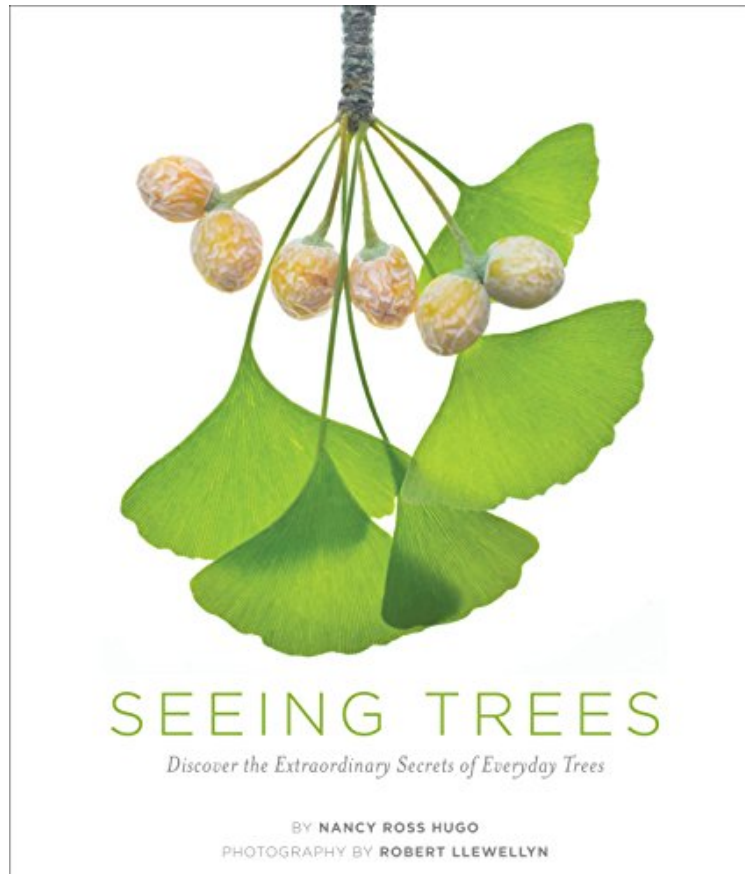


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Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees (Seeing Series)

Nancy R. Hugo

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Nancy R. Hugo : Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees (Seeing Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees (Seeing Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. To Make A Forest. By LastRanger Whether you live in a big city or in a more rural setting, trees are all around you. They may be in city parks, school playgrounds, government buildings or urban green-belts. In some locations, away from the cities, trees make up dense forest that can stretch for hundreds of miles, line natural waterways or lakes, stand as lone sentinels in rocky and eroded landscapes. If you like me, you appreciate trees but have only the most basic ability to tell them apart. Sure, most of us know the difference between a pine tree and, say, an oak tree. But usually that's as far as it goes. In Seeing Trees author Nancy Ross Hugo addresses that issue with an in depth look at the biology and anatomy of trees, all kinds of trees. Drawing parallels with bird watching, Hugo shows us how to get started in a "tree watching" hobby. Like all complex life forms trees are made up of multiple body parts. Leaves, branches and trunk-bark are the first things we notice. But those are just the surface parts,

what we need is a closer look. To that end, Hugo gives the reader a guided tour of tree anatomy. The book opens with a section on "tree viewing": when and where to look, getting a good field guide and techniques to use for the best results. Up next a closer look at various tree parts like; leaves, flowers, fruit and bark. Flower and leaf buds are studied as are twigs, seeds and pollen. The last section puts the spotlight on 9 of our native North American trees and 1 exotic. Get to know: Black Walnut, Red Maple, White Oak and American Beech among others. Two tree species deserve extra attention, the Ginkgo and the Osage Orange. The Ginkgo is an exotic species that was introduced to North America from China some 200 years ago and has established itself in any well watered, drained environment. Considered by many to be a "living fossil", the Ginkgo has been around for over 250 million years but today is represented by only one species living in China. The Osage Orange is another ancient species, this one native to North America. It's over sized fruit required over sized herbivores to spread its seeds. Ice Age mega fauna like Mammoths, Mastodons, Ground Sloth and Camels may have feasted on its juicy, bitter, fruit. Hugo's writing is conversational, like setting down with a friendly Botanist over afternoon tea. Anyone interested in nature writing in general or trees in particular should find Seeing Trees to be an enjoyable read. Hugo's approach is, for the most part, non-technical but some of the descriptive parts can be a little daunting. Yet, even when she's getting technical the text is easy to follow and I came away with a better understanding of trees and a real desire to try "tree watching" as a recreational hobby. Now, if I can just find a good field guide and a group of interested nature lovers, who knows where this will lead me. Along with Hugo's interesting text are Robert Liewellyn's beautiful photo's that decorate the narrative with many incredible images, ranging from full trees to micro's of buds, flower and other tree parts. The use of the white background is effective on some shots but on others it was distracting and even a little annoying (ie: pale yellow-green or white flowers against a white background is not the best way to highlight your subject. In some frames a dark or black, or even a natural background, would have been preferable). That being said, this is still a wonderful nature book and one that I will be referring back to, now and then. I had no technical or formatting problems with this Kindle edition. LastRanger34 of 35 people found the following review helpful. What you never knew about a tree By M. Denham Looking through this book amazed me about how little I had observed about some of my favorite trees. I am looking forward to the winter time when I can use the pictures of the buds to practice my winter identification of trees and of course to next spring to capture the blooms when they first emerge. Nancy is right when you mentions you will see trees with different eyes after reading this book. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. tree whisperer By mossy cat Simply stated, this book is fantastic. I love trees, can identify most, cultivate many, paint and draw them, collect their berries and nuts... but this book showed me so much that I was missing. I was reading the book in the hammock under the maples and only put it down to go over to inspect the 'bud scars' and 'bundle scar' patterns on my black walnut. As a nature lover I thought I 'was' seeing the trees, but this book has opened my eyes to so much more. Peaceful and wonderful.

Have you ever looked at a tree? That may sound like a silly question, but there is so much more to notice about a tree than first meets the eye. Seeing Trees celebrates seldom seen but easily observable tree traits and invites you to watch trees with the same care and sensitivity that birdwatchers watch birds. Many people, for example, are surprised to learn that oaks and maples have flowers, much less flowers that are astonishingly beautiful when viewed up close. Focusing on widely grown trees, this captivating book describes the rewards of careful and regular tree viewing, outlines strategies for improving your observations, and describes some of the most visually interesting tree structures, including leaves, flowers, buds, leaf scars, twigs, and bark. In-depth profiles of ten familiar species including such beloved trees as white oak, southern magnolia, white pine, and tulip poplar show you how to recognize and understand many of their most compelling (but usually overlooked) physical features.

My favorite new book this season is Seeing Trees. . . . This book is made for us nearsighted gardeners, who long ago learned the thrill of peering at plants. The New York Times This fascinating celebration of trees will delight gardeners, botanists, students of natural history, and nature photographers. Library Journal The authors have brought the level of observation to new heights. The Washington Post Seek out the Seeing series, and prepare for your breath to be taken away. NYBGs Plant Talk Vivid, fascinating botanical biographies. Readers Digest The resulting images are full of detail. Outdoor Photographer Magazine Beautifully produced and photographed. I highly recommend this book to anyone who would like to know more about this fascinating group of plants, both in the wild or in your backyard. Martha Stewart Living You can't help but be bowled over by the beauty at play in the science. Chicago Tribune A botanical masterpiece. Horticulture Magazine The book to change us all into unabashed tree worshippers. Seattle Times A splendid book. Philadelphia Inquirer You'll be dazzled. The Cleveland Plain Dealer