



2020 SCAVENGER HUNT

For Trees



Sponsored by

NC Cooperative Extension-McDowell County Center

McDowell 4-H

City of Marion Tree Board

McDowell County Public Library



Would you like to explore McDowell County and see some really

Amazing Trees?

Do you love the outdoors and enjoy a challenge?

We have just the quest for you!

North Carolina Cooperative Extension-McDowell County Center and City of Marion Tree Board have identified 14 trees in our area that are unique in some way. Follow the directions on the next few pages to find each one. Everyone that completes the quest will have their name entered in a contest to win a prize. You must find at least 10 trees to enter. You can deliver your entries to the County Administration Building, 60 East Court Street, Marion, on the 2nd floor, in person or by mail or Molly_Sandfoss@ncsu.edu.

Here is how it works:

- Follow the clues on the sheet provided to find each tree. There will be a numbered sign on each tree. Write down the number and add to your entry form.
- Please leave the sign with numbers in place for the next scavenger hunter. If you feel a tree has a sign missing, please let Molly (Molly_Sandfoss@ncsu.edu or 828-652-8104) know.
- There will never be any need to dig!
- All the trees are in areas where the public has access during daylight hours.
- Keep to established paths as best you can.
- Please no night time hunting. Keep to daylight hours.
- Allow yourself plenty of time for each leg of tree hunt and be prepared for any type of weather.
- Keep the location of the tree a secret. You worked hard to find it. Let others find it on their own.
- Respect our beautiful McDowell County. Don't destroy property, litter, or start fires.
- There is no cost to enter. Only fun to be had!



Scavenger Hunt for Trees 2020

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE #:

EMAIL:

Enter the trees that match the identification numbers:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____



Your Journey Starts Here...

Silver Maple with history galore - *Acer saccharinum*

- Have you ever been to the Mountain Gateway Museum? You can find it in Old Fort on 24 Water Street.
- Park in the available parking lot
- The huge maple tree is close to the road and located on the museum grounds where the MGM Farmers' Market is hosted on Thursdays from 3 to 7p.m.

Unfortunately, the Mountain Gateway Museum is closed right now because of COVID-19, but feel free to return when it opens.

Black Walnut - *Juglans nigra*

- To find me, you won't have to go far from the Mountain Gateway Museum. You can find me at the Old Fort Branch of the McDowell County Library. You can even walk to the library if you parked at the Mountain Gateway Museum.
- The Old Fort Branch is on 64 East Mitchell Street.
- You can't miss it. It sits front and center on the grounds. There is a cute sitting area and a pollinator garden. Walk around the tree, and you will see a face looking at you.

If you ever handled a black walnut, you would know that the nuts and husks can stain. Another fun fact...Its roots contain juglone which inhibits the growth of some plants such as azaleas, peonies, some vegetables like tomatoes, and blueberries beneath the tree's dripline.



Gingko - *Gingko biloba*

- To find me, I line Main Street in Marion.
- I am in front of the courthouse.
- I have unique leaves. They are fan-shaped.
- My leaves turn a golden yellow in the fall.

The Gingko makes an excellent city tree. It is drought and heat tolerant. And tolerant of air pollution. The Gingko has a male tree and a female tree. Most of the time, male trees are planted because the female tree bears fruit that STINKS!

Sweetgum - *Liquidambar styraciflua*

- To find me, you can walk from Main Street to West Henderson Street.
- I am at the site of the Historic Marion Tailgate Market open on Tuesdays 3 to 6 p.m. or Fridays in July & August 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- I line the upper end of the parking lot.
- I am slender and tall.

Sweetgums normally produce a spiky seed-filled ball that some people think are a nuisance. This particular variety does not produce many sweetgum balls.

Hop Hornbeam - *Ostrya virginiana*

- To find me and the next series of trees, visit a popular walking, running, canoeing, fishing spot along the Catawba River...the Joseph McDowell Historical Catawba Greenway.
- Start at the Greenway entrance behind the historic McDowell House.
- Walk 0.5 miles to find me. You will pass 7 exercise stations, and I am 5 feet from the pavement on the right side.
- I have shaggy bark.

Hop Hornbeam is sometimes referred to as "ironwood" because of its extremely hard and dense wood.

American Sycamore - *Platanus occidentalis*

- I am just before the bridge on the Joseph McDowell Historical Catawba Greenway. The first bridge you come to when starting from The McDowell House (not the bridge at Round Hill).
- I am a large tree with large leaves (3 to 5 lobes) leaning toward the river.
- My bark is smooth and dark gray.

Carolina Silverbell - *Halesia carolina*

- You will find me on the Joseph McDowell Historical Catawba Greenway as well– 1.4 miles from start.
- I am in between the second fishing pier and a bench dedicated to Mr. Bill Hendley, a champion for McDowell’s greenway system.
- I have dark yellowish-green leaves.
- I like growing in moist areas like the River birch. I like the shade too.

In the spring, the Carolina Silverbell has clusters of bell-shaped white flowers. Please come next spring to see how showy I can be. The Point Lookout Trail in Old Fort also has several Carolina Silverbells.

American Holly - *Ilex opaca*

- I can be found in the final resting place for many McDowell County citizens. Enter the Memorial Park Cemetery. Take a right. You don’t have to go far.
- I am just across a Memorial for heroes who died in the line of duty On the right-hand side– the side closest to Memorial Park Road.
- My bark is gray-white in color.
- My leaves are spiny-toothed. And I have red berries in the fall through winter if I am a female.

The American Holly is a native tree.

Flowering Dogwood - *Cornus florida*

- You can find me at Nebo Elementary School at the playground near Nebo School Road.
- My bark is broken into small squares or rectangles. My bark looks scaly.
- I have flowers in the Spring and red drupes in the fall. The drupes are green now.
- I am considered an understory tree.

The Dogwood blooms in the spring before leaves. The flowers are a tight green cluster that is surrounded by 4 showy bracts that are white or pink. The Dogwood is the NC state flower even though it’s a tree.

Kousa Dogwood - *Cornus kousa*

- You can also find me at Nebo Elementary School. Park in the large parking area.
- There is a cluster of me along Nebo School Road near the blue tables.
- I flower in the Spring like the Flowering Dogwood, but I flower 1 month later.
- My leaves also come out before I flower unlike the Flowering Dogwood.

The Kousa Dogwood has berries that resemble raspberries in the autumn. They are green now. Come back in the fall and take a look.



Eastern Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*

- You can find me at a place of worship on Baldwin Avenue, Marion. I am located at East Marion Pentecostal Holiness Church. I am in front of the church.
- My leaves are heart-shaped and they are dark maroon in color. (Think of love, and you'll think of me).
- I am a small tree with weeping branches.
- I have tiny pea-shaped purplish-pink flower clusters in the spring.
- My fruit is a flat "bean" pod.

The Eastern Redbud like the Dogwood has flowers before leaves. The flowers are purplish-pink, but my name is still Redbud. I am a native tree, and you will notice me throughout the county in the spring with my blooms. There are many varieties of Redbud. This variety is *Cercis canadensis* 'Ruby Falls'. Make sure you take a look at the Tabernacle Community Garden that is at the corner of Clark and Baldwin.

River birch - *Betula nigra*

- I am in a popular recreational spot in the county, the Greenway at the YMCA. I am also very close to shuffle boards.
- Start at the entrance directly across from the McDowell Senior Center.
- You won't have to go far to see me.
- I am very noticeable because it looks like my bark is falling off.

The bark of young birch trees have a papery appearance. The variety of River Birch at this location is *Betula nigra* 'Heritage'.



Tulip/Yellow Poplar - *Liriodendron tulipifera*

- You will find me on another McDowell County Greenway. This greenway circles the YMCA, passes by the McDowell Senior Center, and goes by Mission Hospital McDowell.
- Starting at the McDowell Senior Center where Shuffleboard is played, you won't have to go far.
- I am right behind the Pet Waste Station on the right.
- I am a tall tree with a single straight trunk.
- My flowers resemble tulips, but I think my leaves have a tulip-shape too.

White Oak - *Quercus alba*

- I can be found in the West Marion Neighborhood Park located on Ridley Street, Marion down below Addie's Chapel. I'm growing close to the Pavilion.
- I am a huge tree.
- My bark is whitish or light gray.
- My leaves have several rounded lobes.

The white oak produces acorns. While you are in the park make sure you admire the Keeping It Fresh Community Garden.

Dawn Redwood - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

- You can find me at a place of higher education in McDowell...McDowell Technical Community College, 54 College Drive, Marion.
- Park in the large main parking lot. I am close to Building 11, Cedar.
- I am a large tree that can grow 100' tall with the most attractive feathery foliage.





Your Journey Ends Here...

The NCCE-McDowell County Center, McDowell 4-H, City of Marion Tree Board, & McDowell County Public Library hope that everyone enjoyed this scavenger hunt and your time outdoors.

NCCE-McDowell County Center & McDowell 4-H Extension staff and volunteers work with the local government to support agriculture, horticulture, conservation and environmental protection, nutrition and health, as well as a variety of consumer, youth, and economic concerns.

City of Marion Tree Board The City of Marion's Tree Program was established to effectively manage the public's tree resources, which contribute to the aesthetic, economic, and environmental well being of the community. This is accomplished through the leadership of the City's Tree Board. The City of Marion has been recognized since 1987 as a Tree City USA for its efforts to preserve and enhance the urban forest.

The McDowell County Public Library is a department within McDowell County Government with two library locations that serve the county, one in the city of Marion and the other in the town of Old Fort. The Library provides free access to ideas, information, and enrichment, and will serve the informational, cultural, educational, and recreational needs of our community.

The MCPL recommends these tree-themed books waiting for you to read them:

- *Celebritrees (Historic & Famous Trees of the World)*- Margi Preus
- *We are Going on a Leaf Hunt*- Steve Metzger
- *Leaf Man*- Lois Ehlert
- *Red Leaf, Yellow leaf*- Lois Ehlert
- *Tell Me Tree; All About Trees for Kids*- Gail Gibbons
- *Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems*-Kristine O'Connell George
- *Trees*- Rena Kirkpatrick
- *Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing the Tree*- Jim Arnosky

- *The Wish Tree*– Kyo Maclear
- *Christmas Tree Farm*– Ann Purmell
- *The Curvy Tree*– Chris Colfer
- *The Little Fir Tree*– Margaret Brown
- *Eeyore and the Balloon Tree*– Ronald Kidd
- *Green*– Laura Seeger

There are other books youth can find on the Libby app or e-Inc Digital Library.





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