



# Five Favorite Trees

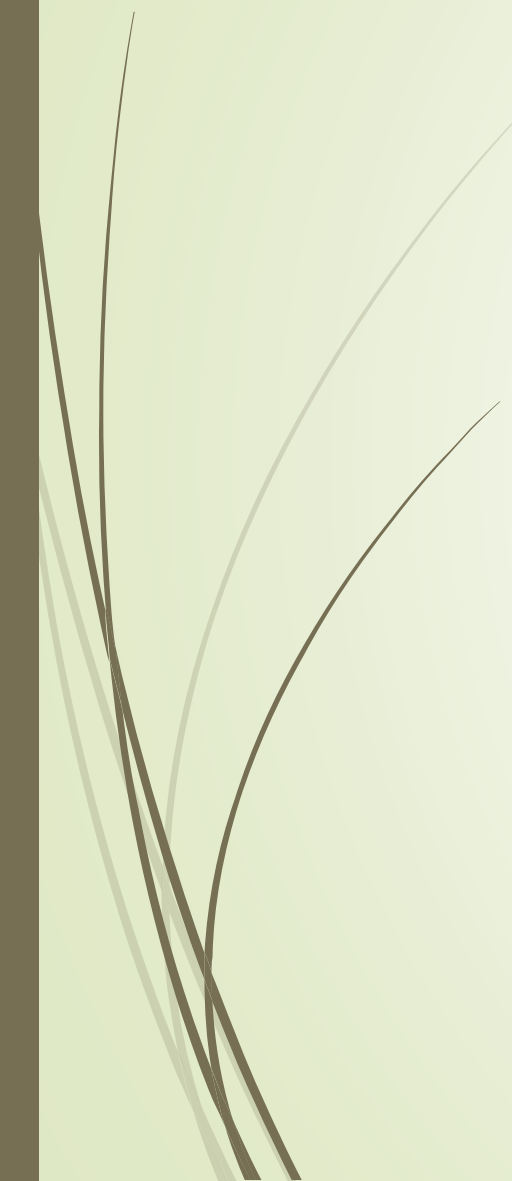
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# A Walk Down the Hill

- Sand, silt and clay
  - Ridge has thin, dry, infertile soils –oak heath
  - Soils become richer and deeper and you move down hill
    - Acidic oak-hickory
    - Basic oak-hickory
    - Mixed mesic/poplar cove
    - Riparian
  - Plant communities vary due in large part to changes in soils
- 



*Quercus alba*  
White Oak

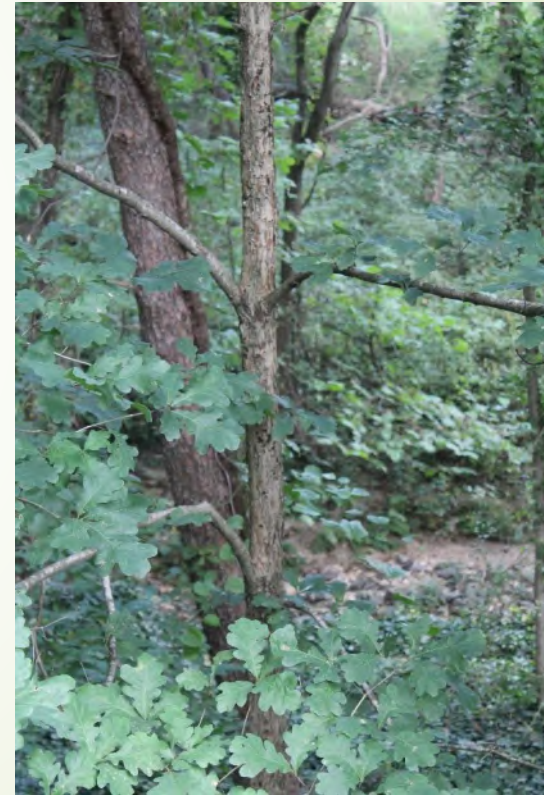
Oak Heath and infertile soils

# White Oak



# Natural History

- Typically found near ridgeline with chestnut oak
- Can be found on sandy or acidic soils that are dry and infertile, even near water
- Needs fire every 30-50 years or so to remain dominant



# Taxonomy

- ▶ Family Fagaceae, the Beech family along with Beeches and Chestnuts
- ▶ One of 24 or so common oaks in Virginia
- ▶ *Quercus* is the Latin word for oak tree
- ▶ *alba* refers to the color of finished wood



# Landscape Value



- Large focal point trees
- Open grown trees are shorter with massive branches
- Can develop reddish to bronze fall color
- Interesting bark with side opening plates





# Wildlife Value

- ▶ Supports hundreds of species of caterpillars
- ▶ Acorns have less tannin than red oaks and are food for many weevils, birds and mammals





# Tidbits

- White oak wood is one of the most rot resistant woods known
- The wood is water tight and used for wet cooperage and boat hulls
- Preferred wood for wine and whiskey barrels due to chemical content



*Carya glabra*  
Pignut Hickory

Acidic oak-hickory forest

# Pignut Hickory



# Natural History

- Found on dry slopes in transition from ridge line oak forest to poplar dominated forests
- Gap regenerative like oaks
- Also needs fire every 30-50 years



# Taxonomy



- In the family Juglandaceae, the walnuts
- *Carya* comes from the Greek words “káryon”, meaning nut
- *glabra* from the Latin “glabrous” meaning lack of hairs

# Landscape Value

- ▶ Large focal point landscape tree
- ▶ Produces nuts that may be a detraction
- ▶ Translucent yellow fall foliage
- ▶ Tight interesting bark





# Wildlife Value



© Bob Warrick Hickory horned devil (*Citheronia regalis*), larval stage of regal moth. [Wikipedia](#) CC BY-SA 4.0

- Hickories support 239 species of caterpillars, including the hickory horned devil and Luna moth
- Mammals
- Common name comes from colonists using these nuts to fatten pigs.

# Uses and other

- Related to pecans
- Wood is stronger than steel weight for weight and elastic, so used for skis
- Used for high impact tool handles
- Low heat conductivity made it useful for wheel hubs



*Carya illinoensis*

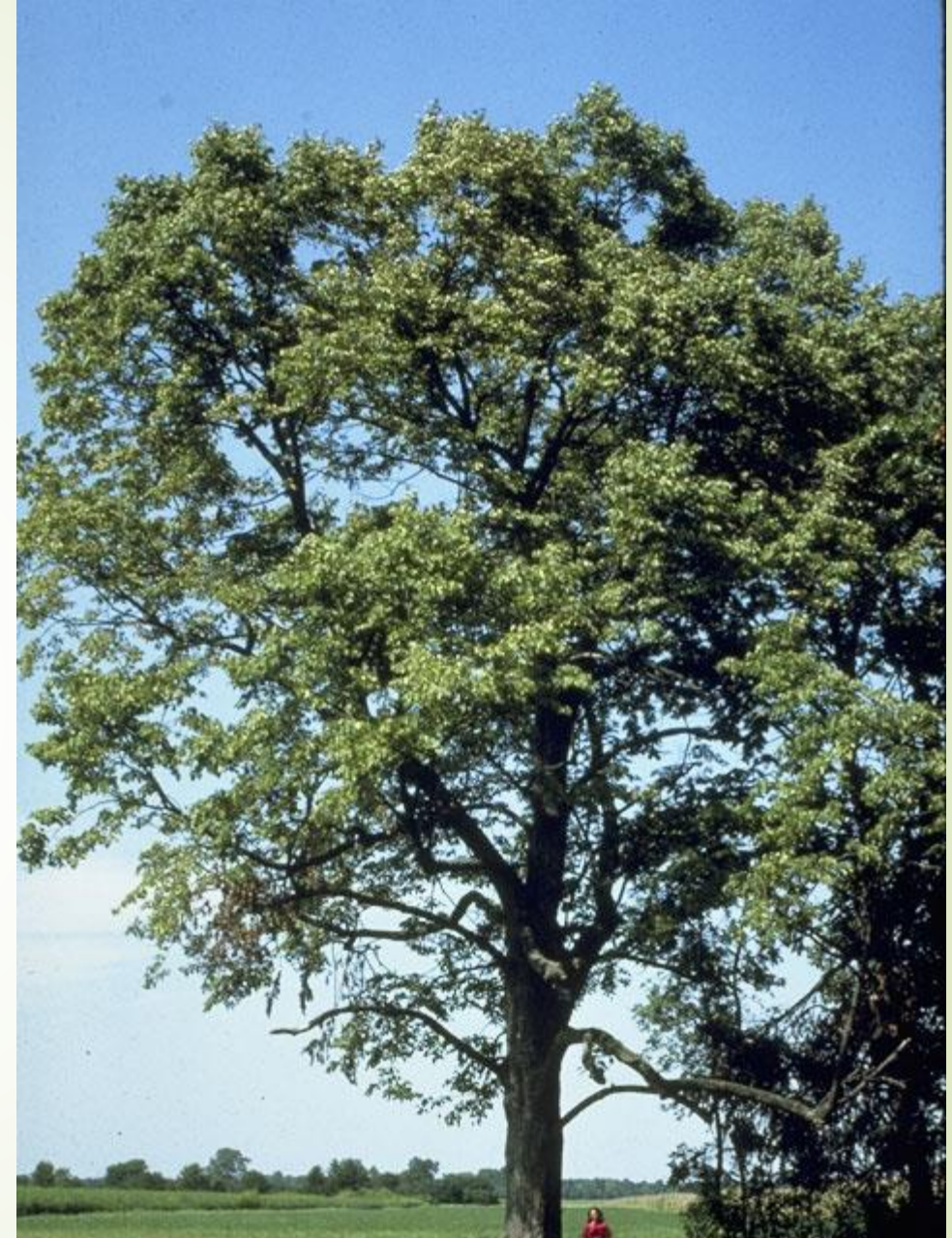


*Tilia americana*

American Basswood

Mixed mesic

# American Basswood



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# Natural History

- ▶ Found midslope and in coves usually with poplar
- ▶ Indicator of fertile sites
- ▶ Bee pollinated
- ▶ Medium sized tree
- ▶ One of the few trees with heart shaped leaves



# Taxonomy



- Tiliaceae family, the linden family or
- Malvaceae family, the mallows
- *Tilia* is Latin for linden
- *americana* means from America
- Related to popular landscape trees little leaf and silverleaf lindens

# Landscape Value

- ▶ Medium sized, shade tolerant tree
- ▶ Flowers – clusters of ½ inch white flowers late spring
- ▶ Pale yellow fall color
- ▶ Rounder les upright crown than its European cousins



# Wildlife Value

- Special value to native bees
- Attracts predatory and parasitoid insects
- Supports 143 species of caterpillars
- Small mammals eat fruit
- Rabbits and voles eat the bark







*Carpinus caroliniana*  
American hornbeam

Riparian

Hornbeam, ironwood, musclewood



# Natural History

- ▶ Moist woodlands
- ▶ Slow growing
- ▶ Shade tolerant
- ▶ Typically found on wet-mesic sites with low pH, but can stand a variety of conditions



# Taxonomy



- A member of Betulaceae or birch family
- *Carpinus* is Latin name for hornbeam, which may have been borrowed from the Celtic word for yoke
- *caroliniana* means from Carolina.
- Common names of hornbeam and iron wood refer to its heavy hard wood, commonly used for tool handles

# Landscape Value

- ▶ A medium sized tree that gets big enough to provide urban tree benefits with out getting big enough to cause sleeplessness
- ▶ Interesting bark and trunk shape
- ▶ Yellow fall foliage



# Wildlife Value



- 72 species of caterpillar includes several silk moths
- Nutlets are eaten by small mammals and birds



*Nyssa sylvatica*  
Black Gum

Nowhere in particular

# Black Gum





# Natural History

- Highly variable site conditions
- Found in 35 SAF forest cover types
- Flowers in early summer
- Polygamo-dioecious



# Taxonomy



- In the family Nyssaceae, sometimes in Cornaceae, the dogwoods
- *Nyssa* is Greek for water nymph
- *sylvatica* refers to its woodland habitat

# Landscaping Value

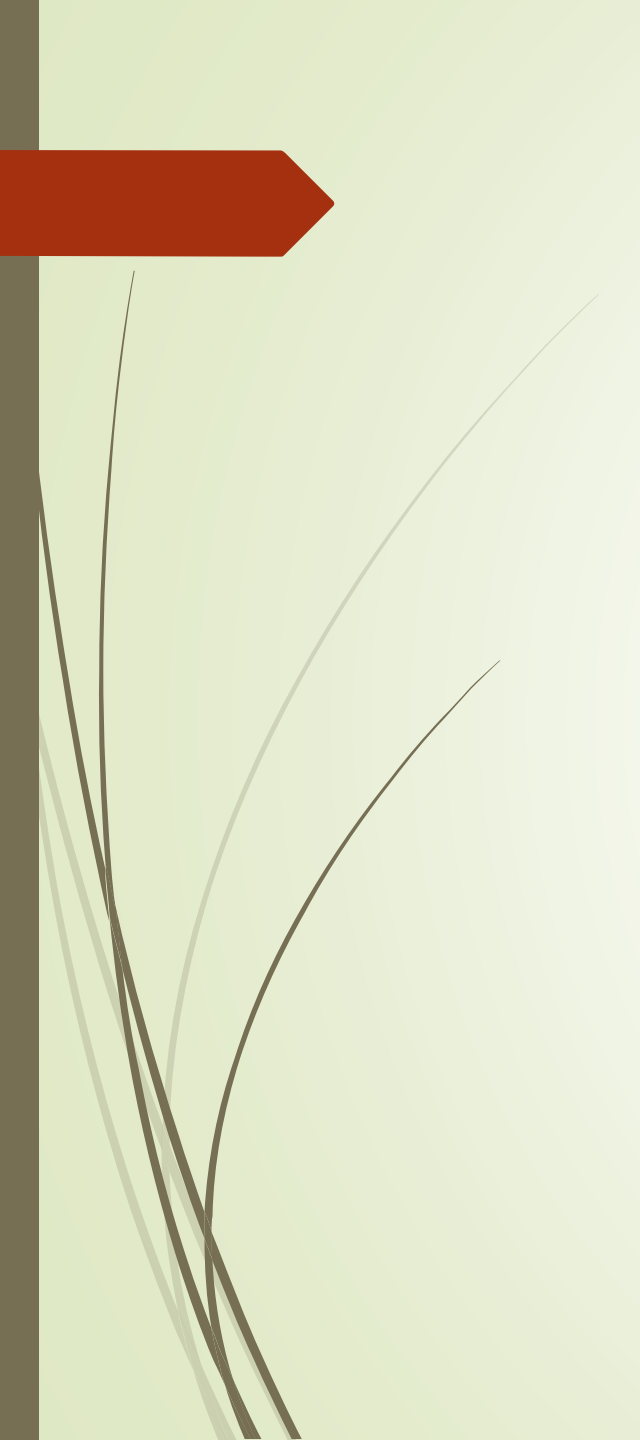
- Large, slow growing, shade tolerant tree
- Fall color
- Can be planted as an understory tree
- Slightly faster growth in full sun



# Wildlife Value



- Browsed by deer
- Fruit are eaten by small mammals and birds
- The fruit is high in crude fat, fiber, phosphorous, and calcium
- Tupelo honey
- Dependable den tree for cavity nesters



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