

FALL 2022 | ISSUE NO. 45 | OCTOBER



**RUTGERS GREENPRINT**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3. EDITORS NOTE
- 4. TREES AND THEIR MAJORS
- 5. THE "FALLING" OF AUTUMN
- 8. AUTUMN PASSION PUDDLE  
PLAYLIST
- 9. A GUIDE TO RECYCLING
- 12. KNOTWEED
- 13. THE CRY VIOLET'S SONG
- 14. CLIMATE CHANGE SHOULD NOT BE  
POLITICAL
- 17. 10/26/22
- 18. NATIONAL PARKS: THE IDEAL  
FAMILY VACATION
- 20. CAPITALISM AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT
- 21. THE POWER OF NATURE
- 23. REFLECTIONS ON AUTUMN
- 24. CITATIONS

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello Green Print Readers!

Another semester and we are back with our first issue of the 2022 school year! I am humbly honored to present this issue to you as the new editor of Green Print. With the start of a new school year, we at Green Print are embracing new writers and contributors to expand our community. Green Print at its core is really about sharing a glimpse of the world through the lense of different writers.

What then does it mean to be a Green Printer? For one thing, Green Printers are a bunch of environmental connoisseurs, notoriously skeptical and endlessly curious students. Every piece of writing we publish holds immense value and we hope to convey that to you. Green Print gives students the space to explore themes of guilt, anxiety, awe, and more surrounding the environment. We are not afraid of pushing boundaries.

College is a formative time of immense growth and an accumulation of experiences that contribute to who you're going to be for the rest of your life. It's easy to get lost in the hustle and bustle of midterms and papers but we try to remember what's important here. We are about curiosity, learning, telling stories, and meeting people.

I would like to thank the writers, photographers, editors, and all who contributed for sharing their stories with us. I am excited to present this issue to you and for the future to come. Enjoy our magazine and if you feel inspired, we hope you contribute to future issues.

Yours Truly,

Liora Picker  
Editor

# TREES AND THEIR MAJORS

SAMANTHA GELBERG

## PALM TREE:

Mason Gross Student majoring in art and design but wants to go into the fashion industry. Out of state student like me <3

## SPRUCE TREE:

Biology on the pre-med track. Thinks it's the smartest tree in the room...it's not. Will lecture you about how the five-second rule does not prevent germs from getting on your food.

## BIRCH TREE:

Computer science. Very involved with esports, and catch this tree in the Busch student center most of the day.

## REDWOOD TREE:

Double majoring in chemistry and English. Is in a frat but writes poetry in their spare time, not like the other trees.

## ALL FRUIT TREES:

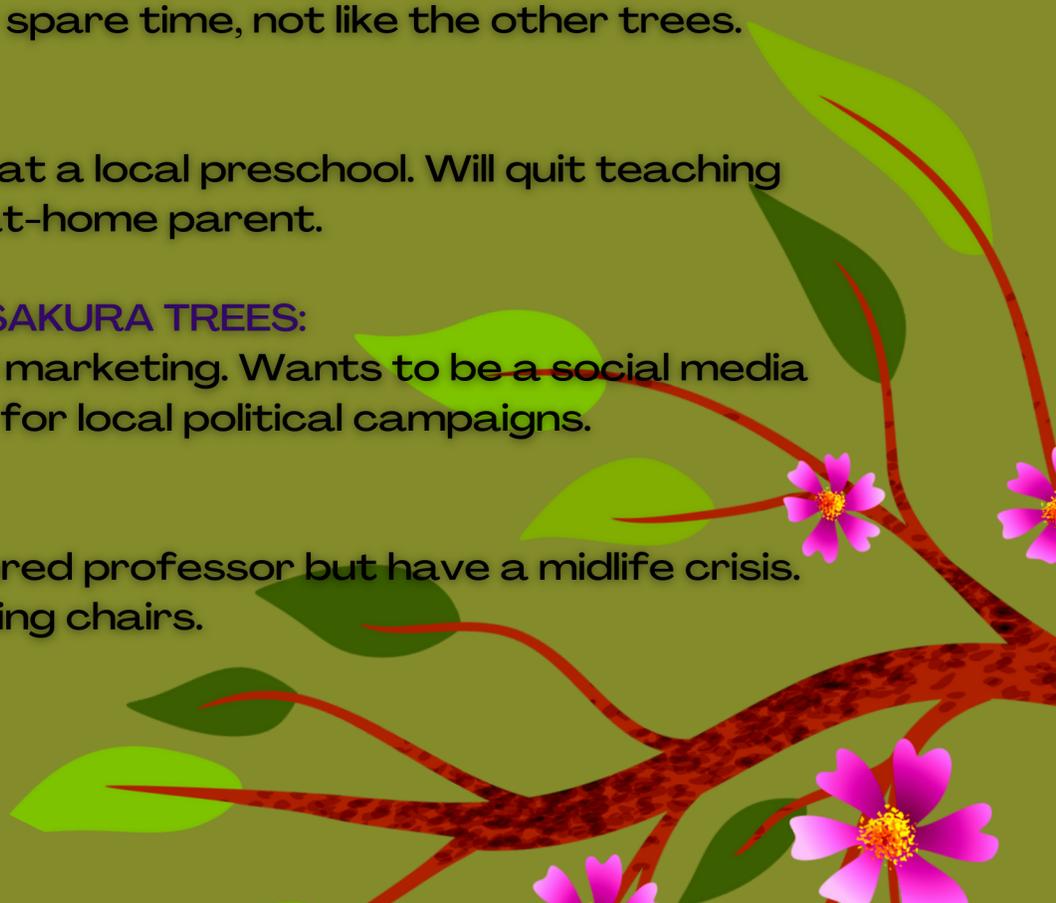
Education. Volunteer at a local preschool. Will quit teaching and become a stay-at-home parent.

## CHERRY BLOSSOM/ SAKURA TREES:

Communications and marketing. Wants to be a social media manager. Volunteers for local political campaigns.

## OAK TREE:

History. Will be a tenured professor but have a midlife crisis. Collects antique rocking chairs.



# THE "FALLING" OF AUTUMN

ASHLEY ECHEVERRIA

Autumn. My absolute favorite time of year. I love feeling the crisp morning air that makes you crave a hot cup of tea, coffee, and pumpkin flavored everything; the early morning sunlight that filters through the trees; the array of warm colors of the falling leaves; red, orange, yellow, and brown; the evening sundown that makes the trees shine golden; the desire to cuddle up in your blanket and watch movies all day; the apple picking, the pumpkin picking, and the smell of warm homemade apple and pumpkin pie all around; the beauty of the trees, even when they become bare. It's truly the coziest season of all.

Because it is my favorite season, I always find myself observing the environment around me, always in awe of the fall foliage. However, last year, I noticed something quite peculiar, and maybe you have too. Autumn was late.

Every year, I go apple picking in upstate New York. I remember going apple picking last year during the first week of October, and the weather was still hot, 75-80 degrees, I believe. I clearly remember sweating like crazy while walking around the orchard picking apples, something that has never happened before because the weather was cooler the years prior.

Who are we to blame for the delay of the most wonderful season of all? Climate change. Yes, the dreadful climate change.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, October 2021 was the world's fourth warmest October in a 142 year record. The other warmest October that came before was 2013.

Even if you don't like autumn, it still should raise some concern. Climate-related delays in leaf coloration are disrupting the cycles of growth and rest trees undergo, meaning it is affecting how well the trees are growing, where trees can live, and whether they can continue storing carbon at the same rate. "Forests absorb an estimated 30 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions released every year, and if their health wanes, so too might their climate benefits," said Rebecca Forkner, an ecologist at George Mason University.

Mukund Palat Rao, a scientist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory says that if the forests' abilities to do that decreases, it is unknown what could happen to the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

As the temperatures are dropping and the days start to get shorter, trees, in turn, end their chlorophyll production and begin to go dormant, unveiling all their autumn colors.

However, as the summer temperatures are lasting longer into the fall season, it degrades the anthocyanin pigments (anthocyanin pigments absorb blue, blue-green, and green lights so, when light reflects on leaves containing anthocyanin, it would appear red) in the leaves as well as postpone the peak. Therefore, the rising temperatures are also causing a shift in the color palette of fall colors. "With less red produced in some species, the trees show off other pigments already in their leaves. Aside from green (chlorophyll) pigments, yellow and orange pigments organically reside in the leaves.

Consistently warmer fall seasons could paint dominantly orange and yellow scenes where red has traditionally reigned. Some trees are fortunate that they can adapt to climate change, however those that can't, lamentably die receding from landscapes, causing changes to the picturesque autumnal colors.

Some people have gone as far as theorizing that someday, the autumn that we know, won't even exist. What's really happening is that all seasons are only changing in length and intensity. Research has shown that all seasons are getting shorter except summer, the reason being the record high heats we have been receiving from climate change.

Researcher Yuping Guan examined how seasonal cycles were changing and found that “In the Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes, the length of summer increased from 78 to 95 days – or about 4.2 days per decade from 1952-2011. Winter contracted from 76 to 73 days, or 2.1 days per decade on average. Spring decreased from 124 to 115 days, and autumn shrank from 87 to 82 days; each shrank about one day per decade. All seasons were warmer.”

While warmer weather does sound nice, it could throw off the balance of our ecosystems, causing grave issues. I hope more people start to realize the real, devastating impact climate change is having on our world. We must do everything in our power to prevent our planet from dying and hopefully, save autumn from “falling.”



# A Guide To Recycling

## Moss

Have you ever gone to take out your recycling and paused for a moment thinking about whether or not what you were trying to recycle was actually recyclable? Were you confused about what the different recycling symbols on your packaging meant? Have you ever recycled something you were unsure about because you thought it was the right thing to do? Well, you're not alone. Recycling is confusing, but there are ways to know if recycling is the best option for each item in question.

Determining whether or not your items are recyclable is relatively simple for glass, paper, and metals, but more complicated for plastic. When recycling paper there are three main groups you shouldn't attempt to recycle, those made out of too short of fibers (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues), those that are made with plastic or other materials (coffee cups, waxed cartons, receipts, post-it notes), and contaminated paper (greasy pizza boxes, wet paper).

With metal, soft metals like candy wrappers are only recyclable at special facilities because they are mixed with plastic, but most other short-term use metals you have in your home are recyclable. Household metal items like bed frames, wire hangers, and appliances could be taken to a scrapyard instead.

The only glass items that should be recycled are glass bottles and jars. Ceramics, pottery, and glass cups are off the table. When it comes to plastic, there is one main motto to follow: when in doubt, throw it out.

Plastic should come with a number between 1 and 7 printed on it within a "recycle" (♻️) symbol. If there is no number to be seen, you immediately know your best bet is to throw it away.

The most widely recycled plastics are numbers 1, 2, and 5. Those are also the only numbers that are recyclable on Rutgers campus. If the plastic you are considering recycling has one of those numbers, that's a great start, but you should make sure that the item is clean and free of food waste.

Food is not recyclable, and attempting to recycle something with lots of residue on it can contaminate the recycling process. And in terms of contamination, there is another major thing that should not be placed in recycling bins: plastic bags.

Soft plastics are not recyclable on campus and most places in general, and the absolute best thing that you can do with them is throw them away. However, the biggest problem with plastic bags on campus is somewhat unexpected.

When taking recycling out of their dorms, many people bring it out inside of plastic trash bags. These soft plastic bags are not recyclable and make it difficult for employees of the recycling company to do their job.

The best option is to instead untie the top of the trash bag containing the recycling and dump the contents in loose. This may seem strange but it is actually the preferred method.

Recycling collection is not the same as trash collection and the items do not have to be contained for pickup. A recycling bin full of loose material is the best scenario possible.

It may seem like there are too many rules to recycling, and that it's just too complicated to bother with, but it can actually be less work for the common apathetic student. All it takes is to remember "when in doubt, throw it out." It is much better to have recycling go in the trash than trash in the recycling.

Few plastics manage to be successfully recycled and made into new products to begin with, so a hands off approach is better from the masses when it comes to proper recycling until better recycling infrastructure is in place or plastic stops being produced as a single use product. For those that care slightly more about how to sort their recycling, the general rules to remember are avoid soft papers, metals, and plastics, ensure items are clean, and check for numbers 1, 2, or 5 on plastic.

Recycling is difficult in a world where so many different kinds of materials are made, or find out if it is possible to buy products in bulk near you. There are lots of things an individual can do to minimize the waste they produce, but ultimately it is not your fault for the way that consumer society is structured. The best thing is to be conscious about what you recycle, and advocate for a better system for the planet and its people.

# KNOTWEED

**By B. Bonney**

Towering walls make the tallest  
defense.

Hence shouting storms could  
never overpower

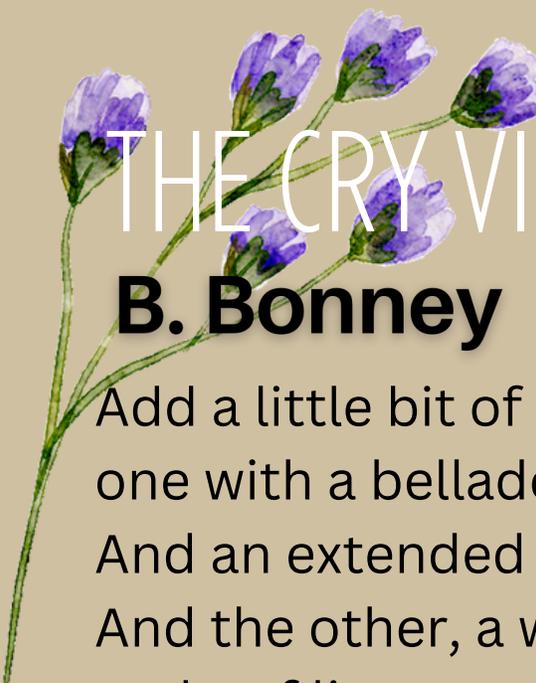
Its Dense stone face, yet tears in  
its innards soured.

Our wall endured, with standing  
its greatest pretense.

Storms gave way to winter rot.  
Knotweed came where the wall  
was torn.

Not ever was a wall that wasn't  
forlorn.

Worn, it lay fallen with flowers in  
its spot.



# THE CRY VIOLET'S SONG

**B. Bonney**

Add a little bit of body text-And so they touch,  
one with a belladonna hand  
And an extended embrace holding the other  
And the other, a weeping violet standing on  
rocks of lime  
And their worlds shake from their speeding  
pulses  
And one's eyes reflect a deep purple future, a  
desire  
And the violet's eyes reflected back  
And they dance – pluck– each giving little deaths  
to the other  
And then the violet could die no longer  
And an American love is always bittersweet  
And the violet was gone before morning came  
And the other mourned in their violet coat  
And nothing could happen after.

Nothing at all.



# Climate Change Should Not Be Political

**By Liora Picker**

These days everything has become a partisan issue – where you live, the food you eat, the brands you buy from etc. Political affiliation has managed to pervade every sphere of life. Following suit, environmentalism and combating climate change has become a severe source of political tension. The oversimplified gist of the tension can be broken down into the Democratic party who support increased regulation and greenhouse gas mitigation versus the Republican party who support a free market, and some even question the legitimacy of climate change.

Differences are also manifested in the methodology of counteracting climate change. Republicans believe corporate industries as well as the people should lead the fight against climate change. A mere 24% of republicans believe the change should stem from the federal government, whereas democrats believe federal regulation is the solution.

In 1969, Republican president Richard Nixon signed into action the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and created the EPA (environmental protection agency). He spearheaded some of the most impactful environmental initiatives in this country. Nixon's goal was to “make peace with nature and begin to make reparations for the damage we have done to our land, to our air, and to our water. These should once again be the birthright of every American.”

Nixon however was criticized for enacting these reforms just to appease the left and using environmentalism as a political move. Nonetheless, these reforms were highly impactful on the life and overall health of Americans.

The enactment of said acts was also a manifestation of a healthy political body with two parties working cohesively. The bills were sent to Nixon by the democratic congress, but he didn't dismiss them as a partisan issue, rather he enacted said bills.

Climate change wasn't always a partisan issue. In fact, in 1970, the clean air act unanimously passed through the senate with a vote of 73-0. However, the harmonious partisanship took a turn when President Reagan was elected in 1981. He was a strong proponent of deregulation and a smaller federal government.

Reagan chipped away at the environmental act of the previous decade as he claimed it was an imposition on the free market. Reagan also attacked the culture of environmentalism through overt signs like removing the White House's solar water heater.

Questions over the legitimacy of climate change became more pervasive through the following decades. By 2000 anti environmental sentiments were too widespread to contain.



A spiraling cycle developed as more scientific experts published on the topics related to climate change which would lead mainstream news outlets to report on them which would then cause the conservative media sphere to discredit any claims of impending environmental disaster even more enthusiastically.

This all came to a head with Donald Trump's presidency in 2017. With him came the rise of extremism and conspiratorial thinking. Before his presidency, facts for the most part were accepted even if no methodology was agreed on to combat climate change. However, during his presidency the two parties seldom agreed on the facts laid out in front of them making it impossible to reach a productive consensus.

Reasons for the partisan split are multifaceted. For one, as the effects of climate change move from a micro to a macro scale it is harder to connect the dots and perceive a real problem. It's much more difficult to see the connections between the emissions from a coal plant and a hurricane across the world versus the connection between a lake that changes colors and the chemical waste being dumped in.

As the connection between pollution and adverse climate impacts become less obvious, the public becomes less concerned overall which allows the situation to exacerbate. Reasons for the partisan shift are also attributed the rise of the global environmental movement, deregulation, and income inequality. As a country, we must work beyond these partisan confines to save our planet for ourselves and for future generations.



# 10/26/22

By Rebecca Raush

At least there's still beautiful things  
Hints of pink in the clouds sometimes I  
Forget I'm not living in a portrait  
Hanging on your mantle, I hope  
Over your fireplace, I get so  
Cold. Sometimes at dinner parties I  
Can almost smell the tea and crumpets as  
Someone remarks: well isn't that  
Lovely? Isn't that simply  
Beautiful? And I almost  
Think I'm real, crafted  
From velveteen and not  
Painted on an August morning by  
Numb fingers disheveled hair and  
Opened skin, cracked open like  
A vault, but this time it's  
Empty. You swallowed the key I  
Think. I'm never sure. A different  
Me applauded your magic.

# National Parks: The Ideal Family Vacation

BY SAMANTHA GELBERG

Growing up my dad planned all of our family vacations. He would painstakingly ensure every detail of our trip was accounted for and that there was at least one activity each member of the family would enjoy. Most of the time though the main focus of the trip, dad's highlight of the whole thing, would be a visit to a national park. Everywhere we went he ensured that some national park or the other made it onto his thorough itinerary.

When I was little I didn't really understand the purpose of this. Why do so much unnecessary walking in the scalding heat just to see the same view photographed on the postcards in the gift shop? Why waste our time at Joshua tree when we could have spent another day in disneyland? Still dad would lace up his sneakers and put on his baseball cap with mounting excitement each time the morning of our hikes arrived. The smile wouldn't leave his face all day. I can't point to a specific moment when my mindset around hiking changed, but all of the sudden I was walking ahead of the whole family racing down hiking trails and stopping to look around for a quiet moment of my own in nature while filling out my junior ranger activity booklets.

Looking back at pictures from those trips it seems dad and I had the same smile on our faces, excited as ever to be surrounded by the natural beauty the earth had to offer. We saw waterfalls and green trees in Hawaii's Diamond Head state park, deep emerald pools at Zion, the greatest view of the stars at Bryce Canyon, a historic military base at Dry Tortugas, mountains, caverns, and so much more. There is nothing comparable to the feeling of reaching the summit of a mountain to be rewarded with breathtaking views and the sounds of a rushing stream teeming with life. There is simply nothing greater than being surrounded by the most beautiful parts of God's creation with the people you love most, especially if they share the same passion for it as you do. Our next trip will be to Yosemite National Park. Dad thinks it might be our last, but it won't be if I have anything to say about it. There's still so much more to see. America's national park system needs your support and it is beyond worthwhile trying to fit a stop on your next vacation wherever you may go.



# Capitalism and the Environment

By Reese Feldman

The history of extinction and how it is fueled by capitalism is explained by Ashley Dawson in *Extinction: A Radical History*, which provides context for how we have gotten to the point where we are today. Martin Empson expands on this in the article “Code Red: How can we prevent climate catastrophe?” Dawson starts at the beginning, describing the history of the exploitation of flora and fauna for the benefit of humans since humans developed communication and had intent behind their actions. While humans had been hunter-gatherers for millennia, hunting animals to extinction and depriving the land, the turning point that got us where we are today is the European discovery of the Americas. This is the point where ecocide went from regional to global, and global powers raced to conquer these lands and exploit them for their profit in their capitalist economies, because, as Dawson states, “Capitalism requires people to be destructive to the environment” (Dawson 42).

Such practices exponentially grew and continue to grow, as discussed by Empson. Especially after the second world war, the use of fossil fuels skyrocketed. Empson explains that this is a result of neoliberal politics, which resulted in a “systematic dismantling of environmental legislation, encouraged free trade and continued to subsidize fossil fuel use” (Empson). Both Dawson and Empson address the crisis of “Tragedy of the Commons”: when multiple parties race to exploit a resource to compete with the other parties involved. If one party were to attempt to use that resource sustainably, the share that they would ordinarily be using would be taken by the other parties, and they would simply be unable to compete. It would require the cooperation of all parties involved, which is improbable in a capitalist society, where each party needs to compete to survive.

# *The Power of Nature*

BY SOFIA BATTOGLIA

In today's day and age, many people tend to doubt nature's power over us. Whether it is from the moon, the rain, a hot summer day, or a gloomy winter day, our mental health is endlessly affected by nature. I am a firm believer that simple lifestyle changes, such as taking walks and exploring nature can completely change your life.

Therapists don't tell us to spend time outside or open up our blinds without reason. It is scientifically proven that when we experience sunlight, we become happier. The more vitamin D we have, the more our body is encouraged to produce serotonin. This was interesting to me. I wanted to test if nature could really improve my life. During quarantine, I developed a passion for spending time outside. I began taking walks every day, reading outside, or at least sitting by my open window.

Recently, I have taken my nature exploration to another level. I have simultaneously been becoming more spiritual as I've been spending more time outside. To me, this is no coincidence. Shifting my priorities from social media or watching Netflix to journaling outside has made a world of difference. Last week, on a particularly rough day, I decided to take the time to meditate outside. Within minutes my mood completely changed from feeling terribly anxious to absolutely peaceful. The positive effects of meditation compelled me to make it a regular habit. . Since then I have continued to meditate outside regularly. Whether between my classes, right outside my residence hall, or sitting in the yard, I make sure to devote at least five minutes every day to this practice.

The impacts I've noticed from meditating in nature have been exceptional. Before starting this habit, I was unaware of the scientific explanations behind the benefits of outdoor meditation.



An article published on [psychreg.org](https://psychreg.org) explains the benefits as, “strengthening of

the mind-body connection, easing stress and depression, lowering blood pressure, and improving concentration.” Even before completing this research, I felt those proven effects. I truly felt like a calmer, more connected individual. No placebo effect, just true peace of mind.

Meditation used to be an intimidating word for me. I believed there were such strict guidelines to follow or a way to “meditate correctly”. This is simply false. My meditation looks different every single day. Sometimes it is as simple as walking to class and listening to a guided meditation while observing the squirrels and trees around me. Some days it may be longer and more serious and consists of listening to spiritual music while journaling about the progress I've made toward my goals. Meditation is a flexible act that takes little time out of your day but makes a large impact. Connecting to nature and focusing on your surroundings can help your mental health in such an impactful way.

Surrounding yourself with nature and mindful thoughts can only improve your life. From one college student to another, I know it is inevitable to feel stressed in our fast paced, high intensity environment. Easing this worry from our lives with nature and meditation is just one coping mechanism I have learned to love. I urge you, give it a shot!

# Reflections on Autumn

I'm trying to appreciate the beauty in front of me. I won't deny it is beautiful. The leaves changing colors culminating in fields of orange and yellow contrasted against the still green grass is quite sight.

However, there's always something more important. There's always a test coming up or a friend that's upset with me or an outfit that doesn't fit the way it used to. Life is an endless experience saturated with stressors. My field of vision is so full of the things I haven't done, need to do, or did poorly on that I am blind to the things in front of me.

I want to see the leaves but I am blind. It's not just me, it feels like my whole generation of peers. We only care when we can benefit from nature as a backdrop to our social media posts or when we can bring out the cute sweaters and jeans that accentuate our butts.

Nature is something to profit off, not appreciate for what it is. I vowed this season to go back. I want to travel back in time to when nature was just nature. Trees are beautiful to look at. They aren't natural vessels for shade so that I can still stare at my phone outside away from the glare of the sun. They are personal and not there to be shared and boost my image as an "aesthetic queen."

I'm handing in my crown and retiring from my throne. This year I just want to see the world for what it is, not for how it can serve me.

# Autumn Playlist

BY ASTHA LAKHNAR

Fall at Rutgers features warm flakey pumpkin pastries in New Brunswick coffee shops, campus-lining trees turning yellow, red, and orange and listening to lovely songs in cold, brisk weather. Here are a few tracks to listen to for an immersive autumn experience:

1. "October Passed Me By" by Girl in Red
2. "Anti-Hero" by Taylor Swift
3. "That's Where I Am" by Maggie Rogers
4. "Dirty Work" by Steely Dan
5. "Hold The Girl" by Rina Sawayama
6. "Angel Numbers" by Adam Melchor
7. "Who Loves the Sun" by Velvet Underground
8. "Born to be Wild" by Steppen Wolf

# CITATIONS

## Cover Photo

1. Leigh Lustig

## Trees and their Majors

1. Photo by sunnyrabit from Pexels

## The Falling of Autumn

1. Photo by Gabriella Miliano
2. Photo by Liora Picker
3. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/fall-foliage-disrupted-by-climate-change-might-be-new-normal>.
4. <https://www.wgbh.org/news/local-news/2021/10/15/the-future-of-fall-how-the-climate-crisis-threatens-foliage-in-new-england>.
5. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2021/10/06/fall-foliage-leaves-climate-change/>.
6. <https://www.esf.edu/pubprog/brochure/leaves/leaves.htm>.

## A Guide to Recycling

1. <https://www.almostzerowaste.com/non-recyclar/>
2. <https://greenopedia.com/metal-recycling/>
3. <https://www.recyclenow.com/how-to-recycle/understanding-recycling-symbols>
4. <https://ucrra.org/lets-be-clear-not-all-glass-belongs-in-the-recycling-bin/>

## Knotweed

1. Photo by Madelyn Kamen

## Climate Change Should not be Political

1. Photo by Madelyn Kamen
2. <https://medium.com/age-of-awareness/when-did-environmentalism-become-partisan-dbc418a881d>.
3. <https://doi.org/10.2307/447511>. Accessed 13 May 2022.
4. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-challenging-politics-of-climate-change/>.
5. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/income-inequality-is-bad-climate-change-action/>.

## National Parks: The Ideal Family Vacation

1. Photo by Infinite Thought from Pixabay

## Capitalism and The Environment

1. Dawson, Ashley. *Extinction: A Radical History*. OR Books, 2016.
2. <https://climateandcapitalism.com/2021/08/13/code-red-can-we-prevent-climate-catastrophe/>

## The Power of Nature

1. Photo by Madelyn Kamen

FALL 2022 | ISSUE NO. 45 | OCTOBER

GP

# RUTGERS GREENPRINT

DESIGN BY: KIMBERLY A. BHANDARI  
COVER PHOTO: LEIGH LUSTIG