



## New York City of Trees

By Benjamin Swett

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### New York City of Trees By Benjamin Swett

We know that trees improve living conditions in cities by filtering and cooling the air, absorbing excess rainwater, and making neighborhoods more attractive. But little has been said about their role as keepers of a city's past. In this collection of personal narratives, historical observations, and color photographs, Benjamin Swett focuses on trees with stories to tell, adding a warm and welcome narrative that is unique to New York City and its cosmopolitan character. The stories of these trees from all five boroughs--some dating back to the Revolutionary era and before--link the living with the past in an unusual, engaging way.

A show of the photographs from the book will take place at the Arsenal Gallery in Central Park, March 6 through April 26, 2013.

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### Editorial Review

#### From the Inside Flap

"If you love New York and you love trees, then you must read Benjamin Swett's beautiful book, *New York City of Trees*. Swett describes the city's trees with the perceptiveness of an accomplished naturalist and the artistry of a gifted photographer."

--Edward S. Barnard, author of *New York City Trees: A Field Guide for the Metropolitan Area*

#### From the Back Cover

"New York is a city built atop a forest. And in a forest, every tree has a story. As this wonderfully personal account of the trees of New York City amply demonstrates, the trees are still here, idiosyncratic, communicative, full of personality, standing for the ages with a resolute perseverance that does our forest-city proud. Through Benjamin Swett's photographs and text, you will come to know your neighbors, make new friends, hear their tales, tell them yours, and expand your notion of what it means to be a New Yorker. I heartily recommend it."

--Eric Sanderson, Senior Conservation Ecologist at the Wildlife Conservation Society, and author of *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City*

#### About the Author

**Benjamin Swett** worked as a photographer and writer for the New York City Parks Department for thirteen years. His previous books include *The Hudson Valley: A Cultural Guide* (2009), *Route 22* (2007), and *Great Trees of New York City: A Guide* (2000). He lives in Manhattan with his wife and sons.

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