

# Nature Reborn

## Woodland Wildlife Tree Sculpture



### Answer Key

1. **Twenty** animals are on the tree.
2. **Eight** can fly (flying squirrels glide).
3. **Two** reptiles.
4. The smallest animal is the **butterfly**.
5. A **cottontail rabbit** is hiding in the grass.
6. A juvenile **Virginia opossum** is hanging from its tail.

### What's the story behind the sculpture?

Two lightning bolts turned the huge tree just outside the picture window into an imminent danger to the building. The evidence of the lightning strikes can be seen as cracks in the large owl and under the carved lightning bolt. The tree was the focal point of the woodlands from the center, and a feeding station for flying squirrels and birds. Its loss was keenly felt by staff, park visitors, and the nature center's wildlife neighbors. But the lightning did not damage the tree's base. Staff, with the fundraising support of Friends of Hidden Oaks Nature Center, (FOHONC), arranged for a ten-foot stump to remain so that chainsaw artist Andrew Mallon could create a sculpture of critters that enjoyed the tree's gifts over its 128-year life. The carving will delight visitors for the next 20 years. Because it is near the nature center, the artwork is easily accessible for all visitors.



Friends Of  
Hidden Oaks Nature Center  
[www.fohonc.com](http://www.fohonc.com)



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## Did you know?

**How was it made?** Over a period of two weeks, chainsaw artist Andrew Mallon used a variety of chainsaws, handsaws, and wood routers to create the vision of the nature center staff. He also carved a bench out of portions of the tree's trunk, thanks to financial support from the Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads.

**What kind of tree was this?** The carving is the 10-foot stump of a 100-foot tulip poplar.

**Can you climb on it?** *Please don't!* Climbing would damage the artwork. Please touch the tree and sit only on the bench.

**Is it a real tree?** Yes, it was carved from a standing tulip poplar. It is coated with a protective spray that will preserve it for many years. Look for the roots radiating from the base.

**What are those lines around the tiny rabbit at the front?** A carving of tall grass growing from a rock mound. Dead trees (snags), grass and rocks provide shelter for wildlife.



## Look closely at the tree sculpture! Can you answer...

1. How many total animals are on the sculpture?
2. How many can fly?
3. How many are mammals? Reptiles?
4. What is the smallest animal on the sculpture?
5. What animal is hiding in between grass?
6. What animal, when young, is only able to hang from its tail for a short time and is the only marsupial in North America?

*Answer key on back*



## Field Trip Scholarship Fund

With your help, students from select Title 1 schools can take part in field trips to Hidden Oaks Nature Center, where they learn how urban woodlands provide habitats and havens for native wildlife. Your generous donations help to benefit these students' stewardship education.

**Please consider donating to the scholarship fund! Send your donation to:**  
Friends of Hidden Oaks Nature Center  
7701 Royce Street  
Annandale, VA 22003  
(703) 941-1065

## Thank you to the Tree Carving Animal Adoptees

**Fox:** Bob Dinse & Laura Anderko

**Snake:** Feinberg Family

**Young Owl:** Grapin Family

**Woodpecker:** Josephina Doumbia

**Flying Squirrel:** Naomi Bertha

**Squirrel:** Sherry Letnick

**Bunny:** Benjamin Holland

**Raccoon:** In honor of Bob Campopiano

**Adult Owl:** Lisa Hylton

**Turtle:** In memory of Vince Cardella

**Bench:** Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads