

A KID'S GUIDE TO BACKYARD TREES

Written by Felicia Brower
Illustrated by Nicole LaRue

A Kid's Guide to Backyard Trees offers an inside look into some of the United States' most common trees, as well as numerous ways for kids to engage with the outdoors and conservation efforts.

Even the biggest cities depend on trees for natural beauty, air purification, and shade. Perfect for kids aged 6 to 8, *A Kid's Guide to Backyard Trees* is an illustrated nature guide highlighting 40 of the most readily available specimens that can be found in our own backyards! This essential handbook not only encourages young naturalists to get outside and explore nature, but also contains fascinating facts about some of our most common trees—including how to identify them from their bark, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds. Also included is a DIY project, a log for keeping track of finds, important information on tree conservation, and a glossary of tree-related terms. This guide's portable size makes it easy to use on the go, whether in a pocket, backpack, or bike basket.

DOUGLAS FIR
Pseudotsuga menziesii

HABITAT & RANGE
Common in the western United States. Often found in the wild in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

BARK & LEAVES
When the tree is young, the bark is gray and smooth with blisters. Older trees have very deeply furrowed, corky, dark-brown bark.

FRUITS & SEEDS
Male cones are reddish pink and found at the ends of the branches. Female brown cones are about 3 inches long and have very long seed bracts that go far beyond the edge of the cone scales.

FUN FACT
Despite the name, this isn't an actual fir tree! While it's similar to a lot of different conifers, Douglas firs are one-of-a-kind.

SIZE
40 to 80 feet tall but can grow up to 300 feet tall in the wild.



AMERICAN BEECH
Fagus grandifolia

HABITAT & RANGE
Found east of Texas and Wisconsin in areas with rich, well-draining soil.

BARK & LEAVES
The American beech tree is one of the few trees that keeps its smooth, light-gray bark, even as the tree gets older. Its simple, broad, serrated, 4- to 5-inch leaves have pointed tips. The leaves turn gold in the fall and often stay on the tree during the winter.

FLOWERS & FRUITS
Small, yellow-green flowers appear in early spring but are not showy. The 1½-inch light-brown fruit husks have hooked prickles with 1 to 3 small beechnuts inside that ripen in fall.

FUN FACT
Can you imagine sleeping on a pile of leaves inside your home? Early American colonists used to stuff their mattresses with beech leaves!

SIZE
50 to 80 feet tall with a trunk diameter of 2 to 3 feet.



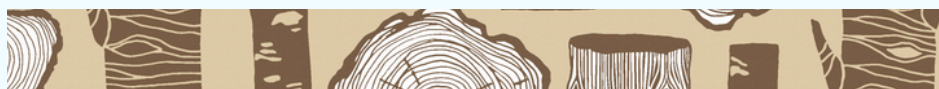
FELICIA BROWER is a nature writer, living in beautiful Denver, Colorado. She specializes in gardening, home landscaping, low-water Colorado native plants, regionally-adapted seeds, sustainability, regenerative agriculture, permaculture practices, and travel.

 www.feliciabrower.com



NICOLE LARUE is a graphic designer and illustrator who believes that every person—no matter their size, age, color, or status—can help create positive change. Her clients include Chronicle Books, Abram’s Books, Oxford University Press, Compendium Inc., Madison Park Greetings, Johnson & Johnson, Chat Books, Tiny Prints, DC Shoes, American Eagle, and more. Nicole resides in Salt Lake City, Utah.

 www.smallmadegoods.com




AVAILABLE AT:

Amazon Barnes & Noble Target Blackwell’s
World of Books Half Price Books Bookshop.org
Books-A-Million Hudson Books
& other major booksellers

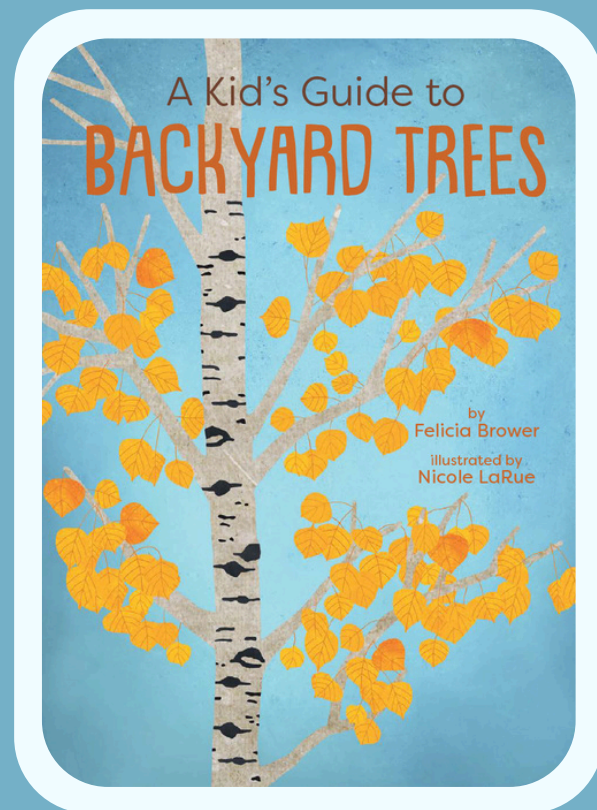


Gibbs Smith

 www.gibbs-smith.com

 @gibbssmithbooks  @GibbsSmithBooks

570 N Sportsplex Dr. Kaysville, UT 84037 | (800) 835-4993



Publication Date: April 22, 2025

Price: \$14.99

ISBN-13: 978-1-423668-01-5

Trim Size: 5 x 7 in.

Format: Trade Paperback

Page Count: 96

Genre: Juvenile Nonfiction

For inquiries or to request a review copy, please contact:

Ash Murray

Marketing & Publicity Specialist
ash.murray@gibbs-smith.com



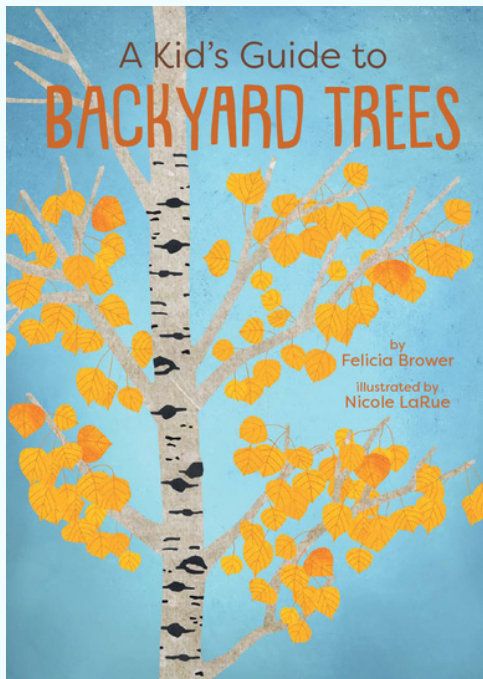
Gibbs Smith

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - FROM GIBBS SMITH BOOKS - AVAILABLE APRIL 22, 2025

February 22, 2025

UTAH PUBLISHER IS GETTING KIDS OUTSIDE THIS EARTH DAY WITH LATEST TITLE

A Kid's Guide to Backyard Trees is an interactive nature guide to the 40 most common trees in the U.S. that makes the outdoors exciting and accessible to all.



PORTLAND, Ore. – In Gibbs Smith’s forthcoming title *A Kid’s Guide to Backyard Trees*, author Felicia Brower and illustrator Nicole LaRue join forces to inspire and educate young naturalists. This illustrated and interactive field guide—launching just in time for Earth Day on April 22 and Arbor Day on April 25—highlights 40 of the most common trees in the United States and presents fun facts, identification characteristics and so much more in an exciting and easy-to-understand manner. This book is the latest in Gibbs Smith’s *A Kids Guide To...* series, all of which are designed to get kids interested in the outdoors and invested in conservation efforts.

“This book is a perfect way to get kids outside for Earth Day—and just in time for summer break, too!” Says Gibbs Smith President and Publisher Suzanne Taylor. “It’s more important than ever that we nurture kids’ interests not just in the outdoors, but in its preservation and conservation as well.”

Following the book’s release, author, nature writer and sustainability expert Felicia Brower will be leading events in Colorado, Utah, California and Oregon at local parks, state forests, children’s museums and more.

For more information on [*A Kid’s Guide to Backyard Trees*](#), please visit the [Gibbs Smith](#) website.

###

About Gibbs Smith

Gibbs Smith is an employee-owned, mission-driven independent publisher and distributor. We are also a Certified B Corporation. We strive to positively impact the community we serve, including employee owners, local communities, and the book and education industries. The company has occupied the same barn office since 1973 in Layton, Utah, plus a warehouse and distribution center in nearby Kaysville. In total, the company has more than 80 employee-owners living throughout the United States. Gibbs Smith now includes two segments: Gibbs Smith Book & Gift (which includes 7 Cats Press) and Gibbs Smith Education. We also distribute books for clients: Lil’ Libros, Angel City Press, and Bitty Bao.

FOR PRESS INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT ASH MURRAY - ASH@GIBBS-SMITH.COM



A KID'S GUIDE TO BACKYARD TREES MEDIA LIST



LONG-LEAD MEDIA

THE HORN BOOK

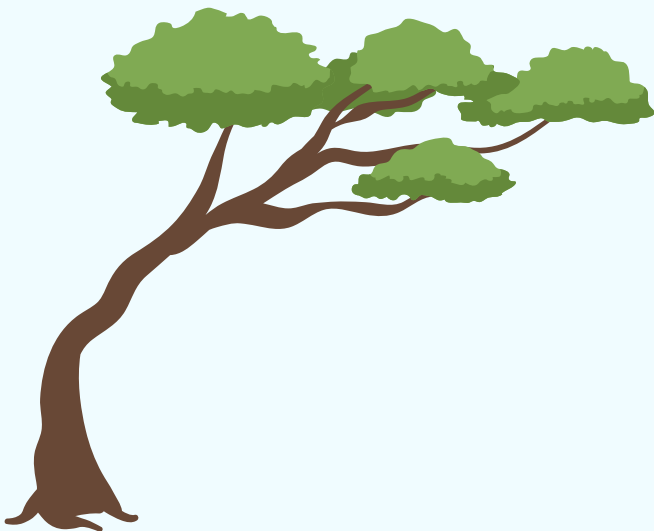
[Submission Sign-Up Link](#)

CHILDREN & NATURE NETWORK

editor@childrenandnature.com

SCHOLASTIC

tradepublicity@scholastic.com



SHORT-LEAD MEDIA

CATALYST:

THE DENVER MUSEUM OF
SCIENCE & NATURE ONLINE
MAGAZINE

Julio Poletti

julio.poletti@dmns.org

COLORADO PARENT MAGAZINE

edit@coloradoparent.com

KIDS OUT AND ABOUT: DENVER

Debra Ross

debraross@kidsoutandabout.com

Katie Beltramo

katie@kidsoutandabout.com





A KID'S GUIDE TO BACKYARD TREES AUTHOR TOUR



APRIL 22 – 6PM TREE CLIMBING LAUNCH PARTY

In partnership with **Tree Climbing Colorado**, this Washington Park launch party is perfect for the whole family! The **\$35** ticket price will admit families of up to 4 to an author Q&A and open tree climbing experience. Attendees will also receive complimentary *A Kid's Guide to Backyard Trees* bookmarks printed on wildflower seed paper.

APRIL 25 – 5PM GUIDED TREE WALK

This Arbor Day, join author Felicia Brower on a guided walk through Denver's City Park. Learn about the park's trees, their significance, and how to identify them. Kids will receive a backyard trees sticker "passport" to keep track of what they see!

APRIL 27 – 2PM DISCOVERY GATEWAY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Join author Felicia Brower and illustrator Nicole LaRue for a Q&A and learning session at Salt Lake City's Discovery Gateway! Kids will receive a backyard trees sticker "passport," and all attendees will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a one-of-a-kind illustrated tree poster.

APRIL 30 – 4PM PALO ALTO CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Join Felicia Brower for a family-friendly lesson on the importance of nature conservation at the only children's library in the U.S. After the learning session, she will lead a tree walk through the library's grounds. Attendees will receive stickers printed with illustrations from the book.





A KID'S GUIDE TO BACKYARD TREES AUTHOR TOUR



**MAY 2 – 6PM
CALAVERAS BIG TREES
STATE PARK**

While trees don't have to be big to be beautiful, it can be awe-inspiring to look up at trees as tall as skyscrapers. Beginning in the park's own bookstore, author Felicia Brower and park rangers will lead a guided and interactive walk through one of California's most magnificent forests. Participants will receive illustrated postcards printed on wildflower seed paper.

**MAY 4 – 2PM
OREGON MUSEUM OF SCIENCE
AND INDUSTRY**

Portland isn't just the city of roses—it's full of trees too! Free with the purchase of museum admission, Felicia Brower will be hosting a live workshop of the DIY activity from her book. And it will all be done with leaves collected from the museum's grounds! In addition to artwork of their own creation, participants will receive bookmarks printed with illustrations from the book.

