




## Publication Details

### The tree of peace: Symbolic and spiritual values of the white pine

#### Publication Toolbox

 [Download PDF](#) (684.0 KB)

 This publication is available **only** online.

[Schroeder, H.W.](#)

#### Year Published

1992

#### Publication

In proceedings of the White Pine Symposium (p. 73-83), Sept. 16-18, 1992, Duluth, MN.

#### Abstract

The original meaning of the word "spirit" (i.e. breath or wind) suggests an experience in which one feels touched or moved by something that can be felt but cannot be seen or grasped. The experience of spirit is often depicted through the use of symbols. Symbolism allows a concrete object, such as a tree, to represent an experience that is intangible and hard to describe. Trees have been important spiritual symbols in many human cultures. Evergreens often symbolize immortality and eternal life because they retain their leaves throughout the winter. To the Iroquois people, the white pine is a symbol of the Great Peace that united their separate nations into an enduring League. The Peace Tree is related to the Tree of Light, a central symbol in Iroquois cosmology. Similar mythological trees are found in European traditions, including the Norse World Tree and the medieval Christian Tree of Life. The World Tree symbolizes the unity of all life, and the struggle of order and growth against chaos and disintegration. The white pine is thus linked to one of the most universal spiritual symbols of the human species.

#### Citation

Schroeder, H.W. 1992. The tree of peace: Symbolic and spiritual values of the white pine. In proceedings of the White Pine Symposium (p. 73-83), Sept. 16-18, 1992, Duluth, MN.

Last updated on: October 11, 2019

### NRS at a Glance

#### Research Programs

- [Themes](#)
- [Units](#)
- [Lands](#)
- [Facilities](#)
- [Special Programs](#)

#### Publications & Tools

- [Search](#)
- [Research Highlights](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Software](#)
- [Online Tools](#)

#### Locations

- [Location Directory](#)
- [NRS in My State](#)
- [Experimental Forests](#)
- [Research Natural Areas](#)

## Scientists & Staff

- [Contact Us](#)
- [Research Units](#)
- [Scientist Directory](#)
- [All Employees](#)

## About NRS

- [Staff Directory](#)
- [Scientist Directory](#)
- [Research Unit Directory](#)
- [Locations](#)
- [NRS in My State](#)
- [Research Highlights](#)

## NRS News

- [News Releases](#)
- [Research Review](#)

---

[USDA.gov](#) | [Policies & Links](#) | [Our Performance](#) | [Report Fraud on USDA Contracts](#) | [Visit OIG](#) | [Plain Writing](#) | [Get Adobe Reader](#)  
[FOIA](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Non-Discrimination Statement](#) | [Information Quality](#) | [USDA Recovery](#) | [USA.gov](#) | [Whitehouse.gov](#)

When we discuss the history and value of the Eastern White Pine, we typically do so within the framework of American colonialism, repeating tales of ‘The King’s Broad Arrow’ and other events that took place around the time of the Revolutionary War. But of course, the venerable pinus strobus and the landscape in which it grows flourished for a long time before any European settlers arrived on the shores of what we now call North America, and it remains important to some Native American tribes all these centuries later. The Iroquois (whose true name is Haudenosaunee Nation) call the Eastern Whit... Trees have been important spiritual symbols in many human cultures. Evergreens often symbolize immortality and eternal life because they retain their leaves throughout the winter. To the Iroquois people, the white pine is a symbol of the Great Peace that united their separate nations into an enduring League. The Peace Tree is related to the Tree of Light, a central symbol in Iroquois cosmology. Similar mythological trees are found in European traditions, including the Norse World Tree and the medieval Christian Tree of Life. The World Tree symbolizes the unity of all life, and the struggle of Pine trees are one of a kind, they are known for their uniqueness and each culture and region of the world have a different meaning than they give to the tree. The pine tree can have so many meanings and some of them could include a sign of rebirth, increased life-period, pursuit for eternal life, sign of wisdom and patience, survival ability, and lots more. In the following paragraphs, we will discuss more the various meaning that you can give to the pine tree so you should be comfortable and ready to enjoy what each of these dreams means. Survival ability. Pine trees are very unique, not jus