

To take the self guided tour, print out these pages which include descriptions and a diagram of the grounds. Exit through the back entrance by the security desk.

## MMS TREE TOUR

### 1. *Stewartia pseudocamellia* Japanese Stewartia

This is a tree of subtle beauty that has interesting features in all seasons. It is a native of Asia. Because the blossoms resemble those of some camellias, *pseudocamellia* is the species portion of the Latin botanical name. Purple leaves emerge in April that quickly become green. The blossoms arrive in mid June or early July after all of the spring flowering trees and shrubs have finished blooming. Unlike cherry and apple trees whose blossoms open all at the same time to produce a very dramatic and spectacular show, the blossoms of this tree open a few at a time. Though the blossoms last only a few days as do those of cherry and apple trees, the blooming period of this tree may be as long as six weeks. The five-petal white flowers are approximately three inches in diameter and have a central golden orange mass of anthers. The bark of the mature tree resembles the pattern of camouflage kaki uniforms or reptile skin rendering its unique appearance in the winter. At maturity, the tree may be as high as forty feet. Three specimens of this tree are planted in the Community Garden in recognition of the three major groups that comprise the MMS Community.

### 2. *Fagus sylvatica 'riversii'* Copper Beech

In youth, this tree has an oval outline. With age, it becomes rounded, very dense and the branches eventually reach the ground to give it a very stately elegance. Because of its eventual large size sixty feet tall and sixty feet wide, it needs a large area; hence, it is a stand-alone tree. It has a beautiful winter silhouette. The leaf color of the common English name of this tree explains why it is called the Copper beech. In mature specimens, the smooth gray bark is appreciated only after the tree has dropped its leaves in late fall.

### 3. *Crataegus viridis 'Winter King'* Winter King Green Hawthorne

Of the ninety varieties of hawthorns, this is considered the best by most botanists largely because of its superior resistance to drought and disease. It is an ornamental tree that grows about twenty-five high and twenty feet wide. It has white flowers with deep red centers, dark green foliage that turns red in the fall and small red fruit that remain on the tree most of the winter. It is related to *Crataegus monogyna* another Hawthorne tree that is medicinal and that we may have someday in our gardens. This is "THE GREEN TEAM TREE" as it was donated by the MMS Green Team.

#### 4. *Acer griseum* Paperbark Maple

This is a small tree that seldom grows taller than twenty feet but can grow as high as thirty feet. It has beautiful crimson fall foliage, but it is best known and most appreciated for its cinnamon to reddish-brown exfoliating bark. The exfoliating bark that appears to be coming off in scrolls is sometimes mistakenly viewed as a sign of distress.

#### 5. *Cryptomeria Japonica* 'Yoshino' Japanese Cedar

This is a tall handsome dense evergreen pyramidal tree that is planted often in rows to produce a screen. It is a native of the volcanic islands of Japan where it is green all year round. In Waltham, because of our more severe winters, some of its needles bronze in the winter. The attractive cones are not easily seen; they are hidden, hence the botanical genus name *Cryptomeria*. An English word for hidden is cryptic coming from the Greek word *kryptos* for hidden.

#### 6. *Franklinia alatamaha*, Franklinia

John Bartram, America's first professional botanist, found this tree in 1770 growing along the banks of the Altamaha River in Georgia. He named this unusual tree after his good friend and fellow gardener, Benjamin Franklin. He propagated this tree from soft and hard woodcuttings. When he returned twenty years later to look for more specimens of this tree, he found none. The estimated two thousand specimens of this tree in existence in the United States are all offspring of those propagated by Bartram from one tree. We have two specimens that flank the entrance to the Conference Center. Both trees are registered with the Bartram Society in Philadelphia that keeps track of the location and condition of all *Franklinias* known to them. The tree is unique because it blooms in the fall. Often the flower buds open after the leaves have changed from green to burgundy. The five petaled white blossoms are three inches in diameter, have orange anthers and are fragrant. At maturity, the tree is twenty to thirty feet high.

#### 7. *Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire' Linden Tree

This is a medicinal tree. Tea made from the pale yellow flowers and the lime colored bracts that appear in mid June is used to relieve anxiety and tension headaches. The tea is called lime tea because of the color of the bracts. In Europe, it is a popular beverage and consumed for its good flavor and not necessarily for medicinal purposes. It is a very hardy tree that thrives in challenging locations such as street islands where the soil is compacted, where the roots are overheated from hot asphalt over and near them, and where the soil surface area for water absorption is very limited. Because of its great tolerance for harsh growing conditions, it is designated as a street tree. It grows

sixty to seventy feet high and thirty to forty-five feet wide. The green leaves turn yellow in the fall.

#### **8. *Liriodendron tulipifera* Tulip Poplar**

Like the *Franklinia*, this tree is a Native American tree. It is majestic in form: it grows ninety feet high and thirty-five to fifty feet wide. It has a characteristic leaf that resembles a maple leaf with the middle tip cut off. In the spring, it has unique leaf buds and orange –yellow-pale green blossoms that resemble tulip blossoms. The fall foliage is yellow. Thomas Jefferson grew them around Monticello. George Washington grew them around Mt. Vernon, and he gave specimens to Lafayette as a gift to France that were planted in the gardens of Versailles. Vanderbilt framed Biltmore House in Asheville, North Carolina with tulip trees, and Thomas Edison did the same thing around his mansion in Orange, New Jersey. Our tree is a memorial to the approximately three thousand victims of September 11, 2001.

#### **9. *Prunus cerasifera* ‘Newport’ Myrobalan Plum**

This beautiful ornamental plum tree growing in the employee memorial garden replaces one that had to be left behind at the old headquarters building on 1440 Main Street. The leaf color is burgundy throughout the entire growing season; it has pale lavender flowers in the spring that resemble cherry blossoms. The fruit is small “cherry-like” hence the botanical species name *cerasifera*. This tree has not yet borne any fruit.

#### **10. *Ginkgo biloba fastigiata* The Ginkgo Tree**

This Asiatic tree is the oldest known tree to be in existence. From plant fossil studies (paleobotany), it has been determined to be about two hundred million years old and to have been in existence at the time that dinosaurs roamed this planet. Like the Linden Tree, it is very hardy and it is considered to be a street tree. It appears to grow just as well in the sidewalks of Park and Fifth Avenues as in Central Park, New York. For centuries, Buddhist monks planted this tree around temples and in groves believing it to be a sacred tree. Extracts made from the leaves act as a blood thinner thereby improving the circulation to the brain and elsewhere. It may be useful in improving memory and preventing, delaying and halting the progression of Alzheimer’s disease. For millennia, the Chinese have used preparations made from the seeds to treat asthma. This arrowhead shaped tree is essentially two dimensional but after one hundred and fifty years it, develops a canopy giving it a three dimensional shape. The unique fan shape leaves are in botanical terms very primitive. The leaf veins radiate from the leaf stem (the petiole); it has no central vein as do other tree leaves. At maturity, the tree can reach a height of eighty feet.

### **11. *Cornus kousa* Korean Dogwood**

**The Korean Dogwood resembles the much more common American Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), but it is preferred over the later because of its resistance to a fungal disease, anthracnose, which has decimated many American Dogwoods in New England in the last two decades. The American dogwood blooms first then develops its leaves; the Korean dogwood does the reverse. The order in which blooming and leafing occurs explains why the American Dogwood blooms in May and the Korean Dogwood blooms in June. The blossoms consist of four pointed bracts that surround the true flowers. They usually have a long bloom life of at least three weeks. Fruit appears in September and October that resembles strawberries in appearance. The green leaves turn an orange-red in the fall. At maturity, the tree is approximately thirty feet high.**

### **12. *Styrax japonica* Japanese Snowbell**

**This beautiful ornamental tree has a charming delicate appearance when it is in bloom and when it bears its fruit. In May and June, clusters of white bell-shaped flowers hang from the branches with green leaves above them that appear like butterflies perched on the hanging blossoms. In the fall, it has pale green tear drop shaped fruit that resemble miniature olives. The branching pattern of this tree gives it a somewhat abstract shape. It grows twenty to thirty feet high and thirty feet wide.**

8 9/11 tree

7 STREET ISLAND

