

*Significant Trees of Luray*  
*Celebrating the Bicentennial*  
1812-2012





This booklet highlights the special trees now growing in Luray, Virginia.

If our trees could talk, we can only imagine what they might be saying as the town of Luray celebrates its Bicentennial in 2012.

As our town continues to develop, we always want to preserve our special heritage. As our community grows, so does the town's commitment to maintaining all of the rich, natural aspects around us that make our citizens proud to call Luray home.

Trees have been an important part of our history. Some date back to before the town even existed. Some are newly planted. They have seen both happiness and heartache over these many years.

You can get a close up look at most of the trees as you walk around the town. However, there are some on private property. You will have to look at them from a distance.

We encourage you to walk and imagine just what our trees might be telling you.



## Have you Hugged a Tree Today?

The Bicentennial year was a hard one for many of our tree family and friends in Luray. We had several bad storms and unfortunately lost some of our older relatives. We are sad, but we know our town is doing its best to take care of us. We hope you will do your part as well.

Please support the efforts of the "Tree City" of Luray when you can.

**This booklet created by Eleanor Ames & Ken Beyer  
Hawksbill Greenway Foundation**

**For information visit: [HawksbillGreenway.org](http://HawksbillGreenway.org)**

**Thanks to those who also contributed to this effort.**

Ken Steeber, Dixon Freeland, Margaret Stevenson, Betty Booton  
Grubbs, Judy Suddith, Rod Graves, John Shaffer, Bill Huffman,  
Joe Lehnan, Shelby Hadeler, Pat O'Brien

Revised April, 2018





### **Sycamore Trees** **Isabella Furnace at Yager's Spring**

The furnace was built near the bank of Hawksbill Creek. The water used for the furnace came from what is now known as Yager's Spring.

We Sycamores have been leaning over this spring for many years. We can look down at a blue spot the size of a wash tub where the spring bubbles up.

The furnace was built in 1785 by Dirck Pennybacker. He sold it to Benjamin and Thomas Blackford in 1795. They owned many large furnaces in the valley. Benjamin had three daughters and named a furnace for each one. This furnace was called Isabella.

The iron was forged into stoves, kettles, and iron utensils which the settlers needed for everyday living. You can see some of them at the Luray Valley Museum.

### ***Did You Know?***

In 2012, the town of Luray was awarded the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA status for the 12th consecutive year and the Growth Award for the 9th consecutive year.

The Growth Award recognizes achievement and communication of new ideas for improving community tree care. The town is proud to be among only 6 localities in the state of Virginia to receive this award.

In recognition of ten years of participation in the Tree City USA Growth Award program, Luray has been named a **STERLING TREE CITY USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

*Note: Since this booklet was first printed the town has received Tree City USA Award for 18 years and the Growth Award for 15 years.*



***All of the Trees in Luray say "THANK YOU"  
for taking such great care of us!***





### **Bradford Pears**

#### **Route 340 / Broad Street Entrance to Luray**

Although we are not very old, we sure make the entrance into Luray a grand one!

We stand like soldiers guarding the town in the median approaching the downtown historic district.

Locals and tourists alike know spring has finally arrived when they see our beautiful white blossoms.

**Luray Loves its Trees! And We Love Luray!**



### **Inn Lawn Park Trees**

#### **Zerkel Avenue**

This park was the site of the beautiful Luray Inn which was destroyed in a fire in 1890. The fire also destroyed all of the beautiful trees lining the long driveway. It was such a sad day for all of us. More of us were planted and we now line the driveway once again.

The Luray Garden Club planted some lovely Pink Dogwoods and a Sourwood Tree. More trees were planted so we could provide shade while you enjoy the park.

We love being here. We enjoy seeing the children play in the park. You will want to stop by to see the historic one room school across from the park.

We are all doing okay in spite of some bad storms over the years.





### **Birch Trees** **Ralph Dean Recreation Park**

We Birch trees were planted here to help shade the children as they play at Imagination Station. We are just a few of the trees in the park. We love watching the children play here under the shade of our leaves. We also love hearing all the cheers from our softball stadium.

The Hill & Valley Garden Club helps to maintain and support many of us standing in the park. We sure do appreciate it.

Since 2000 they have planted 11 trees here in the park to honor their members.

The club also maintains planters at Page Memorial Hospital entrance and they provided the landscaping at the Luray west end traffic island.



### **Redbuds, Dogwoods, Magnolias, Crabapples** **Hawksbill Greenway - Route 340**

We are probably some of the newest trees in town, but, we will be full grown before you know it.

The Luray Garden Club was formed in 1930. The club planted 39 dogwood trees in 1933. They have been planting trees, shrubs, and flowers around town ever since.

Those of us around the gazebo were planted in their Memorial Garden near the "Park & Ride" to honor club members who have passed away over the years.

The garden features flowering dogwoods, redbuds, crepe myrtles, magnolias, and evergreens. There are also perennial flower beds.

Take a stroll to visit us, then have a seat and relax when you get here.





### **Witness Oak** **Luray Valley Museum**

I've been here a long time. I was a silent witness to the discovery of Luray Caverns on August 13, 1878 by William and Andrew Campbell and Benton Stebbins.

I look up at Cave Hill under which the caverns were created.

I stand next to the recently built Luray Valley Museum. Beyond the unique artifacts of the Stonyman Main Building is a collection of historic local structures which have been transported with care to the site. Restoration is underway and is representative of a small 19th century farming community.

Be sure and go in to see what it was like for the pioneer settlers in this area.

You will learn a lot about the history I have seen in our valley.

Sorry but I am gone because I got so old. But thank you for remembering me.



### **Paulownia Tree** **Ruffner Plaza - Hawksbill Greenway**

I stand near what used to be Luray's boardwalk. The old Casino Theater once stood about 8 feet from me. Sorry to say, it burned down in 1929.

My ancestor's seeds were used as packaging material for porcelain dishes coming across the Pacific in the mid 1800's. Once unpacked, the wind-blown seeds grew all over the eastern states.



I am called the "Bride Tree" in Japan. When a girl was born – one of us was planted by her home. When she married, the wood was used to make her wedding chest.





**Corkscrew Willow**  
**“BLUE” Section of Hawksbill Greenway**

I have grown right at the base of a cliff that’s been formed over the centuries by floods ripping along the Hawksbill Creek. Why I haven’t been washed away is beyond me!

I’m doing well here because I like water and I usually get plenty of it in this location.

I am a curious and interesting tree because my branches and twigs are twisted in funny ways. Some like to call me the “Permanent Wave” Tree.



**Redbud Trees**  
**Luray Caverns Pond**

We were planted around the lake near the Caverns in 1998.

From here we can see the Luray Singing Tower built in 1937.

It contains a carillon of 47 bells. The largest bell weighs 7,640 pounds and is six feet in diameter!

We really like hearing the carillon bells. When you stop by to visit us, hopefully you too can enjoy a carillon concert.

We are a bit sad right now. Old age and storms have caused some of our relatives to disappear.

We hope more of us will be planted in the future.





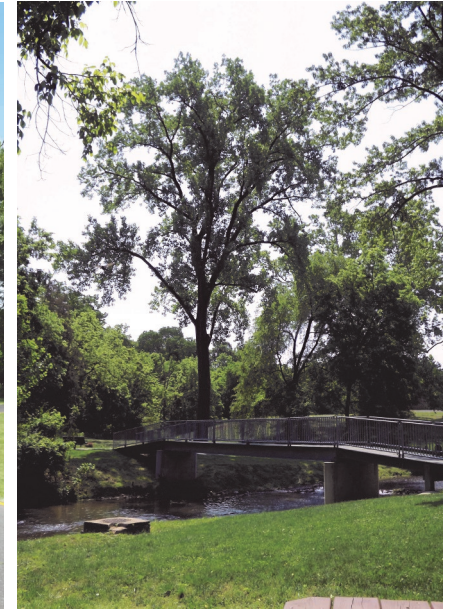
## Oak Grove

### Luray Caverns across from U.S. 211 Bypass

In 1880, we weren't separated from Cave Hill like we are now. In the early days, we saw thousands of visitors coming to Luray by train to visit the caverns. Later on, they arrived by the horseless carriage. Today, thousands of people are still coming in cars, buses, RV's, and even motorcycles.

Many of the first visitors stayed at the Luray Cave Hotel. They rode right past us anxious to see the newly discovered caverns. Back then, women came wearing beautiful long dresses and men had on their best suits and ties. We sure wondered what they thought when they went down into that huge subterranean world.

What an adventure it was for them then. You can still enjoy the same things they saw, but even better with all the improvements made in the caverns over the years.



## Cottonwood Trees

### "Red & Orange" Sections Hawksbill Greenway

I almost didn't make it! They sure treated me so poorly for years. I was nothing more than a trash pile. Can you believe that?

Work crews used to dump huge slabs of asphalt next to me before anyone ever thought about building a greenway in Luray.

One day, someone started a big trash fire next to me and a big part of my skin had been burned away. But I am doing much better now thanks to a few good friends who nursed me back to health.

A brother of mine is located next to the bridge in Phase 4, also named the Orange Section of Hawksbill Greenway.

Please stop by and visit him too! Bring along some food and have a picnic nearby.





### **Riparian Buffer Trees** **“Green” Section Hawksbill Greenway**

We are just a few of the three thousand trees planted in 2000 and 2001 by many volunteers from Luray.

Our job is to keep run-off from the cattle field from entering the Hawksbill Creek.

We are really proud! We’ve done our job very well because the creek is now a Class-A trout stream.

Our family includes Oaks, Maples, Locusts, Ash, Bald Cypress trees, as well as some smaller cousins like Red Osier and River Birch.



### **White Oak** **West Main Street in The Old Cemetery**

I’m not the best looking tree in Luray but I am probably one of the oldest. I watch over this old unclaimed burial ground.

No one knows who put me here because I was growing even before Page became a county.

There are people buried here who worked at Isabella Furnace. You can tell because the grave markers are made of iron from the old furnace.

I remember when soldiers from “Stonewall” Jackson’s Army camped under my branches.

The Hill & Valley Garden Club has been restoring and maintaining the Old County Cemetery on West Main St. since 1976.





**Chinquapin Oak**  
**South Court Street**

I am the second largest Chinquapin Oak (often called Chinkapin) in Virginia. I have heard people say I am at least 250 years old.

I have been measured, pruned, and cared for since I sprouted around 1776 when Page County was inhabited mainly by Native Americans and a few settlers.

My massive branches spread out 132 feet! I am about 20 feet in circumference and I tower 60 feet above the ground.

I hope to become part of a small park when Page County completes its new administration building next door to me.

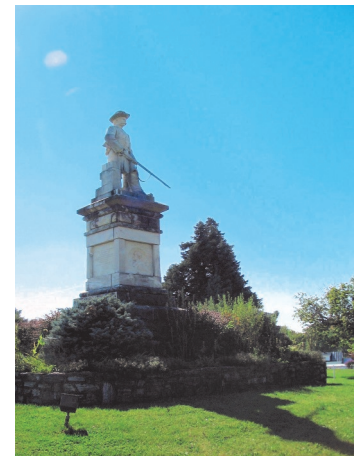


**Barbee Monument Oak Tree**  
**East Main Street**

I was just a sapling when Page County native Herbert Barbee, son of renowned sculptor William Randolph Barbee, designed the Civil War statue which stands on East Main Street.

The Civil War Monument was dedicated on July 21, 1898.

I am still here watching over the restoration of the statue. The workers did a great job!







**Sycamore**  
**East Main Street**

I really don't know how I got here. There used to be a music store where I stand now. Remnants of the former foundation were left standing here for a very long time.

Some other trees and I grew up here, but I became the main focus of a pocket park.

The town put in benches and a picnic table so locals and visitors can sit under me and watch the traffic and trains go by.

I like watching the visitors as well as the trains.



**White Oak**  
**South Court Street**

I am very old, just like my neighbor the Chinquapin Oak. No one knows exactly how old though.

I sure love my location at the top of this hill. As you can see, I tower over the house now.

I was already a large tree when the Courthouse, just down the street, was finished in December 1833.







1. Bradford Pears: State Route 340 / Broad Street
2. Memorial Garden: Park & Ride
3. Witness Oak: Luray Caverns (removed due to old age)
4. Redbud Trees: Luray Caverns
5. Oak Grove: Luray Caverns
6. White Oak: West Main Street Cemetery
7. Champion Chinquapin Oak: South Court Street
8. White Oak: South Court Street
9. Sycamore Tree: East Main Street

10. Oak Tree: East Main Street
11. Riparian Buffer Trees: Hawksbill Greenway
12. Cottonwood Tree: Hawksbill Greenway
13. Cottonwood Tree: Hawksbill Greenway
14. Corkscrew Willow: Hawksbill Greenway
15. Paulownia Tree: Ruffner Plaza
16. Birch Trees: Imagination Station at Ralph Dean Park
17. Inn Lawn Park: Zerkel Street
18. Sycamore: Isabella Furnace-Yagers Spring

Funding for this booklet was provided by the Urban Forestry Program of the U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Forestry.

Funding for the Hawksbill Greenway was provided by Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, USDA Forest Service, Virginia Department of Forestry, and the town of Luray.