Lincoln Tree Tour 2017
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Thank you for embarking on a journey with the Lincoln Garden Club to see some of the most striking trees in Lincoln, Massachusetts.

The Lincoln Tree Tour 2017 is comprised of five public areas in Town whose grounds you may tour on your own at any time during daylight with the help of this booklet, unless otherwise posted on site.

This is not supposed to be a technical tree handbook. This is a booklet that will reveal to you unique and quaint information on trees, the Town and its history, while guiding you through five beautiful areas.

The trees selected for 2017 may stand out because of their age, size, beauty, or closeness to this nature-loving community’s heart. Many of them have special season-related attractions, such as the Dawn Redwoods at Pierce Park, with their soft, fire-orange leaves in the fall, and the Northern Catalpa at the Library, with its showy white flower clusters in the summer.

The back cover of this booklet is a Map showing the five areas in Town that the Lincoln Tree Tour is featuring in 2017. At each Tree Tour area, you will find a description of the place, with a little map on the next page, showing you the locations of the trees that we are featuring.

You can also find an index of Tree Tour areas, listing all trees we are presenting on the next page. So, step outside, look up, and enjoy your booklet! We hope you will redo this tour many times during different seasons to revisit these incredible specimens and how they evolve in their rich landscapes.
Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*

Winterberry *Ilex Verticillata*

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Approaching a huge animal often fills us with awe, wonder, and quite a lot of fear. We seem so fragile and at their mercy when close to their powerful muscles, limbs and movements. Trees can be infinitely more towering than any animal still walking this earth. But due to their stillness and vast lifespan, we barely notice their growth and movements, and get really close to them without hesitation.

The bigger trees become, the more they seem to invite us to take a closer look, touch their rough bark and appreciate the subtle pulse of life running upward inside these fabulous beings. Such encounters often start lifelong relationships, and there is nothing like befriending a tree. With them we share some of the most significant events of our lives — a favorite book, a marriage proposal, an afternoon of pondering over a difficult matter. At these moments trees may shelter us from the noise of civilization, protect us from the blazing sun or sooth us with the flutter of leaves on a windy day.

It is scientifically proven that trees improve our well-being. Some studies, for instance, have shown that patients who can enjoy the view of trees out their windows have fewer health complications and heal faster than patients with no trees in sight.

But these colossal beings are responsible for much more. They provide us with the most basic necessities for our survival — oxygen, food and shelter. In one year, an acre of mature trees provides enough oxygen for 18 people, according to the nonprofit TreePeople. An apple tree can
Trees yield up to 20 bushels of fruit in a year, even when planted on the tiniest urban lot. We are not the only ones who depend so dearly on trees. Bears, bees, birds and all sorts of wildlife necessary to keep our forests healthy also need trees to survive.

We build our homes and furniture with the wood from trees, and burn it to keep us warm and dry. We use trees to concoct medicines, teas, syrups and to produce musical instruments.

Trees preserve the health of our cities and towns by cleaning polluted air, preventing erosion and water evaporation. They also remove excess carbon dioxide (CO2) that builds up in our atmosphere and contributes to climate change. Trees absorb, store and break up CO2, releasing the oxygen back into the air. In a year, an acre of mature trees can absorb the carbon dioxide produced by a car driven 26,000 miles.

Have you noticed during a summer ride that the temperatures in Lincoln are generally 5°F lower than in the city of Boston? That is no coincidence. Trees are able to cool entire cities, their streets and the build-up of heat from exposed asphalt and buildings by up to 10°F. They shade pathways and houses, decreasing energy demand. Trees also release water vapor into the air through their leaves, slow the runoff of rainwater and keep it in the ground, prevent soil erosion, and are key to a clean and ample water supply.

We cannot live without trees. And due to the alarming effect of development on our environment, many of them depend on us to survive. In America, we have a tradition of clearing enormous areas of trees. Let’s look up and thank them instead. Let’s protect our trees, think twice before taking them down and work to preserve them.
We focus on tree preservation and health care to allow trees to remain in their settings as long as possible.

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In the last years of the 18\(^{th}\) century, the Reverend Charles Stearns became "Lincoln's first author of note," when he published several books of poetry and moralistic dramas. Stearns and some of his neighbors joined to form the private subscription "Social Library of the Town of Lincoln." This small beginning led in 1884 to Lincoln resident George Grosvenor Tarbell donating $27,000 for a Victorian red brick Library designed by Boston architect William G. Preston.

The land on which the Library stands today was part of a 750-acre Concord farm owned by Thomas Flint. He arrived in Massachusetts in 1635 from Matlock, England, to take possession of land furnished through a king’s grant. Generations have enjoyed the Library’s fireplaced reading rooms, stained glass windows and mature trees.

In the 19\(^{th}\) century, the Library bought a large collection of stuffed birds, placed in the Reading Room. The stuffed peacock must have become a favorite — for years it sat in the Library vestibule, welcoming patrons. No one seems to know what happened to it. But another bird took its place in the hearts of Lincolnnites. A bronze eagle with outstretched wings now sits atop a granite boulder in front of the Library — the War Memorial dedicated to our residents fallen in wars, from the Revolutionary War through the Vietnam War.
Copper Beech

The Copper Beech is a majestic tree with a silver-gray, smooth trunk and deep purple foliage in the spring that changes to a copper hue by the fall. Its beauty has been the subject of many poems. Irish novelist Maeve Binchy even wrote a book entitled “The Copper Beech.” The book is about the lives of 8 people who etched their dreams and desires into a large Beech tree on the last day of school. Even though fictional, Binchy’s book reminds us that all Beech trees are very sensitive. We shouldn’t walk over their roots, especially under the canopy — much less carve anything on their trunks. Trees seem so big and sturdy, but disturbing their space or harming their bark creates wounds that allow disease to enter. Beeches grow slowly and develop into grand, low-maintenance shade trees. In their case, low-maintenance is a must. They suffer if pruned for more than dead branches. Also, the roots are sensitive to soil composition, so raking and mulching under them is a bad idea. The best way to care for a Copper Beech is to leave it alone as much as possible.

The Copper Beech is one of the many European Beech trees found in nature and nurseries. They are used to produce all sorts of objects. Their wood is very easy to carve, soak, dye, varnish and glue. This is why their wood became popular especially for furniture. Its hardness is ideal for making implements such as mallets and workbench tops.
Northern Catalpa

This mature Catalpa, now in its declining years, was one of the first trees planted in the Library grounds, in the early 1900’s. It soon became a fixture not only for its beauty, but also because of its twisting trunk. During the century this tree has stood here, many people have speculated about its twisting aspect. The most common theory was that several trees were planted together and forced into this decades-long spiral of their trunks, eventually forming one twisted specimen.

But after closely inspecting the direction of the wood fibers of the Catalpa and its twisting branches above the main trunk level, longtime arborist Ray Moritz determined the twisting is almost certainly due to a genetic anomaly. This is not uncommon among Catalpas and other trees, like the Giant Sequoias. This means that any offspring propagated from seeds pollinated by other trees may very well not twist. Generating twisting Catalpas would require propagating cuttings from the branches — a method that nurseries use to get the exact genetic traits of the parent tree.

The name Catalpa came from the Native American name of the tree, pronounced “kutulpa.” Herbalists use Catalpas for various medicinal concoctions. A tea made from the seeds is said to treat asthma and bronchitis, and tea from its bark to having antiseptic, laxative and sedative properties. It is even used as an antidote to snakebites. The tea’s narcotic effects never leave the patient dazed, according to herbalists. Catalpa wood is also used as toneweed in guitars.
The iconic Sugar Maple, also known as Hard Maple, Head Maple, Bird’s-eye Maple and Sugartree Maple, is one of America’s best-loved trees. No other tree beats the Sugar Maple as a state tree. It is claimed by New York, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Vermont. Its leaves turn spectacular shades of yellow, orange and red in the fall. Its hard, heavy and strong wood is excellent for producing furniture, wall paneling, flooring, veneer, wood handles, bowling alleys, baseball bats, pool cues, skateboards and much more.

But perhaps the greatest quality of the Sugar Maple is the ability to restore the natural habitats of New England. The world became small during the last centuries. And now our gardens and forests are dotted with plants from all over the world, which we either planted or brought inadvertently as seed. Some of these plants thrive in our climate and overpower native plants. And local wild animals and bugs necessary to pollinate our forests and farms often cannot eat or pollinate foreign plants. They sometimes even starve eating a similar, unwholesome plant from another country.

If you have the space and live outside the city — Sugar Maples can grow 100’ tall and do not do well in urban areas — consider planting one of these beautiful trees. It will feed and shelter native birds and wild animals, and help local pollinators support our crops and forests.

The Sugar Maple is the only tree now used in commercial production of maple syrup. Along with honey, maple syrup was the primary sweetener used by Native Americans and early European settlers.
Lindentree Farm

Lindentree Farm is a certified organic produce farm created in 1991, when Ari Kurtz received a license from the Town to farm 5 acres of land adjacent to his house and barn, purchased in 1985. The house was in rough shape. He was told the abutting land had been farmed for a long time, and the house had been a shed used to process asparagus.

During farm renovations, Mr. Kurtz attended a Bemis Lecture by Robyn Van En, one of the founders of the Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) movement, which inspired his business model. The system helps small, diverse organic farms like Lindentree manage expenses and create a sense of community by selling harvest shares to people before the farming season begins. Lindentree also sells to local businesses and at the farmer’s market, where Mr. Kurtz’s wife, Moira Donnell, helps. She also does CSA work and grows flowers and herbs.

In 2003, the Town licensed to Lindentree 5 more acres, and 3 more in 2010, in part because beavers had moved in and taken a few acres out of production. The beavers are still there, busy to the point that the trail that connects St. Anne’s Church to the farm fields is under water.

Lindentree Farm got its name for three reasons: First, Mr. Kurtz attended the Linden School in Pennsylvania as a child. Second, the farm has two American Linden trees along the property’s frontage with Old Concord Road. Third, hoping to avoid being mistaken for a tree farm, the owners chose to make it one word, “Lindentree.” Even so, people occasionally ask what kind of trees the farm sells.
AMERICAN ELM

The American Elm, the state tree of Massachusetts, was the predominant street tree in America. It was easy to plant and transplant, grew fast, its vase-like shape was great for urban areas, and its graceful branches arching like water fountains were a hit. Asian Elm bark beetles were accidentally brought to America in the 50’s and devastated the Elms by spreading a fungus that causes Dutch Elm Disease. Most Elms were not resistant and died. Their loss was a serious blow to communities.

Decades ago, a forest full of Elms stood in the grassy area that abuts Lindentree Farm. The seed bank in the soil doesn’t deny history. Every year dozens of saplings of the fast-growing Elms sprout out of the ground and dot the fields, looking like sturdy little bushes with very serrated, dark green leaves. Several small trees are growing at the edge of the forest. One is now 20’ tall. If nothing is done, it will probably die before reaching maturity. Lincoln fumigates 5 Elms in Town to keep them alive. One of them will be featured in the next Tree Tour. Stay tuned! Resistant Elm hybrids are now available, and some even retain the classic American Elm form.

American Elm wood is light in color, heavy, hard, strong and tough with interlocked grain. It was mainly used for veneer, boxes, crates, barrel staves and furniture parts. The name "Dutch Elm Disease" comes from the fact its cause was first identified by Dutch scientists.
In the early 70’s, two Eastern White Pines that dotted the fields of Arena Farms (now Lindentree Farm) were struck by lightning and died. Lincolnites Kemon and Rhoda Taschioglou founded the Old Concord Road Tree Association to raise funds for the planting of a new tree. Neighbors who loved these fields joined the cause and chipped in.

Russell Barnes, manager of the Lincoln Conservation Commission properties, suggested a Beech tree, as it would be beautiful, shaped in a way that children could climb it, and sturdy enough to withstand the hardship of being alone in the fields. The tree was purchased and planted, and at Christmas time the Association gathered to celebrate the tree, singing “Oh Little Tree” to the tune of “O Tannenbaum.” A local girl played the flute, making the occasion extra special.

This was the only project the Association ever sponsored. The bank account was closed, books finalized. But the fruits of that one project still stand. The Taschioglous and many other former members of the Old Concord Road Association walked with their children on these trails for decades, passing by the Beech tree. They raised their families in the area and enjoyed the breathtaking views of this lonely tree. On Independence Day 1998, the Taschioglous’ son Peter proposed to his girlfriend under the Beech, and later got married to her. To this family, this tree is a dear friend to visit and enjoy during their daily walks.

Check Page 25 for information on the European Beech.
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Old Town Hall

Old Town Hall is one of the most famous buildings in Lincoln, listed in the Massachusetts and the National Registers of Historic Places. Opened in 1848 to hold Lincoln’s civic gatherings, the Hall was soon hosting our first high school, and later our first public library. When purchased from the Town by a private citizen in 1884, it was moved from the site where Bemis Hall now stands, to across Bedford Rd, next to the white church. There it stood as a general store and post office for almost 30 years. In 1918, the Hall was hauled to its current address and was kept open for business throughout the move. Since then, it has housed a gas station, law office and a small publisher. Today the tenants include a post office, a real estate office and a women’s exchange that sells handcrafts, gifts and antiques. Income from leases and donations support the nonprofit that maintains the building.

Henry Ford tried to purchase Old Town Hall in 1931 to move it to his museum of significant American architecture in Michigan. The town didn’t let him. So he built a replica on the museum grounds, next to the Wright Brothers’ bicycle shop, and the homes of lexicographer Noah Webster and writer Robert Frost. The Hall holds a post office because Lincoln’s wealthiest citizen at the time, Sumner Smith, found it inconvenient to travel to the other post office (in the mall). He preferred to walk over the meadow to and from his house on Sandy Pond Road.
**Weeping Beech**

Branches grow vertically, and gradually bend toward the ground. That is what “weeping” means in the tree world — a phenomenon that happens to trees with a genetic anomaly. This variety of European Beech was developed in England in 1836 by propagating cut branches of a Weeping Beech found by chance in a forest. An American nurseryman introduced it to the United States a decade later, when he brought a sapling from Belgium to Queens, NY. After DNA testing, scientists believe that every Weeping Beech in America descends from that one sapling.

Want to see huge Weeping Beeches up close? The Newport RI mansions have 120-year-old massive specimens. They are at the end of their lives, so hurry! A nearly-as-big centenarian Beech — 70’ tall and 60’ wide — stands on the grounds of the historic Captain Bangs Hallet House, in Yarmouth, MA.

Photos show this tree at Old Town Hall was planted after 1984. Its admirers hope it will grow to become a massive tree with an almost entirely enclosed space within the branches, as mature Weeping Beeches do. Their branches root into the ground when they touch moist soil, and the tree starts also growing vertically. That process is called layering, and it is widely used to propagate plants. So, when does one tree become many? When we separate the new shoots from a main tree? No one can really tell!
Context is everything when it comes to plants. When we introduce a new tree to a region, depending on the climate and soil conditions, a tree may maintain a tolerable relationship with other plants. But usually it either does poorly without human intervention or it overpowers local plants. If we let such trees take over, they eventually create a “dead zone” where only invasives live. This weakens wildlife, as food resources become very poor, and throws the balance of nature into chaos.

The Norway Maple is one of those invasive trees in New England. It was introduced to the United States in 1756 as an ornamental and soon became a popular tree for urban areas because it creates dense shade and is highly tolerant of smoke and dust. Look at the seedlings sprouting out all over the lawn around this Norway Maple. They grow faster and are stronger than local trees, quickly shading and outnumbering other seedlings. The local trees can’t get enough light, get weak and die.

So should we cut this mature tree down? The Massachusetts government says not necessarily. Mature trees can be kept and managed by pulling their seedlings from nearby forest areas and mowing around them where there is lawn. But it is forbidden to import, sell or propagate the Norway Maple in our state. When you consider a new plant for your yard, we urge you to consider a native species. They need very little care, as they are adapted to this climate, and provide the best nutrition and shelter conditions for local wildlife.
The word *bereza*, which means *Birch* in Russian, is an ancient word that conveyed the concept of taking care of someone. The Slavs thought of the Birch as a protector of their people. They believed Birches controlled the spread of fires in forests, and planted them around their villages. In Celtic culture, the Birch symbolizes growth, renewal, stability, new beginnings and adaptability. Even though short-lived, this pioneer species is one of the first to appear in disrupted areas, withstanding harsh conditions.

The River Birch, also known as Red Birch, Black Birch or Water Birch, is a species of Birch native to the United States that naturally develops multiple trunks. In nature, it is generally found in flood plains and swamps, but it also does well in drier soil. Its bark is very distinctive not only for its various tones of cream and salmon colors, but also for its extreme peeling, which allows the tree to grow faster by synthesizing more food from carbon dioxide.

Native Americans used the boiled sap of this vigorous tree as a sweetener just like the Sugar Maple syrup. They ate the inner bark as survival food. We no longer commonly eat its sap or bark, and its wood is too crooked to have any value as timber. But it is durable enough to make many items such as toys, eating utensils and artificial limbs. Gardeners value it as a great native option, attractive in every season, as its leaves turn bright yellow in the fall. And environmentalists love it for its capacity to contain erosion on stream banks. Check Page 32 for Station Park’s River Birch.
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John Howard Pierce, a state Senator, gentleman farmer and businessman about whose affairs we know little, had the Pierce House built in 1900 in the Georgian-Revival style. The front façade of the Pierce House was designed to resemble the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House at 105 Brattle Street in Cambridge, MA, built in 1759. He probably had high regard for the Longfellow House because it had been the headquarters of General George Washington and later became the home of American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow for almost 50 years.

Mr. Pierce wanted the estate to become a hospital and park when he gave it to the Town in his will, but that wasn’t possible. So the wills of Mr. Pierce and his daughter Elsie, who left the Town an annual income to be used toward the House, were changed. The balance of the income left by Elsie served other great purposes, providing hospital treatment, medical and nursing care, dental and well child care for Lincoln residents going through hardships.

The Town of Lincoln considered changing the use of Pierce House and Park twice. In 1931, the Town commissioned a plan to an architect who advised tearing down Pierce House, which was in the way of his plan to build an athletic complex. The plan died a year later, when the Town ordered planting native hardwood and evergreen trees to frame the borders of the Park.

In 1945, Lincoln considered the Park as a site for a new school, but Lincoln Road was chosen instead, allowing the house to stay as a place of community gatherings and functions.
RED CEDAR

The Red Cedar, also called Eastern Redcedar, Pencil Cedar and Aromatic Cedar, is actually a species of Juniper. That is why it is also called Virginian Juniper, Eastern Juniper and Red Juniper. It was first observed at Roanoke Island in Virginia in 1564, and soon became prized by colonists for building furniture, logs cabins and rail fences. Its wood became a staple of the pencil industry for over a century, until the Western Cedar replaced it, as there were not enough Red Cedars available to meet production demands. Today pencils are generally made out of Incense Cedar.

Native Americans believed the Red Cedar to be a holy tree and often burned it in purification rites and sweat lodges. They concocted remedies with its berries, roots and bark, some to relieve asthma and coughs, some as a sedative and diuretic.

The juicy blue berries that the Red Cedar produces take three years to mature and are food for many types of wildlife. That includes the Cedar Waxwing, a bird named for the tree because they often eat most of its fruit.
European Beech

This mature, round-shaped European Beech has not always been here alone. Two identical Beech trees stood together in front of Pierce House for decades. Sadly, the other tree got sick and had to be removed.

The European Beech seems to reign unchallenged in the history of Europe. Historians claim that the first written European literature was inscribed on Beech bark. The English word book comes from the Anglo-Saxon boc, a derivative for beece or Beech. People in Germanic societies often used Beech wood tablets for writing before paper was available. The modern word book derives from the Old English bōc. Both bōc and Old Norse bók primarily mean beech and carry book as a secondary meaning. Similar patterns occur in modern German and Dutch. In Swedish, bok means both beech and book.

The Chinese closely guarded the secret of paper manufacture. But in 751 A.D. Arabs captured Chinese papermakers and started their own industry in 793 A.D. By 1150 A.D. the crusades had brought paper to Spain and the first paper industry in Europe was established. In 1453 A.D. Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press. The first paper industry in North America was built in Philadelphia in 1690.

In evolutionary terms, recent research indicates that the Beech is the most basal of trees in the Fagaceae family. It originated the Oak, the Chestnut, the Chinquapin and all other plants in its family.
If you were a British sailor back in the 17\textsuperscript{th} century, the words White Pine would never have crossed your lips. If they did, you could have very well been hanged.

The Eastern White Pines in New England were a British military secret. Here the trees grow up together very quickly, developing tall, straight, strong trunks. Because of these attributes, the pines could be used to produce the tallest masts ever seen at the time — the masts that held the sails of the most impressive British ships. Thanks to our Pines, the English could sail faster and maneuver better, giving the English Navy superiority over every other navy, including the Spanish.

Pines typically grow after some destructive event that wipes out an entire stand of trees, such as a hurricane or a wild fire. The Pines are so tall that their cones survive the heat, which opens them, causing seeds to drop to the newly prepared soil. No other plant outsmarts the Pines in such conditions.

The White Pine in this trail, though, is a \textbf{Wolf Pine}. It is very large, bony and multi-forked, and such trees are very costly to process into logs, so loggers often left them in the woods. Wolves have a reputation of eating everything around them. These trees take a lot of space and light in the forest. That’s why they are called “Wolf Trees.” Something happened to the main trunk of the Wolf Pine that made it send up shoots to replace the dead leader. It is impossible to know what — maybe a beetle attack or a drought that caused the trunk to fail. What matters is that the event probably saved its life, and now we can appreciate the Wolf Pine in these woods.
These conifers native to China are most peculiar. Their needles are soft and fall when winter comes (deciduous). They also turn the most vivid shade of orange during the fall. Also called Metasequoias, Dawn Redwoods are “cousins” of the Giant Sequoias in California, sharing the same subfamily. They are the smallest of the Redwoods, growing only 200 feet in height — the largest Giant Sequoias are as tall as a 26-story building, and the width of their bases can exceed that of a city street. Giant Sequoias are the largest living beings on Earth.

Although relentless collection of their cones prevented their natural reproduction and nearly brought them to extinction, China is now the only place to view a large number of Dawn Redwoods in the wild.

Fossil records show that Dawn Redwoods once covered the Northern Hemisphere. They were thought to have been extinct for millions of years until their rediscovery in 1941 by a Chinese forester in a remote corner of the Sichuan Province in south-central China. Somehow, a little over a thousand trees had survived for millennia in that region, which ironically is not even an ideal environment for Metasequoias.

A Metasequoia reforestation project named the Crescent Ridge Dawn Redwoods Preserve was established in 1995 in the Appalachian region of North Carolina. A 50-acre grove was planted, and many hope that one day it will become established enough to become a public park. The year 2035 is the target date for opening it to the public.
The Eastern Hemlock is the state tree of Pennsylvania. But if you look around, you will see them everywhere in Massachusetts too. Many of these specimens tower over other trees, bringing to the landscape a massive background of evergreens. The Eastern Native Tree Society has found Hemlocks up to 173 feet tall along the east coast of the United States. Put two of these trees on top of each other, and they surpass the Statue of Liberty, which is 305' tall.

Hemlocks sometimes grow to be enormous because they can live 800 years. Unfortunately, a pesky aphid-like insect called wooly adelgid is plaguing and killing most Hemlocks in America. This awful bug came from Japan uninvited in the 1950’s and has been feasting on our Hemlocks ever since. Spraying entire forests is economically impossible and not very effective, according to scientists. So their best bet for saving Hemlock forests is by releasing in great numbers a predatory beetle whose favorite meal is the wooly adelgid.

Black bears often use hollow hemlocks as shelter. This tree also feeds many wild animals. Deer, rabbits and squirrels eat hemlock bark. Porcupines eat hemlock twigs, and birds eat their needles and seeds. Hemlock needles contain vitamin C and can be drunk as a tea, as the Iroquois Indians did. Oil extracted from the needles is used in the perfume industry. Crushed needles smell like poison hemlock (a flowering plant Greek philosopher Socrates drank to kill himself), but the Hemlock trees are not toxic.
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Station Park

An empty lot in 1905, this area was once occupied by a Girl Scout building funded by Helen Storrow that later became a restaurant, gift shop, hardware store, and then a rutted parking lot for the nearby community store and train. Station Park was created in 1970 by a group of Lincolnites and local organizations. The Lincoln Garden Club has maintained it since 1972, thanks to its volunteers, who plan, prune, dig, rake, mulch and water regularly. The Lincoln Department of Public Works, local schools, businesses and other organizations often help the Garden Club with Station Park projects, making it a center of generosity, camaraderie and, of course, delicate beauty.

The gardens are mostly plants donated by the volunteers to honor loved ones or simply beautify their Town. The Club is now focusing on introducing native plants and trees to protect and feed wildlife and pollinators, helping the local habitat. In 2015, a native garden bed was installed, and in 2016 native trees and shrubs were planted. Savor the serenity of the wooden arbor and rustic fences. Enjoy the Peace Pole installed in 1984, and be sure to take a sip at our water fountain.
River Birch

In the warm and sunny morning of May 24, 2002, relatives and friends of Berkeley Bottjer gathered at Station Park to witness the planting of a tiny River Birch in her honor. Ms. Bottjer wasn’t well enough to attend, but she enjoyed seeing the pictures that afternoon. She died of cancer a few hours later, at 56.

Like her tree, Ms. Bottjer was too young. But she lived a passionate and exciting life as an architect, especially celebrated as an "urban pioneer" of Boston’s South End. There she lived for years and took the restoration of numerous town houses to heart as a personal cause. She was known for choosing fearless colors for walls and happy mixes of antique and contemporary furnishings for rooms, bringing new life to a historical place in disrepair. She was also an avid amateur photographer, and a devoted volunteer for the Lincoln Garden Club, the Lincoln Library and the Audubon Society. Her husband, acclaimed Broadway set designer Karl Eigsti, once said, “I always told people that before I met Berkeley, I had a career. After I met her, I had a life.” Now her River Birch lives on at Station Park, as beautiful as her life.

Go to Page 20 for information on River Birch trees.
**JAPANESE PAGODA**

The Japanese Pagoda, or Chinese Scholar tree, is native to China. But it became very popular in Japan, where it was planted on the grounds of many Buddhist temples. Today it is also a well-loved ornamental tree in Europe, North America and South Africa, probably because of its beautiful leaves that resemble a fern, and its elegant round crown. The Pagoda tree at Station Park, though, leans toward the street. It seems to have been pruned to allow walkers to pass through the park path and the sidewalk, and it may be growing faster toward areas where it reaches more light. The large Oak across the gravel path is partially blocking its access to the sun. This Pagoda is quite old, very possibly planted when the sidewalks in Lincoln were being laid out. You can see that the grade has been considerably lifted since it was planted, as the trunk goes into the ground with no flare.

The Pagoda is one of the 50 fundamental herbs used in traditional Chinese medicine, and it is easy to see why. The list of its medicinal uses seems endless: it fights bacteria and inflammation, suppresses muscle spasms and bleeding, reduces fever and blood pressure, and fights cholesterol among many other uses. Modern medicine is still unveiling its benefits. A recent study suggests that an extract from the seeds may alleviate rheumatoid arthritis symptoms.

Have you heard of the “guilty Pagoda tree” or zuihuai? It is a tree located in Jingshan Park, in Beijing, China, that became a tourist attraction and national landmark. The Chongzhen Emperor, the last ruler of the Ming dynasty, allegedly hanged himself from the tree in 1644, after the imperial city of Beijing fell to rebel forces.
Swamp White Oak

Oaks are North American trees that come from the Beech family. The Oak right next to the arbor at Station Park is a Swamp White Oak — a tree known to survive a variety of habitats. There are over 500 different species of Oaks. And some of them are evergreens. The Swamp White Oak can only be distinguished from similar Oaks by the bark on young branches, which peels profusely.

Oaks are strong, long-lived trees, and their wood is quite valuable. But gardeners who, like Lincolmites, have homes surrounded by Oaks, get numerous benefits from living Oaks as well.

Mulch is one benefit. Oak leaves don’t alter the pH of the soil, even if used in large amounts. They are easy to carry, close by in our yards, and so light compared to the bags of mulch we lug from the store. And, best of all, they are free of charge!

Oak leaves are a great source of organic materials that are added to the soil as they decompose. Some research shows their leaves contain up to 1% nitrogen, about as much as the composted cow manure used to fertilize soil. So, don’t send your leaves away!

You may also mow Oak leaves into your lawn, enriching the soil and feeding the grass with no adverse effects. Or you may till them into your veggie gardens. Do it in the fall, so they decompose for next year.
 TEAM DIRECTORY

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A heartfelt thank you to all Garden Club members who volunteered for the Champagne Reception and as Tree Tour docents.
Daniela Caride took all photos except the ones otherwise noted below.

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35 – Girl looking at stuffed peacock at the Lincoln Library - Author unknown, Image courtesy of Lincoln Town Archives

Please visit www.LincolnGardenClub.org for questions, comments and information on sources used for the content of this booklet.
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Help keep the club lively and successful

We enjoy sharing our gardening skills contributing to our community and learning together

Lectures at least eight times a year

Opportunities to garden together

Community service at Station Park and water troughs
Flowers for the Library and for homebound seniors
Support to Lincoln trees through the Lincoln Tree Tour

Workshops & field trips year-round

Flower arrangement exhibitions

Biennial plant sales

www.LincolnGardenClub.org
Please be careful. Ticket holders assume all risks associated with the Lincoln Tree Tour, included but not limited to stairways, passageways, trails, slippery areas, and other hazards.