



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE
Loblolly pine (left) is a dramatic contrast to the American beech (right) along the trails of Carrboro's Adams Tract Preserve.

FLORA
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Two other trees easily identified by bark textures are the white oak, *Quercus alba*, and shagbark hickory, *Carya ovata*. Both have exfoliating, peeling bark. The oak, from mid-trunk up into the upper limbs, exhibits grayish-white bark plates peeling off from the sides. In contrast, the bark of the shagbark hickory curls from tops and bottoms of long narrow strips held firmly in the middle, as if glued to the trunk of the tree.

Now, here's your challenge! Forget all these common and scientific names. Proceed on your walk without any concern for identification. Find a tree that really appeals to you. Take a long time observing it. If you have to name it, call it Fred or Jane or simply Big One. What really matters is for you to become acquainted with the tree. Adopt it as a friend. Visit it often through the seasons. Get to really know it. How does it change through the year? You may be surprised. What are the flowers like?

Did you realize that all trees have flowers? What forest critters live with it or depend on it? Does it have a personality? You may even want to keep a journal on your frequent visits with your tree. If you have difficulty with this approach, take along a youngster: The wonder and curiosity of that child may succeed in releasing your own inner childlike joy and wondering. Once you have begun to really know one tree, you may decide to adopt others. So, go out this week and meet a tree. Just do it!!



And win a Valentine's Day prize package:



- ♥ A \$100 gift certificate for fine dining at Glasshalfull
- ♥ A \$50 gift certificate from University Mall
- ♥ A dozen roses from University Florist
- ♥ Two tickets to any show in the Artscenter's American Roots Music series

GLASSHALFULL



How to enter: Using the space below, express your undying affection for someone or something. Use words, pictures or both. Creativity is encouraged. Be sure your entry is appropriate for publication in a family newspaper, and mail or bring it to 309 Weaver Street, Suite 300, Carrboro NC 27510 no later than Friday, February 6. Entries will be judged by a panel of experts chaired by Margot C. Lester, Citizen business editor and noted Internet romance and advice columnist. The winning entry will be reproduced in the February 12 issue of the Carrboro Citizen.



Friday

Firmly grounded in historical detail. Award-winning author Joanna Catherine Scott has received much praise for the historical accuracy of her novels. Courses in the Friday Center's **Community Classroom Series** helped refine research for her recent Civil War novel and its new sequel, *Child of the South*. "I found the courses valuable," she says. "They added to my knowledge and understanding of the times."

Pursue your own quest for knowledge! Community Classroom Series courses are fun, informative, and cover a wide range of topics. Tuition is only \$50 and most courses run for four weekly evening sessions. For more information, visit fridaycenter.unc.edu/pdep or call 866-441-3683 to request a catalog.



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