

NURSE TREE

By L.A. Wild

DAY 22

The seed of this Yellow Birch, *Betula alleghaniensis*,
Vermont native
Largest of birches
Found throughout New England
Made its way, carried from another place
To a sponsor, to a nurse tree.

A tree from a different family
In spite of, or because of, its agedness
Took it in,
accepted its roots
gave it structure, shared resources.

Nurse tree in decline,
grew the birch now deeply rooted,
Betula stands in place.
Aged nurse yields to decay,
gives up its energy, transforms the future
massive trunk breaks away

Roots of a tree from a different family
anchored deep in an elder heart
Retains connection, across the boundary
On Irish Hill
Early home to others from afar



Yellow Birch Roots in Heart of Nurse Tree
On Irish Hill
Photo Ron Wild