



# STORY TIME

## THE BUSY TREE RESOURCES

### Story Time Description

What provides habitat for many species of wildlife? Tree's do! I will be reading *The Busy Tree* by Jennifer Ward today. This rhyming tale describes a busy day in a tree's life. The author does an amazing job of explaining the importance of trees and how they affect the lives of all creatures who live in and around them to young children. From its roots to its branches and leaves, a variety of wildlife make trees their home. Go outside, find a tree and take a closer look!

### Children's Fiction and Nonfiction Books about Trees

- *Thank You, Trees!* by Gail Langer and Marilyn E. Gootman
- *There Was a Tree* by Rachel Isadora
- *The Wish Tree* by Kyo Maclear
- *One Small Place in a Tree* by Barbara Brenner
- *This is the Tree* by Miriam Moss
- *A Tree Can Be...* by Judy Nayer
- *Our Tree Named Steve* by Alan Zweibel
- *Good-Night Owl!* by Pat Hutchins
- *Night Tree* by Eve Bunting
- *Forest Bright, Forest Night* by Jennifer Ward
- *Over in the Forest: Come and Take a Peek* by Marianne Berkes
- *Tall Tall Tree* by Anthony Fredericks
- *Way Up High in a Tall Green Tree* by Jan Peck
- *A Log's Life* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *Winter Trees* by Carole Gerber
- *The Bee Tree* by Patricia Polacco
- *Poet Trees* by Douglas Florian
- *The Giving Tree* Shel Silverstein
- *Once There Was a Tree* by Natalia Romanova
- *A Tree is Nice* by Janice May Urdy
- *Fall Walk* by Virginia Brimhall Snow
- *Tap the Magic Tree* by Christie Matheson
- *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf* by Lois Ehlert
- *Pie in the Sky* by Lois Ehlert
- *The Apple Tree* by Zoe Hall

**LEWIS  
GINTER**  
BOTANICAL  
GARDEN

1800 Lakeside Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23228  
804.262.9887  
[lewisginter.org](http://lewisginter.org)

- *Tall and Tasty: Fruit Trees* by Meredith Sayles Hughes
- *The Tree in the Ancient Forest* by Carol Jones Reed
- *Little Tree* by Lauren Long
- *A Tree for Me* by Nancy Van Laan
- *In a Tree* by David Schwartz
- *Can You Hear the Trees Talking? Discovering the Hidden Life of the Forest* by Peter Wohlleben
- *DK Eyewitness Book: Discover the Fascinating World of Trees From Tiny Seeds to Mighty Forest Giants* by David Burnie
- *Ultimate Explorer Field Guide: Trees* by Patricia Daniels
- *Look At This Tree* by Susan Canizares
- *Who Lives in a Tree* by Susan Canizares and Daniel Moreton
- *Animals That Live in Trees* by Jane R. McCauley
- *Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees for Kids* by Gail Gibbons

## Other Useful Resources

### **Tree Identification**

Have you realized you have no idea of the common or scientific name of the trees you walk by every day? You are not alone. Tree identification takes practice. We highly recommend you visit our [RVA Tree Walks](#) page for guided walks to hone your tree identification skills throughout our beautiful city parks.

***Common Native Trees of Virginia Identification Guide*** – You can purchase the book or download for free  
[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)

### ***What Tree is That? Pocket Field Guides***

[www.arboday.org/trees/whattree/book](http://www.arboday.org/trees/whattree/book)

Satisfy your curiosity of the name of an unidentified tree -- even from a single leaf held in your hand. The “*What Tree is That?*” Series are colorful easy-to-use pocket guides of more common trees found.

### ***National Audubon Society Field Guides to North American Trees***

### ***Native Oak Species-USDA Forest Service Field Guide***

(download the guide)

[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

## Learn the “Know Your Oaks” Song

There are several species or types of oaks. Sing this song to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” to remember the way the branches grow on each oak species. This written by May T. Watts an educator at The Morton Arboretum. You can watch the YouTube video of the staff sing and do the movements to this song. [www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org)

Know, know, know your oaks.

This is how they grow:

Red Oak

(make a ‘V’ with your arms above your head)

White Oak

(hold your arms straight out from your shoulders)

Bur Oak

(make your arms twist in different directions)

Pin Oak

(make an upside down “V” with your arms pointing toward the ground)

And the acorns down below!

(wiggle your fingers and point to the ground)

## Project Learning Tree

### *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood Curriculum*

[www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)

*Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* provides an introduction to environmental education, encouraging children ages 3 to 6 to explore, discover and communicate in expressive ways. With over 130 experiences that engage young children in outdoor exploration and play, it’s no wonder *Learning*® Magazine chose PLT’s Early Childhood guide as a Teachers’ Choice Award winner!

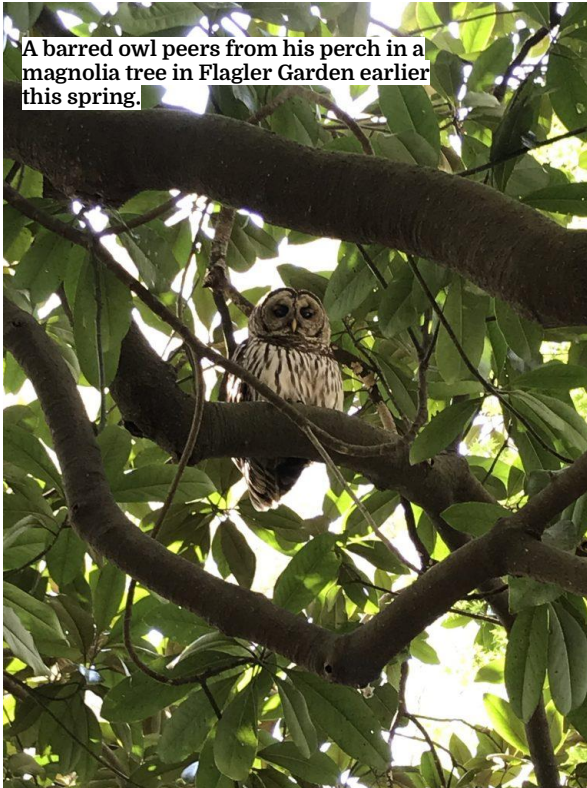
## Project Wild

### *Growing Up Wild Curriculum*

[www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org)

*Growing Up WILD* is an early childhood education curriculum that builds on children’s sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, *Growing Up WILD* provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills.

Watch the YouTube video submitted by Carrie Szwed from White Memorial Conservation Center as she introduces *Shakespeare*, a Barred Owl. There's another video from them introducing *Oscar*, a Great Horned Owl.



***Snags-The Wildlife Tree* (google to download the article)**

**Trees and Snags – The National Wildlife Federation**  
[www.nwf.org/trees-snags](http://www.nwf.org/trees-snags)

**Children & Nature Network**

[www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org)

This website will keep you updated on ways to stay connected to the natural world during COVID-19. Each week new resources from incredible partners, tips, tools, blogs and webinars, along with the best and brightest ideas from the field will be posted.

## **Nature Play at Home**

[www.naturalearning.org](http://www.naturalearning.org) (**download the guide**)

Developed by the Natural Learning Initiative and the National Wildlife Federation, this guide shows easy, affordable ways you can turn your backyard or other types of domestic outdoor spaces into vibrant Nature Play Spaces™ for children so they can reap the physical and mental benefits of playing outside. Creating natural play opportunities can be part of the solution to increasing the amount of time kids spend in the great outdoors for the health of their minds, bodies, and spirits.

### **Exploration – Take a Walk in Your Backyard and Neighborhood**

As you walk around your neighborhood or in your backyard to try and find examples of animals and plants that depend on trees, you can ask question such as:

- What animals do you think lives in this tree?
- What sounds do you hear coming from the tree?
- How many bird nest do you see?
- What animals do you see in the tree?
- What do you see around the tree?
- Do you see holes in the tree?

### **Thing to do at Home to Reinforce a Positive Connection between Children and Nature through Trees:**

- Go outside to count the trees in your backyard or neighborhood
- Look at trees in your backyard or neighborhood for signs of wildlife
- Have a collection of bark, seeds, fruit, nuts, leaves, and twigs that have fallen from different trees
- Take daily walks to your local park to observe trees
- Use a magnify lens for observations
- Adopt a tree and make observations throughout the different seasons
- Go on a “treasure hunt” around the house for things that come from trees
- Provide non-fiction books and concrete materials about trees
- Utilize resources from this post





A barred owl peers from his perch in a magnolia tree in Flagler Garden earlier this spring.

