



Reflections on Trees
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2007

Because they are primeval, because they out live us, because they are fixed, trees seem to emanate a sense of permanence. And though rooted in earth, they seem to touch the sky. For these reasons it is natural to feel we might learn wisdom from them, to haunt about them with the idea that if we could only read their silent riddle rightly we should learn some secret vital to our own lives; or even, more specifically, some secret vital to our real, our lasting and spiritual existence.

- Kim Taplin, *Tongues in Trees*, 1989, p. 14.

Credits

All photos were taken by Pat Carter.

Cover: Swamp near Orlando, Florida

January: Forest in Cascade Mountains in Washington.

February: Left picture — Cascade Mountains in Washington;

Right picture — Nestucca Retreat, Oregon.

March: Inside Chapel at Seattle University

April: Tower Grove Park, St. Louis, Missouri

May: Cemetery near Orlando, Florida

June: Left picture — Forest in Alberta, Canada;

right picture — Nature Conservatory near Orlando, Florida

July: Volunteer Park in Seattle, Washington

August: Bainbridge Island, Washington

September: Forest Park, St. Louis, Missouri

October: Stands at Soulard Market, St. Louis, Missouri

November: Cedarburg, Wisconsin

December: Forest near Couer D'Alene, Idaho

Quotes and facts were found at: <http://www.gardendigest.com/trees.htm>.

*For information on obtaining additional copies of this calendar,
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*Time-honored, beautiful, solemn and wise.
 Noble, sacred and ancient
 Trees reach the highest heavens and penetrate the deepest secrets of the earth.
 Trees are the largest living beings on this planet.
 Trees are in communion with the spiritual and the material.
 Trees guard the forests and the sanctified places that must not be spoiled.
 Trees watch over us and provide us with what we need to live on this planet.
 Trees provide a focal point for meditation, enlightenment, guidance and inspiration.
 Trees have a soul and a spirit.*

- Tree Magick by Lavenderwater

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Mary Mother of God	2	3	4	5	6 Epiphany
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



When you enter a grove peopled with ancient trees, higher than the ordinary, and shutting out the sky with their thickly inter-twined branches, do not the stately shadows of the wood, the stillness of the place, and the awful gloom of this doomed cavern then strike you with the presence of a deity?

- Seneca



February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Ground Hog Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 National Flag of Canada Day	16	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20 Mardi Gras	21 Ash Wednesday	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24
25	26	27	28	<i>"One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people."—U.S. Department of Agriculture</i>		



The sacred tree, the sacred stone are not adored as stone or tree;

they are worshipped precisely because they are hierophanies,

because they show something that is no longer stone or tree but sacred,

the ganz andere or 'wholly other.'

- Mircea Eliade, Myths, Dreams and Mysteries

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<i>Hospital patients heal faster, require shorter stays and less painkillers if room windows face trees.</i>						
4 Purim	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Daylight Saving Time Begins	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19 St. Joseph's Feast Day	20	21 Vernal Equinox	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Life without love is like a tree without blossom and fruit.

- Kahlil Gibran



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Palm Sunday April Fool's Day	2	3 Passover	4	5 Holy Thursday	6 Good Friday	7 Holy Saturday
8 Easter	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Tax Day	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Arbor Day	28
29	30	<p><i>Trees enhance the aesthetics of our environment. Their grandeur, tenacity, and beauty are probably the most enjoyable aspect of trees.</i></p>				



They are beautiful in their peace, they are wise in their silence.

They will stand after we are dust. They teach us, and we tend them.

- Galeain ip Altium MacDunelmor

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Two mature trees provide enough oxygen for a family of four.</i>		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17 Ascension Thursday	18	19
20	21 Victoria Day	22	23	24	25	26
27 Pentecost	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		



That each day I may walk unceasingly on the banks of my water, that my soul may repose on the branches of the trees which I planted, that I may refresh myself under the shadow of my sycamore.

- Egyptian tomb inscription, circa 1400 BCE

Sycamore trees were held to be sacred in ancient Egypt and are the first trees represented in ancient art.



June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension."—Dr. Roger S. Ulrich Texas A&M University</i></p>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21 Summer Solstice	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



We ask for the blessing of the Inner Guardians of the Order and of our Druid forebears that this Grove might become a truly holy and sanctified place.

We respect and honour and admire you, O trees, for you represent both Peace and Power — though you are mighty you hurt no creature. Though you sustain us with your breath, you will give up your life to house and warm and teach us.

We give thanks for your blessing upon our lives and upon our lands. May you fare well in this chosen place. Awen.

- Druid Ceremony for Planting a Grove

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Canada Day	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<p><i>Well placed trees help cut energy costs and consumption by decreasing air conditioning costs 10-50% & reducing heating costs as much as 4-22%.</i></p>			



*Stand Tall and Proud
 Sink your roots deeply
 into the Earth
 Reflect the light of a
 greater source
 Think long term
 Go out on a limb
 Remember your place
 among all living beings
 Embrace with joy the
 changing seasons
 For each yields its own
 abundance
 The Energy and Birth of
 Spring
 The Growth and
 Contentment of Summer
 The Wisdom to let go of
 leaves in the Fall
 The Rest and Quiet
 Renewal of Winter*

- Ilan Shamir,
Advice From a Tree

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>One person causes about 10 tons of carbon dioxide to be emitted a year. One tree removes about 1 ton of CO2 per year.</i>			1	2	3	4
5	6 Civic Holiday (Canada)	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Assumption	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



The forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness and benevolence that makes no demands for its sustenance and extends generously the products of its life and activity; it affords protection to all beings.

- Buddhist Sutra

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Birds and animals use trees for their homes and shelter and as a source of food.</i></p> <p><i>Trees are the longest living and largest living organisms on Earth.</i></p>						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Rosh Hashana Ramadan	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Autumnal Equinox Yom Kippur
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



*Tall thriving Trees
confessed the fruitful
Mold:*

*The reddening Apple
ripens here to Gold,*

*Here the blue Fig
with luscious Juice
overflows,*

*With deeper Red the full
Pomegranate glows,*

*The Branch here bends
beneath the weighty
Pear,*

*and verdant Olives
flourish round the Year.*

- Homer

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day (USA) Thanksgiving Day (Canada)	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Halloween	A tree-line buffer between fields and streams helps remove farming pollutants before they reach the water.		



Trees enrich our lives throughout the year. They reassure us with the rustle of their leaves, give us shade to soothe our overheated bodies and they bring delight to us when we watch birds nest in their boughs. However, it is only during the fall that they wave flamboyant foliage that seems to demand our attention.

- Blue Ridge Parkway:
A Guide to Trees

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Trees help reduce the “greenhouse effect” by absorbing CO2. One acre of trees removes 2.6 tons of CO2 per year.</i></p>				1 All Saints' Day	2	3
4 Daylight Saving Time Ends	5	6 Election Day	7	8	9	10
11 Veteran's Day [USA] Remembrance Day [Canada]	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	21	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech-tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines.

- Henry David Thoreau,
1817 - 1862

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<p><i>Forest planting is one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing CO2. To remove 1 pound of CO2, planting a tree costs less than 1 cent, developing more energy efficient appliances costs about 2 1/2 cents, and developing more fuel-efficient cars costs about 10 cents.</i></p>						
2 First Sunday of Advent	3	4	5 Hanukkah	6	7	8 Immaculate Conception
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Winter Solstice
23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29
30	31					