



Newsletter



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Carvers Creek State Park

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2022 Year of the Tree: The Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

The tulip poplar is a distinctive tree that grows throughout Carver's Creek State Park in both the Long Valley Farm and Sandhills Access areas. Although known by such names as the tulip tree and yellow poplar, the tulip poplar is not a member of the Tulip or Poplar family at all; instead, it is part of the Magnolia family. It grows easily throughout the East Coast, where it can be found in along streams and lower upland slopes, wherever there are rich soils supporting mixed deciduous woods with plenty of sunlight.

To identify a tulip tree, look first at the shape of the leaves. The leaves are typically 2-5 inches wide and tall, and have four major lobes (sometimes with 2 or more smaller points near the base of the leaf stem). The leaves flutter easily in any passing breeze, and in some areas, turn a bright yellow in the fall.

“There is something joyous in its springing straightness, in the candlelike blaze of its sunlit flowers, in the fresh green of its leaves, which are forever turning and rustling in the slightest breeze...” Donald Culross Pettie, *A Natural History of North American Trees*.



The tulip tree flower has four petals that are a deep orange at the base, fading to a pale yellow at the tips. While the upper parts of the flower are very bright and obvious, the tepals (outer parts of the flower, located at the base of more colorful “cup”) are light green, and can make it difficult to see the flowers from ground level. Often, you may not realize the tulip tree is in flower until a strong breeze sends a few flowers to ground.

Tulip trees grow tall, well over 100 feet in the right conditions, and even as high as 200 feet, with a clear straight trunk and high canopy. Older trees can reach 10-12 feet in circumference, although smaller trees are more common.

An important source of lumber for furniture building, tulip trees are also a popular choice for carving. The wood tends to have a straight grain and holds finishes like paint and stain well. For the early Cherokee tribe, the tree had a number of uses, including using the trunks for canoes and the wood for building shelters. The bark, flowers and leaves were used for various medicinal purposes, including poultices for wounds, stomach and digestive problems and to reduce fever symptoms.

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2022 Year of the Tree:

The Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

This Month's Activities:

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Scavenger Hunt

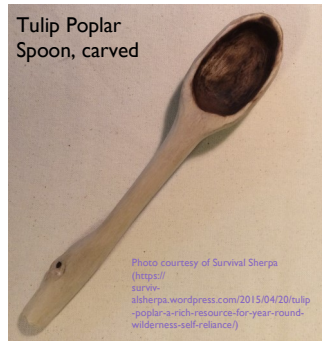
Canoe Hike

Bird Watching in the Sandhills

Volunteer Day

Community Outreach

For those interested in wilderness and survival skills, the tulip tree can be a valuable resource. Young trees brought down by storms provide bark that can be used for making containers and knife sheaths. The inner bark of dead lower limbs, which are dropped by the tree as it grows, can be separated and worked into a fine tinder for fire starting. The inner bark is also good for cordage making, useful for making shelters or other routine tasks (that aren't so routine when you don't have string handy!) The limbs can be used for shelters, and the wood easily worked into spoons and bowls with the aid of some hot coals.



For our birds and animals, the tulip tree plays an important role. The seeds are eaten by the carolina chickadee, purple finches, northern cardinals, and the gold finch. Some of the animals that eat Tulip tree seeds include the fox squirrel, gray squirrel, deer mouse, and white footed mouse.

Visitor Tip: When exploring Long Valley Farm, look for a small grove of tulip trees behind the spring house and gazebo on the north side of the Rockefeller House, as well as several tulip trees around the Cypress Point Loop trail. Remember: take only pictures and leave only footprints. Disturbing, picking, foraging, or removing anything goes against Park Rules and Regulations. Enjoy the beauty and allow those after you to do the same!

Bark Comparison Between Tulip Poplars of Various Sizes

Tree with 9" diameter, 28" circumference. Bark generally smooth, with some ridges beginning to show, and few limb scars.



Tree with 11 3/4" diameter, 37" circumference. Bark shows full ridges 1/4" to 3/8" deep, with multiple dropped limb scars.



Tree with 24" diameter, 76" circumference. Ridges 3/4" to 1" in deep. Older limb scars are identifiable as changes in bark pattern.



If you would like to attend one of our upcoming programs please call 910-436-4681 to reserve your spots.

Rockefeller House Tour:

Friday, June 3rd @ 6:00 pm
Sunday, June 5th @ 11:00 am
Friday, June 17th @ 6:00pm
Friday, June 24th @ 6:00 pm

Join us for a guided tour of the Rockefeller House. Please be prepared for a ½ mile hike to the house. The tour will start at the house at these designated times. Be prepared to arrive at least **30 minutes** ahead of time in order to arrive at the house on time. **YOU MUST SIGN-UP.** You can call the park office to sign-up. **limit is 15 visitors. Contact the park office to sign up. We will meet at the Rain Shelter.**

Poking Through the Pines Scavenger Hunt:

Saturday, June 4th @ 10:00 am

Join a park naturalist at our Sandhills access for a fun, family friendly scavenger hunt around the Wiregrass loop trail. This is an easy 1.4 mile loop trail with gently sloping terrain that takes you through our peaceful longleaf pine forest. You will see fire dependent plant species and maybe spot some of the special wildlife that call this ecosystem home! This is a great way for kids to learn about nature and have fun doing it! The hike will start at 10 AM, meet at the trail head near the small parking lot. All ages welcome. The event and access to the park are both free of charge. Please call our office at 910-436-4681 to sign-up!

Canoe Hike:

Saturday, June 4th @ 6:00 pm
Sunday, June 19th @ 6:00 pm
Sunday, June 26th @ 6:00 pm

We will be learning the basics of canoeing and then trying out our new skills by maneuvering through the Cypress swamp. This is a slow and calm canoeing experience and great for beginners or if you want to get a closer look at the Cypress trees. **YOU MUST SIGN-UP. Limit is 10 visitors. Please allow approximately 15 minutes to walk from the parking lot to the Rain Shelter.**

Bird Watching in the Sandhills:

Saturday, June 25th from 8:30 am–10:30 am

Join a park naturalist at our Sandhills access for an easy bird watching walk around the Wiregrass loop trail. An easy 1.4 mile loop that starts and ends at the parking lot, the Wiregrass loop trail is a great place to find some of the birds that live year round in our longleaf pine habitat, and maybe even see some of the less frequent visitors that are just passing through. We'll start early to help keep things cool, but bring weather appropriate clothes and some water! We will be using the Merlin Bird ID app (free and available in both Android and IOS app stores). If you have binoculars, be sure to bring them! The hike will start at 8:30 AM, and meet at the trail head near the small parking lot. The event and access to the park are both free of charge. Please call our office at 910-436-4681 to sign-up!

Volunteer Day

Carvers Creek State Park offers a wide variety of opportunities when you come to our Volunteer Days. Our prized volunteers help us with everything from our old farm fences, to culverts, to invasive species of plants, to leaf clean-up, trail creation, and many others. We will be meeting at the **Long Valley Access located in Spring Lake, NC 28390.**

Current regulations are requiring volunteers to show proof of vaccination or proof of negative test on the day of volunteering for volunteers 12 years and older.

Saturday, June 18th from 9:00 am– 12:00 pm

Community Outreach

The following program are sponsored by Carvers Creek State Park. ***They will not be held at the park but rather, in different places within the community.***

Saturday, June 11th @ 10:00 am

Skulls & Skins at Smith Lake Recreation Area.