

Howard County Forestry Activity Book



A fun activity book for kids of all ages.
Learn lots of surprising facts about trees and forests!



Coloring Book courtesy of the
Howard County Forest Conservancy District Board
P.O. Box 819
Clarksville, MD 21029
www.hcforest.sailorsite.net

Message from the Howard County Forestry Board

This is a collection of pictures, cartoons and activities contributed by foresters; universities; local, state and federal agencies; board members and others that reflect the volunteer work of the Howard County Forestry Board. This activity book is for children of all ages, introducing children to the benefits and wonder of trees in Howard County, Maryland. Adults are encouraged to read the information to younger children and learn together. For more information on the work and goals of the Howard County Forestry Board, write us at P. O. Box 819, Clarksville, Maryland 21029; call us at 410-313-7251; or e-mail forestrygal@comcast.net. Visit us on the Internet at www.hcforest.sailorsite.net. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated.

Betsy McMillion, Chair

Trees...home to our bird and animal friends

Trees...nature's air conditioner

Trees...nature's air purifier

Trees...fuel for our fires

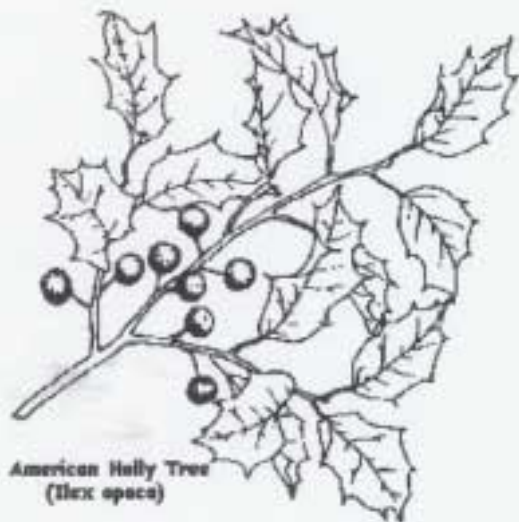
Trees...wood for our homes, furniture and other necessities

Trees...provide the paper you use; the books you read

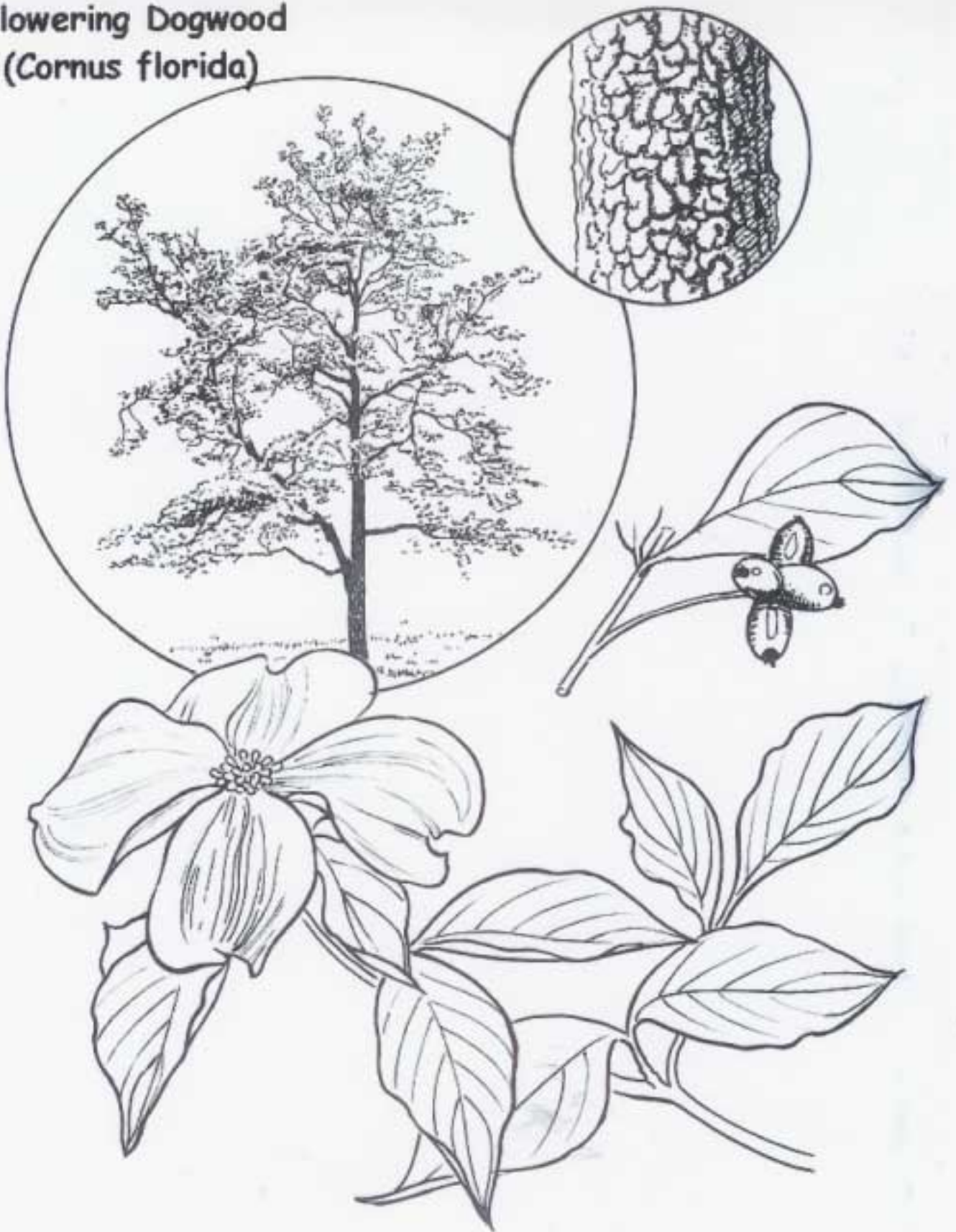
Trees...a valuable natural resource

"If you want to think a year ahead, sow a seed; if you want to think ten years ahead, plant a tree; and if you think a hundred years ahead or more, educate the people."

- Chinese Proverb

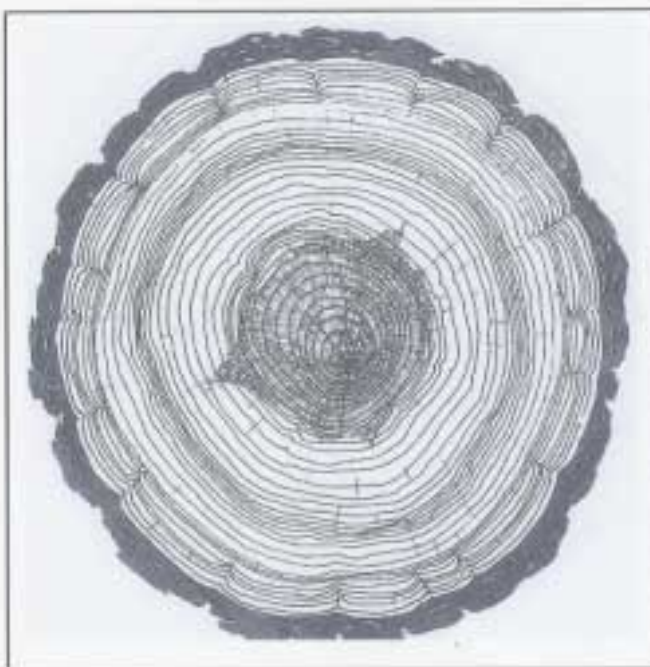


Flowering Dogwood
(*Cornus florida*)



How Old is a Tree?

When you are on a nature walk, look for a tree stump. You will see a lot of rings, which are growth rings. As trees grow, rings form. Counting the rings, from the center outward, you can tell how old a tree was when it was cut down. Trees grow faster in spring than they do in the summer, but the summer wood is denser. A wide ring will show good growth, while a narrow ring means that the weather has slowed the tree's growth. If a tree has grown out alone in an open area, its rings will be the same width all around. Trees growing in forests, or shaded areas, will have rings that are wider on the side toward the sunlight.



Why do Leaves Change Colors?

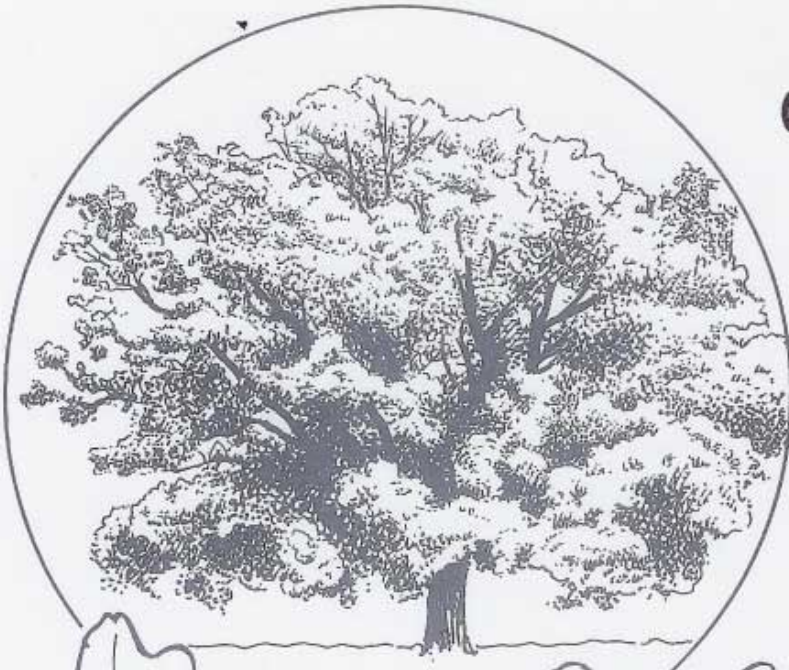
In the summer, leaves are green because they have chlorophyll, a green-colored substance in the plant cells that uses sunlight to produce food for the tree. As shorter days and cool nights come along in the autumn, the tree prepares itself for the long winter sleep.

To prepare, the tree withdraws sugars and minerals from its leaves. Next a layer of cells at the base of each leaf hardens. This hardening shuts off the flow of moisture from the tree to the leaf. Without sun and chlorophyll to keep the leaf healthy, the green coloring fades and the other colors become more prominent.

The orange and yellow colors we see come mainly from substances called carotin and xanthophylls. These are the same substances that color carrots and egg yolks. The reds and purples come from tannin and anthocyanin, like the pigments of grapes and red berries.

Leaves "fall," as we also call this season, when all the cells break down and harden at the point of attachment to the branches. When the tree has no leaves, it is the "rest" time for the tree. Now the tree is ready to endure the cold of winter. It is resting, in a condition called dormancy, as it conserves energy to survive the winter. Evergreens, which stay green all year, keep their leaves, called needles, because there is a waxy coating covering them.

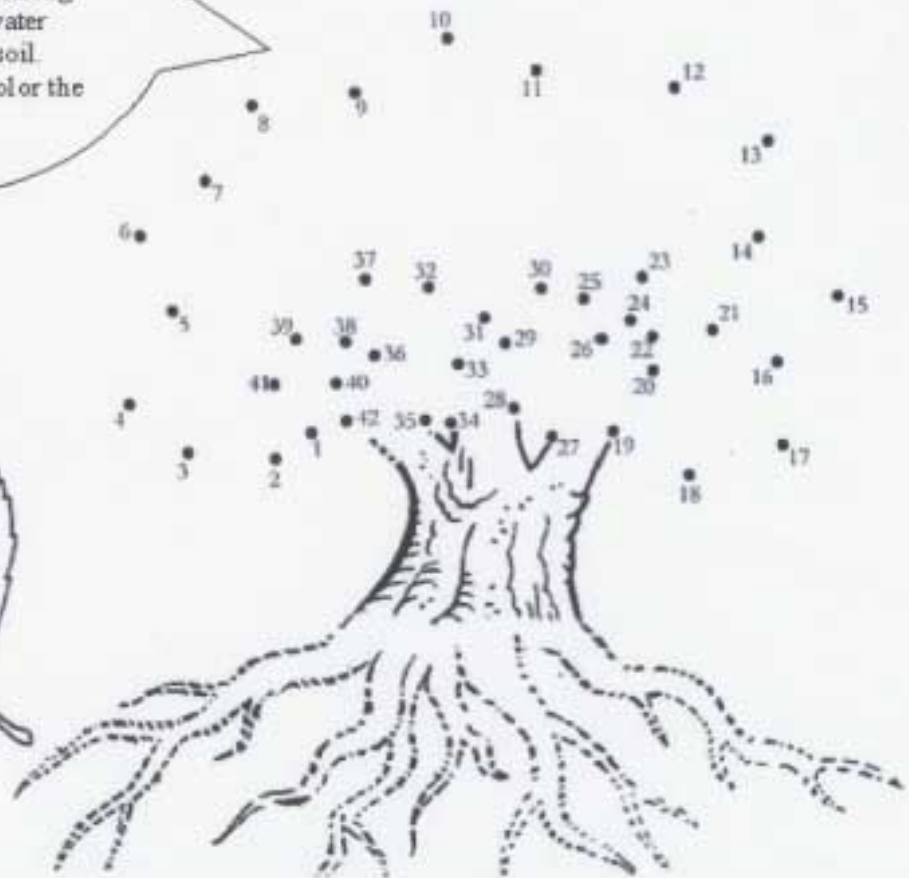
**White Oak
(*Quercus alba*)**



Connect the Dots and Learn About Trees

A tree has different parts. LEAVES make food for the tree. BRANCHES hold the leaves up to the sun. The TRUNK holds the tree strong and tall. ROOTS get water and nutrients from the soil. Connect the dots and color the tree and all its parts!

Trees need SUN to make food in their leaves, RAIN for water, and SOIL to grow big! Draw a YELLOW sun, BLUE rain and BROWN soil for this tree so it will keep growing healthy, happy and strong!



Help Us Plant New Trees In Howard County

Planting trees is an important volunteer activity for the Forestry Board. Each year we purchase and donate trees to plant throughout Howard County. Volunteers of all ages come and help us dig holes, sprinkle fertilizer, put the new trees in holes, cover them up with soil and mulch, and water them. Do you know any friends or organizations that may want to help us plant trees at our spring and fall events? If so, e-mail us at forestryga@comcast.net or call us at 410-313-7251 to be on our mailing list so you will know about the next Forestry Board tree planting event!

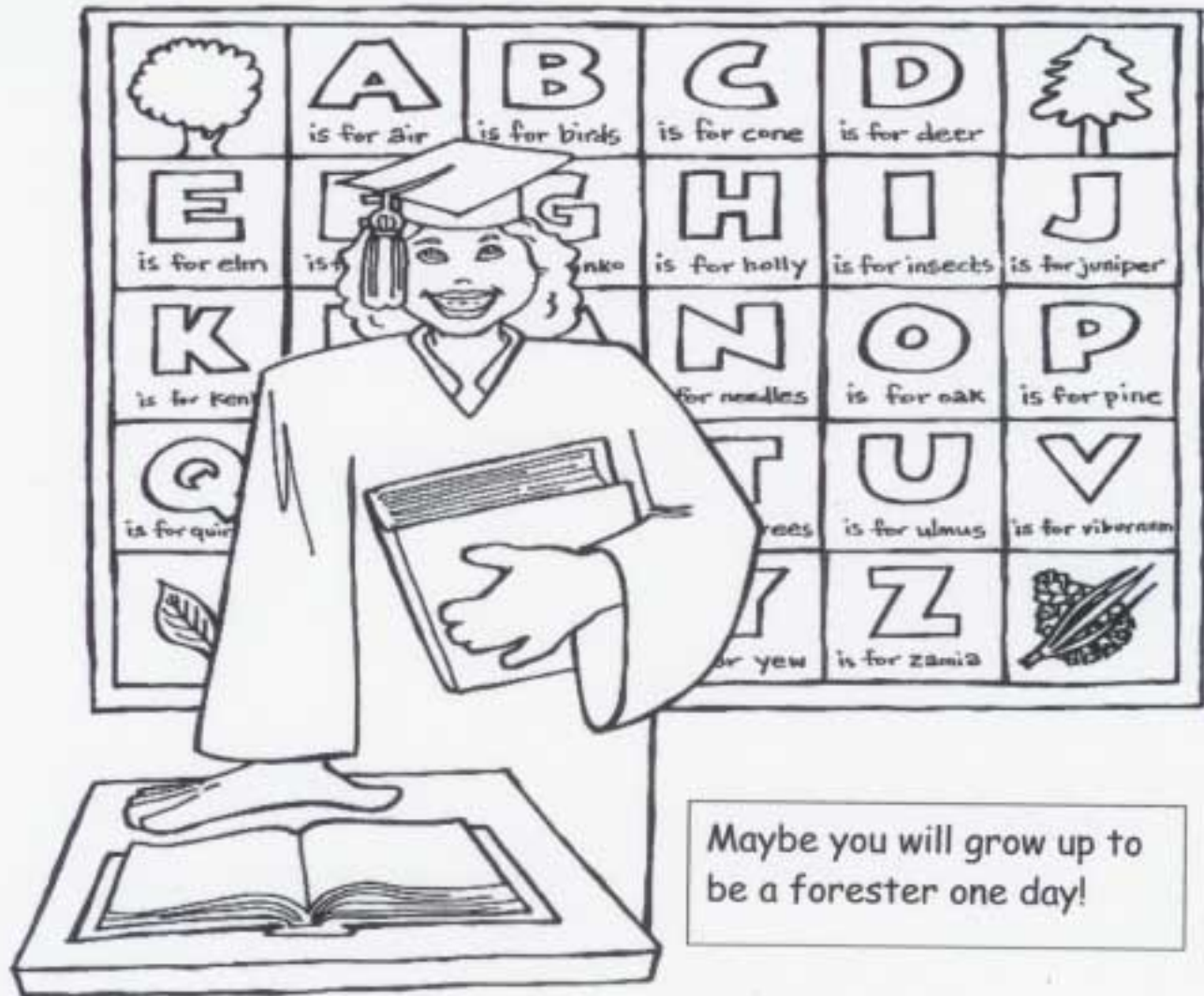


Tulip Poplar
(*Liriodendron tulipifera*)



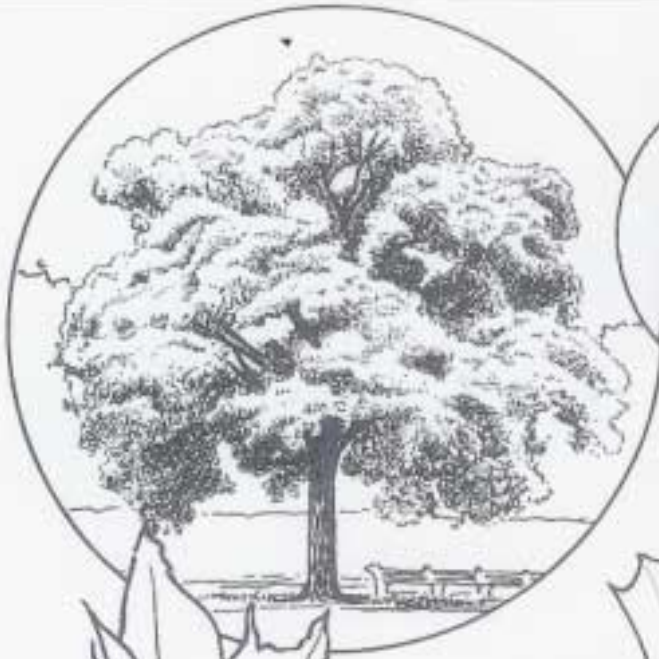
Forestry and Natural Resources Careers Camp

Every year the Forestry Board sends two special high school students to a week-long camp to learn about careers in forestry. High school students do hands-on projects just like real professionals. Do you know any high school students thinking about studying about nature or forestry? To learn more about this camp, visit www.hcforest.sailorsite.net.



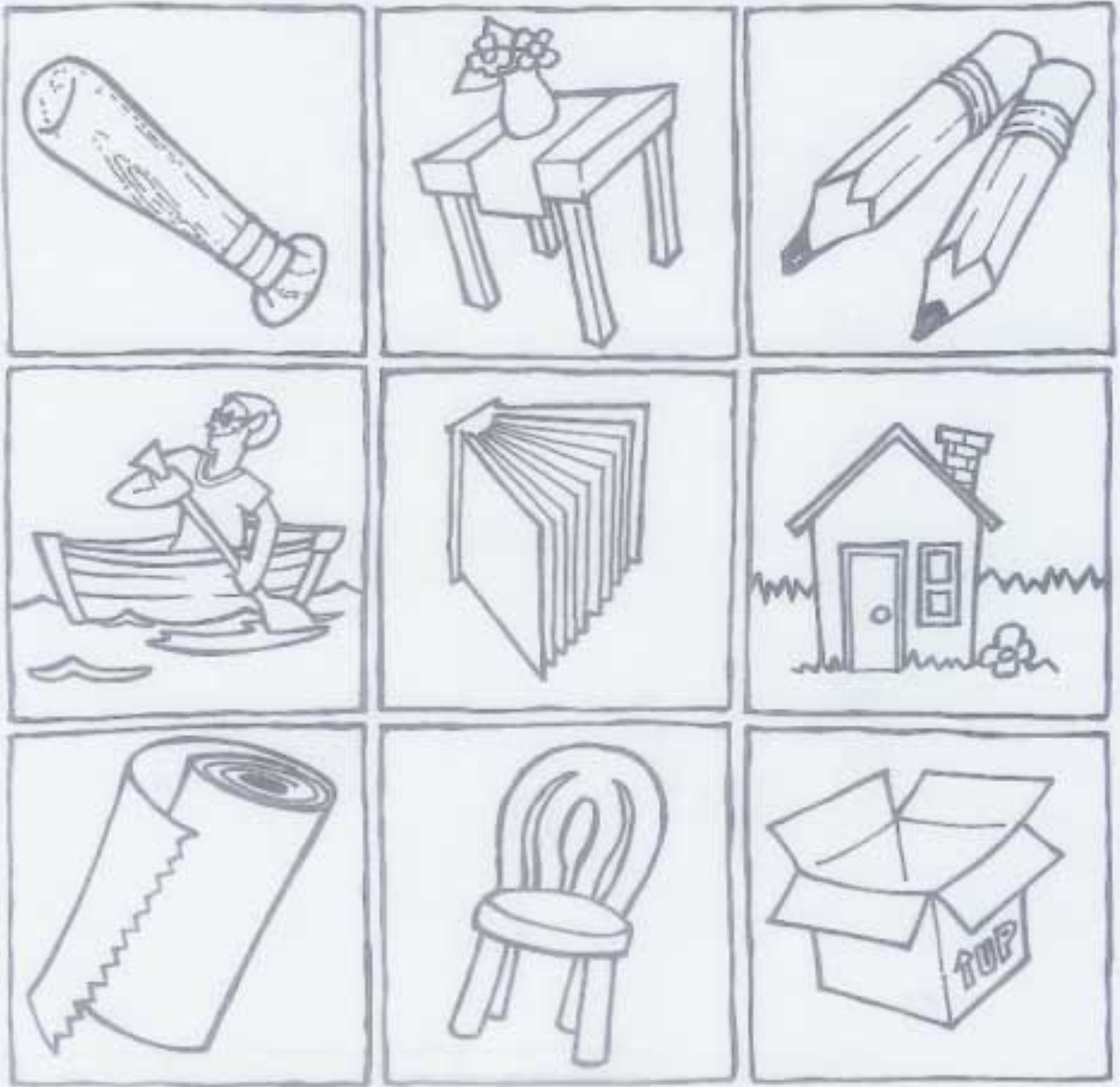
Maybe you will grow up to be a forester one day!

The deadline for high school student applications is late April of each year to be able to attend the July camp.



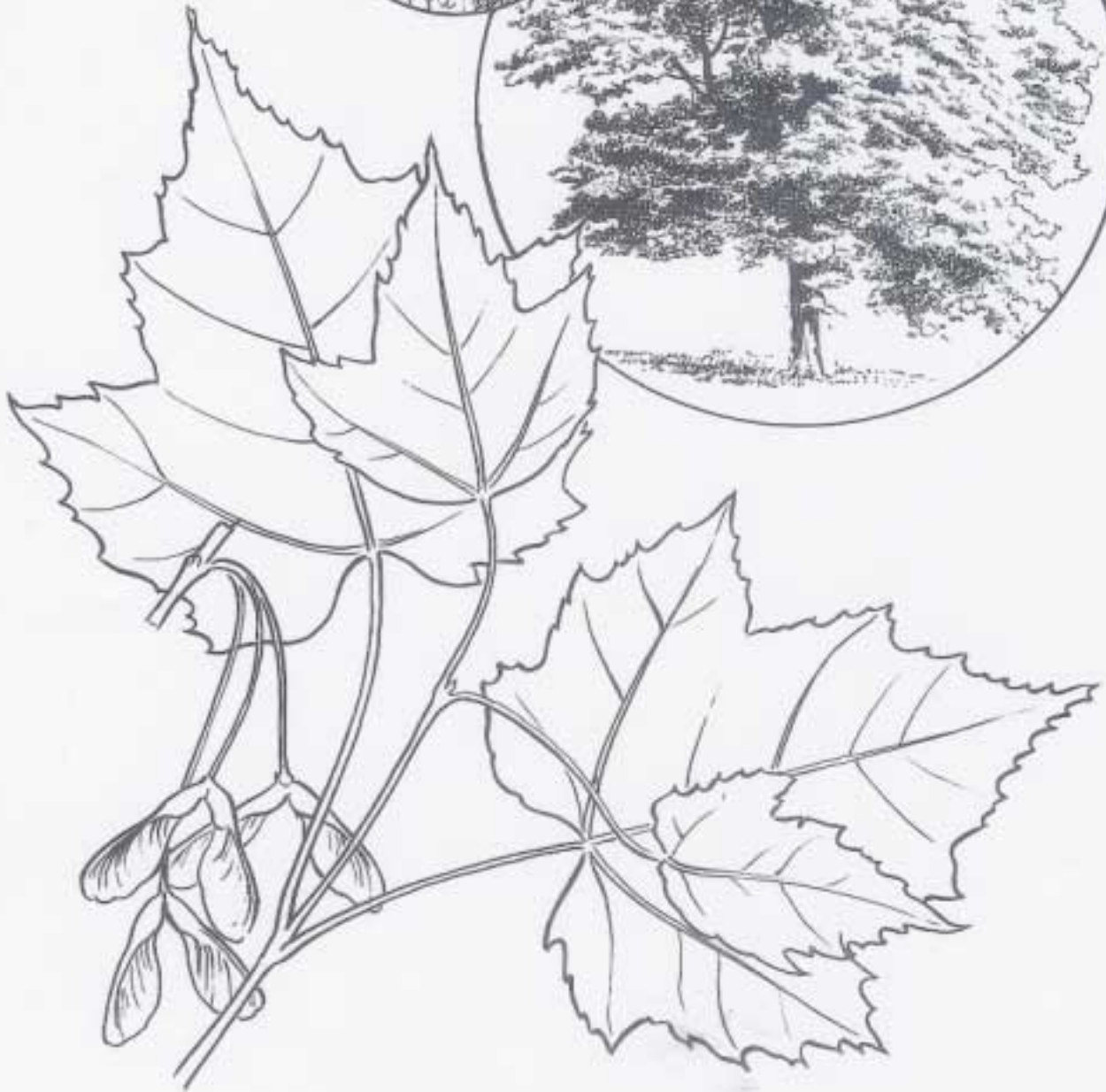
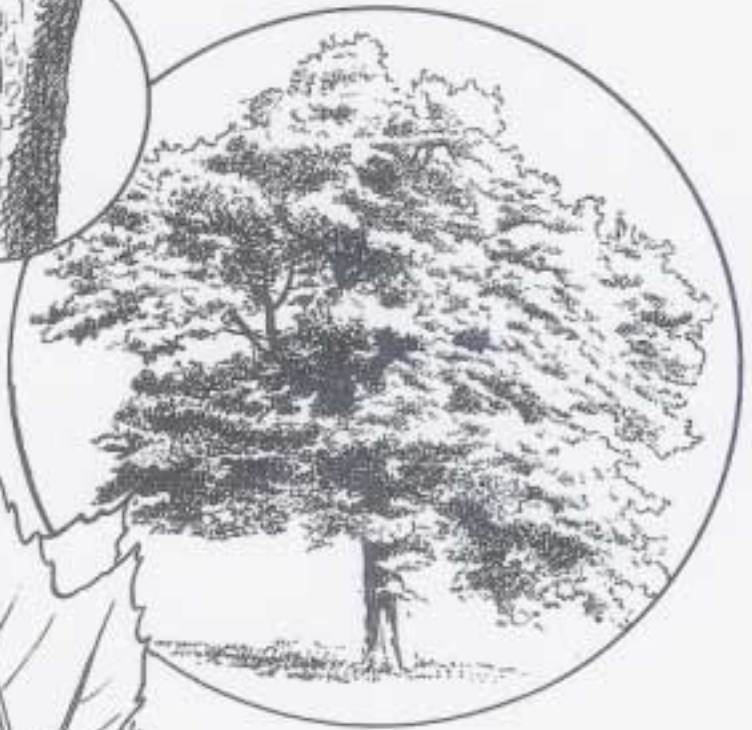
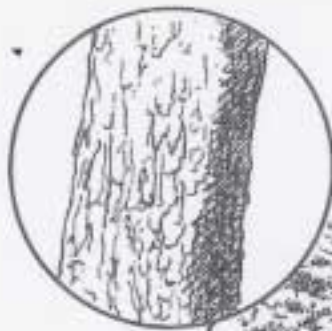
American Sycamore
(Platanus occidentalis)





Foresters harvest trees for the things we need and use.

Red Maple
(*Acer rubrum*)



Howard County is turning Cherry Pink



Pink flowering Kwanzan Cherry trees (*Prunus serrulata* "Kwanzan") are being planted throughout Howard County as part of the "Blossoms of Hope" project. The trees are sponsored by individuals and businesses through Howard County Tourism, Inc. for planting on private or public property. The goal is to plant 1,000 trees! In addition to beautifying Howard County, a portion of the sponsorship price is donated to the Claudia Mayer Cancer Resource and Image Center. Look around Howard County for the cherry blossoms in April. For more information, visit www.visithowardcounty.com/blossomsofhope.

WANTED - Howard County Champion Trees

The Howard County Forestry Board is looking for the largest trees in Howard County, and we need your help! To be eligible, a "champion tree" must: (1) be located in Howard County, (2) have a single trunk at least 4 ½ feet above the ground, and (3) have a total height of at least 15 feet. Trees of any species may be nominated. If you know of such a tree, let us know. Complete the form below and mail it to: Howard County Forestry Board, P. O. Box 819, Clarksville, MD 21029, or visit www.hcforest.sailorsite.net/champions.html and e-mail information to forestrygal@comcast.net.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Species (if known): _____

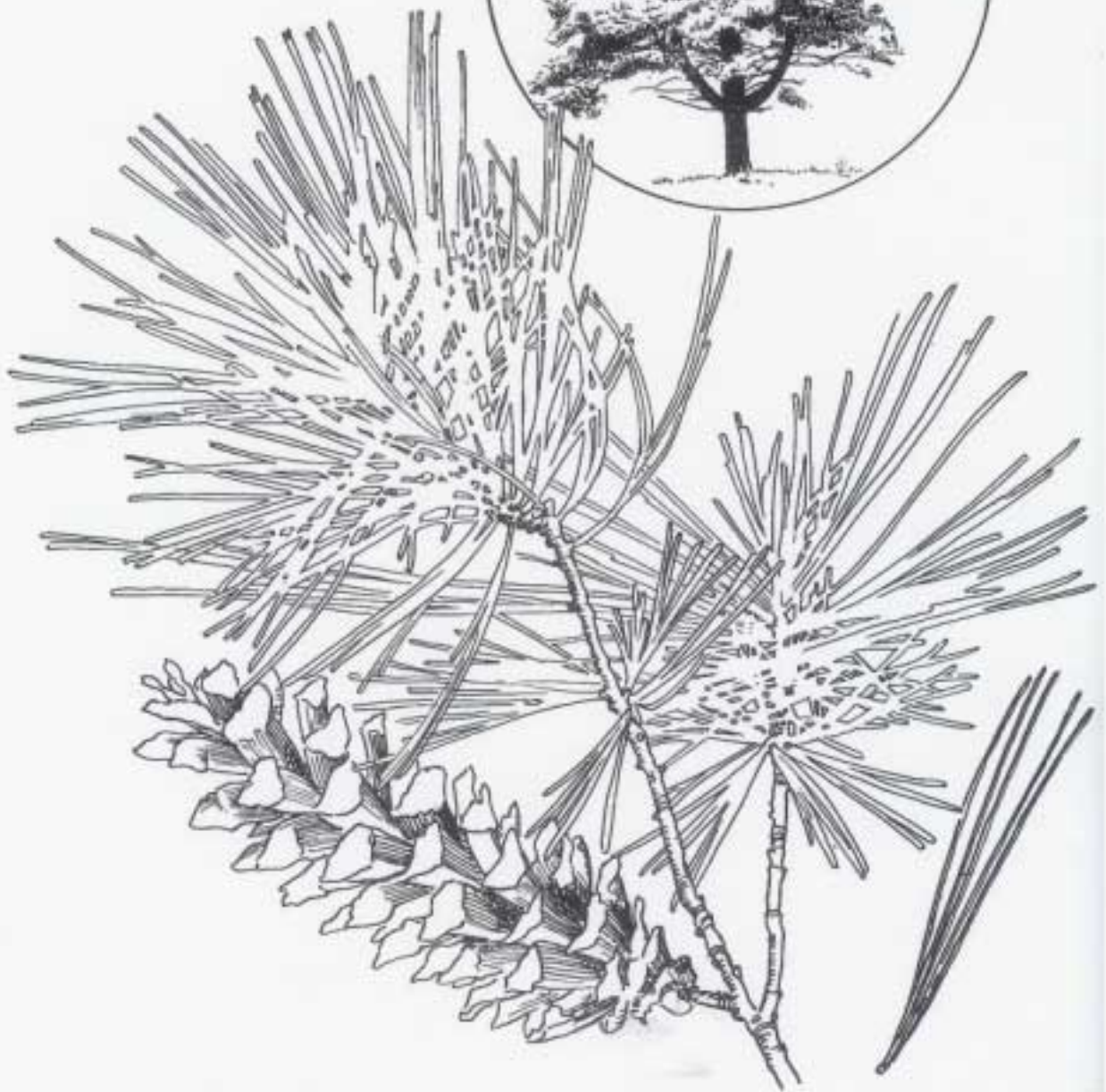
Location of tree in Howard County: _____

Estimated Size:

Height: _____ feet Crown Width: _____ feet Circumference of trunk: _____ inches
(measured at 4.5 feet from the ground)

Do you have a story about this tree?

White Pine
(*Pinus strobus*)



Come and Visit the Many Arboretums of Howard County!



An arboretum is a place where people can take a walk, enjoy nature and learn about different types of trees by reading the signs posted near the trees. The Forestry Board has created arboretums for people to enjoy throughout Howard County. Locations are selected in places where there are many different types of trees where people walk through parks or other forested public areas. Forestry Board arboretums are located in Columbia (Jackson Pond, Lake Elkhorn and Wilde Lake), ElkrIDGE (Harwood Park), Ellicott City (Centennial Park and Howard County Government Office Complex) and Savage (Savage Park). New arboretums are being planned right now! Perhaps there will be a new arboretum near you soon!

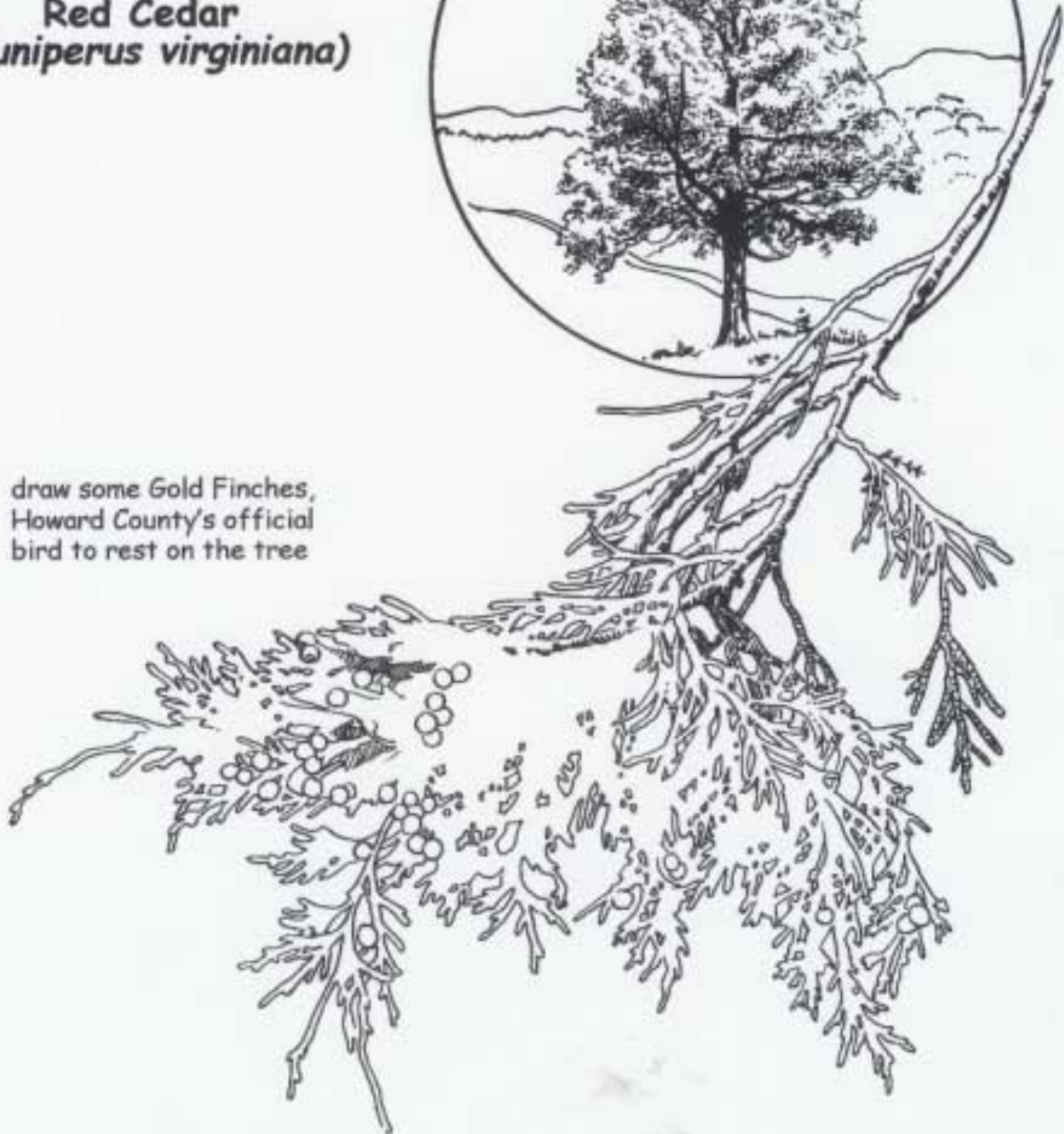
Arboretum Tours

Throughout the year, Forestry Board Members conduct walking tours at Howard County arboretums. They teach people how to identify trees by their leaves, bark, nuts and/or flowers on the trees. Kids participate in a nature scavenger hunt while accompanying their adult companions. If you want to join us for our next arboretum walk, visit www.hcforest.sailorsite.net or e-mail forestrygal@comcast.net.

Red Cedar
(Juniperus virginiana)



draw some Gold Finches,
Howard County's official
bird to rest on the tree





Sweet Gum
(*Liquidambar styraciflua*)



Sassafras
(*Sassafras*
***albidum*)**





**Sugar
Maple**
(*Acer saccharum*)





More Trees, Please!

Courtesy of the Howard County Forest Conservancy Board

Learn how to:

- Nominate your tree as one of Howard County's "Champion Trees"
- Promote conservation of Maryland's forest resources
- Plant trees at your school or local park
- Plant school forests
- Timber harvest plan reviews
- Contact Howard County's leading tree "experts"
- Understand the value of trees
- Understand the objectives of reforestation
- Use correct methods of planting and caring for our forests
- Create an arboretum identifying different species of trees in your neighborhood
- Use available speakers to present tree and forestry information for your students or group
- Receive free books, posters, videotapes and other educational materials
- Create an outdoor classroom
- Apply for a scholarship for 2 high school students to attend Camp Hickory
- Identify trees by visiting one of our many arboretums or attend our walking tours

Trees...home to our bird and animal friends

Trees...nature's air conditioner

Trees...nature's air purifier

Trees...fuel for our fire

Trees...wood for our homes, furniture and other necessities

Trees...provide the paper you use; the books you read

Trees...a valuable natural resource

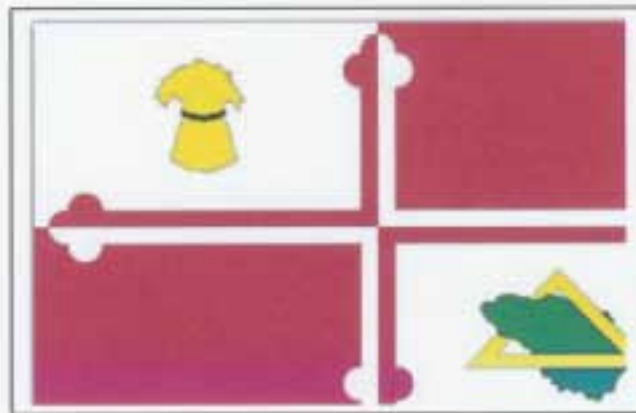
Howard County Forest Conservancy Board

P.O. Box 819 Clarksville, MD 21029.

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University of Maryland Cooperative Extension

Special appreciation and permission from Stefen Bernath's TREES OF THE NORTHEAST COLORING BOOK, published by Dover Publications (www.doverpublications.com) to allow us to duplicate pictures of some of our most prominent Howard County Trees. Other pages were a collection of coloring pages found by foresters over the years from unknown sources. We regret that we cannot acknowledge the original source.

Funding for copies of this activity book was made possible by a grant from the Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee.



Did you know that Howard County's official flower is Queen Anne's Lace?