

BOOK REVIEW

MICHAEL WOJTECH. 2011. **Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast.** (ISBN: 978-1-58465-852-8, hbk). University Press of New England, 1 Court Street, Lebanon, New Hampshire 03766, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.upne.com, 1-800-421-1561, 1-603-448-9429 fax). \$25.95, 280 pp., 65 maps, 434 illus. (283 color), keys, 5 1/2" x 8 3/4".

Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast is divided into six chapters: instructions on how to use this particular guide, bark structure, bark types, secondary identification keys, bark ecology, and species. This book consists of numerous color images, line drawings, keys, and maps that provide the reader with further information about the trees that one would encounter in the forests of the Northeastern U.S.A.

The opening chapter provides information on how a potential reader would begin to use this field guide. The two chapters that follow contain detailed information regarding the structure and types of bark that can be found in this area. Bark can have a variety of appearances: smooth, peeling, curling, cracking, scales, plates, ridges, etc. These features can help the reader determine which species is in front of them. The author includes line drawings for each description as well as 1–2 images of actual trees with these bark types. Also included is a U.S.A. quarter in each photograph to establish a standard scale for each feature shown. Wojtech also included a chapter on bark ecology to help the reader further understand the diversity and function of bark.

Wojtech included two keys within this book. The primary key is printed on the inside cover. This key will help you determine which part of the secondary key you should visit to further investigate the species. Cleverly, he includes prefixes within the secondary key section to designate the age of the tree: young (Y), mature (M), and old (O). This is important since bark appearance can change as the tree ages.

The largest chapter within the book contains species accounts. Wojtech includes two pages per species that list the dominant common name, other possible common names, family name, and Latin binomial. He then provides a brief description of the habitat and any notes that the reader should take into account for the particular species. Each species has a line drawing of a branch and leaf or leaflet, a distribution map, and 2–3 images of the bark at varying ages.

This book would make a great, lightweight field guide that any person would want to include when hiking in the Northeastern U.S.A. The images provide a clear view of the species rendering them useful for identification. Bark is the one item that does not disappear and is present through each season. It is nice to see someone use this particular aspect of trees to help properly identify them in the field.—Keri M. Barfield, MS Biology, Research Programs Manager, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.



Barfield, Keri McNew. 2013. "Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast by Michael Wojtech." *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* 7(1), 8–8.

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