



# Newsletter



Volume 10, Issue 7

Carvers Creek State Park

July 1, 2022

## 2022 Year of the Tree:

### **Black Walnut** (*Juglans nigra*)



Black Walnut

found with temperatures as low as -45 degrees Fahrenheit! The black walnut requires a lot of rain and grows best where it can get about 35 inches each year.

Black walnut trees that have spent years growing in good soil with plenty of sun will routinely reach 70-100 feet tall. Some trees in Wisconsin and Indiana have been measured at 150 feet or taller. Young black walnut saplings start their growth with a single deep root but later in their life start to grow a shallower, spreading root system like the maple tree. It is the combination of a deep root (called a tap-root), and the shallower roots that gives the black walnut the ability to do well in both dry and wet conditions.

Black walnut trees have the unusual ability to make a substance called Juglone. Black walnut trees use it for protection from harmful insects and competition from other plants and trees. Juglone can also affect some of our common garden plants. Tomatoes, potatoes, and cabbage may have problems growing if planted within 50 feet of the trunk of a black walnut tree.

It takes a long time for black walnut trees to start to grow fruit, and it isn't like the walnuts you can buy in a store. Black walnut trees may start to produce nuts within four to six years, but it is normal for them to take up to 20 years. This is one of the reasons black walnut trees are not grown commercially, because it

The Black Walnut is a native tree found throughout the central United States. It grows from New Jersey to Alabama and west to eastern Kansas and Oklahoma. In North Carolina, the black walnut is widespread throughout the state. It can be found along the edges of forests, streams and the lower parts of slopes that face to the north and east. The black walnut is a hardy tree and grows well in areas with moderate temperatures, although it has been

Black Walnut range



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would take many years before you could get the trees to produce enough nuts to sell. In the wild, animals like turkeys, squirrels, raccoons, and mice eat the ripe nuts. In the fall, as the animals gather food to prepare for winter, they may store black walnuts by stashing them in a few inches of dirt and leaves. The next year, if the nuts haven't been eaten, they may take root and grow, which helps the black walnut spread.

To find black walnut trees in the park, look along the edges of the trails and you may find the nuts or pieces of the large, green, protective outer shell, called a husk, left over from the ripe nut. Often, the best indicator of a walnut tree growing nearby is seeing the old, dried out brown husks littering the ground as you walk trails and roadsides. As you look for black walnut trees around the park, remember to take only pictures and leave everything where you find it!

Y Z U J R O O T P Y H L B H T  
 P M H U F J O K A Q E P X K R  
 O R R G T B J S W H D K B F U  
 N Z X L Z Q E Y U Y U P R Z N  
 A T O O E L P A M N Y S J U K  
 C P R N A J Y H K M L T K K T  
 Q E C E O E P L L P O I H B V  
 I L E A F C I S M H X U G H G  
 B L A C K W A L N U T R S H E  
 M M O B D P K O S R A F S E T  
 Z S W Z L L O N C F E W N F E  
 Q Q R I A C R H B N H W D L R  
 J X N W C Y O A T Z W M O H Z  
 Z G I A X P R D T P C Q W L P  
 K R R W E K L E R R I U Q S F

### Black Walnut Word Find

- |              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| BARK         | ROOT     |
| BLACK WALNUT | SAPLING  |
| CANOPY       | SQUIRREL |
| FLOWER       | SUNLIGHT |
| FRUIT        | TRUNK    |
| HUSK         | TURKEY   |
| JUGLONE      | WALK     |
| LEAF         |          |
| MAPLE        |          |
| MOUSE        |          |
| RACCOON      |          |

Visit us on Facebook at Friends of Carvers Creek: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofCarversCreekSP/>

Visit us on Instagram at Friends of Carvers Creek or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.



**Park Hours for June and July are 8am to 9pm.** Trails and bathrooms are open during those times. Visitors are not allowed in the park outside of those hours.

Fishing is permitted in the park with a current NC fishing license. Hunting is not permitted in the park.

Dogs must be kept on an attended leash at all times.

## Volunteer Day

Carvers Creek State Park offers a wide variety of opportunities when you come to our Volunteer Days. Our prized volunteers help us with everything from our old farm fences, to culverts, to invasive species of plants, to leaf clean-up, trail creation, and many others. We will be meeting at the **Long Valley Access located in Spring Lake, NC 28390.**

**Current regulations are requiring volunteers to show proof of vaccination or proof of negative test on the day of volunteering for volunteers 12 years and older.**

**Saturday, July 2nd from 9:00 am– 12:00 pm**

**If you would like to attend one of our upcoming programs please call 910-436-4681 to reserve your spots.**

### Rockefeller House Tour:

**Sunday, Jul. 3rd @ 10:00 am– 2:00 pm**

**Saturday, Jul. 9th @ 6:00 pm**

Join us for a guided tour of the Rockefeller House. Please be prepared for a ½ mile hike to the house. The tour will start at the house at these designated times. Be prepared to arrive at least **30 minutes** ahead of time in order to arrive at the house on time. **YOU MUST SIGN-UP.** You can call the park office to sign-up. **limit is 15 visitors.** **Contact the park office to sign up.**  
**We will meet at the Rain Shelter.**

### Bird Watching

**Saturday, Jul.9th @ 10:00 am**

Walk the trails around Long Valley Farm as we look for birds together. Wear weather appropriate clothes and bring some water! We will be using the Merlin Bird ID app (free and available in both Android and IOS app stores). If you have binoculars, be sure to bring them! Meet outside the office next to the parking lot. The event and access to the park are both free of charge, but you must sign up. Limited to 10 people. Please call our office at 910-436-4681 to sign up!

### Canoe Hike:

**Sunday, Jul. 10th @ 6:00 pm**

**Sunday, Jul. 17th @ 6:00 pm**

We will be learning the basics of canoeing and then trying out our new skills by maneuvering through the Cypress swamp. This is a slow and calm canoeing experience and great for beginners or if you want to get a closer look at the Cypress trees. **YOU MUST SIGN-UP. Limit is 10 visitors. Please allow approximately 15 minutes to walk from the parking lot to the Rain Shelter.**

### Turtle Watching:

**Sunday, Jul. 17th @ 10:00 am**

Meet at the rain shelter and walk the Cypress Point Loop trail to join the park naturalist to look for turtles around the millpond. Bring binoculars if you have them! Limited to 10 people. You must sign up to attend. Call the park office to sign up at (910) 436-4681.

## Community Outreach

The following program are sponsored by Carvers Creek State Park. **They will not be held at the park but rather, in different places within the community.**

**Saturday, July 16th @ 10:00 am**

**Who Lives in a Tree? at Smith Lake Recreation Area.**

**If you would like to attend one of our upcoming programs please call 910-436-4681 to reserve your spots.**

**Carvers Creek Pollywogs:**

**Saturday, Jul. 23rd @ 10:00 am**

Carvers Creek State Park has partnered with the Spring Lake Library to bring you Carvers Creek Pollywogs. The curriculum for this program is for Preschool and younger but siblings are always welcome. **We will meet in front of the Welcome Center.**

**Orienteering:**

**Saturday, Jul. 30th @ 6:00 pm**

Do you like navigating through a forest with a compass and map--or have never done so but would like to try? If so, join a Park Ranger and learn about pacing, compass reading, using a map to navigate to various points, and more around the Rockefeller House. Please wear hiking shoes, pants, and long sleeves for this event. You must sign up for this free event by calling the park office. We will plan to hike approximately 2-3 miles. **Meet in front of the Welcome Center for this event.**

**Fishing in the Millpond:**

**Sunday, Jul. 31st @ 9:00 am**

Meet at the rain shelter and spend a few hours fishing around the millpond. Learn how to set up a fishing pole and tie a hook. Limited to 10 people. You must sign up to attend. Call the park office to sign up (910) 436-4681. (Let us know if you need to borrow a fishing pole!)

**Pining for a Better Tomorrow:**

**Sunday, Jul. 31st @ 7:00 pm**

Learn the history of the longleaf pine forest, what we are doing to conserve it now and how it has affected species that rely on this ecosystem. After a discussion, join a ranger for a brief hike. This event will meet at our Sandhills Access address is **995 McCloskey Rd. Fayetteville, NC 28311.**