



Rutgers Urban Forestry Program

PHOTO CONTEST

ARBOR DAY 2024

**This year's theme was "My Tree, My Place".
Thank you to all who entered!**

Elementary Category:

Winner: Benjamin Janis

Runner up: McKenna Wramage

High School Category:

Winner: Joel Sharpe

Runner up: Ana Merckx

Adult Category:

Winner: Jessica Atkins

**Runners up: Preeti Desai, Thomas Farese,
Victoria Gordon**

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Elementary Category:

Winner: Benjamin Janis

Runner up: McKenna Wramage

In a few words, please describe your photo, and why you chose to photograph this tree. What makes it significant to you?

Benjamin Janis:

This photo was taken at Johnathon's Woods in Rockway, NJ during a 4-H Photo walk in April 2023. I took this photo because I liked the way the sky showed through the trees.

McKenna Wramage:

I spend a lot of time with this tree. It is a Butternut, related to a walnut tree. My 'Dampa' (grandpa) built a little farm market stand that sits in the Butternut tree's shade in the spring and summer. I sell some of our eggs and homegrown seedlings at my stand. One of my other favorite things to do by this tree is built cities out of sticks for the ants. I can watch the ants for hours! This picture is how the ants must view this awesome tree.

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High School Category:

Winner: Joel Sharpe

Runner up: Ana Merckx

**In a few words, please describe your photo,
and why you chose to photograph this tree.**

What makes it significant to you?

Joel Sharpe:

This photo shows the green and warmth of spring time. The water in the background, and the sun shining bright created so many shades and shadows it moved to click the pic!

Ana Merckx:

I love these trees because they are so unique. They twist and turn and remind me of a maze. I love coming to Deep Cut gardens to relax

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Adult Category:

Winner: Jessica Atkins

Runners up: Preeti Desai, Thomas Farese, Victoria
Gordon

In a few words, please describe your photo, and why you chose to photograph this tree. What makes it significant to you?

Jessica Atkins:

Everyday I walk in my backyard I look up and see this tree. It's like a little universe of wildlife.

Preeti Desai:

This is a row of trees in Thompson Park in Monroe Township, NJ. Every year in spring, I look forward to the trees turning pink and purple as the blossoms bloom. To me it signifies coming out of the winter gloom and the

Thomas Farese:

This is one of my favorite trees in my yard. I've looked forward to this dogwood blooming every spring for the more than 35 years that I've lived in my home.

Victoria Gordon:

Love the muted greens of these White Cedars at Pakim Pond, especially in Winter.