TGP Main Drive

November 20, 2023

John mentioned that Tower Grove Park might have a greater diversity of trees than any park in the country. That wouldn't surprise us. We saw dozens of different trees from all over the world.

This week we'll organize our checklist by "Family" rather than by "Species" because it better shows how these many different trees are related to each other. And because there were so many trees, we'll just list the ones from the Oak and Maple Families because those are so tricky (but important) to identify.

FAGACEAE (Beech/Oak Family)

	BOTANICAL NAME (with etymology & genus pronunciation)	**FAMILY** [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	**COMMON NAME** (with comments we heard)
☐	*Fagus grandifolia* (beech + large leaf) (FAY-guss)	Fagaceae [CC8]	American Beech (buds: distinctively long, narrow, cigar-like / leaf has conspicuous pinnate venation, with each vein terminating at a marginal tooth / bark is "carve-your-name-on-me" smooth /
☐	*Quercus alba* (oak + white) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (white group) [CC4]	White Oak (leaves usually with 7 rounded lobes, with sinuses sometimes deep [sun leaves] or sometimes shallow [shade leaves] / leaves mostly fall from older trees while often remaining on younger ones [marcescent] / bark light gray that tends to form overlapping scales a little over halfway up the trunk / buds reddish-brown, blunt tip / acid soil)
☐	*Quercus bicolor* (oak + 2 colors) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (white group) [CC7]	Swamp White Oak (leaves with shallow lobes – more like big rounded teeth / shiny above, downy-white below / leaf widest near the middle / acorns in clusters of 1-3 on long, dark, slender 2.5" peduncles / bark on smaller limbs peels in papery shreds / furrows on trunk more distinctive than *Quercus alba*. /)
☐	*Quercus coccinia* (= oak + scarlet) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (red group) [CC5]	Scarlet Oak (leaf: smaller, hairless, with 7-9 lobes [each with several bristle-tipped teeth], turns bright scarlet; sun leaves have very deep sinuses that are shaped like a closing "C" / buds = snow-on-the-mountain / acorns with concentric rings around tip; caps have a somewhat glossy surface that cover half the nut / cap scales press down tightly [in contrast to Black Oak's roof shingles]) / branches: lower ones droop /
☐	*Quercus falcata* (oak + sickle-shaped) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (red group) [CC6]	Southern Red Oak (leaf has rounded base / has two leaf-forms [one is shallowly 3-lobed resembling a bell with clapper hanging down, the other is deeply 5-7 lobed, often sickle-shaped] / dark green and shiny above, pale and hairy below)
☐	*Quercus macrocarpa* (oak + big fruit) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (white group) [CC4]	Bur Oak (leaves largest of any native oak / shape varies, but often widest above the middle with upper portion shallowly lobed while the lower narrower portion of leaf has deep sinuses / twigs: conspicuous whiskers at ends / younger branches can become cork-covered / acorns large with fringed cap that covers most of nut / bark in thick, fire-resistant vertical ridges / buds rounded with gray fuzzy hair / largest in McBaine)
☐	*Quercus marilandica* (state of Maryland) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (red group) [CC4]	Blackjack Oak (gnarly, short tree / leaf: tough, leathery, wedge-shaped with a narrow base that flares up to a wide leaf-top with 3 lobes, each with only 1 bristle / bark: cracked into black rectangular alligator-skin plates / dead limbs persist on lower trunk / lives in poor, thin, dry, rocky soils)
☐	*Quercus nigra* (oak + black) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (red group) [CC5]	Water Oak (leaf: of our 3 lobe-less native oaks, this has the largest leaf – more of a paddle-shape with a hint of lobing [especially the shade leaves] plus a bristle / dark acorns /)
☐	*Quercus pagoda* (= pagoda-shaped [leaf]) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (red group) [CC7]	Cherrybark Oak (leaf: upper edge of lobes perpendicular to midrib, with lobes sometimes not paired but appearing haphazardly placed / bark: very dark, broken into shallow fissures like black cherry) John dangled a leaf by its petiole to show its pagoda-like shape.
☐	*Quercus palustris* (= marshy) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (red group) [CC4]	Pin Oak (bark: smooth / leaf: 5-7 sharply-pointed lobes with deep sinuses creating narrow waists / ends of lobes have 2-3 divisions, each bristle-tipped / leaf similar to Scarlet Oak / dense cluttered branching: lower branches tend to point downward, middle branches point outward, highest branches point upward / acorns: striped with many dark lines / buds: small, angular, hairy only at tip /

☐	*Quercus phellos* (= cork) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (red group) [CC7]	Willow Oak (leaf: very narrow and willowlike / prolific producer of acorns / only 3 oaks in our area have entire [without lobes or teeth] leaves: Willow Oak, Water Oak, and Shingle Oak)
☐	*Quercus robur* (= robust) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (white group) [intro]	English Oak / Pedunculate Oak / (except for the leaf's small earlobe-like [auriculate] lobes at base, it resembles a White Oak leaf / acorn: nut noticeably elongated [to 1"] with an even longer [1-3"] peduncle)
☐	*Quercus rubra* () (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (red group) [CC5]	Northern Red Oak (leaf: pointed lobes are not divided again at their tips [in contrast to Shumard] / ski tracks down trunk /

SAPINDACEAE (Maple/Buckeye Family)

☐	*Acer miyabei* (maple + somebody's name) (AY-sr / my-AH-bee-eye)	Sapindaceae [planted]	Miyabe Maple (leaf 5-lobed / contains a milky sap / samara pairs form 180° straight line / endangered in its native Japan / non-invasive substitute for Norway Maple / cultivar Morton "State Street")
☐	*Acer nigrum* (maple + black) (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [CC5]	Black Maple (John held up a leaf and showed us its 3 lobes with obtuse sinuses [as contrasted with Sugar's 5 lobes and acute sinuses] / also distinguished from Sugar by the darker bark of older trees, its leafy stipules at base of petiole, its short-pubescent rather than glabrous leaf underside, and a droopier appearance of leaves / since Black Maple hybridizes with Sugar Maple, it is sometimes treated as a subspecies of Sugar Maple /)
☐	*Acer palmatum* (maple + palmate) (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [intro]	Japanese Maple (there are thousands of cultivars of this famous plant; we found two beautiful red ones next to each other but their leaf shapes were completely different)
☐	*Acer platanoides* (maple + like *Platanus*, the sycamore tree) (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [intro]	Norway Maple (John broke off a leaf and showed us its milky sap and also pointed out the leaf's wide profile / Norway is in a different section than our native maples because of its milky sap and flattened seeds / leaf has 5 lobes, but each lobe has 1-3 side teeth / under magnification, tips of leaf points reduced to a fine hair, whereas sugar maple points are rounded / sits on line between "hard maple" and "soft maple" / popular for bonsai in Europe / invasive in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York)
☐	*Acer rubrum* (= red) (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [CC5]	Red Maple (leaf: usually 3 principal triangular lobes with toothed margins and pointed tips / buds somewhat rounded with multiple scales, softer and less pointed than Sugar Maple / John explained that the Red will display petals in the spring, whereas the closely related Silver will not. Also in contrast with Silver, the Red Maple's twigs are without an odor, and the trunk bark is not scaly / we found no samaras because Red and Silver are the only maples in our area that produce their fruit in spring instead of fall)
☐	*Acer saccharinum* (= sugary, with the "i" thrown in for "imposter") (AY-sr / sack-er-RYE-num)	Sapindaceae [CC2]	Silver Maple (leaf like a Sugar Maple after 20 cups of coffee, lobes spikey, frazzled, with deep angular sinuses / scratched twigs have a perceptible odor / leaf underside silvery / bark develops a shaggy, flaky appearance)
☐	*Acer saccharum* (= sugary, also the genus name for sugar cane: *Saccharum officinarum*) (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [CC5]	Sugar Maple (leaf: 5 lobes, the basal pair are small, but the upper 3 lobes are large with notched / compared to the Silver Maple's narrow, angular sinuses, the Sugar Maple has more open, shallow, and rounded ones / buds: John demonstrated the hardness and sharpness of its dark buds)
☐	*Aesculus pavia* (a type of tree + somebody's name) (ESS-kyoo-luss)	Sapindaceae [CC7]	Red Buckeye (we saw a couple of these small trees with their chunky twigs and large terminal buds, but they were leafless / the buckeye fruits on the ground were light brown in contrast to the Ohio buckeyes that are dark maroon)
☐	*Koelreuteria paniculata* (somebody's name + panicle [inflorescence]) (kol-roo-TEER-ee-uh)	Sapindaceae [intro]	Golden Rain Tree (we missed these because we left the trail to visit the Lily Pond / with their compound leaves of a dozen or so toothy leaflets and their bladderlike seed pods that look like Chinese lanterns, it's hard to believe they belong in the Maple Family)

Even though the weather was cold, dark, and drizzly, Tower Grove Park turned-out to be a wonderful place to learn about so many different trees in such a concentrated setting.

Today’s 13 participants (in alphabetical order): Rick Armstrong, Kathy Bildner, Steve Bizub, Tom & Eileen (and Daisy) Buescher, Tina Cheung, Wayne Clark, June Jeffries, Michael Laschober, Sharon Lu, Burt Noll, John Oliver, and Tina Richardson