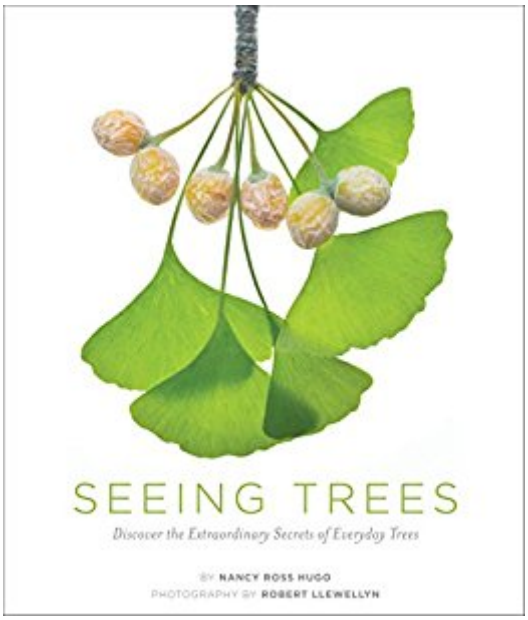
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Seeing Trees: Discover The Extraordinary Secrets Of Everyday Trees (Seeing Series)



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Synopsis

Have you ever looked at a tree? That may sound like a silly question, but there is so much more to notice about a tree than first meets the eye. Seeing Trees celebrates seldom seen but easily observable tree traits and invites you to watch trees with the same care and sensitivity that birdwatchers watch birds. Many people, for example, are surprised to learn that oaks and maples have flowers, much less flowers that are astonishingly beautiful when viewed up close. Focusing on widely grown trees, this captivating book describes the rewards of careful and regular tree viewing, outlines strategies for improving your observations, and describes some of the most visually interesting tree structures, including leaves, flowers, buds, leaf scars, twigs, and bark. In-depth profiles of ten familiar speciesÃ¢â ¬â •including such beloved trees as white oak, southern magnolia, white pine, and tulip poplarÃ¢â ¬â •show you how to recognize and understand many of their most compelling (but usually overlooked) physical features.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Whether you live in a big city or in a more rural setting, trees are all around you. They may be in city

parks, school playgrounds, government buildings or urban green-belts. In some locations, away from the cities, trees make up dense forest that can stretch for hundreds of miles, line natural waterways or lakes, stand as lone sentinels in rocky and eroded landscapes. If your like me, you appreciate trees but have only the most basic ability to tell them apart. Sure, most of us know the difference between a pine tree and, say, an oak tree. But usually that's as far as it goes. In Seeing Trees author Nancy Ross Hugo addresses that issue with an in depth look at the biology and anatomy of trees, all kinds of trees. Drawing parallels with bird watching, Hugo shows us how get started in a "tree watching" hobby. Like all complex life forms trees are made up of multiple body parts. Leaves, branches and trunk-bark are the first things we notice. But those are just the surface parts, what we need is a closer look. To that end, Hugo gives the reader a guided tour of tree anatomy. The book opens with a section on "tree viewing": when and where to look, getting a good field guide and techniques to use for the best results. Up next a closer look at various tree parts like; leaves, flowers, fruit and bark. Flower and leaf buds are studied as are twigs, seeds and pollen. The last section puts the spotlight on 9 of our native North American trees and 1 exotic. Get to know: Black Walnut, Red Maple, White Oak and American Beech among others. Two tree species deserve extra attention, the Ginkgo and the Osage Orange. The Ginkgo is an exotic species that was introduced to North America from China some 200 years ago and has established itself in any well watered, drained environment.Considered by many to be a "living fossil", the Ginkgo has been around for over 250 million years but today is represented by only one species living in China. The Osage Orange is another ancient species, this one native to North America. It's over sized fruit required over sized herbivores to spread its seeds. Ice Age mega fauna like Mammoths, Mastodons, Ground Sloth and Camels may have feasted on its juicy, bitter, fruit. Hugo's writing is conversational, like setting down with a friendly Botanist over afternoon tea. Anyone interested in nature writing in general or trees in particular should find Seeing Trees to be an enjoyable read. Hugo's approach is, for the most part, non-technical but some of the descriptive parts can be a little daunting. Yet, even when she's getting technical the text is easy to follow and I came away with a better understanding of trees and a real desire to try "tree watching" as a recreational hobby. Now, if I can just find a good field guide and a group of interested nature lovers, who knows where this will lead me. Along with Hugo's interesting text are Robert Liewellyn's beautiful photo's that decorate the narrative with many incredible images, ranging from full trees to micro's of buds, flower and other tree parts. The use of the white background is effective on some shots but on others it was distracting and even a little annoying (ie: pale yellow-green or white flowers against a white background is not the best way to highlight your subject. In some frames a dark or black, or even a

natural background, would have been preferable). That being said, this is still a wonderful nature book and one that I will be referring back to, now and then. I had no technical or formatting problems with this Kindle edition.LastRanger

Looking through this book amazed me about how little I had observed about some of my favorite trees. I am looking forward to the winter time when I can use the pictures of the buds to practice my winter identification of trees and of course to next spring to capture the blooms when they first emerge. Nancy is right when you mentions you will see trees with different eyes after reading this book.

Simply stated, this book is fantastic. I love trees, can identify most, cultivate many, paint and draw them, collect their berries and nuts... but this book showed me so much that I was missing. I was reading the book in the hammock under the maples and only put it down to go over to inspect the ’bud scars’ and ’bundle scar’ patterns on my black walnut. As a nature lover I thought I ’was’ seeing the trees, but this book has opened my eyes to so much more. Peaceful and wonderful.

this wise, beautiful book presents, in intimate photos and insightful prose, ten species of trees native to Virginia and neighboring states: American beech, American sycamore, black walnut, Eastern red cedar, gingko, red maple, Southern magnolia, tulip poplar, white oak, white pine. the author and photographer invite us to see, as we have never seen in such detail before, these trees as they reach downward upward inward outward over time -- days, seasons, years....do not mistake this for a coffee-table book; this is a wise wonder.

What a gift this book is. The writing is so accessible, fun, real and informative....frequently made me smile and feel connected. The photographs are stunning and hypnotizing. I purchased this as a gift for my husband (knowing I could check it out :). I was reading it to him while my son watched something on the i-pad (educational, of course)...anyway my 4 year old son was stopping to listen and ask questions. GREAT BOOK. GREAT GIFT. So impressed. Thank you. Wishing the educational system embraced such investigation and placed based discoveries....allowing the young mind to know that everything is connected. Just beautiful! Do not hesitate to buy this book and send it to a friend or relative as a gift.

This is a beautiful, heart opening book. I treasured reading it. I actually limited myself to one chapter

a night to extend my reading experience over a longer time. I've never done that before. The photographs are gorgeous, and Nancy Hugo's love-filled descriptions about the extraordinary qualities of trees are powerfully engaging. I originally purchased this book off a store end cap as a gift for my mother. The day I started reading it, I treasured it so much, I bought another copy for my mother. I wasn't willing to give my book away.

I gave this book to my dear friend for Christmas. She is a Master Gardener so she really knows her stuff. She was very pleased with the illustrations and felt this was a wonderful gift. She can't wait for Spring to start so she can watch the changes in the trees. This is a gift that keeps on giving.

I loved the author's constant and infectious sense of wonder. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys learning and who loves being outdoors. I chose this rating because this book channeled my natural desire to learn in a more focused and productive direction.

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