

**A STROLL THROUGH THE  
TREES  
AT  
AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE**



**VOLUNTEER  
TRAINING GUIDE**

Note:

- \* On the way to tree # 1, you will pass one of the largest southern red oaks (Quercus falcata) on campus. It is located at the northwest corner of Winship Hall, near the top of the steps.
  
- \* The southern red oak is the fourth most prevalent species on campus, following dogwoods, water oaks, and magnolias, in that order.
  
- \* 25 of the 31 southern red oaks here are over 30" in diameter, indicating that their average age is about 100 years. This one is 47" in diameter.

# 1 Incense-cedar      Libocedrus decurrens  
(Lī bō cē' drus dē-ker' enz)

- \* By wall along South Candler Street, at Walters lot.
- \* Also called "Pencil cedar".
- \* 28" diameter -- 7'3" circumference -- 70' tall.
- \* One of the most unusual trees on campus.
- \* Native to western U.S., from Oregon to Nevada, and into southern California.
- \* Around the turn of the century, a number of incense cedar trees were imported to the east coast from the western U.S. for a trial, to be used in the manufacture of pencils. It was decided that our native red cedar was better suited for that purpose. But that could explain how this tree came to be planted here, around 1834.\*\* It is very likely the oldest tree on campus.
- \* Foliage very aromatic -- beautiful cinnamon bark with deep irregular furrows.
- \* The incense-cedar is a relatively slow growing tree. One tree which measured 51" in diameter at stump height was found to be 542 years old -- these trees may reach 1 000 years of age.
- \* Closely related to cypress.

- \* Very small (1/4") yellowish flowers in January.
- \* The name "Libocedrus" comes from 2 Greek words ... meaning "the cedar tree whose wood is burnt for perfume, or to scent ointment".

\*\* Arborguard, December 1994, determined this by reading rings on a core extracted from this tree.

# 2 Sawtooth Oak      Quercus acutissima  
(Kwě́r' kus a-kū-tis' i-mà)

- \* Group of five trees, between Hopkins residence hall and South Candler Drive (2 close to sidewalk, 3 by Hopkins).
- \* Range in diameter from 10"-14".
- \* Not very common, but has a lot of good characteristics, which make it a desirable tree for a campus, or a home landscape.
- \* Deep rich green foliage, turns yellow in fall. Young trees hold on to their leaves into the winter.
- \* Spring foliage opens greenish-yellow.
- \* Bristle-like teeth on edge of leaves (saw teeth!)
- \* Fast-growing when young, especially in acid, well-drained soils.
- \* An Agnes Scott College Arbor Day sawtooth oak seedling, planted in February 1990, grew to 12' tall by fall, 1994, and is broad and pyramidal shaped.
- \* Does well even in Atlanta's hot summers -- though it also does well in cold and snowy regions.
- \* Gray brown bark develops deep furrows with age, almost corky-looking.

Note:

- \* Between the sawtooth oaks (# 2) and the white ash (# 3) stands a row of trees, along Milton Candler Drive, beside the Hopkins parking lot.
- \* These are Autumn cherries (Prunus subhirtella "Autumnalis"), planted 4/14/94. There is a larger one at the end of the Hopkins fire lane, planted 10/27/89.
- \* One of their best features is that in this climate they bloom twice each year, once in the early spring and a re-bloom in the fall. They have pale pink flowers.
- \* Autumn cherries grow to about 20' in height, with a spread of about 15'.



# 3 White Ash      Fraxinus americana  
(frak' si-nus a-mer-i-kā' na)

- \* By entrance to Hopkins fire lane.
- \* 45" diameter, 11'8" circumference.
- \* About 141 years old.
- \* Has been growing at a steady rate since 1854.\*\* On July 22, 1864, when the Battle of Decatur was fought right here, this white ash was about 10 years old, and close to the size of those along Evans Drive, in front of Inman and Evans Dining Hall.
- \* Has suffered a number of large branch losses over the years.
- \* Has early fall color (late September). Layers of pink, rose, mauve, yellow, and gold drift down through the branches, and colors seem to change daily in fall.
- \* Ashy gray bark with distinctive diamond-shaped furrows.
- \* There are 18 species of the ash tree in the U.S. but this is the outstanding one, in form and color -- hence, "americana!"
- \* In 1986, when the first tree inventory was made, Agnes Scott College had only two ash trees on campus.

Since then, about 10 more have been planted along Evans Drive and in the Quad.

\*\* Dr. Kim Coder, University of Georgia, cored this tree in August, 1994.



# 4 Franklinia

Franklinia alatamaha  
(frank-lin' i-a â-la-ta-ma' ha)

- \* In front of Inman Hall, to the left of the sidewalk.
- \* The franklinia is a very attractive small tree with a very interesting story.
- \* John Bartram found this tree during one of his plant-collecting expeditions in 1770. It was growing right here in Georgia, on the banks of the Alatamaha River. It has not been seen in the wild since 1790 (or 1804, depending on which source you believe). Bartram named it "Franklinia" after Benjamin Franklin.
- \* Reputedly, all franklinias available in the trade today are derived from those collected by Bartram.
- \* Camellia-like flowers appear in late summer, white with yellow centers, and a delicate lemony scent.
- \* Often the flowers are still present in the fall, while the leaves are turning a brilliant orange-red, great fall color.
- \* Grows to 20'-25'. Slow to moderate rate, but well worth the wait.
- \* This tree was planted on 11/03/1989.

# 5 Golden Raintree     Koelreuteria paniculata  
(Kol-rū-te' ri-a pan-ik-ū-lā' ta)

- \* In front of Evans Dining Hall.
- \* The golden raintree is one of the few trees with yellow flowers.  
The blooms appear in late summer, and can completely cover the tree.
- \* The fruits, or seed-pods, are equally spectacular. They develop a papery lantern-shaped husk, hang in large clusters, and turn colors from green to yellow to a coppery-brown. Each pod contains three hard black seeds. When the wind rustles through the dry seed pods, a sound like a gentle rainfall results.
- \* Leaves are purplish-red when unfolding, bright green in the summer, and changing to golden yellow in the fall.
- \* Can grow 30'-50'.
- \* Golden raintrees can withstand drought and air pollution, and are very adaptable to different soil types.
- \* Planted in 1987.

# 6 Southern Magnolia     Magnolia grandiflora  
(mag-nō' li-a gran-di-flō' rà)

- \* Between Evans Dining Hall and Walters Hall.
- \* Of the 72 magnolia trees on campus, this is the largest. It has even been recognized as the second largest in Dekalb County.
- \* Diameter 46"; circumference 11'6"; height 77'.
- \* This evergreen magnolia was named "grandiflora" because of its large (8"-12") showy flowers -- the crowning glory of the southern magnolia. They are wonderfully fragrant, and a wonderful contrast to the lustrous deep green leaves.
- \* Each flower lasts 2-4 days. Then the petals fall off and the large oval fruit appears, and produces brilliant red seeds.
- \* Fossils show that the magnolia once had a very wide distribution in Europe, Siberia, western North America, Canada, and Greenland. They are believed to be almost as ancient as ginkgo trees (#17 on this tour.)
- \* Natural range today is Southeastern U.S.
- \* Tree was named for Pierre Magnol, a 17th century botany professor.

# 7 Cucumbertree      Magnolia acuminata  
(mag-nō' li-a a-kū-mi-nā-ta)

- \* At front of Agnes Scott Hall (Main,) on the west side.
- \* Planted at Agnes Scott's fourth Arbor Day ceremony on February 16, 1992. Very fast growing.
- \* Unlike southern magnolia, this tree is deciduous ... it drops its leaves in the fall.
- \* Flowers are inconspicuous because their light green color is so similar to color of leaves.
- \* The cucumbertree is the only magnolia with deeply furrowed bark.
- \* The species name, "acuminata," refers to the sharp points of the leaves. The common name, "cucumbertree," comes from the shade and color of the fruit clusters.
- \* Not a common tree, but it can be found scattered through the forest of the Great Smoky Mountains, and from Louisiana to New York.
- \* Can grow to 60' or 70', with a spread of 70'-85'.

# 8 American Basswood Tilia americana  
(til' i-ā ā-mer-i-kā' nā)

- \* In the "front lawn" of the campus, across the drive from Inman Hall.
- \* Also called American Linden, or American Lime.
- \* Native to the eastern U.S. An important source of nectar for honey-bees.
- \* Grows fast. Adapts to difficult situations.
- \* Basswoods are recommended for planting on city streets if enough room is allowed.
- \* Broad, heart-shaped leaves, 4"-8" long.
- \* Small flowers appear on the basswood tree June or July, after leaves are fully developed. They hang in clusters from a stem attached to a leafy bract.
- \* Light-colored wood, valued for wood-working.
- \* This tree is 31" in diameter, and 8'1" in circumference.

# 9 Black Cherry     Prunus serotina  
(proo' nus ser-ot' i-nä)

- \* Towards the center of the east side of the "front lawn".
- \* 23" diameter; 6" circumference; about 77 years old (1918).
- \* Something happened around 1969 to really slow down its growth, but it is doing reasonably well.\*\*
- \* Grows from Ontario to North Dakota, Texas, and Florida.
- \* In the Appalachians, black cherries can reach 150-200 years of age.
- \* Most domestic cherries produce flowers before leaves -- black cherries do not. Hence, the species name "serotina," which means appearing late, refers to the flowers.
- \* Purplish-black fruit grows in clusters, 1/3"-1/2" diameter. Birds love them!
- \* Like mahogany, the color of the wood deepens with age, and the wood ranks close to walnut for cabinet-making. This is one of the most valuable forest trees.

\*\* As determined by Dr. Kim Coder, University of Georgia, August 1994.



# 10 Downy Serviceberry Amelanchier arborea  
(am-el-ang' ke-er ar-bor' ē-ā)

- \* Also called shad-bush.
- \* Native to the eastern U.S.
- \* Multi-stemmed large bush or small tree which grows to 30' tall.
- \* Easily transplanted and withstands drought fairly well.
- \* Bark is green when young, turns reddish-brown, then gray with age.
- \* White flowers appear in 2"-3" clusters in April.
- \* The fruits are small and apple-like, and turn from green to red, to purplish. Birds enjoy them, and feast on them in June.
- \* Autumn color is very good -- can vary from bright yellow to orange, red, or purple.
- \* The serviceberry is a good native tree with year-round landscape interest: spring flowers, summer fruits, fall color, and winter form and bark color.
- \* This tree was planted in this shrub border in 1986.
- \* They are equally attractive planted on the edges of streams and woodsy landscapes.

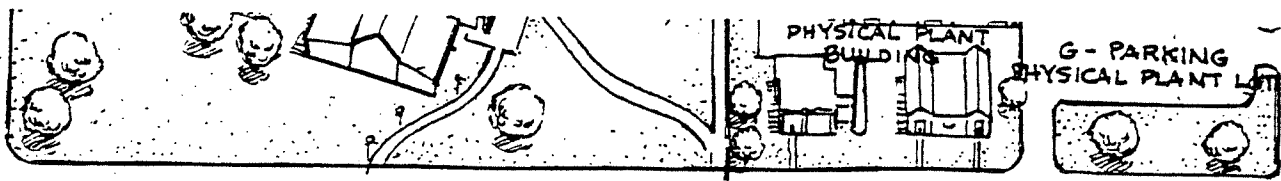
Note: The magnolia trees in front of Main and Rebekah (between #10 and #11) were planted by Christian W. Dieckmann between 1905 and 1915. He and Dr. Armistead of the English Department used to take Sunday afternoon walks in the woods through the South Candler area. He took them up with his pocket knife, and planted them on the front campus. Dieckmann's studio for teaching music was in the parlor in Main now named for him, Christian W. Dieckmann Parlor. He taught there until Presser Hall became available in 1940.

as noted by Adele Dieckmann McKee '48

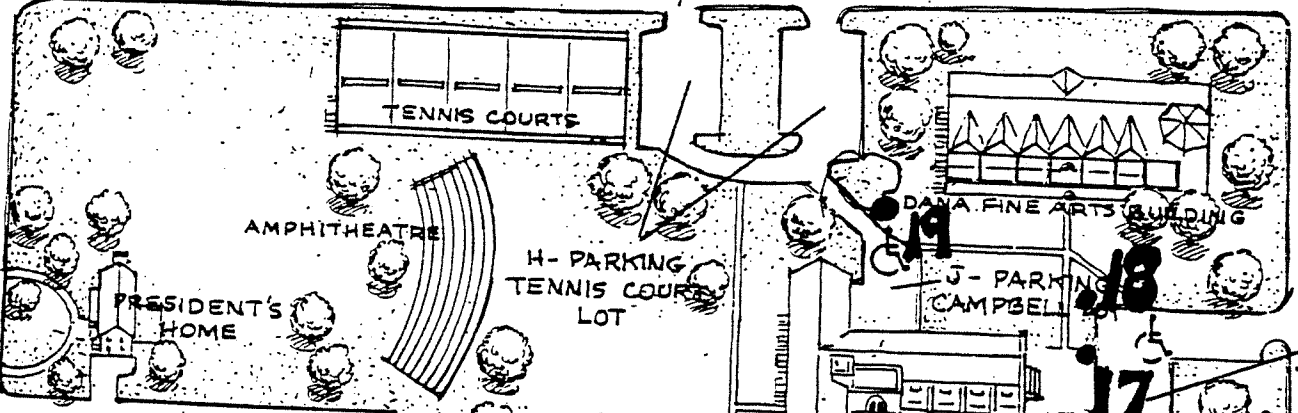
# 11 Scarlet Oak      Quercus coccinea  
(kwěŕ' kus cok-sin' e-à)

- \* At the far end of the front porch of Rebekah Hall.
- \* 26" in diameter; 12' circumference; 111 years old (1884).\*\*
- \* Less tolerant of adverse conditions than the Pin Oak or the Red Oak.
- \* Usually not available in nurseries. This is the only scarlet oak on campus.
- \* Leaves first appear bright red, with pale fine hairs, then turn rich, bright green. In autumn, they become bright red again.
- \* Has been referred to as the "Senior Oak", but the reason has been lost. Perhaps some ceremony involving A.S.C. seniors took place under its branches when the gazebo was just to the west of it.
- \* We have a photo taken in 1912 that shows this tree barely reaching the top of the second floor of Rebekah.

\*\* Dr. Kim Coder, University of Georgia, August 1994.

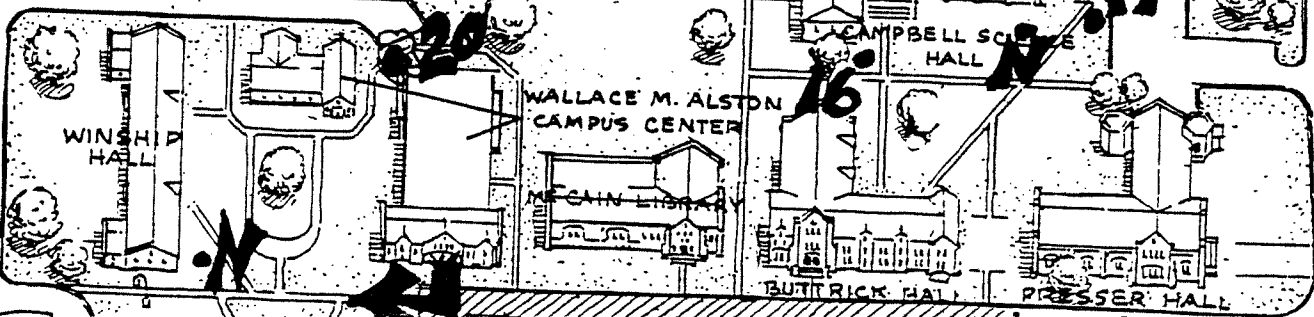


EAST DOUGHERTY STREET

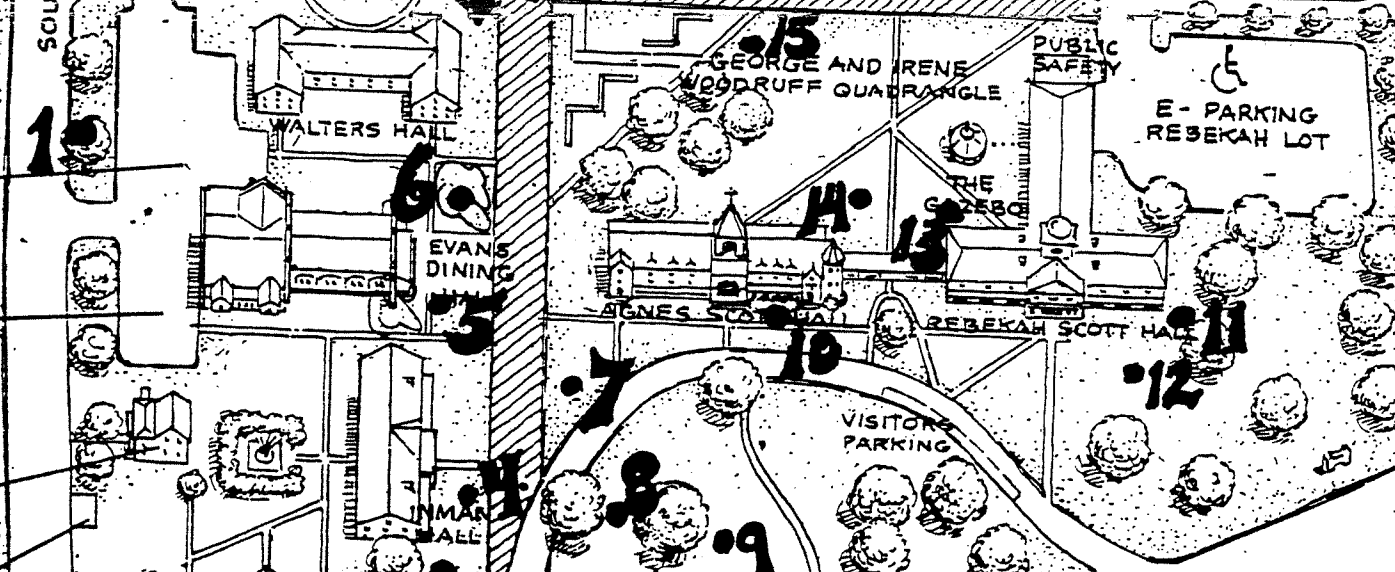


F-PARKING PRESSER

SOUTH CANDLER STREET



SOUTH McDONOUGH STREET



EAST COLLEGE AVENUE



# 12 Black Walnut      Juglans nigra  
(ju' glanz nī'grā)

- \* In front of porch at Rebekah Hall.
- \* Native to eastern and central U.S., and southeastern Canada.  
Grown in Europe as an ornamental.
- \* Slow growing, to 100'-150'. Often the black walnut tree is free of branches for 1/3 to 1/2 of its height.
- \* The shell of the nut is black, deeply chiseled, and quite hard.  
Squirrels love these nuts, as do some cooks. The distinctive flavor and texture is not lost in cooking.
- \* Bark becomes nearly black with age, and is divided into broad rounded ridges.
- \* Since the earliest days of American history, black walnut wood has been prized for fine furniture, and in World War I, for airplane propellers.
- \* Black walnut wood is so valuable that wood rustlers are a problem in some areas. They sometimes even go so far as to operate in the middle of the night and use helicopters!

# 13 Pecan      Carya illinoensis  
(kā' ri-a il-in-oy-en' sis)

- \* On the Quad, between the Gazebo and steps to Rebekah Hall.
- \* At 112' tall, this is one of the tallest trees on campus, and the largest of the 12 pecans on campus.
- \* It is 37" in diameter; 9'7" in circumference; and about 89 years old (1906).\*\*
- \* Beautiful native tree, but difficult to transplant because of a large taproot.
- \* In the wild, squirrels aid in reforestation by planting pecan nuts as a food reserve. Some nuts are dug up for winter food, and some grow into trees.
- \* The pecan is the most important nut tree native to North America.

\*\* Dr. Kim Coder, University of Georgia, August 1994.



# 14 Yellowwood    Cladrastis kentuckea  
(klă-dras' tis ken-too' kē-a)

- \* In Quad, near sidewalk to Colonnade.
- \* Very limited range. The American yellowwood is found only in parts of 6 states: North Carolina , Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Missouri, and Arkansas.
- \* Only three other species of cladrastis are known: two in China and one in Japan.
- \* The bright green foliage stands out against the darker green of nearby oaks and ashes.
- \* Wonderful white clusters of wisteria-like flowers appear in late May or June. Incredibly fragrant. Heavy flowering occurs every other year. Brown pods hang on branches into winter.
- \* The wood is bright yellow when first cut, and yields a yellow dye.
- \* The name "cladrastis" is from the Greek. It means "fragile branch", referring to the brittle twigs.
- \* Planted on Arbor Day, February 16, 1990, during a thunderstorm and tornado watch.

# 15 Loblolly Pine     Pinus taeda  
(pī' nus te' dā)

- \* In Quad, close to Buttrick Drive.
- \* 27" diameter, 7'1" circumference, 102' tall.
- \* 123 years old (1872). Quite old for the species.
- \* Around 1900, something happened to slow its growth. Then around 1974 it almost died, and there was very little growth for the next 3-4 years.\*\* At some point top was broken out by a storm.
- \* Fastest growing of the southern pines, and most plentiful, but not especially graceful in appearance.
- \* Often grows in moist depressions, or mudholes, called loblollies.
- \* One of the leading commercial timber species.
- \* The wood is used for railroad ties and making paper.
- \* Adaptable to all soil types, and easy to transplant.

\*\* Dr. Kim Coder, University of Georgia, in August 1994, determined this by reading rings on a core he extracted from this tree.

# 16 False-cypress      Chamaecyparis pisifera  
(kam-e-sip' ä-ris pî-sif' ěr-a)

- \* By entrance to Campbell Hall.
- \* Diameters 11" and 5 1/2".
- \* Also called Sawara false-cypress -- (formerly called "retinispora").
- \* Native to Japan.
- \* In the book, A Full and Rich Measure by Agnes Scott College professor Christine S. Cozzens and former A.S.C. archivist M. Lee Sayrs, the story is told about biology professor Mary Stuart McDougall. She taught here from 1921 to 1954, and one year she rooted an evergreen sprig from a Christmas decoration, and planted it here. This is Professor McDougall's sprig, now 38' tall.
- \* Another A.S.C. professor, S. Leonard Doerpinghaus, rooted many more of these cuttings, which are now trees growing all around this part of Decatur.
- \* Grows to about 45'. Branches are covered with flat feathery sprays of needles.
- \* Lower branches are lost while the tree is young, revealing reddish brown bark that peels in long strips.

Note:

- \* As you walk between tree #16 and tree #17, you will see a group of three magnolias. These trees provide not only shade, but marvelously scented blooms to add a special touch to Commencement, which is held outdoors each May in this quadrangle.
- \* The magnolia closest to Campbell has been braced and cabled as a preventive measure.
- \* During the summer of 1994, moisture was exuding from the crotch at the fork, which was cause for concern. It was a very wet summer, and it appeared as if water was working its way into the folds of the bark.
- \* By bracing the tree below the fork, and cabling it high within the branches, it is hoped that the danger of this tree splitting and falling in future years has been averted.

# 17 Ginkgo

Ginkgo biloba  
(gingk' gō bī-lō' ba)

- \* Flanking steps to parking lot on west side of Campbell Hall.
- \* Diameters of 16" and 23".
- \* Also called Maidenhair Tree -- this is the only flowering plant with a fan-shaped leaf, shaped like a maidenhair fern.
- \* Ginkgo is the only survivor of a family of trees which had many species and was widespread during prehistoric times when dinosaurs roamed the earth.
- \* It is sometimes called a living fossil, probably made extinct by glaciers in North America, Europe, and Siberia. It survived in the milder climate of the Orient.
- \* The fruit of the female tree emits a quite offensive odor when it falls to the ground. The nuts, or seeds, inside the pulp clean to a pure white color, and are sold as food in China and Japan. The word "ginkgo" means "silver fruit" in Chinese.
- \* Because of the smelly fruit, male trees such as these are usually preferred in the landscape.
- \* The leathery texture of the leaves, and the glorious golden fall color make these trees real stand-outs.

\* This pair of ginkgoes was planted by S. Leonard Doerpinghaus, a biology professor, in the sixties. Professor Doerpinghaus planted about thirty trees on the A.S.C. campus.



# 18 Dawn Redwood     Metasequoia glyptostroboides  
(met-a-sē-kwoy' a glip-tō-strō-boy' dez)

- \* On the hill, in front of Dana Fine Arts Center.
- \* Extremely fast growing. Grew 6' in first year here.
- \* Can grow to 100'-120' in height, with a 25' spread.
- \* Another ancient species, on earth when the dinosaurs roamed.
- \* This tree is especially interesting to botanists. Until 1944, its genus ("metasequoia") was described only by fossils. Then dawn redwoods were discovered growing in China and Japan. Seeds were collected and sent to the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The plants have since been distributed throughout North America and Europe.
- \* This tree was donated to A.S.C. by Nelle Chamlee Howard, '34. It was a seedling from a tree at her home in Decatur, and was planted on this spot on March 17, 1992.
- \* The dawn redwood is a deciduous conifer. Its branchlets and leaves grow in opposite pairs. The needles are light green in summer, and yellowish-brown in fall.
- \* The reddish-brown bark becomes deeply fluted with age, and the trunk grows very wide at the base.

# 19 Black Gum     Nyssa sylvatica  
(nis' a sil-vat' i-kā)

- \* By the driveway entrance to greenhouse.
- \* 35" diameter; 9'2" circumference; about 116 years old (1879).\*\*
- \* Also known as Black tupelo, Sourgum, or Pepperidge tree.
- \* This tree was named Dekalb County's champion black gum in 1987.
- \* Outstanding native tree, spectacular early fall color, ranging from scarlet to purple.
- \* Most black gums have nice symmetrical crowns. ~~This stub was cut out around 1980.~~
- \* Unusual to find a forked black gum.
- \* Grows in all types soils east of Mississippi -- swamps, bottomlands, and moist uplands. Best growth is in the Appalachians.
- \* "Nyssa" refers to a Greek water nymph, because black gums are like water. "Sylvatica" means "of the woodlands."

\*\* Dr. Kim Coder, University of Georgia, August 1994.

# 20 Southern Catalpa     Catalpa bignoniodes  
(ka-tal' pa big-nō-ni-oy' dez)

- \* At the rear of the Alston Center, S.E. corner.
- \* In January 1995, this tree was officially named the state champion catalpa tree.
- \* 60'10" spread; 35" diameter; 9'2" circumference.
- \* Also called Indian Bean Tree.
- \* Large, loose groups of flowers (creamy colored with purple spots) drop blossoms like snow on the ground under the branches.
- \* The fruit is a long cylindrical pod, 10"-20" long. "Catalpa" is the Cherokee Indians' word for "Indian bean".
- \* The leaves are the favorite food of a large black caterpillar (the "catawba" worm) which is a fishing bait favored by Southerners.
- \* Native to most of Europe, and all of Georgia, although it was originally found only in the S.W. part of the state.
- \* The wood is valued for fence posts.
- \* Range is Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana.

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