

The Haddonfield Town Tree Tour 2012

Follow the tour to explore Haddonfield's history through its trees. While many of our most historic trees are visited here, this tour is only a beginning. Haddonfield has an abundance of old and beautiful trees along the streets and in our gardens, many with stories not yet been recorded.

A map of the tour is available in back of the 2012 Community Calendar, as well as on the Haddonfield Shade Tree Commission webpage. This tour is also available in mp3 file format and can be downloaded from the Haddonfield Shade Tree Commission webpage as well. Go to: www.haddonfieldnj.org/borough_boards-shade.php

1. Society of Friends Cemetery: Beauty and History Amidst the Gravestones

Among the historic trees growing in the Society of Friends Cemetery, located on Haddon Avenue between Kings Highway and Lake Street, are:

- Two American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) trees, each over 200 years old, reportedly planted at the time of Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh's death in 1762. One of the trees, now much cutback, grows on the west boundary wall on Haddon Avenue and bears a plaque noting her history. The other tree, standing amidst the gravestones of the Nicholson family, is clearly the oldest and, with a diameter of 66", the largest tree in the cemetery. Two smaller Sycamores, measuring 45" and 46" in diameter, grow along the eastern side of the cemetery near Friends Avenue. Outside the cemetery but nearby are two companion Sycamores:
 - ⇒ The American Sycamore across the street from the cemetery, in front of 38 N Haddon Avenue, measures 55" in diameter; and,
 - ⇒ The American Sycamore in front of 207 Kings Highway East reportedly was growing when the Hessian and British soldiers marched through Haddonfield during the American Revolutionary War. It measures 48" in diameter. The plaque was provided by the Haddonfield Daughters of the American Revolution.

Not only do their glistening white branches and upper trunks add beauty to the winter landscape, American Sycamores also have an interesting botanical history. The London Plane tree, one of Haddonfield's most dependable street trees, was discovered in London in 1663, apparently a hybrid of the American Sycamore and the Asian Sycamore (*Platanus orientalis*). The two species can be identified by the number of seed balls hanging in a group from the branches. The American Sycamore seed balls hang singly; the Asian Sycamore seed balls hang in groups of five or six. The London Plant tree seed balls hang together in pairs.



American Sycamore



London Plane Tree



American Sycamore Bark

- Other important trees are two Southern Red Oaks (*Quercus falcata*), measuring 55” and 56” in diameter, growing in the northwestern part of the cemetery; a Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) measuring 55” in diameter and a Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*) measuring 55” in diameter, both located along the eastern side near Friends Avenue.



Southern Red Oak



Pin Oak



Red Oak

- A Tulip Poplar (*Magnolia tulipifera*), over 80’ tall and 55” in diameter, presides over the northern center of the cemetery.

2. Boxwood Hall: Elizabeth Haddon’s Yew Tree

The English Yew tree (*Taxus baccata*) at Boxwood Hall, 65 Haddon Avenue, easily visible at the corner of Haddon Avenue and Lake Street, is 30’ high and 36” in diameter. Planted in the 1920’s, this tree was grown from a cutting taken from the yew trees that Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh brought from England in first quarter of the 18th century. Her original English Yew trees were planted at the Estaugh’s Wood Avenue home and survived until an unusually cold winter in 1926. This species is more common now as a hedge or ornamental shrub. But be careful. While the birds eat the berries, the seed is poisonous to humans and other mammals.



Boxwood Hall Yew



Under the Yew



Needles and Berries

3. The Ancient Black Oak

The Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*) at 263 Lake Street, near the Borough pumping station behind the Christ the King playground, is one of Haddonfield's oldest trees. Over 65" in diameter and 50-60' high, this tree is thought to have been growing when William Penn came to North America in October 1682. Closely related to the Red Oak, it is not commonly grown today, and was probably a woodland tree in Haddonfield's earliest days. On Arbor Day 1985, the Children of the American Revolution installed the plaque celebrating this tree.



Black Oak in winter
(www.waymarking.com)



Black oak leaf and acorn

4. Hopkins Pond: Trees to Mark the Boundary and Paths of Hopkins Farm

Historic trees located in Hopkins Pond area (beyond Tatum Elementary School near the car park on corner of Hopkins Lane and Grove Street include:

- The Southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), 45" in diameter, approximately 70-80' in height marked the western boundary of the Hopkins Farm. Given its girth, this tree is thought to have been growing at the time William Penn landed in North America. The species is native to North American from New Jersey, the northern end of its range, to Florida. A small plaque with an oak leaf (Northern Red Oak) identifies this tree to passersby. (See Tour Stop 1 for photo of leaf)
- A line of American beech (*Fagus americana*), now only three remaining, originally marked the path from the nearby road to the farmworkers' cottage at the western end of Hopkins Farm. The trees are most easily identified by their smooth, medium grey bark.



American Beech bark



American Beech leaves and seeds

5. **Birdwood Section: Beech Trees Along the Entrance to Birdwood**

Historic American Beech (*Fagus americana*) are located throughout the Birdwood section of Haddonfield, between Grove Street and Maple Avenue and Birdwood, now at 519 Hopkins Lane. Birdwood was built in 1794 by John Estaugh Hopkins, owner of Hopkins Farm and the Hopkins Mill located on Hopkins Pond. At least six Beech remain from a larger planting by John Hopkins, marking the original and now abandoned entrance to Birdwood from the road that is now Grove Street. Two trees are located on the property at 418 Birdwood Avenue, two others are at 323 Hawthorne Avenue, and a fifth is located behind 450 Merion Avenue. Can you find the other beech in this planting? First hint: They are all at least 50-60” in diameter. Second hint: They are all very tall with smooth grey bark and can be found, especially in winter, by scanning the skies above the houses.



Beech branches close up



Beech in winter

6. **Lullworth Hall: The Historical White Ash**

The White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), growing in front of the entrance to Lullworth Hall at the Bancroft School, 401 Kings Highway East, was young when Lullworth Hall was built in 1886. Growing in full sun on the front lawn, the tree developed a shorter trunk, now measuring 67” in diameter, and a broader, lower, more open crown than is found in the wild, where heights of 50-80’ are common. Native from Nova Scotia south to Florida and west to Minnesota, the White Ash is a handsome woodland tree whose fall colors range from yellows to oranges to reds to purples. Over time, the bark develops a unique diamond-shaped pattern. The wood from this tree is the preferred wood for baseball bats as it has great tensile strength, the ability to absorb stress without breaking. Ash leaves are tricky to identify. What might be considered a leaf is actually a “leaflet”. The ash has so-called “compound” leaves – 7 to 9 leaflets arranged on a stalk – measuring 8 to 15 inches long.



Ash tree bark detail



Lullworth Hall



Ash “compound” leaf

7. Haddonfield Memorial High School: Dawn Redwoods Touch the Sky

The Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), growing on either side of the entrance to Haddonfield Memorial High School, rise 50-60' in height and measure 30-35" in diameter. Planted in 1966 in honor of the New Jersey tricentennial, these fast-growing trees will reach over 100-120' at maturity. A conifer or needled tree in the Yew family, the Dawn Redwood is deciduous, namely, it loses its needles in the winter. According to the fossil record, this species was at one time native to North America, but died out. After an absence of approximately fifteen million years, in 1947-48, it was reintroduced here from south central China. As the botanical name would indicate, it is a relative of the California Redwood, also a member of the Yew family. Other deciduous conifers include our native Bald Cypress, found growing in southern swamps and bayous, and the European Larch.



HMHS Entrance Dawn Redwood Trunk and Needles (Leaves) Tree Profile

8. Elizabeth Haddon Elementary School: Trees to Feed our Wildlife

The Elizabeth Haddon School landscape includes significant trees such as:

- The eight American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) trees bordering the playground fence on Mt. Vernon Avenue. Mature at 60-75' in height, these trees can reach 80 – 120' in the wild, ranging from Connecticut south to Florida and west to Missouri. So-named because its sap has a sweet taste and gummy texture, the Sweetgum's leaves turn an astonishing range of reds in the fall. This tree is an important source of food for wildlife. Hummingbirds rely on its April flowers for nectar; birds gather leaf-feeding caterpillars for their nestlings in May and June; finch, sparrows, mourning doves and the Carolina wren, as well as small mammals, rely on the seeds within the brown "balls" during the winter and early spring for food at a time when little else is available. Wild turkeys in the southern New Jersey woods seek out the Sweetgum seeds.



Sweetgum leaves and seeds Sweetgum Fall colors White Oak leaves and seeds

- The White Oak (*Quercus alba*) on front lawn of 517 Mt. Vernon Avenue is 50" in diameter and approx. 70' in height. A majestic, long-lived tree, rising above most others, this White Oak is only about 100 years old, less than half its expected lifespan. The most important species in the White Oak family, the tree's acorn is highly prized by wildlife and edible by humans, but is best when first boiled in water to remove any bitter tannin. The White Oak family can be identified by the rounded ends of the leaves, as opposed to the pointed ends of the Red Oak family leaves.

- The Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra*) next to the Redman Avenue driveway of 136 Avondale is 40” in diameter and approximately 60 – 70’ high. The nuts, in a 3” shell, are sought after by wildlife but taste bitter to people. Nuts are high in fat content, important as animals prepare for a long winter.



Pignut Hickory : Tree Leaves and Seeds

Pigs Eating Pignuts

9. Knolltop Lane: Plantings to Follow Lippincott Farm

Knolltop Lane has a number of older and beautiful trees. The first house, 327 Knolltop, built in 1908-1910 for Robert Moore, the youngest son of entrepreneur and industrialist Henry D. Moore, originally had a 350 Kings Highway West street address. A 1916 postcard shows a number of mature trees around the house. The surrounding land, originally part of the Lippincott Farm tract, was developed starting in the 1920’s. A 1922 advertisement for nearby Haddon Homesteads shows this property, owned by Louis W. MacCloskey, without its earlier tree cover.

- Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*), 327 Knolltop Lane. Location: Front lawn. Planted around 1900 and well-grown in the 1916 postcard, this tree is 65” in diameter and over 60’ in height. The Southern Red Oak is native to North America from New Jersey to Florida and west to Missouri. As with all of the Red Oak group, this species is under pressure from Bacterial Leaf Scorch, an incurable disease that also affects our Northern Red Oaks and Pin Oaks.
- Note also the Willow Oaks (*Quercus phellos*) that line Knolltop Lane. Planted in the 1920’s, you can see how fast these trees can grow. A Willow Oak Commemorative Tree, located in front of 6-8 Kings Highway East, was 10’ tall when planted. Five years later, it is now 20-25’ tall.
- Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), 328 Knolltop Lane. Location: Front lawn. A fast-growing tree, reaching 20’ in six to eight years, this tree is a member of the Magnolia family (see Tour Stop 13). Its yellow flowers in May, usually toward the top of the tree, provide early food for humming birds. So-named for its tulip-shaped leaves, the bright green leaves turn golden in the fall. This tree is 39” in diameter and, characteristic of its species, is at least 80-90’ in height. Based on the photographic record, this tree was planted in the 1920’s. By comparison, the State Champion Tulip Poplar is much older, taller and has an 80” diameter trunk.



Southern Red Oak



Willow Oak Leaf



Willow Oak Acorns



Tulip Poplar Leaf

- As a side note, the New Jersey Champion Tree program identifies our state’s oldest and largest trees. Trees are awarded this designation based on their trunk circumference, breadth of canopy and height. Today, Haddonfield’s only Champion Tree is a Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), measuring 14’ 10” in circumference and located in the back yard at 23 Euclid Avenue. A second Champion Tree, a Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) located in the back of Greenfield Hall, came down in a storm about ten years ago.

10. 1930’s Trees, Bought and Stolen

This corner has two old and beautiful North American natives, the American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), at 350 S Hinchman Ave, and the double-trunk Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*), across the street at 407 Station Ave.

- The American Beech, in the front lawn at 350 South Hinchman, at the corners of Station Avenue, South Hinchman and Westminster Avenue is approximately 64” in diameter and 50-60’ in height. Slow growing, approximately 9-12’ over 10 years, and wide-spreading, this tree may be as much as 100 years old, but was probably planted when the Lippincott Farm land was developed in the mid to late 1920’s. With a silvery gray trunk and dark green leaves, the tree’s leaves turn golden yellow in the fall. A thin-barked tree, the branches grow low to the ground as protection from direct sunlight. The nuts are a favorite food of blue jays, titmice, nuthatches, grosbeaks, squirrels and the now extinct passenger pigeon. This tree is native to eastern North American from New Brunswick and Ontario (Canada) south to Florida and Texas.
- The double-trunked Willow Oak in the front lawn of 407 Station Avenue, at the corners of Station Avenue, South Hinchman and Westminster Avenue is approximately 40” in diameter and over 80’ in height. The Willow Oak is a fast growing tree, 12-24” per year. This tree was planted in 1937 by the proud, new homeowner who dug it out from the Pine Barrens, not considered good practice today, and brought it home. Shortly after he replanted it, he mowed it to the ground by mistake. Two new shoots regrew and, after a number of years, merged into the double trunk you see today. The tree’s common name refers to the willow-like shape of its leaves. Its acorns, among the smallest of the oak family, take two years to mature.
- Not native, but very beautiful, to the left of the house, behind the Willow Oak, is a mature Silver Linden (*Tilia tomentosa*). When the wind blows, the dark green upper side of the leaves contrast with the silvery underside, leading to the tree’s common name. Very drought tolerant, fast growing and with fragrant flowers in June, this 70’ tall shade tree is highly recommended for residential plantings.



American Beech



Willow Oak



Silver Linden Leaves

11. Only the Strongest Elms Survive

The American Elm (*Ulmus americana*), a stately, vase-shaped tree native to North America from Newfoundland to Florida and west to the Rockies foothills, was stricken by Dutch elm disease in the 1950's and 1960's. Small town streets, which had been lined with the 80' tall trees, were laid bare. However, not all trees died. Haddonfield boasts a number of mature elms, carefully tended by residents. With the introduction of disease-resistant cultivars such as 'Valley Forge' and 'Princeton', the Shade Tree Commission is replanting this beautiful tree on a test basis. Here are four mature front lawn elms that you can enjoy:

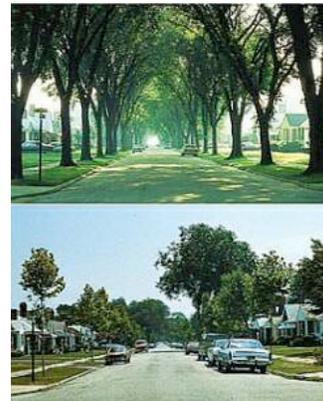
- 501 Chews Landing Road, corner of Chews Landing Road and Bellevue Avenue.
- 560 Warwick Road, corner of Warwick Road and Hickory Avenue.
- 500 Warwick Road, corner of Warwick Road and Jefferson Avenue.
- 501 Washington Ave, between Jefferson and Lafayette Avenues.



Chews Landing Road Elm
In Summer



Washington Ave Elm in
Winter



Midwest Town – A Street
Before/After Dutch Elm Disease

12. The Copper Beech on Haddon Farm

The European Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Cuprea'), growing in front of 919 Washington Avenue at the corner of Washington Avenue and Colonial Ridge is an impressive and beautiful tree in all seasons. Like other European Beeches, it branches low to the ground and boasts a dark grey trunk that, in age, resembles elephant's hide. This tree is approximately 75" in diameter and 75-80' in height. Obviously not a native, it was intentionally planted on the Haddon Farms property in the nineteenth century, near the entrance to the dairy buildings shown on the 1907 Haddonfield map. This species is generally shorter and narrower than a fully developed American Beech. The Copper Beech cultivar was probably developed from a naturally occurring Purple Beech form found in Germany in the early eighteenth century and propagated widely in Europe and North America.



Copper Beech Tree



Copper Beech Leaves



Copper Beech Bark

13. A Plethora of Magnolias

The Magnolia Family, according to evolutionary biologists, is one of the oldest “families” of flowering trees. While most people are familiar with the beautiful small to medium-sized spring-flowering Asian Magnolias, eastern North America boasts a number of native Magnolias that will give you shade as well as flowers.

- A line of Sweetbay Magnolias (*Magnolia virginiana*) are planted in Hadrosaurus Way (Lantern Lane) along the western wall behind the sculpture of Haddie. Blooming in mid-May, the sweet, lemony fragrance from these large, creamy-white flowers should not be missed. Native from Massachusetts to Florida, at the northern end of its range, this tree is frequently a tall, multi-stemmed shrub. In the southern states, it can grow to be medium-sized evergreen tree.
- The Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) at 1 Heritage Road, at the corner of Heritage and W. Atlantic Avenue, is a lovely example of the species. An evergreen with shiny, dark green leaves, this tree starts to bloom in May and doesn't stop until August. Southern New Jersey is at the northern edge of this species' hardiness zone. Here, it will grow to 50-60' at maturity, while further south, it can grow to 70-80'. Considered to have a slow to medium growth rate, this 40' tree was planted by Marjorie and Warren White, the first owner, in the mid 1970's. Fifteen years after its original planting, it was moved to its current site. Now set on the east side of the house at the bottom of a hill and protected by houses and trees from the wintry western winds, this particular tree grows relatively quickly since it is in a warm “microclimate”.
- The Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in the front lawn at 20 Treaty Elms Lane front lawn was probably planted in the late 1920's. This fast-growing tree is 48” in diameter and at least 70' tall.
- The large-leafed Cucumbertree Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*) is growing in the front lawns of 124 Washington Ave and 323 Washington Ave. The double-trunked tree at 124 Washington has a 52” diameter, while its much younger sibling is only 26” in diameter. Both trees are mature trees, at least 40-50' tall. A fast-growing tree, its name comes from its large cucumber-like flower buds in May and its cucumber-like seed pods in October. The greenish-white flowers, 5-6” wide, are lightly fragrant.
- The Bigleaf Magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*), in the front lawn at 117 Park Avenue, has 12-32” long leaves that are almost palm tree sized. A smaller tree, only 30-40' in height at maturity, its late May blooms are 18-10” wide, creamy-white and fragrant.



Sweetbay Magnolia



Southern Magnolia



Tulip Poplar Flower



Bigleaf Magnolia

14. Our Unusual Trees

Unusual and beautiful trees across from Central Elementary School/Haddonfield Middle School include:

- The Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*), is a dark green conifer growing on the front lawn of 101 Chestnut, at corner of Chestnut St and Lincoln Ave. While maturing to a much smaller tree here, in its native Lebanon, this tree can continue to spread into stands 80-120' in height and 80-100' wide. A native, late spring-blooming Red Horsechestnut (*Aesculus x carnea*) is located nearby on the park strip in front of the house.
- Thornless Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos inermis*), a native tree that blooms yellow-white in early summer, is located on the park strip in front of 24 Chestnut across the street.



Cedar of Lebanon



Red Horsechestnut



Thornless Honey Locust

15. A Triple of Trees in the Outfield

The line of trees surrounding the outfield at Mountwell Park, on Reillywood Ave, includes three important native species:

- The White Oak (*Quercus alba*), 60" in diameter, in left field aligned with third base;
- The Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) in center field, behind the outfield and aligned with second base; and,
- Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), in right field behind the fir tree and aligned with the Black Walnut tree growing near first base.



Black Walnut Tree



Compound Leaf, Fruit, Nut



Squirrel eating Walnut

Thank you for taking the Haddonfield Town Tree Tour of 2012. This tour was developed by Robin Potter, Chair of the Haddonfield Shade Tree Commission, and drew from many sources including interviews with town residents, the archives of the Historical Society of Haddonfield and the Borough's inventory of Borough-owned street trees. If you want to add another tree story, make a correction to the tour or recommend another great tree in town, please contact Robin Potter through Haddonfield Borough Hall at 856-429-4700, ext. 204.