

**Tree Party Play**  
**Fall Festival, 2018 “Great Swamp- Tree- mendous”**  
**Kathy Woodward**

#1. Kathy; # 2. Jane; Bird – Eileen Bowen; Raccoon - Susan Katz;  
Bat - Ginnie Scott; Monarch - Lucy Crespo.

When kids and parents come, give them small cups of lemonade and slices of apple.

#1. Hi, thanks for coming to our Tree Party at Great Swamp. Today we are going to celebrate TREES! Our motto for today is **Trees are Tree-mendous**. Every time we hold up these signs, we will all say **Trees are Tree-mendous**. Let’s Practice. **Trees are Tree-mendous**.

#2. Thanks for the lemonade and apple slices! When do we start the celebration?

#1. We’ve already started. Lemons for the lemonade and apples grow on trees.

#2. Hey, that’s right! What else grows on trees?

#1. Let’s ask our friends here, what else grows on trees?  
(Nuts, fruits, coffee beans, leaves...adlib conversation.)

#2. Did someone say leaves? You are right! And leaves make shade. We love having our party in the shade of this wonderful chestnut tree.

#1. Yes, when it is hot out, it is 15° cooler under a shade tree. That sure helps in the summer.

**Trees are Tree-mendous.**

#2. Did you know lots of things live in trees?

#1. Really? Like what?

#2. Well, let’s ask our Friends? What lives in trees?

(Birds, raccoons, squirrels, bats, butterflies and other insects,.... Adlib comments.)

Raccoon, Bat, Bird, and Monarch Butterfly appear from behind screen.

#1. Oh, Mrs. Bird, of course you build your nest in the branches of trees.

Bird: Sometimes I think of a tree as an apartment building. The hummingbird lives in the lowest branches, robins live a bit higher up and owls, hawks and eagles live at the very top. Each kind of bird has a different kind of nest that is just right for the baby birds.

Raccoon: Hey, don't forget the woodpeckers that drill holes in the tree trunk and make their nest there. The next year, we raccoons make the hole a little bigger and raise our babies there. It is so cozy!

Trees are Tree-mendous.

#2. Bat, do you really live in trees.

Bat: Yes! We fly around at night and eat lots of insects. In fact, last night I ate 6,000 mosquitoes! So during the day, I have to sleep and digest all those bugs. I hide up under the bark of the shagbark hickory. In fact, if you look in the Visitor Center at the Magic Tree, there are pretend bats up under the shaggy bark. And, when we have our babies, we find a nice hollow tree. Great Swamp is a wonderful place for baby bats. You have lots of hollow trees and lots of water and bugs.

Trees are Tree-mendous.

#1. Ms. Monarch, I think of you on flowers not living in trees.

Monarch: Oh, on a sunny day, I am on flowers, drinking nectars from blossoms. But at night, I find some nice leafy branch to rest and where I am protected. But the time I really like trees is when I am migrating to Mexico.

#2. Wait, Mexico is 3,000 miles away!

Monarch: So I'm told. Next month, I leave for my long journey south. I will meet up with other monarchs and we will rest on special trees on the way. Sometimes in North Carolina, there will be hundreds of us in a tree for the night. And, when we get to Mexico, to a special mountain, hundreds of thousands of us hang together on trees. We stay there for several months, until the weather gets warmer and we head north again.

#1. Some kids build tree houses. Do any of you kids have a tree house? Want to hear a poem about a Tree House by Shel Silverstein? Here goes!

**A tree house, a free house,  
A secret you and me house,  
A high up in the leafy branches  
Cozy as can be house.**

**A street house, a neat house,  
Be sure and wipe your feet house  
Is not my kind of house at all--  
Let's go live in a tree house.**

#2. I'd like to live in a tree house.

Bird: I bet your house is made of wood, right? Wood comes from TREES! And most of your chairs, and tables and beds are made from wood. So you do sort of live in a tree house!

Bat: Lots of other things come from wood, too. In fact, paper and cardboard are made from wood. Even the paper cups you are using are made from trees.

#1. Wow! Trees are really helping us celebrate Trees!

**Trees are Tree-mendous.**

Butterfly: Do you like maple syrup on your pancakes?

Raccoon: I sure do! (Smacking lips and rubbing paws together.)  
Maple syrup comes from the sap on maple trees!

#2. Yes, trees are energy machines. They take in sunlight through the leaves and water through the roots and make sugary syrup. And leaves produce oxygen, which makes the air we breathe.

#1. In the old days, people burned wood in stoves and fireplaces to cook and heat their homes.

#2. I like when we have a campfire when we go camping.

#1. Yes, that's another way that trees make life fun. Did you know that under the ground trees have almost as many roots as they have branches?

#2. Wow, are we sitting on those now?

#1. Yes. The roots catch the rain and hold the soil in place. That's good all the time, but it really helps when there are floods. Trees help us a lot.

**Trees are Tree-mendous.**

#2. Lots of people love trees. They write songs and poems about trees and paint pictures of trees. Each tree has a special shape, special bark and special leaves or needles.

#1. I like when the leaves turn beautiful colors in the fall.

#2. I like the trees that have needles instead of leaves, like Christmas trees! So they are always green.

Butterfly: So trees do great things for us. Can we do anything for them?

#1. Wow! Great question! Trees are pretty good at taking care of themselves, but we can give them water when it is very dry. And we should be careful of their roots and not drive over them or cut them.

Bird: And remember to plant new trees. My birdies are going to need places to build their nests, too.

Everyone: Trees really are TREE-mendous.