Specimen Trees on the campus of Eastern Illinois University: A walking tour

1. Quercus macrocarpa (Bur Oak)
2. Juniperus virginiana (Red Cedar)
3. Picea pungens (Colorado Blue Spruce)
4. Picea glauca (White Spruce)
5. Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)
6. Morus alba var. pendula (Weeping Mulberry)
7. Quercus imbricaria (Shingle Oak)
8. Juglans nigra (Black Walnut)
9. Fraxinus americana (White Ash)
10. Quercus muehlenbergii (Yellow Chestnut Oak)
11. Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip Tree)
12. Betula pendula (Silver Birch)
13. Crataegus phaenopyrum (Washington Hawthorn)
14. Tsuga canadensis (Eastern Hemlock)
15. Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair Tree)
16. Tilia x euchlora (Crimean Linden)
17. Acer saccharum (Sugar Maple)
18. Picea abies (Norway Spruce)
19. Populus deltoides (Eastern Cottonwood)
20. Elaeagnus angustifolia (Russian Olive)
21. Gleditsia triacanthos f. inermis (Moraine Locust)
22. Carpinus betulus (European Blue Beech)
23. Pinus resinosa (Red Pine)
24. Catalpa speciosa (Northern Catalpa)
25. Acer platanoides (Norway Maple "Crimson King")
26. Acer saccharinum (Silver Maple)
27. Castanea mollissima (Chinese Chestnut)
28. Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas Fir)
29. Phellodendron amurense (Amur Cork Tree)
30. Liquidambar styraciflua (Sweet Gum)
31. Metasequoia glyptostroboides (Dawn Redwood)
32. Aesculus pavia (Red Buckeye)
33. Pinus strobus (Eastern White Pine)
34. Plantanus x acerfolia (London Plane Tree)
35. Plantanus occidentalis (Sycamore)
36. Taxodium distichum (Bald Cypress)

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1. Bur Oak. This particular specimen is of interest because it was about 100 years old when Old Main was built. The acorn cup, with its conspicuously fringed border and twigs with corky ridges help to identify this oak.

2. Red Cedar produces a small bluish "berry" (it is actually a fleshy cone) that provides food for many birds. The birds, in turn, disseminate the indigestible seeds across the countryside.

4. Colorado Blue Spruce. A thin layer of waxy blue-green particles that can be easily rubbed off causes the bluish color of the needles (leaves). Cones are larger than those of White Spruce.

5. White Spruce. Most spruces have square needles that are arranged singly on the branches. Each is attached to a short woody stalk that remains on the twig after the leaf falls.

6. Horse Chestnut is not related to the American Chestnut as its common name might imply. This native of the Balkans is related to the Buckeye. The name is derived from the seed, which resembles the chest-nut that was used by the Turks to cure broken-winded horses.

7. Weeping Mulberry is a variety of White Mulberry that is planted as an ornamental because of its weeping branches.

9. Shingle Oak was used by early pioneers to make shingle shakes. Unlike most familiar oaks, the leaves of this tree are not lobed; still, it has the clusters of 3-5 buds at the tips of the twigs and produces the acorns characteristic of oaks.

10. Black Walnut is used for gunstocks, cabinets and furniture veneers. This tree is one of the most highly valued hardwoods of North America.

11. White Ash is, on the basis of its wood products, the most valuable of our native ashes. High quality baseball bats and handles for tools are among its products.

12. Yellow Chestnut Oak has a leaf that resembles that of the American Chestnut but the leaf margins are not as sharply toothed and the leaf tips are slightly incurved.

13. Tulip Tree, also known as the Tu-lip Poplar, has a distinctive four-lobed leaf and produces large, greenish-yellow, tulip-shaped flowers in the spring. Unlike most of our other native trees, this one produces new leaves throughout the growing season, evidence of its tropical ancestry.

14. Silver Birch has small, diamond-shaped leaves. It has papery-white bark and the supple branches are used to make brooms and whisks.

17. Washington Hawthorn. The genus *Crataegus* contains many closely related species and many of these species form hybrids. This particular species has showy scarlet fruit and is one of the most commonly planted hawthorns.

18. Eastern Hemlock is a slow-growing tree that requires nearly 300 years to reach maturity, and often lives twice that long. Hemlock poison, notorious in ancient times, and used by Socrates to poison himself, is not derived from this tree, but from a herbaceous member of the carrot family.

19. Maidenhair Tree with its distinctive fan shaped, fork-veined leaves, was imported from the Far East as a shade tree. Distantly related to the pines, this deciduous gymnosperm was known only from the fossil record before being rediscovered in China where it was planted as a temple tree.

20. Crimean Linden is of hybrid origin. It has somewhat larger leaves than the Little-leaf Linden and its round fruits are suspended from a winged appendage.

21. Sugar Maple is the primary source of sap used to make maple syrup. It takes 30 to 40 gallons of sap gathered in late winter or early spring to make one gal-lon of syrup. The leaves on this tree are often very colorful in Fall.

22. Norway Spruce is distinguished from the native spruces by its very large (4-7 inches) cylindrical cones. Notice also the characteristic drooping branches.

23. Eastern Cottonwood is usually associated with wetlands. This particular specimen grew on the shores of Lake Ahmoweenah, a small lake drained in 1938 to make way for McAfee Gym.

24. Russian Olive. The silvery white lower leaf surfaces and branches give this tree a distinctive silvery appearance. Because it is short-lived, it is generally considered a poor choice for permanent landscaping.
27. Moraine Locust is the thornless variety of the Honey Locust. It is commonly planted as an ornamental, but often has a serious problem with mimosa webworms.

28. European Blue Beech is not related to the true beech, although the bark is very similar. The trunk, however, is seldom round as in beeches, but rather bears protruding ribs called flutes.

29. Red Pine. This long-leafed pine has very brittle needles in bundles of two. This species is native to northeastern United States and Canada.

31. Northern Catalpa. The fruit, a long cylindrical, drooping pod, is distinctive and gives rise to its characteristic common name, Indian Cigar Tree.

32. Norway Maple is an oft-planted ornamental introduced from Europe. It normally has green foliage but this variety, “Crimson King”, has red leaves. The Norway Maple can be identified by its leaf, which is broader than long and by the milky juice that oozes from the leaf stalk (petiole) when it is broken.

35. Silver Maple is often planted as an ornamental because of its rapid growth. This tree has a justly deserved poor reputation, for it invades and clogs sewer lines, and its weak branches commonly break during severe windstorms.

37. Chinese Chestnut. This tree is not susceptible to the fungus responsible for Chestnut blight, the disease that has nearly eliminated the American Chestnut. The disease was introduced into New York in 1904 on a stock of the oriental Chestnut.

40. Douglas Fir comprises about fifty percent of the standing timber in the forests of the Rockies and West Coast and produces more lumber than any other American species. Note the fork-like 3-lobed bracts protruding between the cone scales.

41. Amur Cork Tree is a native of eastern Asia that is rarely planted in Illinois. The outer bark has been used as a source of cork.

44. Sweet Gum, a native of the southeast, has few insect and disease problems, an attractive shape, and brilliant fall coloration. It is a desirable and very popular ornamental, but not reliably hardy north of central Illinois.

45. Dawn Redwood. In prehistoric times this close relative of the Bald Cypress ranged over most of the world’s northern temperate zone. However, it gradually disappeared and was regarded as extinct until 1945, when it was discovered growing in western China.

46. Red Buckeye is an understory shrub native to the floodplain forests of southern Illinois. It is rarely cultivated in central Illinois.

47. Eastern White Pine is native to northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. It is an important lumber tree and is commonly planted as an ornamental and as a windbreak.

51. London Plane Tree is presumed to be a hybrid between the Sycamore and the Oriental Plane Tree. The fruit heads occur in twos and threes rather than singly as they do on the Sycamore.

52. Sycamore is easily recognized by its mottled bark that peels off in patches and exposes areas of whitish, yellowish or greenish inner bark. It is a native species.

54. Bald Cypress is the picturesque tree of the southern swamps, where it forms distinctive “knees”. Although commonly regarded as a tree of the south, it is native to the Mississippi and Ohio River of southern Illinois.