Scholar Tree
*Styphnolobium japonicum*

Match the picture on the left with the word on the right.

flower
fruit
leaf
tree
seed
stem
bumble bee

(Drawings are not to scale.)
History
One of the most famous of all Chinese trees, the scholar tree has been planted in gardens and temple grounds for over 2,000 years. In China, it is the symbol of the 8th moon (September) when the official examinations for political positions took place and was cultivated by aspiring scholars. It also has been described as the tree designated for planting on the graves of scholars.

The scholar tree is also called the Japanese pagoda tree, but don’t let the name fool you. This tree is originally from China; it has also been grown in the United States for almost 200 years. The scholar tree is now a popular garden and street tree. You might even find the tree along the streets of Boston.

What makes the scholar tree special?
• This tree has beautiful white flowers in August after most other trees have finished blooming.
• The fruits form quickly after the flowers fade. They look like bright green strings of pearls hanging in the tree.
• In the fall the dark green leaves drop off, but many fruits hang on through the winter.

Letterboxing!
Letterboxing is a fun way to find the scholar tree on a hot summer day at the Arboretum; follow these directions to find the hidden stamp! For more information on letterboxing, go to www.letterboxing.org.

From the Hunnewell Visitor Center:
• Follow Meadow Road past the first pair of benches on the right side of the road.
• Continue on the road to the next bench on the right in the linden collection.
• Continue to the next bench in front of a Japanese maple.
• Continue to the next bench under the shade of a small tree with heart shaped leaves. This is a redbud tree with accession number 288-93-B.
• Follow the narrow sidewalk 35 steps to the Kentucky coffeetree (1181-83-A).
• Follow the sidewalk to the right and climb up 14 stone steps.
• At the intersection, turn right and continue 25 steps.
• Look to your right and go 4 steps, this is the scholar tree. The letterbox is hidden in the crook of the 4 big branches. Follow the directions inside and leave everything just as you found it.