AR01396978

15-
A206

FREAK TREES

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK

The New York State
College of Forestry
Syracuse University

FRANKLIN MOON
Dean

1926

offsite
SB
435 S2
-N7
W454

Issued by the
EXTENSION DEPARTMENT
New York State College of Forestry
Syracuse, New York

Material Prepared
by
Prof. GURTH WHIPPLE

Ex Libris

SEYMOUR DURST

AVERY
DURST

CVL 186 : BOX 72

FOREWORD

“THERE is a pleasure in the pathless woods,” in fact, everywhere in the woods, whether pathed or pathless, is the dwelling of pleasure. In the woods abides romance, mystery, music, laughter, beauty, inspiration, awe, rapture. None can escape the broadening vision, the excitement of the imagination, the poetic inspiration imparted by contact with the teeming harmony of woods life. Even the occasional discords are only minor notes that become part of one universal rythm.

TREES SURPASSINGLY INTERESTING

Added to their pleasure-giving there are their health administrations. None, who go into the woods, fail to feel the forest-refreshment to body and mind. Trees have many values and many attractions. They present such a wide diversity that they may be said to surpass in interest all other products of the soil. Their traditions, their ancient lineage, their physical properties are thought-absorbing; their beneficence and human-like habits touch a responsive chord in man. Much about them is as deep a mystery as the farthestmost star.

FREAK TREES ATTRACTIVE

Tree shapes are generally beautiful even in distortion. Freak trees attract the attention of all travellers. Probably they cause more comment and speculation than almost any other phase of the forest. They excite wonder; they challenge our power of scrutiny and observation; they cause the beholder to stop, to examine and to ponder. They are sometimes inexplicable. They defy natural laws, as we know them, that govern tree life, in a way that baffles our understanding.

Freak trees often save the camper, the hunter and the explorer from disaster. Trees that do not look like the vast majority of their fellows compel attention and impress the memory, identifying locations, streams and trails, and thus often lead the lost like a guiding hand safely from the wilderness. The true woodsman consciously and unconsciously is ever looking for freak trees when he is traveling in a new country. Freak trees are landmarks, good guides, good friends.

NATURE AND ACCIDENT CAUSE FREAKS

Why do trees take on abnormal shapes? Is it something in the character of the tree or is it due to accident? The results of this contest indicate that tree-freaks are due to

both causes the same as in the animal kingdom. It would seem that a close parallel to the fortunes and misfortunes of humanity may be traced in trees, which of things inanimate are the constant and most useful companions of men. Trees, like ourselves are products of their surroundings. They are favored or injured in their development by the changes that time brings in its march of years.

The Freak Tree Contest was for New York State trees only. The contest covered the period of spring, summer and fall in 1925. Many lovers of the woods took part in the contest and sent photographs far too numerous to publish in one leaflet. We have, however, reproduced within these pages some of the most interesting pictures. The contest was intended to encourage observation of the forest, to arouse interest in trees and thereby aid in creating public concern for the protection and increase of the forest.

MANY SPECIES REPRESENTED

Hickory, beech, maple, elm, locust, poplar, birch, ash, cucumber, basswood, hemlock, pine, cedar, spruce, sumach, and apple were represented in the contest. While practically all of our common forest trees evidently take on unusual shapes under favorable conditions the tree apparently most given to abnormal growth is the elm. There were four times as many photographs of freak elm trees submitted as any other species. Maple comes next with beech and birch following closely.

No section of the State seems to be particularly favored with freak trees. It would appear that hardwoods or broad leaf tree families take on malformations and curious twists and turns more generally than the softwoods or conifers.

SELECTING WINNERS, BIG PROBLEM

Choosing the winners was rather a difficult problem. A marked divergence of opinion developed on the part of the seven judges who made the selections. The committee was composed of a forest botanist and pathologist, a wood technologist, a landscape architect, an expert in woodcraft and nature study, a professional forester, a collector of photographs of freak trees and a newspaper man.

The pictures were judged from the viewpoint of their shape and form that seemed to be contrary to the nature of the species the freak trees represented.

Prizes were awarded as follows: \$5.00 for the first prize, \$4.00 for the second, \$3.00 for the third, \$2.00 for the fourth, and four prizes of \$1.00 each.

PRIZE WINNERS

First Prize.

G. W. Gotham, 89 River Street, Cortland, N. Y.
Two elms, the larger tree appears to have absorbed the growth of the smaller tree.
Trunk of large tree is bigger above the graft.

PRIZE WINNERS

Second Prize.

C. B. Cox, Adams Center, N. Y.

Elm, trunk runs along surface of earth in half circle 45 feet near Adams Center on North Harbor Road.

Third Prize.

A. Wilson Insley, 30 Eagle Street, Mt. Morris, N. Y.
Elm, one mile south of Conesus Lake.

PRIZE WINNERS

Fourth Prize.

George J. Wiedmaier, 222 King Street, Dunkirk, N. Y.
Maple, 14 inches in diameter arched 7 feet and anchored in birch tree near Arkwright, N. Y.

Fifth Prize.

H. L. Tayntor, McGraw, N. Y.
Double beech, near Homer, N. Y. Graft 18 feet in length
and 8 inches in diameter.

PRIZE WINNERS

Sixth Prize.
W. S. Broad, Morrisville, N. Y.
Twin beeches, Morrisville Swamp.

Seventh Prize.
Zack Carman, Prattsville, N. Y.
Elm lyre tree, near Prattsville, N. Y.

PRIZE WINNERS

Eighth Prize.
Augustus C. Merle, R. F. D. 2, Attica, N. Y.
Elm tree, near Attica.

Louise D. Gaylord, 414 Cortland Ave.,
Syracuse, N. Y.
Elm tree, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Wolcott, N. Y.
Honorable Mention.

Mrs. Chas. L. Williams, 166 Ridge St.,
Glens Falls, N. Y.

Small cedars said to be exactly portrayed. The illustration is from a photograph of a painting and was therefore not eligible for a prize.
Location—At the foot of Buck Mountain on east shore of Lake George.

HONORABLE MENTION

Perry D. Frazer, Ridgewood, N. J.
Limbs of a Hickory tree joined about seven feet from ground. Near Ramapo, N. Y.

Sadie E. Taylor, Protection, N. Y.
Three Maple trees "Grandfather's Chair."
Located at Protection, N. Y.

Bert L. Chambers, Copenhagen, N. Y.
Beech and Maple grown together, Harrisburg, Lewis Co., N. Y.

*Mahlon Pomeroy, 70 Oxford St.,
Rochester, N. Y.*
Soft Maple tree near the village of Franklin, N. Y.

HONORABLE MENTION

*Miss Faustina Dunn, Oswego Normal School,
Oswego, N. Y.*

Elm, "The Lyre Tree."

*Eleanor L. Weise, 1346 Jefferson St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.*
Lombardy Poplars, grown over and enclosed
an old board fence. Standing along the
shore of Lake Champlain a little south of
Plattsburgh, N. Y.

*Mrs. W. C. Schlar, 57 Henry Ave.,
Newburgh, N. Y.*

Pine tree, Central Valley, N. Y.

*L. A. Lamouree, R. R. No. 2, Box 215,
Saugerties, N. Y.*

Basswood or Linden tree with young tree
growing out of hollow trunk of mother tree.
Blue Mountain, Saugerties, N. Y.

HONORABLE MENTION

Ira Groy, R. F. D. No. 2, Corinth, N. Y.
Beech tree, Sacandaga river, town of Day,
Saratoga Co.

Arthur Burdick, Glenfield, N. Y.
Red Birch tree, Greig, Lewis Co., N. Y.

*"Eddy" Faulks, 821 University Ave.,
Syracuse, N. Y.*
White Spruce near Cranberry Lake, oppo-
site Ranger School.

C. H. Truc, 8 W. 4th St., Fulton, N. Y.
Apple tree, five distinct trunks, large early
green apples.

HONORABLE MENTION

*M. J. Witson, 333 Warburton Ave.,
Yonkers, N. Y.
Black Birch trees, Oakland Valley.*

*Mr. John O. Bowman, Mayville, N. Y.
Pine tree.*

*L. L. Cross, 449 Broad St., Oneida, N. Y.
Twin Beech, Peterboro Swamp, Madison
Co., N. Y.*

*Edna A. Fenska, 226 Kensington Road,
Syracuse, N. Y.
Sugar Maple, near Constantia, N. Y.*

HONORABLE MENTION

Perry D. Frazer, Ridgewood, N. J.
Hemlock in crevice of a high cliff of trap-
rock, near Tuxedo, N. Y.

*Miss Dorothy D. Van Gaasbeek, Hill St.,
Saugerties, N. Y.*
Locust trees form a gateway.

Arthur Hill, Adams Basin, N. Y.
2 Beech trees connected with
branch farm woodlot west of
Rochester, N. Y.

*Miss Margaret Glennon, 114 Lewis Ave.,
Elmhurst, L. I., N. Y.*
Elm tree, about $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles out of the village
on the main road, U'rlton, Green Co., N. Y.

HONORABLE MENTION

H. L. Tayntor, McGraw, N. Y.
Beech, Brown's Gorge, near McGraw.

H. T. Pecor, 124 Ferry St., Troy, N. Y.
Cedar, eight trees growing from one stump,
15 to 20 feet high, Putnam, N. Y.

Alice Shutt, Scio, N. Y.
Mountain Ash, six feet tall, limbs wound
around each other such that they form a
dense tangle, Scio, N. Y.

*N. W. Van Nostrand, Jr., 802 Carroll St.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.*
Elm, between Berlin and Petersburg, N. Y.

HONORABLE MENTION

Carl Job, Richmond Valley, N. Y.
Beech trees, 5 feet apart, limb grown into
the other tree.

*Alice E. Barnes, 511 W. 112th St.,
New York City.*
Birch tree. On the shore of Oquaga Lake.

Carl C. Forsaith, Oxford, England.
Pine left, oak right, in New Hampshire. Not eligible.

HONORABLE MENTION

*Frances E. King, 134 Franklin St.,
Auburn, N. Y.*
Elm tree, Port Byron, N. Y. Growing from
old stonework.

E. A. Brininstool, Box 1072, Station C., Los Angeles, Calif.
Near Skyland, Calif. Not eligible.

The leaning white Pines, near the Mills
Camp, Chestertown, N. Y.

*J. O. Wadsworth, 213 W. Adams St.,
Syracuse, N. Y.*

Banyan tree at the United States Army
Barracks, Key West, Florida. Not eligible.

TREES NOT ELIGIBLE

George P. Van Buskirk, 27 West 129th
English Spruce tree grafted upside down
in England about 20 years ago, shipped
to Smith Nursery at Amarack, N. Y.,
purchased 2 years later by Wm. R.
Searles Mt. Kisco, N. Y.

The Lonesome Pine, Cranberry Lake.
Finds sustenance in a small tuft of moss
and huckleberry bushes on top of a boulder.

Newton C. Brainard, Hartford, Conn.
Hornbeam trees naturally grafted.

Fred Kenlive, Alden, N. Y.
Beech trees near Alden.

Our Heritage

Now let us heal and restore where we trample and plunder,
Cleansing and saving our shallowing rivers and rills,
Lending new life to the field we have ravaged and beggared,
Calling new forest to gladden the desolate hills.

Then though we pass from the land that our fathers be-
queathed us,
Mountain and river and wood shall our message renew;
"This is the land that we loved; oh, be faithful, our children!
Fair was it left to us; fairer we leave it to you!"

Arthur Guiterman

The New York State College of Forestry
at
Syracuse University