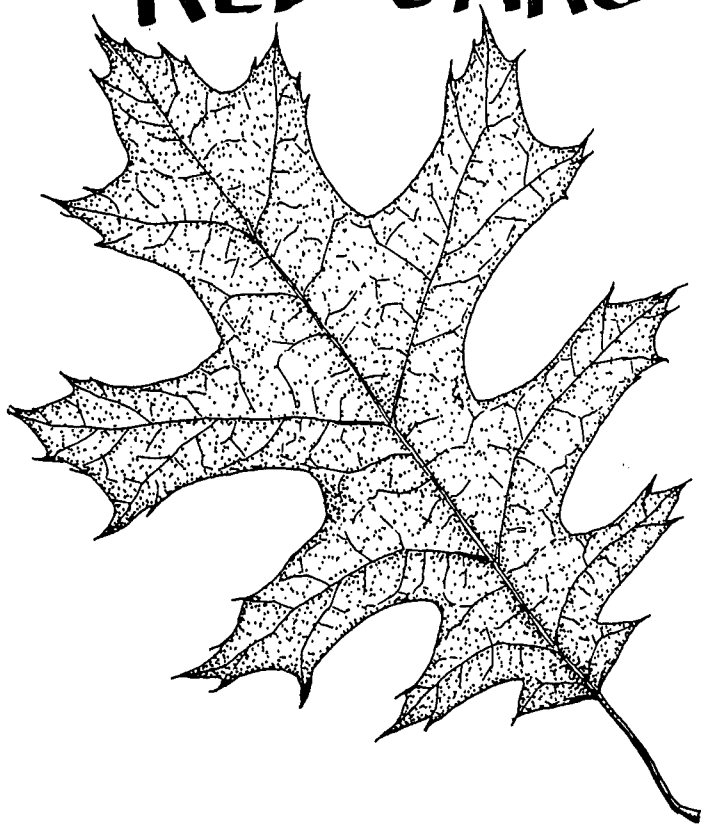


# River Bend Naturalists Notebook

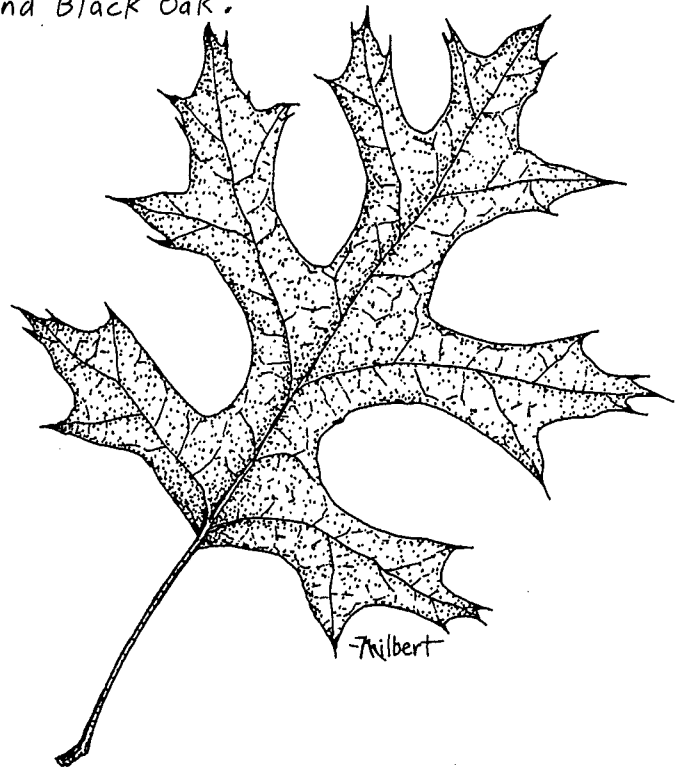
Presented by: RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER, Faribault, MN 55021

## RED OAKS



NORTHERN RED OAK (*Quercus rubra*). This species is often listed as *quercus borealis*. This is a large tree common in upland woods and on hillsides throughout the forested areas of Minnesota. Some are to be found in extreme northeastern Minnesota. The leaves have bristle-pointed, sharp lobes with the upper surface of the leaves dull dark green, and the lower surface paler. The autumn coloration is yellow to red. The acorn cup covers about one-third of the acorn. (Borealis, means northern.)

The Red Oaks have pointed, bristle-tipped lobes. Usually the acorns mature in two years, with the shells of the acorns hairy on the inside. The meat is bitter and not suitable for use in food preparation. Five species of the Red Oak group are found native in Minnesota including the Northern Red Oak, Common Red Oak, Scarlet Oak, Northern Pin Oak, and Black Oak.



NORTHERN PIN OAK (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*). A large tree, often low and almost shrub-like. It is common in places on acid, sandy soils throughout the wooded areas of the state, except the northeastern part of Minnesota. The cup covers one-third to one-half of the acorn. The red fall color can be spectacular.

-text by Orwin A. Rustad