WOODY PLANTS OF WAGNER COLLEGE

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The authors wish to dedicate this booklet to Mr. Harold Baker, and his staff, for their efforts in providing the Wagner College Community with a beautiful campus.

This booklet was designed to provide a guide to some of the more common woody plants found on the Wagner Campus. An attempt was made to provide information for both the students and the other members of the College Community. The map (centerfold) exhibits the approximately locations of the plants. At these locations the species have been labeled with their common and scientific names. Many other species are also found on the Campus, but most are not common in this region other than for ornamentals.

1. Firethorn — Pyracantha sp.

These very beautiful bushes are most common in California. The orange-red fruits are a good source of food for catbirds, mockingbirds, and purple finches. The twigs have sharp, slender thorns about one inch in length.

2. Yew — Taxus sp.

Yews are small trees or shrubs without cones, but having a fleshy red covering on the seed. The English and Japanese yews are commonly employed as ornamentals.

3. Norway Maple — Acer platanoides

Introduced into North America in the early 19th century it is a very common tree of Finland and Norway. The stems and leaves contain a milky fluid which is unique among maples. Being from a northern latitude it generally produces leaves early in the spring and retains them longer into the fall.

4. Black Cherry Prunus serotina

The older trees are identified by the platy scales and upturned edges of the bark. Common on the veins of the underside of the leaf is a redish-brown hair-like covering (pubescence). The fruit provide food for songbirds, gamebirds and black bears. The species grows readily following disturbances. Caution: the wilted foliage is poisonous due to cyanic acid. The fruit can be used for jelly, wine and flavoring rum and brandy.

5. Sassafras Sassafras albidum

Only three species of Sassafras are known; one in Fromosa, another in China and the third native to eastern U. S. On S. I. the tree is found abundantly along roadsides and in early succession following disturbances. The tree may contain three different forms of leaves; smooth, mitten-shaped, and three lobed. The leaves and bark have a strong aromatic odor and the bark of the root is used to prepare a terrific tea!

6. Eastern Hemlock Tsuga canadensis

Hemlocks may reach 160 feet in height. The bark is the most useful of the tree being a source for tanning used in making leather. The tree can be identified by its small cones which are less than 1 inch long. The leaves which are about 1/2 to 2/3 of an inch long are narrow and flat and attached to the twig by a short stalk.

7. White Pine Pinus strobus

White Pine has extremely fine needles, the only native pine to have this 5 needle in a bundle. Needles do drop off, but are replaced, thus the pines are called "evergreens". White pine was called "coffin pine" in pioneer days because it was light and easily worked. Today the wood is used for window frames and trim. The seeds are eaten by many song and gamebirds and the needles are often used in their nests. Pines rank near the top in importance to wildlife.

8. Hawthorn Crataegus sp.

More than 100 species are native to the U.S. Generally a small tree found in open area pastures. It is difficult to identify the species since they are so similar to leaf-shape branching and fruit types. Spines are from -4" long and the fruit hangs on the tree providing a winter food source for such songbirds as the fox sparrow and cedar waxwing. Many species are used in ornamental plantings.

9. Red Mulberry Morus rubra

This is similar to the white mulberry which was introduced into the U.S. from Asia, for silkworms to feed upon. The Mulberry first ripens in early summer and is a popular food for songbirds. The leaves of mulberries tend to take many shapes unlike most other trees which have similar shaped leaves. The tree also can be identified by its yellow orange bark.

10. Princess-tree Paulowina tomentosa

This species is considered a forest weed due to its rapid growth. One tree grew 21 feet in one year. A native of China it was named after the Princess of the Netherlands, daughter of an Emperor of Russia.

11. Silver Maple Acer saccharinum

The silvery appearance of the underside of the leaves gives this maple its name. The leaves are more deeply lobed and also lack beautiful colors in autumn as do other maples. The silver maple is a rapid grower and highly used for ornamental planting.

12. Sweetgum Liquidambar styraciflua

A dominant species of Staten Island, the tree is easily identified by its star-shaped, 5-pointed, leaf. The hard ball-like fruit hangs on the tree throughout the winter and the seeds are fed upon by various birds. Its range is mostly in southeastern U. S. and is not too common north of N.Y.C. Sweetgum is very resistant to disease and insect attack, but easily injured by fire. The species is one of the most important hardwoods of the U.S.

13. White Ash Fraxinus americana

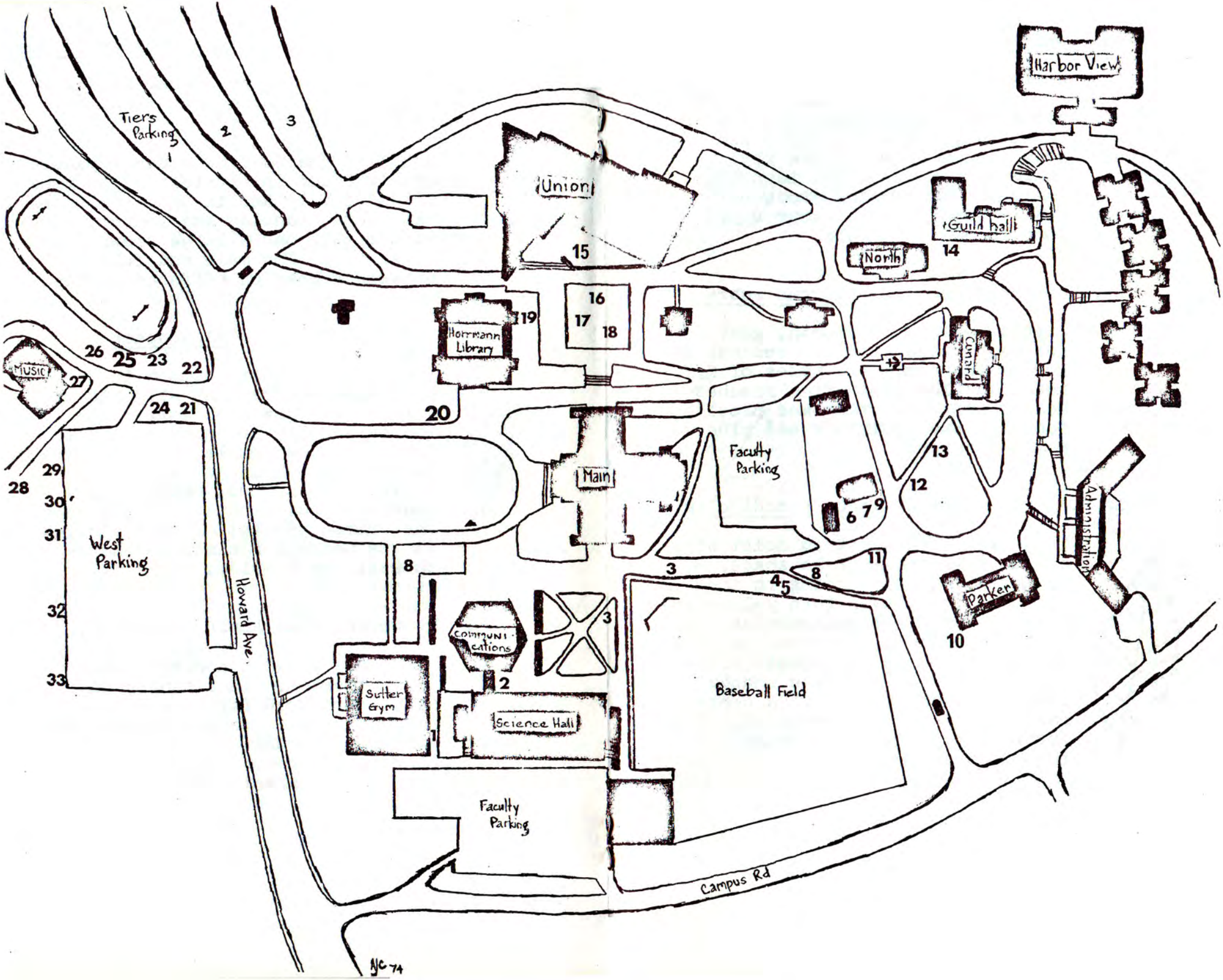
White ash is common among deciduous trees. The leaves are compound containing 5-9 leaflets and the branching is opposite. The fruit is shaped like a canoe paddle and is found in clusters. The tree grows rapidly and is used for baseball bats, handles and lumber, the winter twig has a large brown terminal bud. The male and female flowers appear on different trees.

14. American Holly Ilex opaca

The holly which is common in Christmas decorations with its red berries is from the female tree. The male holly produces pollen to fertilize the female and thus produces the fruit. Not all holly leaves have spines, many of the planted species have a smooth edge. The common habitat of this species is the Coastal Plain from Massachusetts to Florida.

15. Flowering Crab Apple Malus sp.

There are about 5 apples native to North America. Many others have been introduced for ornamentals because of their showy flowers and attractive fruit. The pink or white flowers are very fragrant as are many of the plants of the rose family.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Chapel
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Faculty Parking
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Science Hall
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West Parking
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16. White oak Quercus alba

White oak is a dominant tree of eastern deciduous forest and a leader in commercial hardwoods. The rounded lobed leaves and the light ashy gray bark are two of the key characteristics in its identifications. The acorns produced are a very important source of food for many animals.

17. Northern Red Oak Quercus rubra

Identified by the smooth, gray furrows in the bark the red oak is one of the commonest trees of N.Y. and N.J. The tree often reaches heights of 60-70 feet and provides food for the squirrels and blue jays on campus.

18. American Beech Fagus grandifolia

This tree grows best in moist sites and is very tolerant to shade, having branches reaching to the ground. The leaves turn yellowish-brown in the fall and persist late into the season. The tree is easily recognized by the smooth blue-gray trunk with the base shaped like an elephant's foot. A dominant species of the northern forest it provides beechnuts for birds and mammals.

19. Flowering Dogwood Cornus florida

A common understory tree of the eastern deciduous forest and normally reaches a height of 30-40 feet. This species has small greenish-white flowers surrounded by 4 large, white (sometimes pink) petal-like bracts, notched at the apex. The fleshy fruits are eaten by many birds and is one of the best landscape species for beauty and attracting birds.

20. London Planetree Platanus acerifolia

This is a hybrid between the American sycamore and the oriental planetree. The bark is a greenish brown and peels in thin, irregular patches. The fruit, commonly called buttonballs, contains hundreds of seeds and persist on the tree late into the fall and winter months. A fast growing tree, the London Planetree is commonly planted for shade and along city streets.

21. Tuliptree or Yellow Poplar Liriodendron tulipifera

The common name is from the yellow, tulip-shaped flower which appears about June in this area. This is one of the largest trees of the N.E. reaching 150 feet in height and generally recognized by its straight branchless trunk. The species is a valuable forest tree. The leaf when held upside down resembles a doll's dress.

22. Sweet Birch Betula lenta

The twigs of the sweet birch have a strong winter green flavor used in flavoring many products. The bark is used to produce a tea and the wood is good for cabinets, etc. This is another tree that produces male and female flowers, called catkins, which hang from the tree.

23. Red Pine Pinus resinosa

The needles of this pine are in bundles (fascicles) of two and are 4 to 6 inches long. The needles break easily. The cones are approximately 2 inches in length. Red pine is an important timber tree and is used for reforesting much of New England. The maximum age is 350 years.

24. Gray Birch Betula populifolia

This species is commonly planted on lawns and reaches a height of 30 feet. It also is found in early succession in N.E. U.S. and Canada following fires and other disturbances. The flowers are unisexual cone like in appearance which hang from the branches and are called catkins. (The oaks, poplars, willows, alders and most nut trees also have catkin flowers). The seeds provide an important food source for gamebirds and songbirds while the twigs and foliage provides browse for moose. The bark resembles the paper birch, but does not peel.

25. Ginkgo Ginkgo biloba

Once thought to be extinct the species was found being cultivated in China. The species is not a flowering plant like most deciduous trees. The male tree is generally the one found growing along N. Y. streets since the fruit of the female tree produces a very foul odor. The tree is very resistant to air pollution and disease. The fan-shaped leaves turn yellow and fall from the tree in autumn unlike most other gymnosperm trees.

26. Horsechestnut Aesculus hippocastanum

The horsechestnut is not a chestnut tree, but is named so because its fruit resembles those of the American and European chestnut trees. (The fruit is not edible). The tree is commonly planted along streets in many cities of the world. The leaf is shaped like a hand (Palmately) and has seven leaflets. The tree is native to Greece.

27. Lilac Syringa sp.

A common shrub species with very fragrant flowers. Clusters of flowers are generally about 10" long and of a pyramidal shape. Common on the leaf is a white covering due to a fungi, powdery mildew. It may interest you to know that the Lilac belongs to the olive family.

28. Chinese Redbud Cercis chinensis
(located near Music Annex)

Heart-shaped leaves up to six inches across. The rosy pink flowers are about one-half inch in diameter and appear in clusters before the leaves. The fruit is a pod and is therefore a member of the pea family (Legume). The Eastern U.S., is a common understory tree in the southern Appalachian Forest.

29. Cottonwood Populus deltoides

This is the largest species of the aspen or poplar group belonging to the willow family. The name is derived from the flowers which produce a cotton-like material which fills the sky during a wind. The Leaf is D-shaped and thus derives its scientific name deltoides. The buds and catkins are valuable food for gamebirds such as grouse and the bark provided a major food for hare and beavers. Deer and Moose eat the twigs and foliage.

30. Tree-of-heaven Ailanthus altissima

This tree is native to China and was introduced into America in the early 19th century. The male flowers have a disagreeable odor, but has been planted in many cities because of its rapid growth. One found in Suffolk County, N.Y. measures 19',8" in circumference.

31. Winged Sumac Rhus copallina
(Shining Sumac)

The name describes the appearance of wings along the leaf's stem. Each leaf contains from 9-21 leaflets. The fruit overwinters on the plant and is fed upon by gamebirds. Rabbits and deer feed upon its bark and foliage.

32. Poison Ivy Rhus toxicodendron

This plant is a very common woody vine of the eastern forest. It grows best where there is more sunlight. The plant contains 3 leaflets thus the saying "leaves of three, leave it be". The effects of the plant's poison varies among individuals. It is dangerous to burn the plant since it can release harmful materials into the air. The fruit is a main source of food for woodpeckers.

33. Red Maple Acer rubrum

Red Maple derives its name due to the fact that some part of the tree is always red, i.e. the leaf stems (petioles) are red. The small leaf has 3-5 lobes which are doubly toothed. It grows best on damp or wet sites and thus is also called Swamp Maple. The winged seeds are a major food source for many birds and mammals. The wood is soft and of little use compared to the sugar maple.

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