Malus*
'Sutyzam' Sugar Tyme**

This is a popular flowering ornamental tree. Pale pink buds lead to pure white fragrant flowers in mid-spring.

Walk further west. Continue to look to your left.

12. Green Colorado Spruce (*Picea pungens*)

An impressive tree with a precise pyramidal shape which, when mature, will dominate the landscape. It may grow to be 70 to 100 feet tall. Its dense needles are a shiny dark green although new needles tend to be bluish-green.

Look to the north.

13. Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergii*)

This is a 2-needle pine. The needles are 3-5 inches long and the cones are about 2 ½ inches long. The buds have sharp points.

Continue looking north just below the mound.

14. Sweet Bay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)

Blooms May through June. Produces creamy-white flowers about 2-3 inches in diameter. Usually grows as a multi-stemmed plant in a columnar or vase shape. Clusters of red fruits develop which squirrels and birds enjoy.

Look to the left of the Magnolia.

15. Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

A small native tree with pretty heart-shaped leaves. It announces spring with its bright rosy-pink flowers.

Continue walking west. When you come to the parking lot, look at the small tree at the

east end of the “dog bone” (grassy area shaped like a bone).

16. Flowering Cherry (Prunus sp.)

Cherries are popular trees on the Luther Crest campus. They are well-adapted to our environment and create their special beauty each spring.

Cross the Bedford parking lot to the stop sign at Bluebird Lane. Look to your right up the slope.

17 A. Single Stem Wisteria (Wisteria sinensis Chinese)

We usually think of Wisteria as a vine but they can be treated to form a specimen tree such as the one you see here. They bloom in the spring producing huge fragrant purple flowers. It was introduced to the United States in 1916.

Now look beyond the Wisteria to the top of the mound.

17 B. Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora* ‘Edith Bogue’)

Most botanists would say Magnolia breeding equates “with a runaway freight train”. The possibilities of hybridization seem endless and the results are usually spectacular. The variety here, Edith Bogue, is smaller and more cold-hardy than other varieties but it has all of the typical Magnolia characteristics.

Now turn left along Bluebird. Directly opposite the parking lot entrance, look up the grassy slope.

18. Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*)

A graceful tree easily recognized by its branches which grow down and sweep the ground. Male and

female flowers are borne on separate trees.

Look to the left of the Willow.

19. Experimental Chestnut Group (*Catenea dentata*). Label is on the fence.

Once upon a time, Chestnut trees flourished in America. In the forests near where Luther Crest now stands, Chestnuts were a dominant feature. But in 1904 the Asian Bark Fungus reached the U.S. and the Chestnut Blight was introduced. By 1906 the Blight had infected 98% of American Chestnut Trees. A number of groups, chief among them, the American Chestnut Foundation, are attempting to use genetic engineering techniques, cross breeding, and selection to produce blight-resistant trees. The trees you see here are part of that effort.

Move along Bluebird Lane and continue to look to the right up the grassy slope to the tree line. Labels for the next two trees will be along the fence at the side of the road.

20. Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)

The leaves, buds and acorns are smaller than those of all our native oaks. Its glossy green leaves turn bronze or reddish in the fall.

21 A. Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) The wood is prized by furniture makers. The male and female flowers (catkins) grow separately on the same tree in the spring. The fruit has a green outside husk with the nut inside. Lots of them fall on the Luther Crest roadways in the fall.

Look across Bluebird Lane and up the slope

21 B. Jane Magnolia (*Magnolia* x 'Jane'

Jane, a late blooming Magnolia, is a cross between two other species. It was developed by the National Arboretum in 1955. A small multi-stemmed deciduous tree, it produces large reddish-purple flowers with white interiors.

Continue to walk along Bluebird and look right.

**22. Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*
'Royal Frost')**

There are at least 60 different species of birches and perhaps more. Royal Frost is a hybrid of two of them and it has a registered trademark dated 2000. It features burgundy- red to purple leaves which change to orange-yellow or deep red in the fall.

Just beyond the Birch tree on the same side of the road, there are 5 locust trees.

23. Locust (*Gleditsia tricanthos* `Shade Master`)

A cultivated variety of our native honey locust, it lacks thorns. It has fragrant spring flowers.

Now look to your left on the east side of Bluebird Lane.

24. Green Mountain Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum* `Green Mountain`)

Most of us know this tree as the source of our maple sugar. A large tree at maturity, it is native to North America. Best known for its leaves which turn bright scarlet, gold or yellow in the fall.

Look beyond the Sugar Maple on the slope on the same side of Blue Bird Lane.

25. White Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)

This small to medium-sized tree is native to the southeastern U.S. Its cousin, the Chinese Fringe tree, is native to China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Both trees are prized for their clusters of fragrant fringe-like white blossoms. These flowers are said to be among the most beautiful of all woody plants. They are white, borne in 6-10 inch-long clusters in April and May. The egg-shaped dark blue fruits ripen in August and September. Birds love them.

Leave Bluebird Lane and turn east into the Cambridge parking lot. Look to the left on the mound.

26. Galaxy Magnolia (*Magnolia galaxy*)

It was first produced in 1963 from a cross between two Magnolia cultivars. It produces large purple-red flowers.

Now look to the right across the parking lot entrance.

27 A. Red Sunset Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Red Sunset')

Known for its striking red color in the fall, it grows from eastern Canada across the U.S. to Florida and Texas.

Look just beyond the Maple to the top of the mound.

27 B. Cornelian Cherry Dogwood (*Cornus mas*)

One of the first trees to flower in the spring, it produces tight clusters of

star-like yellow flowers. Native to southern Europe and western Asia, its cherry-like fruits ripen over the summer to a bright red.

Walk toward the tunnel at Elmhurst. After you pass the main entrance to Cambridge look to your left.

27 C. Marley`s Pink Snowbell (*Styrax japonicus* JL wpg.)

A small ornamental tree, it bears numerous fragrant pink flowers in the spring. Throughout the summer its leaves are a glossy dark green and in the fall they turn bright lemon yellow.

Now go through the tunnel into the courtyard. As soon as you emerge from the tunnel, look in the garden either to the right or to the left.

28. Snow Showers Cherry (*Prunus subpine* `Snow Showers`)

A weeping ornamental cherry which produces beautiful pink blossoms in early spring.

**Follow the sidewalk across the courtyard.
Look to the left beyond the gazebo.**

29. Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)

Widely cultivated as an ornamental plant, it is native to Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan. There are several different varieties and many have a multi-stemmed growth habit rather than a central main trunk. It blooms about a month after its relative, *Cornus florida*.

**Turn and look to the south of the sidewalk
before you come to the door leading inside.**

30. Purple Leaf Plum (*Prunus cerasifera*)

The leaves are a dark red-purple. Pink flowers appear in the spring before

the leaves come out. It grows fast and is a short-lived tree.

Look nearby to the Plum still south of the sidewalk.

31. Flowering Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

A typical pear, it bears white flowers with 5 petals in the spring. The species is named after Joseph-Marie Callery who introduced the tree to Europe from China.

Walk back through the courtyard and look at the area around the gazebo. As you circle the gazebo, you will see two River Birch trees and two Serbian Spruces.

32. River Birch (*Betula nigra*)

One of the birch trees is much taller than the other although they were both planted at the same time. The

shorter one shows the effects of a storm which broke some of its branches.

33. Serbian Spruce (*Picea omorika*)

This tree is on the endangered list in the wild. It is native to the Balkans. The cones usually form on the upper branches and are a deep purple-brown.

Just before you leave the courtyard, look to your left (south) at the small tree there.

34. Stellar Pink Dogwood (*Cornus x 'Rutgan'*)

A pink dogwood was first observed in nature in 1731. Its unique inflorescence consists of 20 or more tiny flowers in the center surrounded by 4 large pink bracts. The tree planted here is a hybrid

produced by crossing the American Dogwood (*Cornus Florida*) with the Asian Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*).
The patent for it was issued in 1990.

Look just beyond the Dogwood and nearer to the building.

35. Witch hazel (*Hamamelis* sp.)

The genus name, *Hamamelis*, means “together with fruit” which refers to the simultaneous occurrence of flowers with the maturing fruit from the previous year. The species “*japonica*” blooms from January to March. Flower petals are pale to dark yellow.

Leave the courtyard through the tunnel and walk to the west end of Deerfield. Look across the parking lot on top of the slope directly in front of you toward the west.

36. Japanese Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* “Green Vase”)

This tree is native to China, Japan and Korea. Introduced to the west in 1861, it has been widely planted ever since. Many of the old Japanese temples were built of Zelkova wood because it is strong and durable.

Go around the end of Deerfield and then east on Avondale Ave. Just beyond the awning look to the left across the lawn. There are two trees with a Rose of Sharon bush between them. The two trees are Ginkos.

37. Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*)

Female Ginkos produce a fruit which has a sickening smell so most trees which are planted (like this one) are Male. The leaves are fan-shaped and turn a bright yellow in the fall. Fossil records verify the fact that this tree species has been on earth since the Jurassic period (200 million years ago).

Continue to walk east along Avondale Ave. to Luther Crest Drive. Across the road you will see a line of several evergreens with young Sassafras trees growing among them.

38. Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

This tree, native to eastern North America and eastern Asia, was part of the original forest around Luther Crest. Historically, it has been used as a culinary, medicinal and aromatic agent. The leaves if crushed have a typical aroma. The oil which produces this odor has been used

for tea and perfume. Sassafras oil was the main ingredient in traditional root beer, but was banned by the FDA in 1960 for health reasons.

39. Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperis virginiana*)

These evergreens, native to North America, are slow-growing and usually never get very tall. The oldest Cedar reported in the U.S. is in Missouri at 795 years old. The aromatic wood is used for chests and clothes closets.

Walk north on Luther Crest Drive, turn left toward the main entrance and follow the sidewalk along the apartment building. Look in the corner where the Deerfield Building meets the connector.

40. London Plane Tree (*Plantanus x acerifolia*)

It is believed to be a good tree to plant in cities because of its resistance to pollution. It has light brownish-grey bark which peels off in irregular pieces.

Continue along the sidewalk and look to the right.

42. Umbrella Pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*)

This tree, a coniferous evergreen endemic to Japan, is a living fossil with no close relatives. It has been listed in the fossil record for 230 million years. It is an elegant tree with needles that grow in umbrella-like whorls.

Just beyond the Umbrella Pine still on the right is the Crab Apple

43. Crab Apple (*Malus sp.*)

Its flowers may be white or varying shades of pink, from pale to very intense. It produces tiny apples which are inedible raw, but which can be used for jelly.

Continue along the sidewalk toward the front entrance. Look ahead to the small garden area next to the building.

44. Rhododendron sp.

There are over a thousand species of Rhododendrons. Most are native to eastern Asia but some do occur in Europe, Australia and North America. Some are evergreen; others are deciduous. Most of the species produce clusters of large flowers.

45. China Girl Holly (*Ilex x meserveae*)

An upright dense evergreen shrub which may grow to 7-10 feet tall. It has glossy dark green leaves. Tiny white flowers appear in the spring and bright red berries follow in the fall. They are an excellent source of food for birds in the winter.

46. Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* sp.)

Crape myrtles thrive on the Luther Crest campus. This one, in its protected position, does particularly well.

**THIS CONCLUDES
ARBORETUM WALK 1.**

**PLEASE RETURN THE BOOKLET TO THE
FRONT DESK.**

