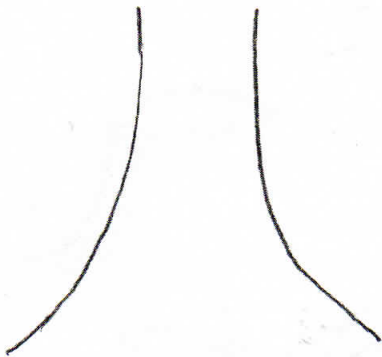


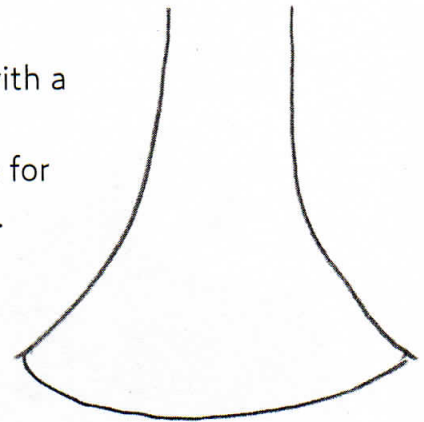
Ever since I was ten years old, I've been obsessed with drawing trees. I've always been fascinated with the aboveground root canals of the giant fig trees, the gnarly knotholes and deep trunk wood grain on the great oaks, and the whispering, dangling leaves of the weeping willows. In this lesson I will introduce you to the joy of drawing a simple tree with a tapered trunk and overlapping textured clumps of leaves.

Trees surround us, shelter us, warm us, oxygenate us, and provide abundantly for our lives. From the table I'm sitting at and chair I'm sitting on, to the paper you are drawing on, trees are fundamental to our way of life. On my website (www.markkistler.com), I've posted several tree planting organizations that my kids and I are a part of. I encourage you to take a look at these (Google "tree planting organizations") and consider joining one. With this lesson I hope to encourage you to go outside and plant a tree in your yard, your friend's yard, your kid's school, or your place of worship. But first let's draw an inspiring tree!

1. Draw the trunk of the tree tapering out at the bottom.



2. Curve the bottom with a contour line. This will serve as the guide line for the tree's root system.



3. Using the bottom of the contour curve, draw guide lines in drawing directions NE, SE, NW, and SW as I have illustrated.

