

Tree Buds

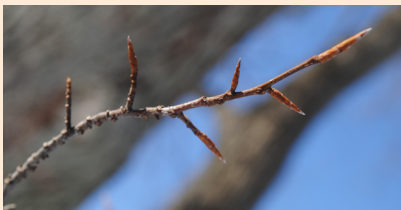
It's that time of year again - spring is just around the corner and people eagerly anticipate signs of its arrival. Swelling tree buds are one of the first signs of the changing season.

Trees and other woody plants start forming next year's buds in the summer. Buds are fully formed come fall. In spring, sap flows upwards from the roots, reaching out to fuel the buds. With a streak of warm temperatures, these buds then burst open, either with young leaves or flowers. The buds of each tree and shrub are different. Notice the different shapes, colors and bud arrangements before they transform. Here are a few buds to look for while walking CNC's trails.



One of the brightest colored, **Bitternut Hickory** have mustard yellow buds. These "naked" buds lack protective scales on the outside. When scratched, these buds also have a citrus smell.

American Beech buds are long and slender. With an orange color, they resemble small carrots or paint brush tips.



During maple syrup season, everyone has their eye on maple buds. Once the small brown buds of **Sugar maples** open, our syrup season is over.

Tasty Treats



Buds are not only important for trees, but many wildlife depend on them for survival. Buds are small bundles of nutrition for animals such as deer, rabbits and squirrels.

Deer lack upper front teeth and tear the buds off, leaving a shredded twig behind. Squirrels and rabbits leave a clean cut branch because they nip the buds with their sharp teeth.

Stop by the Visitor Center Office for program information.

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