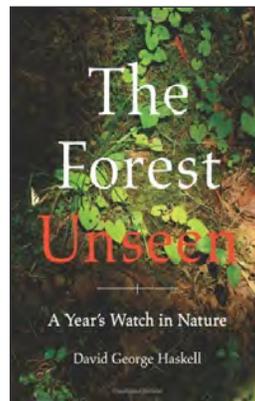


NEWSLETTER

March 12, 2015

*Unseen*

The Forest Unseen, subtitled "A Year's Watch in Nature," by David George Haskell includes over 40 essays. Within each chapter, or essay, Haskell describes an experience or observation he made during a visit to his self-defined mandala within an old growth forest in Tennessee.

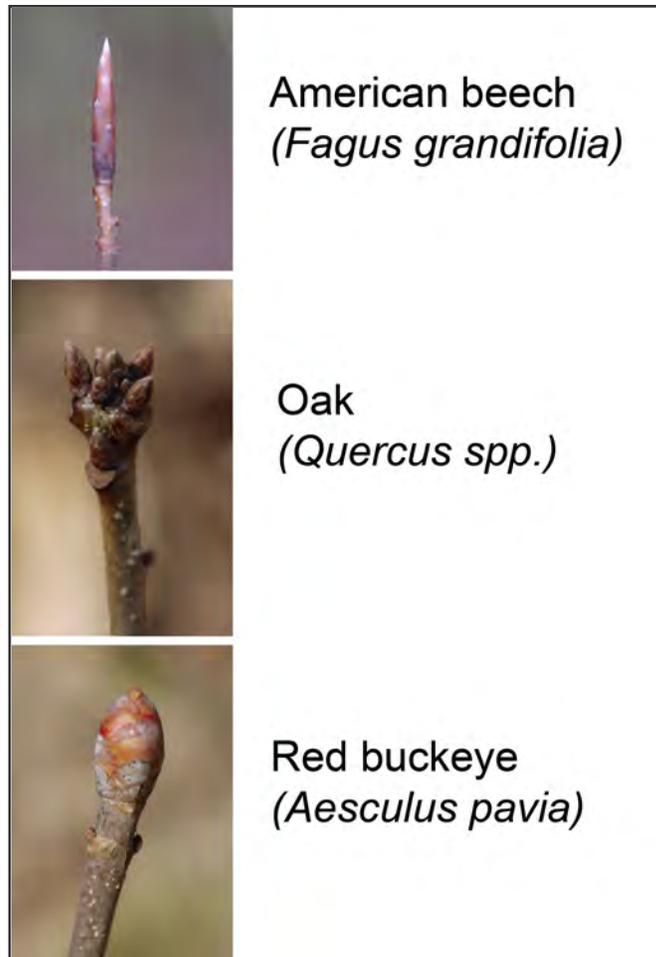
The observation might be of a plant (*Hepatica*) within the mandala; or a bird (Sharp-shinned hawk) rising from the leaf litter; or the smaller world of mosses, mycorrhizae, mushrooms, salamanders and springtails. Haskell then expands on the topic with information gathered by other naturalists and scientists. He also writes about a larger or inter-connected impact which a particular species might have within our ecology.

Here's an example of one thing I learned by reading his "November 15th" entry. I've noticed how the leaves of plants such as Galax or Wintergreen change from a summer green to a winter red or purple color, and then back to green the next year. I've never known why a plant might do that. Haskell states: "many herbs persist through the cold, loading their cells with sugars to act as antifreeze. They also suffuse their leaves with purple pigment that protects the cells, shielding them from

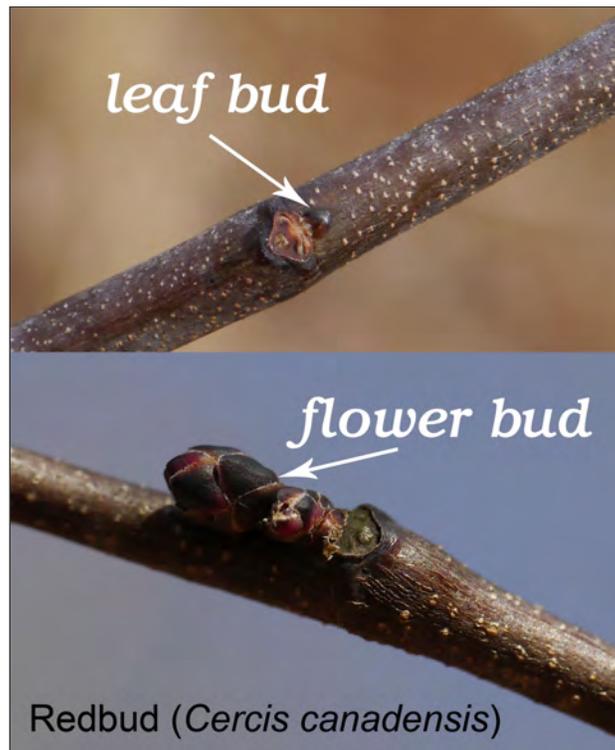
sun damage when the cells' usual light-absorbing machinery is iced up."



Winter Buds



One of the ways to identify a tree or shrub -- especially during the winter season -- is through a study of its buds. This is a detail I never noticed until I began to study how to identify plants. For example, American beech has leaf buds which are slender and pointed. Oaks have more than one leaf bud at their branch tips. The terminal bud (at the tip of the branch) on Red buckeye is large.



Redbud has both leaf buds (tiny) and flower buds (small) along its branches.

Mystery Plant Confirmed



Lots of people knew the answer to the most recent mystery plant challenge. R. Dodson was the first to correctly post that [Mystery Plant 069](#) is Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). One minute later, Sara also posted the answer. This is a plant which has been confused with Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) even though each plant has a different number of leaflets (five vs. three).

Mystery Plant

What is the name of this plant? ([There are more images on the website.](#))





When you can identify this plant, provide your response at [IdentifyThatPlant.com](https://www.identifythatplant.com) as a comment for the blog entry called [Mystery Plant 070](#). Please identify the plant by both its common name and its scientific name. The answer will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

Confidently master the skill of correct plant identification

This message was sent to angelyn@identifythatplant.com from:

Angelyn | angelyn@identifythatplant.com | Angelyn Whitmeyer | c/o Angelyn Whitmeyer PO Box 574 |
Leicester, NC 28748



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