THE BIG TREES OF MICHIGAN

28. Salix matsudana Koidzumi f. tortuosa Rehder
Corkscrew Willow

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The largest known Corkscrew Willow in Michigan is located in the city of Northport in Leelanau County in the northwest portion of the lower peninsula.

Description of the species: The Corkscrew Willow is a member of the Willow family, Salicaceae. This family is characterized by having flowers in catkins in early spring on dioecious plants, leaves which are simple and alternate, and seeds having a tuft of silky hairs. Within the family, the genus Salix is differentiated from the genus Populus by its single bud-scale (species of Populus have several overlapping scales), and the typically more narrowly lanceolate to ovate leaf blades of Salix (versus the broader ovate to deltoid leaf blades of Populus). Flowers of Salix are greatly reduced, consisting only of either stamens (2-10) or a single compound ovary (Barnes & Wagner 1991). Barnes and Wagner (1991) describe the willows as being particularly difficult to identify because of similarity in characteristics, great variation within species according to different environments, and frequent hybridization.

The Corkscrew Willow is native to China, Manchuria, and Korea. In North America, it is found only in cultivation, as an ornamental landscape plant. It is distinguished from several other S. matsudana formae and varieties, all of which should probably be treated as ‘cultivars’ (which are also widely cultivated in landscapes) by its spirally twisted and complexly interwoven branches and branchlets, which are upright or sometimes spreading (Rehder 1940). The leaves are lanceolate, glabrous, olive green on the upper surface and silver gray beneath. Like the branches, the leaves are often conspicuously twisted and contorted (Lanzara and Pizzetti 1978) (see Fig. 1).

Location of Michigan’s Big Tree: Our largest Corkscrew Willow is located at 202 Waukazoo Street in Northport. If you enter Northport on M-22 from the south, the first stoplight is Main Street. Turn right onto Main Street and proceed about 75 yards to Waukazoo Street. The tree can be found in the back yard of the first house on the right side of Waukazoo Street.

Description of Michigan’s Big Tree: The trunk of the tree splits into two trunks about 2 feet from the ground. The girth at the base of the main trunk is 88” (2.24 m). Of the two dividing trunks, the circumference at four and a half feet above the ground of the larger was measured at 66” (168 cm) [Diameter=21” (53 cm)]. Each trunk has a major branch, one at 1½ feet (46 cm) and the other at 3’ 4” (102 cm) above the branching point. The tree is 73’ (22.25 m) tall, and has a crown spread that was measured at 44’ (13.4 m).
INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

If you would like to join us in extending this series of articles by visiting and describing one or more of Michigan’s Big Trees, please contact Elwood B. Ehrle for help with locations, specifications for taking measurements, and assistance with the manuscript. The Michigan Botanical Club encourages your involvement in this activity. Please remember to ask permission before entering private property.
LITERATURE CITED


BOOK REVIEW


Most amateur botanists are accustomed to the various field guides available for learning plant names for a particular state or region. Many of these guides have the plant species arranged in an artificial way by flower color and/or shape of the corolla and a color photograph of that species.

The bright red paper cover of this field guide is an indication that this book is different from all the rest covering the Great Lakes region. Most field guides are usually purposely incomplete in the species covered. 40% or more of the wildflowers of Indiana are not observed in available field guides. This book discusses all 1,564 herbaceous species known for the state (excluding grasses, rushes, and sedges). There are 640 color photographs with at least one photo image for each visually similar group or genus. The discussion of each species includes Latin name with author names, family, common name, and general description of the species, soils and ecology, habitat, distribution within Indiana, blooming time, plant size, the flowers and the inflorescence. Because Indiana is a state where four or five different written floras overlap in their coverage, and different Latin names may have been used, the author has placed these names in brackets for cross reference. There is also a brief discussion about the similarity and differences between species. Species are noted as being native, introduced into the state, and those that are Endangered, Threatened, or Rare, Extirpated, or on a Watch List within the state. Some species have line drawings showing features that help in proper identification.

The species within the book are grouped by families with the families following a modified classification system similar to one proposed some years ago by Arthur Cronquist. The book begins with (1) *Saururus cernuus*, in the Saururaceae and ends with (1564) *Isotria verticillata* in the Orchidaceae. To get all the species listed with discussion in a book of only 358 pages, four to six species are grouped to a page.

To identify the species, the user must follow a Flower Finder. This finder is divided into eight parts where the unknown is compared to illustrations within each group. For example, Group A is corolla 2-lipped. The unknown flower is