



eNTS

The Magazine of the
Native Tree Society
Volume 1, Number 12,
December 2011



eNTS: The Magazine of the Native Tree Society

The Native Tree Society and the Eastern Native Tree Society

<http://www.nativetreesociety.org>

<http://www.ents-bbs.org>

Volume 1, Number 12, December 2011

Mission Statement:

The Native Tree Society (NTS) is a cyberspace interest groups devoted to the documentation and celebration of trees and forests of the eastern North America and around the world, through art, poetry, music, mythology, science, medicine, wood crafts, and collecting research data for a variety of purposes. This is a discussion forum for people who view trees and forests not just as a crop to be harvested, but also as something of value in their own right. Membership in the Native Tree Society and its parent organization the Eastern Native Tree Society is free and open to anyone with an interest in trees living anywhere in the world.

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COVER: Crane Beach, MA. Photo by Robert Leverett, 2011.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Corner by Edward Frank	6
North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove 11/25/2011 by Tom Howard	7
Introduction of Treesrock by Neil Norton	8
Ethan Shaw - New Member by Ethan Shaw	9
Howland's Island, NY by Elijah Whitcomb	9
Get Each Post as it Appears with an RSS Feed by Edward Frank	11
Re: Get Each Post as It Appears with an RSS Feed by Joe Zorzin	12
Crane Beach teaser, MA by Robert Leverett	12
Of castles, ocean, dunes, and pitch pines (Crane Beach, MA) by Robert Leverett	12
Indiana Cucumber by Tom Robinson	17
Negus Mountain, MA - December 04, 2011 by Robert Leverett	17
Re: Of castles, ocean, dunes, and pitch pines, MA by Robert Leverett	18
Re: Of castles, ocean, dunes, and pitch pines by Robert Leverett	20
Introduction - Stacey Simkins by Stacy Simkins	21
Batsto, NJ trees pictures by Barry Caselli	21
Catalpa tree at Batsto, NJ now removed by Barry Caselli	22
Several more Catalpa trees at Batsto, NJ by Barry Caselli	22
The Keeler Oak, NJ by Barry Caselli	23
Re: Climbing Redwood Giants Video from National Geographic by Edward Frank	24
New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ said to be over 235 years by Larry Baum	24
Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ said to be over 235 years by Eric Martindale	26
Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ said to be over 235 years by Edward Frank	27
Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ said to be over 235 years by Eric Martindale	27
Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ said to be over 235 years by Eric Martindale	28
Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ said to be over 235 years by Kirk Johnson	28
Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ said to be over 235 years by Barry Caselli	28
New Free Stuff From Videomaker by Edward Frank	28
New Species Conservation Auction - Name that Lichen! by Edward Frank	29
Patrick from NC by Patrick Brandt	29
Hello from Monica Jakuc Leverett by Monica Jakuc Leverett	29
Dendromorphometry draft being revised by Robert Leverett	30
Proposed High Allegheny National Park and Preserve, WV by Edward Frank	31
Ohio Rucker Indices by Steve Galehouse	32
New 170 foot Liriodendron site, TN by Will Blozan	32
List of 130' tree sites in MA by Robert Leverett	33
Re: List of 130' tree sites in MA by Robert Leverett	33
Re: List of 130' tree sites in MA by Robert Leverett	34
Tulips of Stanley Park, MA by Sam Goodwin	36
North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove Pictures by Tom Howard	36
Taking the high road by Robert Leverett	37
Ice Glen/Laurel Hill, MA - Dec. 11, 2011 by Robert Leverett	37
Re: Ice Glen/Laurel Hill, MA - Dec. 11, 2011 by Robert Leverett	38
Treatment for Dutch Elm Disease by Will Blozan	39
Big Dogwood (Cornus florida), NJ by Barry Caselli	39
White Oak - Main Street, Mays Landing, NJ by Barry Caselli	40
Amazing open-grown White Oak by Barry Caselli	40
Two huge Eastern Red Cedars, NJ by Barry Caselli	41
Re: Algonquin PP Old Growth/Canoeing video by Steve Galehouse	42
Eastern OLDLIST - Updates by Neil Pederson	43
Bienville National Forest-Tallahala Wildlife Mgt Area, MS by Larry Tucei	43
Kenyir Lake trip report, Malaysia by Darin Wu	48
Re: Kenya Lake trip report, Malaysia by Kouta Räsänen	49
Re: Kenya Lake trip report, Malaysia by Darin Wu	49

Video of Horse Logging by Joe Zorzin	50
Re: Video of Horse Logging by Gaines McMartin	51
West Virginia Big Tree Register by Turner Sharp	52
East Granby Farms Recreation Area, CT by Sam Goodwin	53
Spiders in pines by Steve Galehouse	56
Sugar maple in Port Byron, NY by Elijah Whitcomb	56
Start of new project with DCR, MA by Robert Leverett	57
Re: Start of new project with DCR by Robert Leverett	57
Re: Start of new project with DCR by Robert Leverett	58
Tall eastern Mass. quaking aspen MA by Andrew Joslin	58
Re: Tall eastern Mass. quaking aspen by Andrew Joslin	58
North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove, NY 12/10/2011 by Tom Howard	59
Antique Postcards by Edward Frank	60
The Death of Champion, IL by Beth Koebel	61
Trees at the 9/11 Memorial, NYC, NY by Jennifer Dudley	61
November Birds, Central Park, New York City, NY by Jennifer Dudley	62
Prof. Suzanne Simard talks about Mother trees - Video	62
A classic American elm, Ohio by Steve Galehouse	62
Postcard - Delaware Cypress Country by Barry Caselli	63
Go Into the Arts (quote from Kurt Vonnegut)	63
Georgia canopy heights from LiDAR by Jess Riddle	64
Re: Georgia canopy heights from LiDAR by Jess Riddle	64
NTS-Wide Trail Guides Project by Robert Leverett	65
Treeverse Video by Ascending the Giants	65
Cherry (sp.), Southwestern CT by Ryan LeClair	66
Re: Cherry, Southwestern CT by Ryan LeClair	66
Metasequoia on Smith College campus, MA by Robert Leverett	66
White Pine and Hemlock heights by Turner Sharp	68
More World Records From Zane Moore by M.W.Taylor	68
New Tallest Tree for New Zealand by M.W.Taylor	68
Re: New Tallest Tree for New Zealand by Matt Smillie	69
Abies fraseri var. decorata by Steve Galehouse	70
What Does the Future Hold For The NTS? by Robert Leverett	70
Cedar Lake Christian Academy Oak, MS by Larry Tucei	71
Explanation? by James Robert Smith	71
Christmas Tree Count, OH by Steve Galehouse	72
Dive bomb bird in the hand about Jennifer Dudley	72
Impulse200LR Laser - 3D Tree Modeling by M.W.Taylor	73
Re: Impulse200LR - 3D Tree Modeling by M.W.Taylor	73
Re: Howland's Island by Jess Riddle	74
Metasequoia on UNC-Chapel Hill Campus by Patrick Brandt	75
Freeman's Maple by Steve Galehouse	76
Re: Freeman's Maple by Jess Riddle	76
Smith College campus, MA by Robert Leverett	77
Re: Smith College campus, MA by Robert Leverett	77
Appleton, NY Oaks by Neil Pederson	78
Modeling a 117 foot, 234 point poplar in Chapel Hill, NC by Patrick Brandt	79
Mill Stream Run Reservation, OH by Steve Galehouse	83
Metasequoia at Biltmore Estate, NC by Larry Tucei	84
List of 130' sites in Ohio by Steve Galehouse	84
Panther Creek, GA by Jess Riddle	85
Michigan Cherries? by Doug Bidlack	86
Re: Michigan Cherries? by Will Blozan	88
Eli Dickerson and Trees Atlanta by Eli Dickerson	89
Return intensity and deciduousness by Jess Riddle	89
Re: Modeling a 117 foot, 234 point poplar in Chapel Hill, NC by Will Blozan	90

3D spacial modeling of a giant redwood trunk by M.W.Taylor	90
Re: 3D spacial modeling of a giant redwood trunk by M.W.Taylor	90
Re: 3D spacial modeling of a giant redwood trunk by M.W.Taylor	91
Re: 3D spacial modeling of a giant redwood trunk by M.W.Taylor	91
Re: 3D spacial modeling of a giant redwood trunk by fooman	92
Re: 3D spacial modeling of a giant redwood trunk by M.W.Taylor	92
Re: 3D spacial modeling of a giant redwood trunk by fooman	93
Re: 3D spacial modeling of a giant redwood trunk by M.W.Taylor	93
Re: 3D spacial modeling of a giant redwood trunk by fooman	93
Re: 3D spacial modeling of a giant redwood trunk by M.W.Taylor	94
Re: 3D spacial modeling of a giant redwood trunk by fooman	94
Bart's Travels, Costa Rica by Bart Bouricius	94
London Plane and Sparrow, Cnetral Park, NYC, NY by Jennifer Dudley	95
Amherst, MA by Robert Leverett	96
St. Charles Borromeo Church Live Oaks, LA by Larry Tucei	97
Oak Opening Project by DougBidlack	98
Re: Oak Opening Project by Doug Bidlack	102
Re: Oak Opening Project by Doug Bidlack	102
Familiar eastern trees which range into the tropics by Steve Galehouse	104
External Links	105



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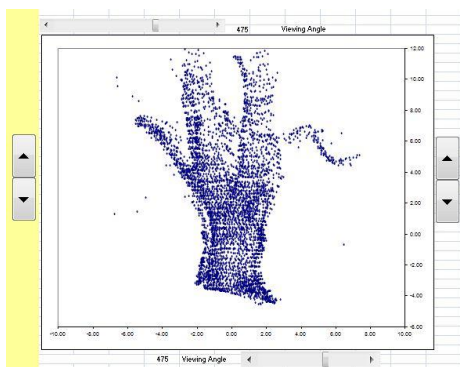
Editor's Corner

By Edward Frank

Webmaster , BBS Administrator,
eNTS Magazine Editor-in-Chief
edfrank@nativetreesociety.org

I write this on the first day of 2012. Dire predictions of the end of the world have come and gone during the past year, and the world is still here. It has been a year of growth and evolution for the Native Tree Society. On an individual basis members have had inspiring personal triumphs and great personal tragedies. There should be some words I can put down here to bring everything into perspective with a brilliant flash of insight. I can't seem to find those words on this occasion. So my poor mutterings will need to suffice.

The Native Tree Society has continued to grow. We went through a name change from Eastern Native Tree Society to the Native Tree Society to reflect that growth into other regions beyond our founding cradle in the eastern United States. This change has been accompanied by some restructuring of the organization, the Native Tree Society Website <http://www.nativetreesociety.org/> and our NTS BBS <http://www.ents-bbs.org/index.php> to reflect that evolution with more to come in the coming year. In the western United States we have created the Western Native Tree Society (WNTS) <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=159> chapter under the leadership of Don Bertollette. Michael Taylor has come on-board as the vice-President of WNTS. Michael has brought with him an energy and enthusiasm. His posts are pushing the envelope with methods to achieve outstanding accuracy in our height measurements and recent exploration of cloud mapping of tree trunks for volume and form studies.



We have had fantastic posts from our European contingent and have several added new members there. We are getting reports from sites in Mongolia, China, and New Zealand. There has been a sprouting of new members in the eastern US, western US, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

After a year and a half, I believe the BBS has been an overall success for the group. We created this new monthly eNTS Magazine to summarize the posts made each month to the BBS <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=274>. Don Bragg has continued to produce excellent issues of the Bulletin of the Eastern Native Tree Society <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=17>. Mitch Galehouse has brought our Trees Database online. <http://www.treesdb.org/> Our web presence and foray into social media has been enhanced by the growth of our Facebook NTS Page. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Native-Tree-Society/106472616107768>

LiDAR has come into its own as a tool for exploring the forest and identifying potential tall trees. The tallest trees in the eastern United States were discovered using LiDAR imagery. The Fork Ridge tuliptree in GSMNP was verified by climb and tape drop to be 191.9 feet (58.5 m) tall! <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=74&t=2423>

We have projects abounding. New members have made a splash, like Dan Reed in northern Ohio. Longer time members have continued to produce results and post about their explorations. Eli Dickerson is measuring in Georgia, Tom Howard in New York, Steve Galehouse and Randy Brown in Ohio. Tuner Sharp has put a new face on the West Virginia tree survey. Neil Pederson has continued to submit reports of old trees, and trips from exotic places. The indefatigable Robert Leverett is turning out both detailed scientific and poetic accounts of his explorations into the forest. Larry Tucei is adding to his ever growing list of fantastic Live Oak trees of the south.

I am not trying to shortchange or ignore the efforts of others in New England, North Carolina, and elsewhere, there simply is not enough room to credit everyone who has contributed to the group's success. Above all our successes as a group are most certainly team efforts. Growth brings changes, and we will see what changes will be in store for us in the new year. I am looking for great things to happen. Stay tuned.

North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove 11/25/2011

by tomhoward » Sat Dec 03, 2011 11:15 am

NTS, On beautiful sunny Nov. 25, 2011, I visited this favorite old growth site. It has been the most special place to me since I was 5 years old, and, after seeing many old growth sites in the East, it still has a greater density of large old trees than any other that I have seen.

The oaks were bare, and their incredibly gnarled limbs were easily visible. White Oak #23 is especially gnarly, the gnarliest of all the White Oaks. Above the core section of the grove around White Oak #22 the warm blue sky was filled with a mass of crooked timber, the most awesome expression of old growth I know of in this area. The "Old Growth Air" was especially wonderful on this day, fragrant with freshly fallen oak leaves and the spring Earth; breezes made soft rustling sounds among the trees. There was no water in the "Swale" or ancient vernal pool in the center of the grove.

I measured a small looking but still very gnarled White Oak with balding bark east of the core group to 19.6" dbh. This tree has been added to the group of Big Oaks as it just under 20" dbh; last year, when I had a laser rangefinder, I measured the tree as 90 ft. tall, much lower than the 100-110 ft. heights of the old White Oaks of the core group.

Most of these White Oaks, and especially the core group of Trees # 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 have the characteristics of aged oaks with spiral grain, extremely gnarled and twisted large limbs, balding bark. Each one of these trees has its own individual gnarly character. White Oaks #33, 37, 38 in the NW part of the grove also have these aging characteristics.

I measured dbh of the following additional trees:

Red Maple #8	32.3
Red Oak	17.8
Black Gum coming out of base, SW of White Oak #33	
Black Gum	13.6
Red Oak	16.4
young, east of White Oak #37	
young, east of White Oak #33	

A Red Oak NW of Red Maple #8 is easily over 20" dbh, but I did not measure it as it is covered with Poison Ivy – it has been added to the group of Big Oaks.

At the northern end of the old growth, north of White Oaks #31 and #32, is a large double-trunked Red Oak – this tree is a coppice growth with 2 trunks that seem to be stump sprouts from about 1900 or earlier; since these trunks are over 20" diameter, this tree has been added to the group of Big Oaks.

There are 2 cohorts of oaks in the North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove. The oldest one is the old growth core of the grove, with oaks from 170 – possibly over 250 years old. Most of these trees are White Oaks, and this cohort includes all the White Oaks identified as "Big Oaks" (with the possible exception of the 19.6" dbh White Oak east of White Oaks #23 and 25). This cohort also includes Red Oak #13, Black Oak #27, and possibly Red Oak #26.

The second cohort surrounds the old growth core, and consists of Red Oaks estimated to be 90-120 years old; the largest tree in this group is Red Oak #17 (31.8" dbh, 105 ft. tall). These Red Oaks do not have the gnarled characteristics of old growth trees and have younger looking bark. All the Red Oaks designated as "Big Oaks" (except Red Oaks #13, #26) are part of this cohort.

There is a double-trunked White Pine sapling north of Red Oak #9, a smaller White Pine sapling NE of White Oak #10, and a White Pine seedling north of White Oak #33.

Here are 2 pictures of the grove - these pictures were taken in 1997-98, but the trees look the same today.

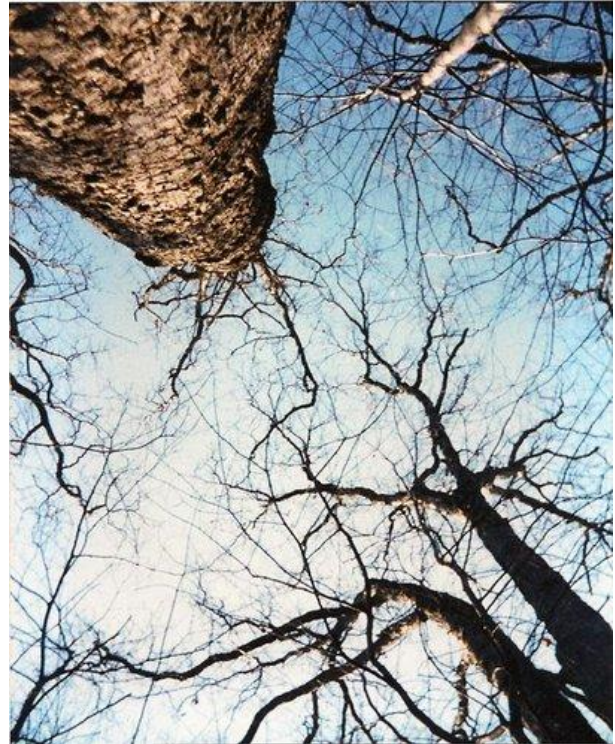


This photo shows the most concentrated area of old growth trees southeast of the swale. The "gnarl factor" is apparent.

In the 2nd growth forest north of the grove are 3 large Red Oaks that are younger (possibly less than 120 years old) with more open grown form. They are listed as Red Oaks #39, 40, and 44 in the 1999 brochure. Since they are so close to the old growth grove, they have been added to the group of Big Oaks. I measured the largest one, Red Oak #40, at 39.7" dbh, the largest Red Oak in the grove area. Just north of this tree is the Onondaga County champion Sassafras (Sassafras #41) which I measured at 21.9" dbh. This forest-grown Sassafras is 86 ft. tall.

Number of Big Oaks in North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove as of 11/25/2011:
("Big Oak" defined as estimated (oaks that are 19.5" dbh + round up to 20") 20"+ dbh or 100+ ft. tall)
White Oak 17
Red Oak 21
Black Oak 1
That is a lot in such a small area.

Tom Howard



This picture shows White Oak #22 (21" dbh, 106 ft. tall) and to the right White Oak #16 (31.1" dbh, 107 ft. tall - #16 has 2 ascending stems that split about 15 ft. above the base of the tree.

[Introduction of Treesrock](#)

by treesrock » Thu Dec 01, 2011 2:59 pm

My name is Neil. I am a certified arborist and work part time at the Georgia Urban Forest Council (<http://www.gufc.org/>) where our mission is sustain Georgia's green legacy by helping communities grow healthy trees. I also work as the Online Community Manager for The American Grove (<http://thegrove.americangrove.org/>), social networking for people that love trees. I enjoy being outside and exploring new areas with trees. I am familiar with tree measurement but mostly in the context of Urban Trees as once I was hired to inventory all the trees on Ponce De Leon in Decatur where I measured height, crown, and dbh of over 350 trees! It was a great job. If it has something to do with trees, I pretty much will do it. I find trees to be

an excellent theme from which to experience life!

My first passion in life strangely were computers. I grew up in the Silicon Valley and was steeped in the religion of technology. It was only later in life that I discovered that I like the sound of being a tree person more than a computer person. Still, I do combine both passions into a strange mix. It works for me and feel very lucky to able to pursue my passions.

Neil Norton

Ethan Shaw - New Member

by ESH » Fri Dec 02, 2011 12:18 pm

Hi all, I recently joined the Native Tree Society, having long admired its project pages & discussion forums. I'm a writer & naturalist living in the maritime Northwest, and my main areas of focus--and my passions--are wild landscapes, physical geography, the classification of landforms & ecosystems, and the intersection of topography & ecology. Old, huge, particularly gnarled, living-at-the-fringe-of-their-range, and otherwise notable trees have always spoken to me (though all, naturally, are wonderful in their own way), and I love chancing upon them, whether on wilderness bushwhacks, trail rambles, or strolls through parks & cemeteries.

I'm looking forward to more deeply exploring these forums, and taking advantage of the impressive collective knowledge housed here. The efforts to document lone veterans & resilient patches of old-growth are really inspiring. Mostly, I'm sure, I'll be a happy student on these pages, but I also hope to post about particular trees/forests I've come across (there is an ancient, half-dead Pacific Madrone of impressive size I visit regularly on the Ice Age Floods-scoured benches above the Willamette River in the Portland Metro area), and perhaps some musings on trees & landscape.

Thanks for all your work & dedication.
-Ethan Shaw

Howland's Island, NY

by lucager1483 » Fri Dec 02, 2011 2:25 pm

This past summer I made several tree-measuring trips to Howland's Island, part of the extensive Montezuma NWF in Central NY's Cayuga and Wayne counties. The Island is separated from the mainland by the Seneca River/Erie Canal and consists of about 3,000 acres of marsh, ponds, meadows, farmland, and rolling hills, or drumlins.

Although the management of the NWF and the Island is heavily geared toward the maintenance of local and migratory bird habitat, the Island itself is as biologically diverse an area as can be found in central NY. Little old growth has survived, and likely no contiguous patches, but the Island is dotted with a variety of both large and old trees. The NYS DEC has a good description of the Island on its website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/68699.html>.

The low-lying swamp areas of the Island are populated mainly by silver maple, ashes, eastern cottonwood, and swamp white oak. The well-drained flat areas and hillsides consist of a healthy mix of northern hardwoods, such as sugar maple, American sycamore, bitternut and shagbark hickory, tulip tree, black locust, black cherry, and various oaks.

Conifers are noticeably absent from the landscape, save the planted Norway spruces and northern white cedars, a lone red pine, and a sparse scattering of eastern white pine. The hilltops harbor a lot of northern red oaks and hickories.

The tree heights on Howland's Island are not exceptional, because of the latitude, forest age, and climate, but I still came up with an R10 of 111.8' and an R20 of 103.4'. So far, I have measured 15 species over 100', and with more effort, can probably eventually bump that up to 20. Most of the tall trees are located on hillsides, made up of young, even-aged hardwoods. The attractiveness of the Island to me is more in the number of large-girthed trees and the diversity of species for the area.

The girth 10 index is 12.2' and the 20 index is 9.6'.

The main culprits here are the cottonwoods, sycamores, and northern red oaks, all of which grow very well on the Island.

As far as variety is concerned, Howland's Island is certainly no southern Appalachian community, but so far I've identified about 40 species of measurable trees, with more likely to come. Some uncommon species for the area found on the Island include sassafras, black gum, and chinkapin oak. I have also found small American chestnut sprouts across the road from the Island's access road, but on private land.

Here are some of the highlights of my measuring adventures, organized courtesy of the Galehouses:

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/793/Details>.

	HGT	GRTH
ABASWOOD1	92.8'	11.2'
ABASWOOD2	100.6'	
ABEECH1	82'	9.3'
ABEECH2	90.8'	
AMELM1	105'	
AMELM2	86.5'	6.5'
AMSYCMR1	117'	12'
BGUM1	72'	7.2'
BGUM2	8'	
BITNTHICK1	114'	10.5' *TRUNK
DIVIDES JUST ABOVE BREAST HEIGHT*		
BITNTHICK2	113'	
BLCKCHRY1	113.8'	
BLCKCHRY2	111'	8.4'
BLCKLOCST1	118.7'	5.3'
BLCKWILW1	68.8'	
BLCKWNT1	102.5'	7'
BUROAK1	83.5'	5.8'
BTASPEN1	78'	5.9'
BUTRNUT1	84'	5'
BUTRNUT2	60'	8.4'
CHACKBRY1	84'	
CHNKPNOK1		2.4'
CHSTNTOAK1	69.6'	7.6'
STCOTWD1	111.2'	14.5'
ESTCOTWD2	106.1'	15.7'
ESTWHTPN1	107'	
NROAK1	93.4'	19.9'
NROAK2	13.8'	
NROAK3	11.8'	
NROAK4	111'	

NWCEDAR1	39.7'	2.4'
QUASPEN1	74.5'	
RDMAPL1	95'	
RDPIN1	59.3'	6'
SASFRAS1	81'	4.4'
SHGHICK1	102'	
SILMAPL1	103.9'	8.7'
SILMAPL2	96.4'	10.5'
SUGMAPL1	104.7'	
SUGMAPL2	109'	5.7'
SUGMAPL3	76'	11.8'
SWMPWOAK1	78.7'	12.1'
WHTASH1	109'	
WHTOAK1	83.5'	9.9'
YPOPLR1	107.5'	6.5'

Whole height numbers represent a straight-up from the ground laser shot plus 2 yards for my height, and are necessarily less accurate than heights obtained using the sine-sine method resulting in heights rounded to the nearest tenth decimal place. Heights determined using a Nikon Prostaff 440 laser rangefinder, Suunto clinometer, and Texas Instruments scientific calculator in conjunction with the NTS sine-sine method. Circumferences determined using a Spencer logging tape wrap at 4.5'.



The ages of the trees on the island are all over the map, but most of the forest is fairly young (70-80 years or less). The white pines and Norway spruces were likely planted during the 1930s as part of the CCC's work, and many of the trees likely sprouted after that period. The island has a long history of human use, and for a long time I assumed it

contained no old growth at all, but the size of the two black gums has put some doubt of that in my mind.

These trees have very deep-ridged bark on one side and smoother bark on the other, and appear at first glance to be ordinary cottonwoods. Boy, was I excited when I spotted tons of the small blue fruit on the ground! I have not yet explored the whole island, so there may be more such finds hiding themselves.

The gem of the island, and my favorite tree, is a northern red oak, 93.4' in height with a girth of 19' - 10". This boy is a monster. I hope to bag some more measurements ASAP, but the Island is a popular hunting destination during the fall and winter, so the next trip may have to wait a few months.



Elijah Whitcomb

Tom Howard wrote: In the Mary Byrd Davis Old Growth in the East A Survey (2003), Montezuma Swamp contains a 100-acre old growth forest called Swamp Woods Natural Area (p.40 of Survey) consisting of Red Maple and Swamp White Oak. Is this on or near Howland's Island?

Elijah replied: I'm not sure where the Swamp Woods Natural Area referred to is located, but it's probably south of the Island close to the Thruway. However, Howland's Island does contain lots of silver maples in the wetter areas, and I'm pretty confident that they've never been cut, at least to a significant extent.

They're just not valuable for commercial use.

Swamp white oak is also very common in the wet areas, and some attain pretty good size. Red maple is much rarer on the Island but more common in other areas of the Refuge. In Robert Mead's book on the Island (I think it's only available from the Montezuma Refuge visitor's center store off 5&20), he mentions that the first white settlers who got really serious about farming on the Island burned most of the lumber that they cut to clear the land. This would likely have included some ginormous old-growth hardwoods, especially the oaks, elms, and maples, and perhaps American chestnut and tulip tree. Such a waste, but then that was also during the great eastern logging boom that was thought to have no end. The land does heal, though, and I'm thankful for what I've been able to see and experience.

[Re: Get Each Post as it Appears with an RSS Feed](#)

by edfrank » Sat Dec 03, 2011 9:39 am

I am currently using the feeds option from Windows Live Mail to get the RSS feeds from the BBS using the RSS link here: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/feed.php> I have the program set to check for new feeds every 15 minutes. It works fine. You get the posts almost as soon as they are posted. To respond to a post compose your message as you would with an email response, click the link in the header that says "view online." This will open up the post in your web browser. Click the Reply button in the post, and cut and paste the response you composed into the BBS window that opens. Then click submit at the bottom of the composition window. It is a couple of more steps than just hitting the reply button on your email, but it is still simple and easy to do.

Edward Frank

Re: Get Each Post as It Appears with an RSS Feed

by Joe » Sat Dec 03, 2011 1:40 pm

Well, I have a better way, I think, to keep track of this BBS. I have a link on my desk top to "unread messages": http://www.ents-bbs.org/search.php?search_id=unreadposts

So, each morning, or whenever, I click on that- then I just choose whichever look interesting. After reading what I want, I go to the main page of the board and click on "mark all messages read" or something like that. This method makes it very easy to keep track without getting 20 or more emails per day- or trying to search the entire BBS for new messages. I'm sure other methods have been discovered, but this method works perfect for me- I get to keep up with the entire board and its ultra efficient of my time.

Joe Zorzin

Crane Beach teaser, MA

by dbhguru » Sat Dec 03, 2011 9:36 pm

Monica and I just returned from two days at Crane Beach. I'll have a big write-up on our time there in a couple of days. But just as a heads up, there are beaches and then there are beeches. Please observe.



It is a European beech growing on the Crane estate. Its girth is 18.2 feet in girth and a height of 81 feet. A coppice beech close by measures 19.3 feet around. They do get your attention. As a teaser of what is to come, here is an image of Crane Beach and the Atlantic Ocean. This spot is about a 15 minute walk from the location of the European beech.



Of castles, ocean, dunes, and pitch pines (Crane Beach, MA)

by dbhguru » Sat Dec 03, 2011 9:24 pm

NTS, My plan is to submit this trip report on a very special spot on the Atlantic Ocean as three separate posts. I have lots of photos and I want to give readers a chance to savor each image. The first report will concentrate on beach and adjacent grasslands. The second will cover dunes and a pitch pine forest, and the 3rd will cover a historic castle and its accompanying grounds. The grounds are where the large European beech grows that I showed in a recent post. So, without further introduction, here goes with report #1.

Massachusetts has 192 miles of coastline, as seen from a distance or on large scale maps. If tidal inlets are included, the number rises dramatically to 1,519 miles. So, we're not short in Massachusetts on ocean-land interface. So, a logical practical question posed by visitors is: where is the best ocean beach in Massachusetts? The Bay State offers many beach choices, public and private, some quite famous.

Beaches along Cape Cod's National Seashore, on Martha's Vineyard, and on Nantucket Island are logical first choices. However, real ocean aficionados list the Trustees of Reservation's Crane Beach in Ipswich near the top. In fact, the Boston Globe considers Crane to be the #1 beach in the Commonwealth. Not having visited all the Bay State's choices, I cannot offer an experienced opinion. But having just returned from a two-day stay at historic Castle Hill, Crane is at the top of my list. There are a number of reasons why. I'll first list the ones that can be researched via the web.

Crane Beach offers over 4 miles of delightful, silky sands, sands as good as has ever passed between my wiggling toes. I'll even go a step further. Crane's fine-grained sands define what a beach should feel like, and the beach is wide along most of its length. Visitors are treated to a large surface area in which to wander and dip their feet. At low tide, sand bars offer an inviting beach stroll. With so much space, crowds are generally not a problem in the sense that you can get away from the throngs if you want to walk a mile or more.

Beyond its idyllic beach, Crane has other selling points. The Crane Beach area is one of the most important nesting sites in the world for piping plovers. That is quite an ecological plus, especially for birders. As a consequence of the piping plover nesting, large areas are protected, and rightly so. Turning from fauna to flora, Crane boasts the largest maritime pitch pine forest on the north shore, and as you might expect, that land feature received a not small amount of attention from yours truly. Beyond silky sands, birds, and pitch pines, Crane Beach is part of New England's largest marsh grass ecosystem, one that extends from southern New Hampshire south to Gloucester, MA. This salt marsh is called the Great Marsh and covers over 20,000 acres. I don't know what most of the marsh looks like, but the part around Crane Beach is drop-dead gorgeous.

For those into the human history of this outstanding Trustees property, there is the opulent Crane Castle. Built by Richard Crane, Jr. who was at one time America's second richest person (behind John D. Rockefeller), the castle has 59 rooms, and

the current castle replaced one that was even larger - over 100 rooms we were told. Then there are the sand dunes, the eternal, yet ever changing dunes - over 1,000 acres of them, and they are traversed by more than 5 miles of trails where the visitor can experience the many moods of the dunes. And then there are the marshlands - grasses that remind me of the Great Plains. You get all these features in a natural setting that includes famous Plum Island. Crane Beach is far enough away from the congestion of the Boston area to make you think that you've left the present and have traveled back in time to New England of yesteryear. Crane Beach is a class act, viewed from virtually any perspective.

Let's now take a more intimate look at this 2,100-acre Trustees property. This first posting will cover the beach and adjacent grasslands. Please don't forget to double click on each photo to expand it. This gorgeous place cannot be appreciated by viewing cramped images.

I'll begin with a Google Earth look at Crane Beach. Notice the lack of dwellings. However, one human engineered spot does stand out. The marker identified as "A" shows the parking lot for beach visitors. We were told that it has room for approximately 1,400 vehicles. I presume summers can get very busy, but in off season, you have it nearly all to yourself. Notice Marker "E". That is where Monica and I stayed. I'll cover that area in posting #3. Now to the Google image.



Let's now take a close up look at the beach as it appeared on the afternoon of November 30th. The weather was ideal. The exact location is about a 15-minute walk from where we were staying (marker E). I should mention that Monica and I have visited

Crane Beach before, but not in this specific area, and on our visit, it was virtually deserted. We saw no more than 5 or 6 other people, 3 walking dogs, and two riding horses. In the late afternoon sun, the combination of water, sky, and clouds begged for photographic interpretation. I present two images featuring water, sky, and sand.



For brief intervals, the sky and clouds were reflected in the shallow water, the last gasp of earlier surges as the sea reached its farthest penetration onto the beach. The water was 1/2" to about 3/4" deep and created the equivalent to the surface of a mirror. The clouds were moving fairly swiftly at the time. I'd see a mesmerizing sight, but manage to just catch only the tail end of it in the photo. The next two images give an idea of what we saw.



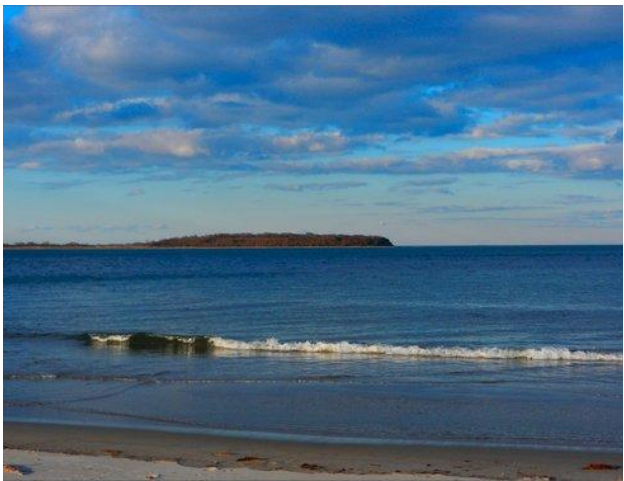
The blue of the sea was especially striking, but the water had competition. The rusts and golds of the beach grasses provided a contrast to the blue. The next four images represent my crack at capturing the scene. I first knelt at the edge of the waving grasses to absorb the ambience, created by the motion of the grass, its color, and its texture. It was a toss up as to which was more photogenic - the water or the grass. Put them together, add sky with clusters of clouds, and a strip of sand, and the combination was unbeatable. Here is an idea of what I saw.



I am embarrassed to admit that I know little about these marsh and beach grasses. In the future, I plan to concentrate on the showier and more prolific grasses. Each deserves attention. But even with all these charms, the area has more to offer. One land-sea feature that kept drawing my attention was Plum Island. It is an old haunt of Monica's, a prime birding location. In past years, she went there many times. The next three shots show Plum Island from our beach location. The last one catches Monica in reflection.



I'll end this first posting with a look at the beach as we approached it from our lodging. We were about 11 minutes into our walk from the lodge when I took the shot. The view looks out into the great expanse of the Atlantic. It is a sight that Native Americans such as the Massachusetts Indians would have been familiar with. Fortunately, due to the Crane family's generosity, and the preservation efforts of the Trustees, today we see it much as the indigenous peoples did, and it is one heck of a sight.



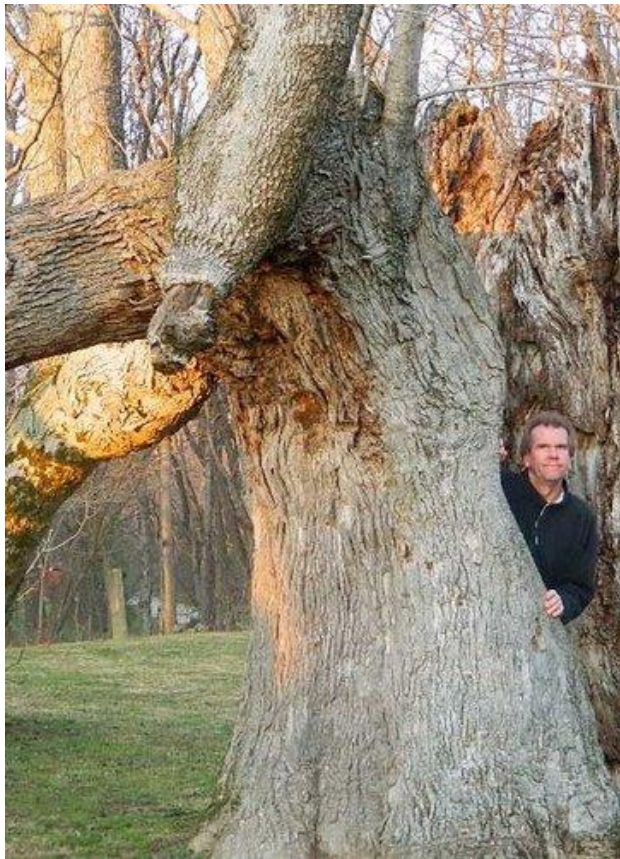
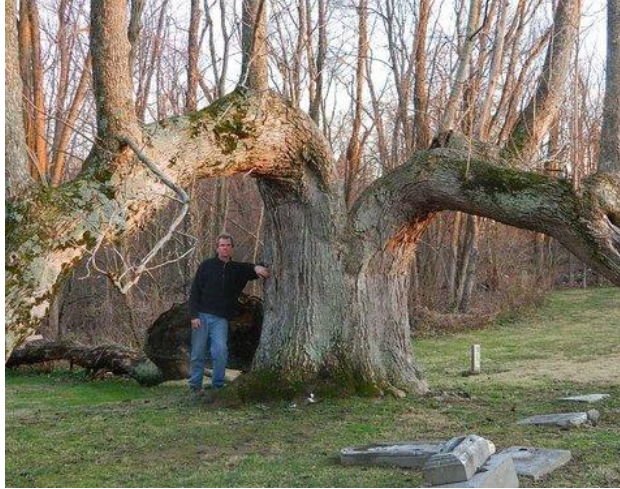
In the next posting, we'll look at the ever-changing world of the dunes, and the twisted forms of the maritime pitch pine forest.

Robert T. Leverett

Indiana Cucumber

by Tom Robison » Sun Dec 04, 2011 5:22 pm

Indiana State Champ Cucumber Mag. Connersville, 210 CBH, 65' tall, 48' spread (ave) pictured in Indiana's 2010 Big Tree Directory.



Negus Mountain, MA - December 04, 2011

by dbhguru » Sun Dec 04, 2011 8:00 pm

Today Bart Bouricius and I went to Negus Mountain to continue the search for big and/or tall white pines. The one in the image below is representative of the largest ones on the ridge. It measures 10.5 feet around, but is fairly short.



I re-measured the 140-footer and got 142.9 feet. Bart's tape wrap gave 10.6 feet. We found a few more in the 130-foot height range. But most pines are either two young or growing to high on the ridge to be above 125 feet. We've exhausted the possibilities for the closer stands.

We worked our way out the ridge and came across an area that had old maples that had no doubt been tapped in prior years. We discovered a really odd-looking sugar maple. Its bulbous growths made it a subject of fascination. Here is what it looks like with Bart in the image for scale.



The real show stoppers on Negus are the old growth oaks that grow above on the upper slopes in the rugged zone. The next two images feature old growth oaks higher on the ridge.



There are large rock cliffs on Negus that deterred logging of the upper half of the mountain. I've tried to estimate the old growth acreage in the past. I currently place it between 40 and 60 acres, but it could be as much as 80. The Negus old growth has been long over due for study. It's time has come. The last image is from Google Earth showing some of the old growth. It is the heavily textured area. You can see that the crowns of the trees are more conspicuous. The spine of the ridge shows up as a partly bare area. The northwest side of the ridge has been burned repeatedly, courtesy of the railroad that shows up on the east (right) side of the Deerfield River. The dark wavy line on Negus looks down on a series of rock ledges. The clusters of lighter green tree tops are the white pines.



Robert T. Leverett

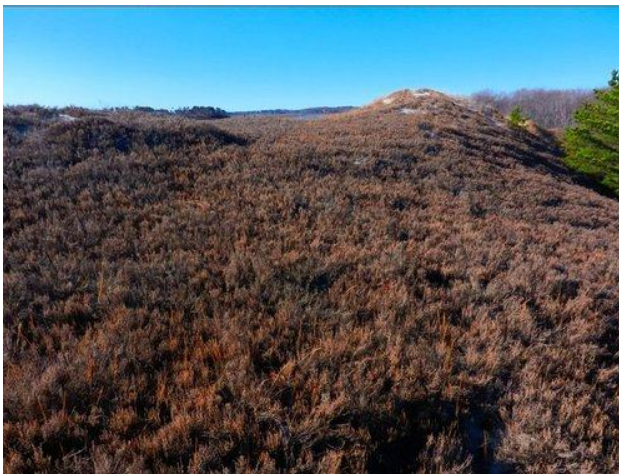
Re: Of castles, ocean, dunes, and pitch pines, MA

by dbhguru » Mon Dec 05, 2011 7:02 pm

Larry, Joe, et al.,

Here is a look at the Crane Beach sand dunes. Please remember to double click on each image to expand it.





They create a world unlike any other I have visited. Dune environments aren't just cool. They are way cool. I'll say more about them in a future post. At this point, I just want to share the images with my lady and fellow Ents.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Of castles, ocean, dunes, and pitch pines](#)

by dbhguru » Tue Dec 06, 2011 1:16 pm

Here are two images of the pitch pine forest.





I looked for evidence of extremely old pitch pines, but found only a couple. Most of the mature pines appear to be between 75 and at most 150 years of age. However, there is a lot more to explore. Monica and I plan to do that on our next trip over.

Robert T. Leverett

[Introduction - Stacey Simkins](#)

by sremicks » Mon Dec 05, 2011 7:12 pm

Greetings Fellow Tree Friends,
I have a special love for Chestnut trees specifically but trees in general. I am always looking for opportunities to find trees in the wild if anyone knows or finds them....

Stacey Simkins
Fairfax VA

[Batsto, NJ trees pictures](#)

by Barry Caselli » Mon Nov 28, 2011 8:14 pm

I have a ton of pictures of the trees that were taken down at Batsto, from closeups to full views. And with most of the trees I took a picture of my father in front of each one. Somewhere I have a piece of paper with all the circumferences written down. When I

find this piece of paper I will sort the pictures a little and post the best of each tree...

I just put up a photo album on my Ghost Towns of Southern NJ Facebook page, with a link to it on the ENTS Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.185821374843530.42660.132932896799045&type=1> . The album shows the trees my father and I measured on 1/31/09. Most of them are gone now. The vine covered Buttonwood was the first of these to go, a while ago. I informed ENTS soon after. The rest of the removals were sometime this summer or Fall. The CBH is in the caption under each photo. You can use your left and right arrow keys to navigate through the album.

If the photos aren't viewable to some of you, I might have to put up an album on my Flickr or Webshots account.

Here's the text of the email I received from the DEP after I complained to them a week or two ago: (I left off the guy's name.)

"I was asked to respond to your e-mail concerning the removal of trees in the Batsto Village area of Wharton State Forest. The decision to remove the trees in the Batsto Village area was not a decision that was made lightly and each individual tree was evaluated by state foresters and a NJ Certified Tree Expert to determine whether it posed a high risk for injuring or damaging property. The safety of our visitors and the protection of historic buildings and the built infrastructure has to come first when making decisions regarding tree resources at state facilities. Unfortunately, sometimes trees have to be removed because they are structurally unsound and pose too great a threat. The trees that were removed fit that criteria.

Please be aware that the trees in the Batsto Village were not there when the village was active and becoming part of New Jersey's history but represent plantings that were done decades later. There have been discussions concerning replacing some of the trees with species and in locations that are historically accurate for the period of village activity. While this is not a substitute for the mature trees that were taken down, we will continue to try and replace

some of the canopy and shade that was removed with the trees.

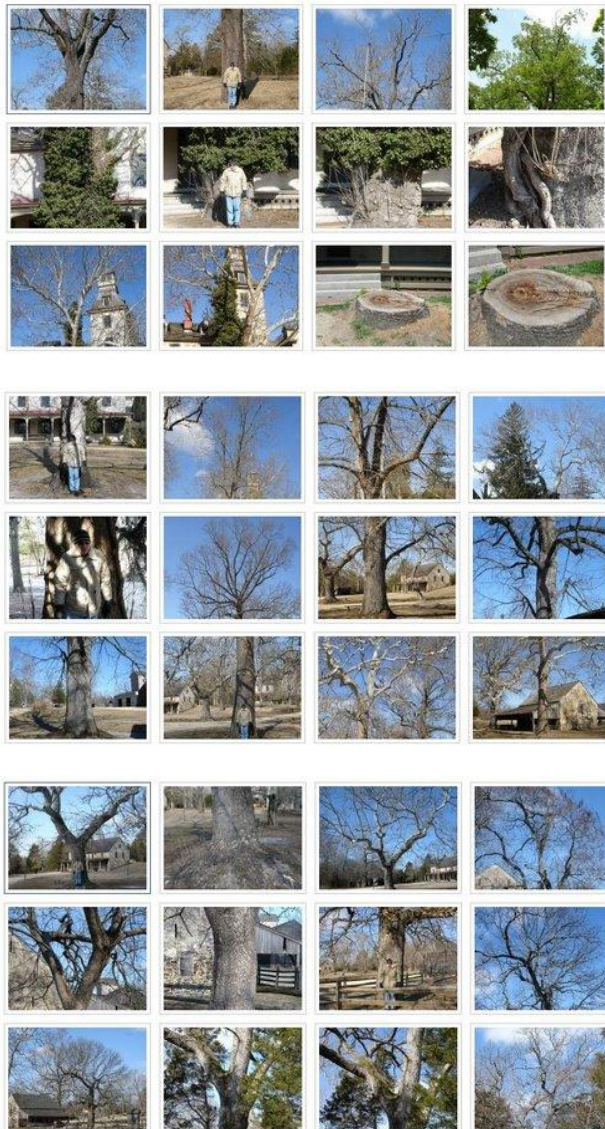
Thank you for voicing your concerns and we hope you will continue to enjoy the historic site as we move forward with our plans."

Barry Caselli's Album on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.185821374843530.42660.132932896799045&type=3>

Trees measured and photographed at Batsto 1/31/09

By Ghost Towns of Southern NJ (Albums) · Updated about an hour ago



Catalpa tree at Batsto, NJ now removed

by Barry Caselli » Tue Dec 06, 2011 9:48 pm

I just put up another album on my Ghost Towns of Southern NJ Facebook page, this one showing a beat-up old Catalpa down in the lower village. This tree was part of the massive tree-removal project that happened in the last few months. Unfortunately I never measured it.

I put a link to the album on the ENTS Facebook page, but here's a direct link, assuming I do this right:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.185918214833846.42672.132932896799045&type=1>

There will be one more album after this, and then no more, at least for the Batsto trees.

Catalpa tree at Batsto, photographed 7/26/09

By Ghost Towns of Southern NJ (Albums) · Updated about an hour ago



Several more Catalpa trees at Batsto, NJ

by Barry Caselli » Tue Dec 06, 2011 10:25 pm

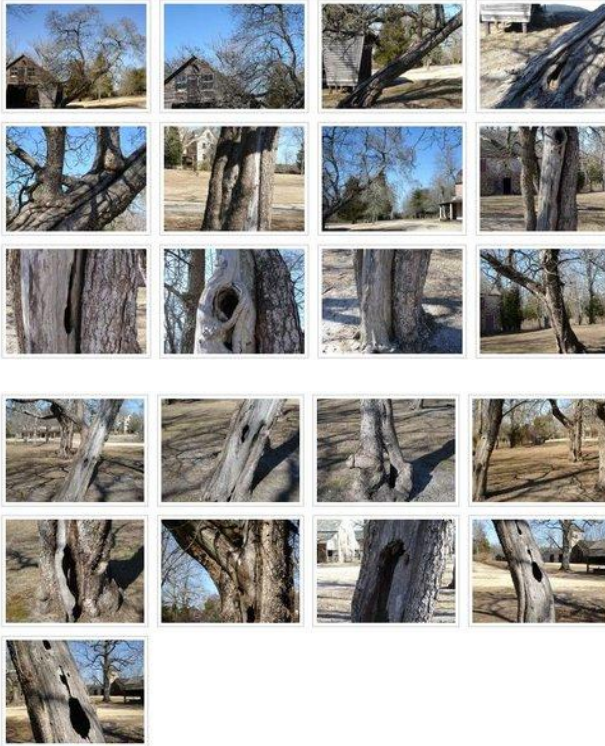
Here's the link to my third and final album of trees at Batsto. All of these trees are gone now, as of just recently.

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.185939384831729.42674.132932896799045&type=1>

I have serious doubts about any of these being a hazard, except maybe for the extreme leaner. But if it hasn't fallen after all these years and decades, I don't think it ever will. But now it's gone.

Catalpa trees at Batsto 2/1/09

By Ghost Towns of Southern NJ (Albums) • Updated 11 minutes ago



These are all the Catalpa trees between the corn crib and the gate near the blacksmith shop. All of these trees are gone now, and I never measured any of them. I used to love these trees. They were so cool.

Barry Caselli

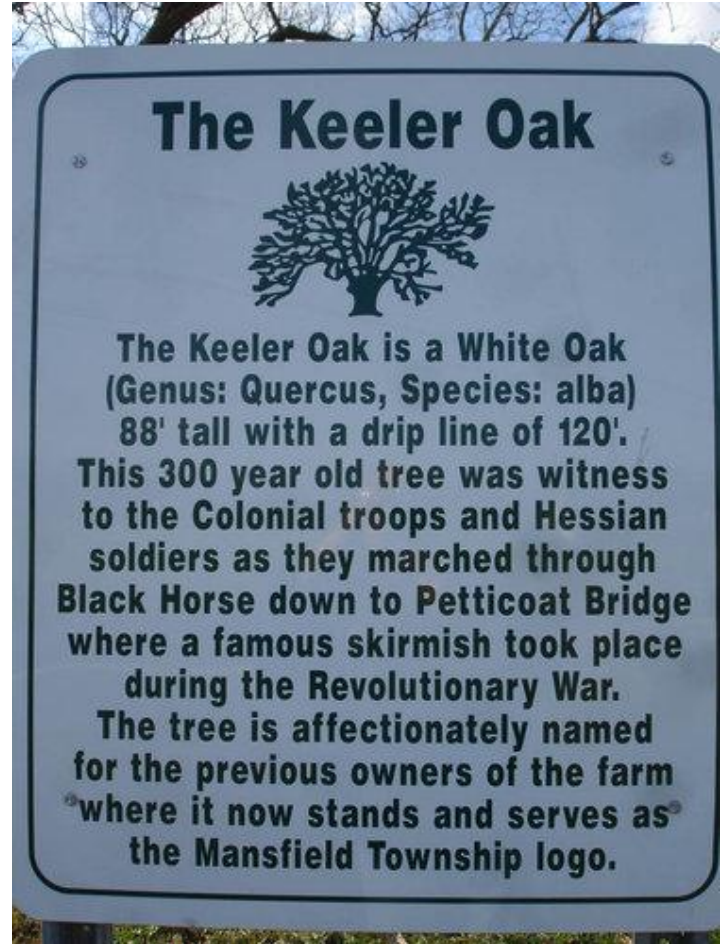
[The Keeler Oak, NJ](#)

by Barry Caselli » Tue Dec 06, 2011 10:46 pm

This is a White Oak in Mansfield Township, Burlington County, NJ. I first went to see it approximately one year ago. At the time I did not measure it. But these pictures are from that day. A couple days ago I took my brother to see it. We measured it, and the CBH was 22' 5".

Here's the page from the township website:

<http://www.mansfieldtp.com/History/keeler.php>





Barry Caselli

[Re: Climbing Redwood Giants Video from National Geographic](#)

by edfrank » Tue Dec 06, 2011 9:32 pm

Here is a link to the full video from National Geographic Channel (forwarded by Joe Zorzin):

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/national-geographic-channel/full-episodes/explorer/ngc-climbing-redwood-giants.html>



Explore the realm of the world's tallest living trees -- from Big Sur, CA to just over the Oregon border.

[New forest \(The Borg's Woods\), NJ said to be over 235 years](#)

(Reprint of some older posts with some recent comments)

by greenent22 » Sun Oct 24, 2010 2:22 am

<http://www.hackensacknow.com/Borgswoods.html>
<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&lr=&q=...BsQ8gEwAA#>

NJ old-growth documentation is extremely non-centralized and there are places that slowly pop up as new to ENTs and most general old-growth hunters that have been known to many others micro-regionally/etc. this is a new one to add to the general list for old forests of the east.

It is said to be 21 acres in size and to be at least 235 years old, maybe older since there is a new claim of a 300 year old oak, who knows. Looks like about what would have been 10 additional acres got developed in the last 30 years???

On a side note:

I checked out a couple possibilities in the northeastern NJ suburbs that had been listed as virgin tracts by the 1890s survey of NJ which I had mentioned in an earlier posting. The locations had been described only in very rough terms so I need to check around more, it's soooooo densely developed with streets going all over it's confusing, a lot of people in the region appear to have 100-180 year old trees on their lawns. It is possible the above tract is one of them, but I don't have the map where I wrote down the potential areas with me at the moment. I did see one possible giant old-growth remnant in an area perhaps only 1/4 mile from an 1890s listed tract, I didn't yet find the right streets to get up to the area where it may lie although google shows a golf course possibility :(Interesting there were areas free of houses in spots that appeared to fit the old 1890s surveys, just about the only house free spots. It appeared that they mostly had golf courses and ball fields though. I wonder if of a horrific loss of actual 10-30 acres virgin tracts didn't occur sometime 30-60 years ago??? :(One area appeared to still have woods but it got dark by then.

A second side note:

a 1987 listing notes sites already known (i think) to
ENTS such as:

Bull's Island
Bear Swamp
Hutcheson
Heylar's Woods
Laurel Pond
Tilman Ravine

It adds:

Borg's woods (as mentioned above) - 10-21 acres at
least 235 years old, said to be under intense
development threat, later documents show that
intense local campaign and court decisions ultimately
saved the better portion of it

Can't make it out but what looks like Engreen Site
(??? can't be correct name since nothing in that area
has such a name) owned by Hackensack Water said
to be 10-20 acres of ancient forest!!! but noted on one
of the documents (1987) as "developments planned"
for entire parcel!!!!!! Truly sickening to think a true
ancient forest perhaps as large as 20 acres, so rare in
NJ, may have been developed as late as the
1980's/early 90's!! I suppose it might have gotten
saved, but I doubt it. :(

It then mentions the following as possibly having
many trees 223 years old or more but more
investigation needed, highly tentative:

Drew Woods, Madison, NJ - 15-20 acres - They
listed it as "possibly planted in the 1700's -
development planned for a portion of the
woods(!!!!!!)". I have seen some of this myself, nice
old trees, not virgin though. The last time I saw it
dates to before the mentioned possibly future
development though :(Hope they didn't ruin too
much for new dorms or athletic fields or something.
The campus itself has some nice trees scattered all
over it.

Pigeon Swamp - 5 miles southwest of North
Brunswick, 1250 acre tract containing within it a fine
example of inner coastal plain lowland forest, said to
be preserved

Mannahawkin Tract - old bottomland basswood

forest of unknown extent which it claims (in 1980) is
perhaps finest such sample on the entire atlantic
coastal plain, said to be a protected tract and on the
national natural landmark list (and yet entirely missed
by ENTs or all other NJ surveys I have seen before!)
hopefully it really stayed protected and they didn't
log part of it to make more deer habitat or something
hah

Pequannock Watershed - 2 separate tracts of
unknown extent, no location details given (this is a
LARGE watershed), i read something else mention
that in this area is the largest old-growth tract in NJ,
mostly hemlock (perhaps dead if so)

Norwood/Norvee(???) Boy Scout Tract - no details

Ultimate Corp. tract in East Hanover - 5 acres of
giant ancient beech, does it still exist? was this the
plot late developed by the now defunct (and then
arrogant and greedy) Bear Stearns? They illegally
filled in wetlands and did other dirty tricks and
refused to do anything at all to save a tiny virgin tract
in or near East Hanover said to have trees over 60"
dbh, paved it over only to go out of business but a
decade later due to reckless dealings and other
arrogance (environmentalists say they had they worst
dealings with them just about ever, almost took glee
in paving them over and breaking the law)

Wawayanda Park Hemlock Ravine area - does this
also contain some old stuff as Laurel Pond does?
nothing more stated

Pyramid Mountain - perhaps areas of old-growth bits
here and there in the general area is all it says, said to
be under threat (since then the bulk of it was saved
although they did stick a road along the crest of the
adjacent ridge in about 15?? years ago, one photo
taken just below the road appeared to show some
larger trees)

it mentions the old source i found as some place to
also look as well as a 1969 report that i have not seen

<http://www.hackensacknow.com/Borgs%20Woods/OLDEST%20WOODLANDS%20IN%20NEW%20JERSEY.doc>

found this doc on the link I posted above, mention yet some more new possibilities and provides a bit of extra info

It is interesting to see how utterly disconnected all the info about older forest in NJ is. Each person seems to know a little bit about a few areas and have no clue whatsoever about other sections. This guy mentions a bunch of stuff I've never seen anybody mention before and yet he appears to entirely oblivious to so many other places.

Larry Baum

Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ said to be over 235 years

by njstriker » Sat Jul 23, 2011 8:04 pm

Borg's Woods was preserved in 1994 and 1995 and is owned and managed by the County of Bergen Parks Department. It is not in danger of being developed, and the 10 acres nearby (4 blocks away) that was developed was field-succession growth. There is 15.1 acres preserved, and there are some adjacent tracts all around the edges, some of which could be redeveloped. There's about 22 acres for the total ecosystem.

I maintain a very detailed tree survey that was taken in 1987, and then updated in 2007. Every large tree was measured at 4.5' and plotted. I can provide this data upon request.

There are many trees over 8' circumference, and some over 10'. The largest is a Tuliptree about 13' circumference. Trees over 10' circumference include Red Oak, Black Oak, and Beech. There is also a vernal pool in the center of the site with a wood frog population, and it registered in 2011 with the State of New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Ecologists who have visited are shocked to find a thriving wood frog population on only 22 acres, and within the city limits of Hackensack, NJ. There are over 30 native species of trees, also high for the small size of the preserve. That's an indication of old-growth. Invasive species are generally confined to the

edges of the preserve, and there are none remaining in the open vernal pool area. There is an active campaign to eliminate invasives.

There are several Beech with really old graffiti.

One clearly says DB 1777 or perhaps D8 1777 for December 8th. It looks exactly as it did over 30 years ago when I first found it, therefore I do not believe it is a fraud. Perhaps it was carved by an American or British soldier. The tree itself is hollow and there is fire damage inside the trunk. It basically didn't grow at all from my surveys of 1987 to 2007, and I believe it is hundreds of years old based on rates of growth/non-growth. Another old Beech says "Beachwood, NJ 1765", and this is carved at such a height that it could have only been done on horseback. I believe that is the case. I would imagine that these two trees could have been 100 years old or more at the time of the carvings. Other trees have carvings too old or too weathered to decipher by my eye.

Some of the Beech that I suspect are the oldest have unusually thick branches high in the canopy (i.e. the pair where the main trail crosses the vernal pool outflow stream, directly across from the leaning Sycamore), whereas the younger faster-growing Beech do not. If someone told me that the oldest Beech was 500 years old, I would not be surprised.

I have also observed, contrary to popular opinion, that Sweetgum and Red Maple are not necessarily fast-growing species unless they are growing in a field-succession environment. Some didn't grow much between 1987 and 2007, and Red Maple in Borg's have generally been outpaced by Northern Red Oak in growth. There are some good-sized Red Maple in Borg's, over 8' circumference, and a few Sweetgum approaching 10'. Tuliptrees are definitely fast-growing, and some are growing at 1 foot circumference per decade. I don't believe there is a single one in Borg's Woods over 150 years old no matter how big they are.

The only comparable-aged forest in Bergen County is Beechwood Park in Harrington Park, along the Hackensack River. Borg's Woods is far older than the Emerson Woods which has very few Beech over 8' circumference. I reject all claims that the Norwood

East Hill is old-growth, it is not. I have also visited Helyars Woods in New Brunswick on 3 occasions, and was very impressed with the huge old Black Oaks there. Hutchinson Memorial Forest is a nothing but old logs fallen, it's not old-growth any more.

NJStiker

Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ said to be over 235 years

by edfrank » Sat Jul 23, 2011 10:01 pm

Njstriker, Welcome to the Eastern Native Tree Society. This is a fantastic amount of information on the Borg's Woods. I am sure someone will take you up on the offer of information from the tree survey.

It sounds like a site that needs to have some good height measurements made. I am interested in the old graffiti on the trees. I wonder about dates that purport to be that old, but beech trees certainly can grow old enough for the dates to be possible. They would be worth photographing and documenting.

It is very difficult to gauge the age of trees based upon growth rates. Not only may the same species of tree grow at dramatically different rates within the same site, typically they also have differing growth rates at different stages of their lives depending on the environmental and light conditions present during those differing periods. On many, if not most sites, tested with tree coring, the oldest trees are not the largest specimens present, but typically nondescript average sized trees. This is even more prevalent with deciduous trees than with conifers. Beech trees are particularly difficult to age because they tend to get hollow, so you get no good feedback from coring, and they do not have the changes in bark texture and character that are often an indicator of age in trees.

I hope you continue to participate in the group and post more about the trees and forests you know about or discover.

Ed Frank

Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ said to be over 235 years

by njstriker » Sun Jul 24, 2011 2:53 am

The only trees that have been measured for height were those that blew down in big storms. An average-sized Tuliptree that fell in Hurricane David (1979) was 125 feet. Two Northern Red Oaks that fell in March, 1993 were 99 and 101 feet tall. I believe that there are Tuliptrees exceeding 130 feet, and one really tall Mockernut Hickory about the same. Beechwood Forest in Harrington Park has even taller canopy, and in that case it is the Beech that are really tall. Possibly 140 feet.

I completely agree with you that the largest trees are not the oldest, and that nondescript average-sized trees are often surprisingly old. A small tree that has been struggling in marginal conditions. I wonder for instance about the age of Pitch Pines on the tops of mountains in the NJ Highlands District, growing directly out of rock crevices. They might only be 6" CBH, but who knows how many hundreds of years old.

The Beech I was referring to with the thick upper branches in Borg's are not particularly large in circumference. As for bark texture, I don't totally agree with your statement about Beech. Most of the young Beech, and some of the faster-growing large Beech typically have smooth bark. The ones I think are very old tend to be a bit warty, almost like a Hackberry. The ones that grew the most from 1987 to 2007 were the smoother-barked ones, and the warty ones invariably grew less.

As for fast-growing trees, nothing surpasses American Elm and Sycamore. I can show a Sycamore in Borg's that's probably up to 100 feet in height now, but it was a sapling a few inches in diameter in 1973 when I moved to Hackensack. Where the 125 foot Tuliptree fell in 1979, an American Elm took its place, growing from a sapling that I could have ripped out of the ground in 1980 to a nearly mature tree now. Nobody would guess that tree is only 32 years old.

**Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ
said to be over 235 years**

by njstriker » Wed Nov 16, 2011 7:06 am

Just reporting the Borg's Woods fared reasonably well during both Hurricane Irene and the Great October Snowstorm. One old growth Sweetgum was lost to Irene via uprooting. I have to check my records, but I'd guess it was about 10' cbh. Lots of limbs and small trees fell in the snowstorm, but none of the larger trees.

**Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ
said to be over 235 years**

by PAwildernessadvocate » Wed Dec 07, 2011 9:57 am

I read an article in the NYT about ten years ago about a small tract of NJ woods (can't remember where) that contained some black gum trees estimated to be as old as 500 years. Inspired me to order some black gum seedlings for my yard, and they're doing quite well today. Some autumns the leaves turn *blazing* red, others years it's a duller red. I found the article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/09/26/nyregion/forest-primeval-trees-with-stories-solving-riddles-growth-rings-ancient-new.html>

In Forest Primeval, Trees With Stories; Solving Riddles of Growth Rings In an Ancient New Jersey Swamp

September 26, 2002

Kirk Johnson

**Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods), NJ
said to be over 235 years**

by Barry Caselli » Wed Dec 07, 2011 12:41 pm

Black Gums (alternately called Sourgums) are native here in South Jersey, and can be found in the hardwood swamps where cedar swamps were cut but never grew back. Black Gum is one of the first trees to start changing in the Fall, usually in August.

New Free Stuff From Videomaker

by edfrank » Wed Dec 07, 2011 5:08 pm

Free Video Editing Software Downloads

Hardware is great, but it's software that makes a machine useful. In order to find the best software for video editors, take a look at this list of websites put together by the editors at Videomaker - and make your computer even more useful.

<http://www.videomaker.com/downloads/software/>

Free Sound Effects

<http://www.videomaker.com/downloads/free-sound-effects/>

We've picked one of our most popular videos, "How to Shoot Online Video," a quick and informative guide to creating videos for easy web distribution while maintaining that high production value look. Download it free at no obligation. (Not sure if it will work for others:

http://www.videomaker.com/download/misc/marketing/online_video.mp4

New Species Conservation Auction - Name that Lichen!

by edfrank » Sun Nov 20, 2011 12:12 am

New Species Conservation Auction - Name that Lichen! NEW SPECIES CONSERVATION AUCTION - Please Support this Unique Fundraiser! December 15 deadline!



*See the new YouTube clip (2 minutes) at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWqG5atcOzg>

Make a bid for the naming rights to a new lichen species to help protect endangered ancient forests!

The scientific naming rights to a newly discovered species of lichen will be auctioned-off to the highest bidder as a fundraiser for a British Columbian conservation organization.

Canadian botanical researcher Trevor Goward discovered the new species of bryoria or “horsehair lichen” in the inland temperate rainforest of British Columbia. Goward is donating the naming rights for the new species to the Ancient Forest Alliance (<http://www.ancientforestalliance.org>), a Canadian non-profit conservation group working to protect the province’s old-growth forests, along with donating the naming rights for another new lichen species to The Land Conservancy of BC, a conservation group working to protect a wildlife corridor near Wells Gray Park.

Patrick from NC

by pdbrandt » Mon Dec 05, 2011 6:35 pm

Hey all, My name's Patrick. I live in a little town outside of Raleigh/Durham, NC called Mebane. I'm a long time outdoorsman. I love trees, forests, hiking, camping, geocaching, canoeing, technical tree climbing, mountain unicycling, and just about anything else that involves a walk outside. I'm a biochemist by training and I work at UNC-Chapel Hill. On my lunch breaks earlier this year I compiled a google-maps-based campus tree tour (<http://ncbg.unc.edu/pages/127/>) with over 100 species of trees. If you're ever on campus let me know and I'd be glad to show you my favorites. You might also be interested in a list of champion trees in NC (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc...3BRV1RMMUE>), which I compiled from information found on the NC Division of Forestry website. If you're in town let me know - I've never met a tree-hugger I didn't like.

Patrick Brandt

Hello from Monica Jakuc Leverett

by » Wed Dec 07, 2011 9:37 pm



NTS, Hello, everyone. I'm married to Bob Leverett, and have looked over his shoulder at the BBS in the past. He thought it was time I formally joined so I could answer any posts about our annual Evening of Music, Poetry and Prose, and participate in any artistic discussions. Best wishes,

Monica Jakuc Leverett

Dendromorphometry draft being revised

by dbhguru » Thu Dec 08, 2011 10:21 am

Last night, I finely jumped into the huge project of revising our draft book on Dendromorphometry. Folks, it is no small task. I'd been dragging my feet, knowing what lay ahead. The first draft, which was a huge undertaking in itself, languished while several of us forged ahead, developing new methods of tree measuring. But, it became apparent that we needed to hold off and allow time for developments to be completed. However, now it is time to produce, to get the show on the road. I am confident that we've got enough material to write one heck of a book. In fact, we have so much material that our plan is to divide it into elementary, intermediate, and advanced sections on tree measuring.

For new members who are unfamiliar with the book project, when completed, we believe that the book will be the definitive guide to measuring trees in the field, at least for the types of measurements that interest us, and by dividing the book into three distinct sections, we will be providing material for the widest range of potential readers. Folks who are just beginning will find straightforward explanations of tree measuring. That section will basically be a Tree Measuring 101 guide. It will stand on its own. For people who want to achieve the highest levels of accuracy attainable with affordably priced laser rangefinders, clinometers, and compasses available today, the intermediate section has them in mind. And for those who want to push the envelope as far as it can be pushed, we will have an advanced section. The heavy math types can check out our formulas by following our derivations in the appendices. In addition to mathematical derivations, there will be other appendices that give interesting lists of all kinds - measurements for outstanding trees. We will also have appendices that evaluate specific equipment. This latter set could almost be a book itself.

I expect that there will eventually be more than one version of our book. The initial plan is to produce a hardcopy version. Later there could be Internet options. I don't know how that would work, but as you might expect, the Internet is where Ed Frank

comes in. But we need to get much farther down the road before bugging Ed. However, at some point, Ed's role will become important, and sooner than later, if it turns out that a hardcopy version proves not to be feasible.

The primary authors of the book in terms of producing the hardcopy draft include Dr. Lee Frelich, Dr. Don Bragg, Dr. Robert Van Pelt, Will Blozan, Michael Taylor, and yours truly. Since I am retired, and none of the other coauthors are, it falls to me to produce most of the draft. At this point, the plan is to include a forward, an introduction, elementary, intermediate, and advanced sections on measuring, and an extensive set of appendices. My specific role will be to produce the introduction, the elementary section, most of the intermediate, and some of the appendices. Will will add material in the intermediate section on tape drop measuring and volume modeling. It will then fall to Michael Taylor to produce the advanced section, some of the appendices, and provide better graphics than I was able to muster for draft #1. BVP will no doubt be involved with the graphics. When we have completed the draft, Don Bragg will take it and format it appropriate to a technical publication. The result will then be given to Lee, who will assume control at that point to get the work published. If this sounds like we're highly compartmentalized in our roles - not so. There will be complete coordination at every step of the way. The need for continuous coordination is the lesson learned from draft #1. I was the Lone Ranger in draft #1, and that afforded too many opportunities to go astray.

At the point that the draft is complete, I presume that Lee and Don will find some willing reviewers so that before taking the final step with respect to a publisher, the draft will have been properly reviewed. However, in terms of overall organization, we will remain with the basic plan. There are fundamental, sound reasons to split the book into the three sections previously described. In all probability, the market wouldn't be there for standalone intermediate and advanced versions.

As a side issue, and to keep all of you informed, on Dec 12th Michael Taylor and I will have our second consultive session with Laser Technologies Inc. LTI

makes the Impulse 200LR, the RD1000, the TruPulse 200, and the TruPulse 360, among other instruments. Michael owns an Impulse 200LR and a TruPulse 200. I own an RD1000, a TruPulse 200, and a TruPulse 360. Michael now has on loan a TruPulse 360 and advanced mapping software. LTI is dead serious about the recommendations we made in the first consultation session. What is especially exciting now is that it appears that American Forests will be part of the Dec 12th meeting, courtesy of Michael's invitation to them. This is an important development, and opens the door to American Forests becoming a more important player in "high-end" tree measuring. That can only lead to good things for all concerned. In particular, it could result in closer cooperation between American Forests and NTS. That is a relationship that I have sought in the past, and almost pulled off a couple of times, but the stars weren't in alignment then. Now, they just may be.

I realize that many NTS members are not into heavy tree measuring, and that is just fine. There is no reason for every Ent to pursue the quantitative side of our passion. There is plenty to do along artistic, historical, and cultural lines, and just simple enjoyment of trees with no particular goal in mind. So, please don't view those of us with the measuring gene jumping all the time as not considering the other missions of NTS as equally important to our own. However, I do hope that all members will take pride in being part of what is arguably the Cadillac tree measuring group on the planet. No false modesty there, folks. Facts are facts. We produce.

Robert T. Leverett

Proposed High Allegheny National Park and Preserve, WV

by edfrank » Wed Dec 07, 2011 7:31 pm

National Park Service Announces Reconnaissance Survey of the Allegheny Highlands

<http://www.saveblackwater.org/documents/npspressrelease.pdf>

Friends of Allegheny National Park and Preserve

<http://www.facebook.com/HighAlleghenyParkandPreserve>

Save Blackwater Canyon

<http://www.facebook.com/SaveBlackwaterCanyon>

Congress to decide between Park Service or Forest Service - Whittier Daily News (CA) 11/27/11 - Great Article

http://www.saveblackwater.org/documents/Congressotodecidebetweennpsandusfs_whittiertimes_11272011.pdf

National Park Service to consider new park in W.Va. By Paul J. Nyden

<http://www.saveblackwater.org/documents/nydenhanparticle.pdf>

National Park Idea Has Merit- Wheeling Intelligencer - 12/3/2011

http://www.saveblackwater.org/documents/nationalparkideahasmerit_intelligencer_120311.pdf

Backcountry.com: The Goat » Blog Archive » Feds Eye Appalachia — But for a National Park, Not Coal
<http://thegoat.backcountry.com/2011/12/...ppalachia>—-but-for-a-national-park-not-coal/

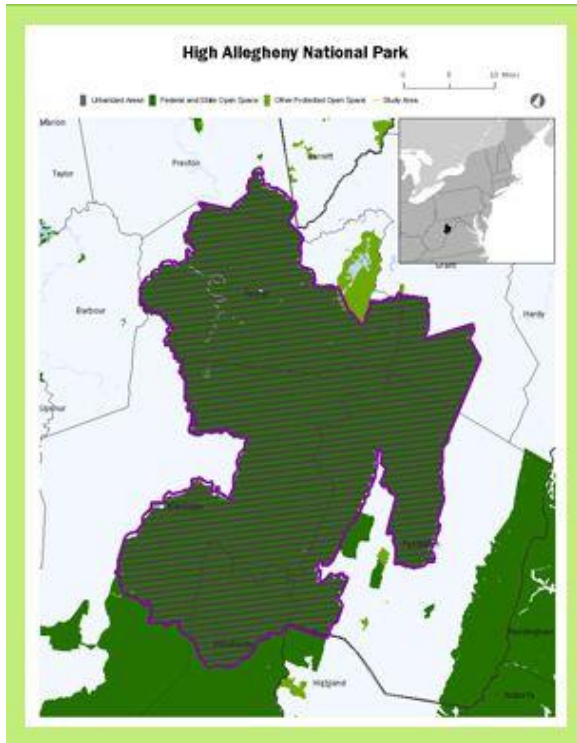
The Smoky Mountain Hiking Blog: High Allegheny National Park

<http://hikinginthesmokys.blogspot.com/2011/12/high-allegheny-national-park.html>

The Push For A National Park And Preserve - West Virginia Headline News and Talk Radio

<http://www.wvmetronews.com/news.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=49614>

High Allegheny National Park and Preserve Complex
<http://www.rpa.org/northeastlandscapes/initiative.php?id=153>



High Allegheny National Park
<http://www.saveblackwater.org/documents/feb2011%20page%203.pdf>

Ohio Rucker Indices

by Steve Galehouse » Thu Dec 08, 2011 8:13 pm

Here is a summary of Ohio sites showing the Rucker Index 5 species and the Rucker Index 10 species. Most of the sites are in the NE quarter of the state, with one in the NW, Goll Woods, and two in the SE, Hocking Hills and Davey Woods. Rand Brown and I have measured many of the sites in the NE part of the state within the past two years, while Rand, Will, Bob and other NTS have measured the other sites over the past several years. Sites from the SW quarter of the state are sadly lacking---Heuston Woods near Oxford would be a good site to measure, one of Lucy Braun's old stomping grounds, but I've not been in

that part of the state in many years. Maybe this upcoming Summer.

Site	County	Rucker Index 5	Rucker Index 10
Cuyahoga Valley	Summit	151.1	142.3
Sand Run	Summit	147.2	137.1
North Chagrin Reservation	Cuyahoga	141	134.2
Everett Woods	Summit	142.5	131
Rocky River	Cuyahoga/Geauga	131.3	124.7
Stebbins Gulch	Geauga	129.4	123.9
Hocking Hills	Hocking	137.6	123.7
Goll Woods	Fulton	128.7	123.1
Davey Woods	Logan	129.6	122.5
O'Neil Woods	Summit	133.2	121.6
Mill Creek Park	Mahoning	123.1	115.9
Kyle Woods	Mahoning	117.8	114.8
Poland Woods	Mahoning	116.6	112.4
Bradley Woods	Cuyahoga	116	111.2
Augusta Anne Olsen	Huron	117.4	110
Whipp's Ledges	Medina	115.9	110
Elmwood Park	Cuyahoga	114.4	108.9
Bedford Reservation	Cuyahoga	113.6	108.5
Brecksville Reservation	Cuyahoga	114.6	106.2
Huntington Reservation	Cuyahoga	104.3	100.6
Bacon Woods	Lorain	116.1	100.3

[Ohio Rucker indices.doc](#)

New 170 foot Liriodendron site, TN

by Will Blozan » Sat Dec 10, 2011 7:55 pm

NTS, Yesterday in Savage Gulf State Park I measured a 26.9" DBH X 170.6 foot tuliptree. This is the tallest known tree in the park at this time and a new site for this superlative height threshold. This tree further solidifies Savage Gulf as having the second highest Rucker Index (153.37) we know of in the eastern US. It is bracketed by the Smokies and Congaree NP.

As my hemlock treatment project progresses I am sure I will add a few more. At this time I am GPS-ing trees to return to since I am working in there and can't take too much time to measure. As an example, I waypointed three shagbark hickories over 150' yesterday. I also measured a stunning pignut hickory to 36.8" X 155.8'.

Will Blozan

List of 130' tree sites in MA

by dbhguru » Sat Dec 10, 2011 8:47 pm

NTS, I've been updating the list of sites in Massachusetts with trees of any species reaching the 130-foot height threshold. Here is what I have come up with. I know I'm missing a couple of sites, but I'm pretty close to a complete update. I sent the list to important site managers around the state.

The last column represents my best guess as to totals by site. We certainly haven't found all the sites. I would expect that there are between two and three hundred more 130-footers in Massachusetts that we haven't yet confirmed. They would be located mostly in western Mass. Central Mass would have a few of them, and eastern Mass almost none. As you can see, we've confirmed only one 130-footer in eastern Mass. It was measured by Andrew Joslin and Dr. Doug Bidlack of NTS.

Additions to the list will come slowly, which might seem surprising. Trees over 100 feet tall are common in Massachusetts, especially in the western part of the Commonwealth. But above around 110, most species drop out.

There are a few exceptions. Many Massachusetts white pine sites and a substantial number of white ash sites have trees reaching to 120 feet - far too many to measure, but above 125 feet, the number of sites drops dramatically, and above 130, the sites really become rare.

I'm guessing that we'll eventually confirm around 75 sites for the entire State. In terms of the species, we have white pine, white ash, tuliptree, Norway spruce, American sycamore, eastern hemlock, bitternut hickory, shagbark hickory, European larch, and N. red oak. We only have a handful of each of the species hemlock, sugar maple, and Norway spruce topping 130. At present, we have two American sycamores, a couple of European larch, one bitternut hickory, and one N. red oak. That's it. The big numbers are restricted to white pine, white ash, and tuliptree.

To put a finer point on it, we've confirmed 50 sites with trees ≥ 130 feet, 23 sites with trees ≥ 140 feet,

7 sites with 150s, and 2 sites with 160s. With luck by the end of next growing season, we'll have one tree in Massachusetts that reaches 170 feet.

These numbers and the list speak for themselves. You can see how dominant DCR is. The Trustees of Reservations is second, followed by the Laurel Hill Association, courtesy of Ice Glen.

In terms of what's missing, I'm confident that Mount Greylock State Reservation has a few trees over 130 feet in height. At one point the tallest red spruce in New England grew in the Hopper. It was around 134 feet as of the last measurement, but it has since fallen. Only two species really have a chance at 130 feet on Greylock: white pine and white ash. Any trees on Greylock in the 130-foot height class will likely grow on the lower slopes and in the ravines.

The primary reason I keep lists like the above is to: (1) identify and classify outstanding trees and tree properties, and (2) to keep statistics on how common or uncommon trees meeting different dimensional thresholds are. In terms of the 130s, if we assume that of the 3,000,000 forested acres in Massachusetts, there is an average of around 50 mature trees per acre, that would give us 150,000,000 mature trees. I'm pretty confident that we don't have over 1,000 trees reaching 130 feet in height. If my numbers are in the ballpark, then the percentage of the total number of mature trees reaching to 130 feet in height or more is a tiny 0.00067%.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: List of 130' tree sites in MA

by dbhguru » Sun Dec 11, 2011 9:46 am

Despite what I said in my post to State officials and property owners, before we're through hunting over here, I expect we'll confirm more than 75 sites with 130-foot trees, courtesy of the great whites. However, at this point, I want to err on the conservative side. Eventually, I'll find a few more sites with white ashes over 130 in extreme western Mass, and maybe one or two more tuliptree sites, but the pickings are going to be slim for all species except white pine. Central and

western Massachusetts is truly white pine country. Yesterday driving back from the Bryant Homestead I spotted a large white pine crown on a ridge above Route #9. It is one of many trees I drive by with little thought given to dimensions. However, this time I stopped, scrambled up the ridge, and measured the pine. It is on Division of Fish and Wildlife property, so access was no problem. I was disappointed in its height. It measures only 118.7 feet, but is an impressive 12.6 feet around. That's cool. But, you can see how spoiled I am when I say its height is only 118.7.

Monica and I plan to go over to Ice Glen in a couple of hours and check on the pines and ashes there. I haven't seen them since Irene and the snowstorm. Gotta check on my pine and ash children. And of course, I'll have to check on the champion shagbark hickory while I'm at it. Love that multi-cultural, multi-racial forest. I'll report later.

Oh, by the way, the second tallest species, the white ash, makes it to 152.5 feet in Mass. The above 130-list gives the tallest tree for each site. In MTSF, of course that is the Jake Swamp white pine. But Mohawk is also home to the 152.5-foot ash. There are also several other ash trees that are between 144 and 147. There are three white ash sites in Mass with 140-footers: MTSF, Catamount SF, and Ice Glen. Love these lists.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: List of 130' tree sites in MA](#)

 by dbhguru » Tue Dec 27, 2011 2:32 pm

The last image is an update of the 130-list. It now includes 56 properties. Of those 56 sites, 25 have 140s. The numbers creep up, but oh so slowly. You

can see how dependent we are in New England on the kingly white pine.

How many of those 55 sites have trees of species other than white pine over 130 feet?

Here is the run down for sites that list white pine as the top species, but also have other species reaching 130. The other sites with a non-white pine as their above 130 representative are shown in the list.

MTSF: Currently, Mohawk has white pine, white ash, sugar maple, and bitternut hickory over 130. Historically you could add hemlock, N. red oak, and American beech, but as of my last checks, none of these species have members over 130. Of these additional species only white ash occurs in significant numbers. The others all have only token representation.

MSF: Monroe has white ash (a few)

Catamount: white ash (?)

Forest Park: Hemlock(3).

Ice Glen: white ash (many), hemlock (4), shagbark hickory (1)

Broad Brook tuliptree (1)

One site where we have white pines over 130' is in the township of Mount Washington in the Taconics. I suspect there are several trees over 130, probably between 5 and 10. I'm counting only one at this point.

John Eichholz may have a site or two not on the list. I think he has at least one additional site in the Deerfield River corridor with a white ash over 130 and at least one white pine site with pines over 130 that don't show on the list.

Robert Leverett

Tallest Tree by site in Massachusetts: Sites with trees >= 130 feet						
State	Township	Site	Species	Maximum		Est # trees over 130
				Hgt	Form	
MA	Charlemont	MTSF	WP	169.6	S	400
MA	Monroe	MSF	WP	160.2	S	15
MA	Cummington	Bryant	WP	157.1	S	60
MA	Stockbridge	Ice Glen	WP	156.6	S	50
MA	Savoy	Savoy SF	WP	153.7	D	10
MA	Hawley	FMD SF	WP	150.8	S	12
MA	Buckland	Buckland SF	NS	150.2	S	5
MA	Shelburne Falls	Hall Tavern Farm	WP	147.2	S	6
MA	Shelburne	Private Farm	WP	145.0	S	3
MA	Pittsfield	Gulf Road	WP	143.6	d	1
MA	Northampton	Smith College Campus	WP	143.3	s	1
MA	Deerfield	Along RR	WP	143.2	S	5
MA	Colrain	Catamount SF	WA	143.0	S	4
MA	Charlemont	Negus	WP	142.9	S	6
MA	Shutesbury	Quabbin	WP	142.5	S	10
MA	Conway	Graveyard	WP	142.4	S	1
MA	Agawam	Robinson SP	TT	141.9	S	10
MA	Lenox	Pleasant Valley	WP	141.4	S	1
MA	Holyoke	Mt Tom SR	WP	141.2	D	8
MA	Greenfield	Highland Park	WP	140.5	S	4
MA	Conway	Rt 116 Roadside	WP	140.5	S	1
MA	Northampton	Baystate	WP	140.3	S	2
MA	Windsor	Windsor State Forest	WP	140.3	S	3
MA	Conway	South River SF	WP	140.2	S	1
MA	Heath	Avery Rd	WP	140.0	S	1
MA	Florence	Broad Brook	WP	139.9	D	1
MA	South Hadley	Titan's Pier	WP	139.0	D	1
MA	Petersham	Harvard Forest	WP	138.5	S	2
MA	Easthampton	Route 10	SY	138.0	S	3
MA	Cummington	Route 9	WP	138.0	S	4
MA	Charlemont	Charlemont SF	WP	137.5	S	3
MA	Stockbridge	Laurel Hill	WP	137.5	S	4
MA	Northampton	Fruit Street	TT	136.0	S	6
MA	Florence	Monica's Woods	WP	135.3	S	2
MA	Belchertown	Conservation Area	WP	135.0	S	1
MA	Springfield	Forest Park	WP	134.5	S	8
MA	West Stockbrid	Along 181	WP	134.0	S	1
MA	Monroe	Trans Canada	WP	134.0	S	1
MA	Northampton	Florence	WP	133.5	S	1
MA	Easthampton	Arcadia WLS	WP	133.1	S	2
MA	Ashley	Bartholomew Cobble	WP	133.0	S	2
MA	Conway	Bardwell Ferry	WP	132.5	s	2
MA	Williamstown	Petticoat Hill	WP	132.4	S	2
MA	Northampton	Look Park	WP	132.0	S	4
MA	Westfield	Stanley Park	WP	132.0	S	7
MA	Pittsfield	South Mtn SF	WA	132.0	S	3
MA	Westhampton	Leadmine Rd	WP	132.0	S	1
MA	Northampton	Mill River	TT	132.0	S	1
MA	Mount Washing	The Club	WP	131.5	s	1
MA	Westfield	Route 20	TT	131.3	S	1
MA	Old Deerfield	Main Street	WP	131.0	S	1
MA	Ashley	Bartholomew's Cobble	WP	131.0	S	1
MA	Concord	Concord	WP	130.4	S	1
MA	Williamsburg	Graves Farm	WP	130.2	s	1
MA	Ashfield	Hull Woods	WP	130.1	S	1
MA	Florida	Fife Brook	WA	130.0	S	1
Total #						690
Form: s = single trunk, D = double						

[Tulips of Stanley Park, MA](#)

by sam goodwin » Sat Dec 10, 2011 5:24 pm

We made a hike in the park today. The wildlife area is "OFFICIALLY" closed but that did not stop alot of dog walkers. We just hike out to the tulip trees and found no damage to any of them. There was not as much damage as I thought there would be.

Sam Goodwin

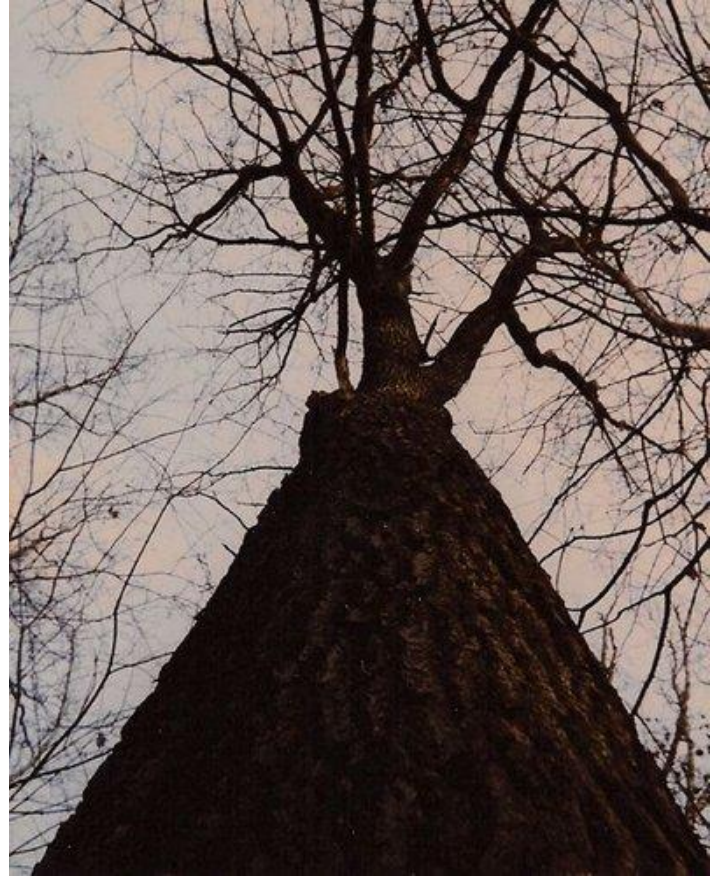
[North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove Pictures](#)

by tomhoward » Wed Dec 07, 2011 8:53 pm

NTS, Here are some more pictures of my favorite place - the North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove. The first of these pictures will help members of the group find the grove as it shows what the grove looks like from outside.



North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove from South Bay Rd.



Black Oak #27



Base of Black Gum #34



Gnarled crown of Black Gum #34

Tom Howard

[Taking the high road](#)

by dbhguru » Wed Dec 07, 2011 10:16 pm

NTS, the flurry of recent posts on climate change should serve as a reminder to all of us on how quickly our attention can get diverted from what we in NTS are all about and do best. Much of the Internet communications we see these days is nothing more than low level dog and cat fights. What we all need to keep in mind, and I am definitely including myself, is that a communication may begin innocently enough with someone expressing their frustration over a situation, but employing language that proves offensive to others. We've been down that road. It accomplishes nothing on a BBS such as ours.

Please, my lady and fellow Ents, let's all agree to stay on the high road. That is the path that will allow us to make our greatest contributions. Besides, the holidays are upon us. Time for us to count our blessings and make our New Year resolutions. Happy Holidays in advance.

Robert T. Leverett

[Ice Glen/Laurel Hill, MA - Dec. 11, 2011](#)

by dbhguru » Sun Dec 11, 2011 8:32 pm

NTS, As mentioned in an earlier post, Monica and I went to Ice Glen today to check on damage from Irene and the snow storm. The trees in the Glen were fine. I remeasured the Monarch Pine, but couldn't detect any new height growth. It is approximately 148.5 feet tall. Its girth is 12.4 feet. Here is an image near the beginning of the old growth.



We decided to check on the trees on Laurel Hill, a different site. Laurel Hill sets in the center of Stockbridge. It has some dandy trees including red and white oaks, white ashes, and white pines. We climbed up to an observation area. I snapped this shot look southwest toward Monument Mountain.



Near the bottom of the hill, I confirmed 3 white pines over 130 feet to feed my 130s list. Height are 137.5, 131.3, and 130.4 feet. This raises the number of sites with 130-footers to 51, and I should confirm site #52 next week.

I'll close with a look at the big pine growing on the ridge above Route 9 that I measured yesterday. Its stats are height = 118.7 ft, girth = 12.6 feet.



Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Ice Glen/Laurel Hill, MA - Dec. 11, 2011](#)

by dbhguru » Mon Dec 12, 2011 8:40 pm

Here are two more images in Ice Glen from the same area as the first image:.



Robert T. Leverett

Treatment for Dutch Elm Disease

by Will Blozan » Sun Dec 11, 2011 8:59 pm

Rand, yes, a systemic fungicide, namely "ArboTech" or "Alamo" delivered by macroinfusion. Holes are drilled into the sapwood below grade and the solution delivered via low pressure in a closed hydraulic system. Small stylets are inserted in the holes which are all connected via tubing to each other and the pump. The treatment is said to last 2-3 years.



ArboTech injections on 60" sycamore

Here is a shot of a treatment I did on a 60" sycamore.

Will Blozan

Big Dogwood (Cornus florida), NJ

by Barry Caselli » Mon Dec 12, 2011 3:43 am

On November 27 I was down in Shiloh, Cumberland County, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church Cemetery. As soon as I walked into the cemetery I found this beautiful tree and took these pictures. Today I took my brother down to see this tree, and some others. We measured the CBH, which turned out to be 6'1" (measured at ~ 15" the narrowest point below the major branching). I believe it's the biggest Dogwood I've ever seen.



Barry Caselli

White Oak - Main Street, Mays Landing, NJ

by Barry Caselli » Tue Dec 13, 2011 10:08 am

Okay, here's a street tree right on Main Street in the little old village of Mays Landing in Hamilton Township, Atlantic County. I photographed this on December 8 and we measured it a couple days later.



The CBH was 13'9". This time I don't have a picture with my brother in it.



Amazing open-grown White Oak

by Barry Caselli » Tue Dec 13, 2011 10:02 am

My brother and I discovered this beautiful tree in a little park in the village of Richland in Buena Vista Township, Atlantic County. I had driven by there a million times and never seen the little park, never mind that tree.

We measured the CBH at 14'3". It would have been fun to attempt to measure the crown spread, but we didn't have time, since we were going all the way to Shiloh. We also only had my brother's 30 foot tape with us. Anyway, I loved that tree.

By the way, the name Buena, locally, is pronounced as if it were spelled B e w n a.





Barry Caselli

[Two huge Eastern Red Cedars, NJ](#)

by Barry Caselli » Tue Dec 13, 2011 10:33 pm

A couple years ago, or more, I found these two cedars in the cemetery at Gouldtown, which is in Fairfield Township, Cumberland County. I took these pictures this year on November 27. And then just a few days ago I took my brother to go see the trees. We measured them, and the larger one had a CBH of 10'8". The smaller one was 10'7". The closeup photos are of the larger tree, which is also the tree on the right in the photo of both trees. By the way, you can see all the way through the one on the left. It's partially hollow.

Meanwhile over at the Methodist cemetery in Seaville, Upper Township, Cape May County, there's a large red cedar also. I've never measured it, just

taken pictures. My brother tells me it was the state champ some years ago, back when the CBH was the only criterion for being the champ. My brother says these two cedars are bigger than that though. I'm happy with that! But I've never seen the current state champ, yet.





Barry Caselli

[Re: Algonquin PP Old Growth/Canoeing video](#)

by Steve Galehouse » Mon Dec 12, 2011 8:54 pm

NTS- This video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztsc7qBYplk> is especially appealing to me because a friend and I have a camp and cabin about due 45 miles west of Algonquin---in a Conservation Reserve with the same sort of terrain and vegetation. There are some patches of what I would consider old-growth in our area, especially some nice stands of hemlock, very dense and on level ground as opposed to ravine slopes, and red pine. There are a few white pine in the area that are likely original trees, but logging in the late 1800's and early 1900's removed any sizable stands. Much of the area shows different stages of regeneration, from mature woods to "barrens" caused by ground fires after logging.

Here is a slideshow video of our camp's area:

<http://vimeo.com/9834115>



Steve Galehouse

Eastern OLDLIST - Updates

by Neil » Tue Dec 13, 2011 10:36 pm

hi All, I've recently updated Eastern OLDLIST with a handful of new ages.

<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/~adk/oldlisteast/>

Perhaps the most interesting ages are:

- the confirmation of a 940 yr old *Juniperus virginiana* in WV. the age comes from a piece of coarse woody debris
- a 410 yr old *Aesculus flava* in KY - the age is pretty solid back to about 1700. before that date there is nothing to really cross-date this sample against
- a 417 yr old *Taxodium ascendens* in FLA
- a 99 yr old *Oxydendrum arboreum* in KY

Neil Pederson

Bienville National Forest-Tallahala Wildlife Mgt Area, MS

by Larry Tucei » Tue Dec 13, 2011 2:41 pm

NTS, I went to Bienville National Forest this weekend for some tree measuring and Deer hunting. Bienville contains 178,000 acres in central Ms., and is a very diverse area. Stately Pines abound here growing mostly on the high ground with mixed Hardwoods along the many Rivers and Creeks Bottoms. Three Wildlife Mgt Areas are located here, Caney Creek, Bienville and Tallahala. I like Tallahala and stayed there for two nights in a tent. Primitive camping is fun but challenging. I did all my measuring in and around the Cedar Creek area basically the central area of Tallahala. Three Creeks flow through the area, Tallahala, Cedar and Quarterlieh. Tallahala contains 28,000 acres of trees and most of them are in the 100-120' range with a few in the 130' class. These trees are all around 80

years old with a few exceptions. Not bad heights and Cir., for such young Timber.

I measured the following species- Slash Pine, Spruce Pine, Water Oak, Overcup Oak, Nuttall Oak, Shumard Red Oak, Turkey or Black Oak, Swamp Chestnut Oak, Willow Oak, Sweet gum, Water Hickory, Shagbark Hickory, and Ash. Most of these trees were in the 120' range with the finds of the day a 135' Shumard, a best for me and a 135' Nuttall, another best. I meandered along and around the creek for two days and without a compass and GPS forget it. It's too hard to navigate this area without them.

It's only ½ mile to the Creek but when you zig zag as we all do when tree hunting it's easy to get turned around. Some photos of one of my favorite areas in the State of Mississippi.

Spruce Pine- 9' 3" 126'
Slash Pine- 9' 9" 126'
Willow Oak-12' 3" 123'
Cherrybark oak-9' 7" 123'
Shumard Oak-11' 3' 135'
Turkey or Black Oak -9' 105'
Swamp Chestnut Oak-10' 108'
Water Oak-9' 6" 120'
Overcup Oak-10' 4" 121'
Nuttall Oak-10' 3" 135'
Sweetgum-6' 6" 102'
Water Hickory-6' 7" 123'
Shagbark Hickory-6' 7" 123'
Green Ash-10' 120'

Rucker 10 Tallest Trees- 125'

<http://www.fs.fed.us/outernet/r8/missis...index.html>



Cedar Creek



Spruce Pines



Spruce Pine



Sharbark Hickory



Slash Pine



Slash Pine



Shumard Oak



Willow Oak



Shumard Oak



Willow Oak



Water Oak



Overcup Oak



Water Oak



Nuttall Oak



Overcup Oak



Nuttall Oak



Green Ash



Water Hickory



Green Ash

Larry Tucei



Water Hickory

[Kenyir Lake trip report, Malaysia](#)

by Shorea » Tue Dec 13, 2011 4:47 am

Hi guys, I know I don't post much here, but this is something from me. This is just a personal trip report from my visit to this manmade hydroelectric dam some two months ago, and here are some photos from that (short) trip. I did not get to visit the forest much, but what I saw was just fabulous. Kenyir Lake is a dam surrounded by lush tropical rainforest....the dam is pretty large, in fact the largest in South East Asia.

All these photos were taken during my lake cruise to visit a fish sanctuary deeper in, located near the boundary to our main National Park, Taman Negara. Most of the forest is logged forest, with old growth/primary forest near to and inside the Taman Negara boundaries.

While the trees weren't really tall, some stood out, like huge strangler figs (circled in the 1st photo). That tree probably has a crown width of 30-40 meters across, if estimated from the houseboat which you can also spot in that photo. Click the photos for a larger view.





This last photo is interesting, because you can spot palm oil trees at the right side of the photo in primary forest at the edge of the lake bank. Palm oil is not native to this region (from Africa).

I asked my guide how did they end up there, and he said it's because of anglers who must have thrown some seeds by the bank (the seeds of palm oil are used as fish bait). There is also a large *Koompassia excelsa* in the photo (the tree with white branches). It wasn't tall (like most of the trees) but stout.

Wish I can go back on another trip some day, to explore the forest there more thoroughly :)

I have a blog about my rainforest trips at <http://www.junglediary.com> and there's more about the trip here: [http://www.junglediary.com/kenyir-lake- ... ai-petang/](http://www.junglediary.com/kenyir-lake-...ai-petang/)

While I only post if I have the time and inclination, there's more stuff there for those of you who might want to know more about the great South East Asian dipterocarp rainforests.

Darrin Wu

Re: Kenyir Lake trip report, Malaysia

by Kouta Räsänen » Thu Dec 15, 2011 8:21 am

Darrin, your blog is excellent! You give there many canopy heights - have you got a laser rangefinder?

Although I have often read about the extent of oil palm plantations, I was shocked that in Sarawak & Sabah there are no more any areas comparable to Taman Negara. Perhaps the image of virgin wilderness of Borneo is too strong in my mind. How many percent of Taman Negara is "virgin"?

Is there a good identification guide for Malaysian trees? I know there is "Tree Flora of Malaya" & "Forester's Manual of Dipterocarps" for Peninsular Malaysia but they are probably not available anymore, and "Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak" but it is still incomplete. Perhaps there is others in Malaysian language?

Kouta Räsänen

Re: Kenyir Lake trip report, Malaysia

by Shorea » Thu Dec 15, 2011 9:07 pm

Hi Kouta, unfortunately, I don't have a laser rangefinder yet; however the other problem is measuring the trees, because the thick foliage and close proximity of the trees in rainforest environments make it very difficult to measure the height.

Well, Sabah and Sarawak does not have any "virgin" areas left to preserve that are even half the size of Taman Negara, let alone the same size. In Kalimantan (Indonesia), yes there are a few, but they are remote and not exactly lowland, where you will find the biggest, tallest trees. The Sembakung proposed area was the one I had hopes on, but looking at Google Maps, it has been logged to pieces. Taman Negara is 90-99% virgin forest, with the only doubtful areas being the north region where there might have been illegal logging during construction of vast oil palm plantations to the north.

The books you mention are the best, but there is an old one by J.H Corner, called *Wayside Trees of Malaya*, published in the 60s. They are all in English.

Darrin Wu

[Video of Horse Logging](#)

by Joe » Wed Dec 14, 2011 8:46 am

I have just created a short (6 minute) video of horse logging at The Farm School in Orange, Mass.

(<http://www.farmschool.org/>) The Farm has its own team of work horses and they invited some other teams for this day long demonstration.



The video is on YouTube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34dH53R0eqI>. By default it comes up in low res (360p). If you have a medium fast internet speed you can switch the res to 480p and if you have a very fast connection you can watch it in high definition (720p). If you try watching in 720p and it's jerky you can pause the video to allow it to download for a few minutes or all of it then start it up again and you should be able to watch it with no further pauses. It is of course much clearer in the higher resolutions. It's also on Vimeo but only in 720p high definition: <http://vimeo.com/33488034>. On Vimeo it's possible to download the entire video to a file then watch it offline (282 MB).

Joe Zorzin



Re: Video of Horse Logging

by gnmcmartin » Thu Dec 15, 2011 9:27 pm

Joe, with my very slow connection, it is difficult for me to see the video. I may try later, but 6 minutes of video may take an hour to download and save, and too often the downloading is interrupted.

Anyway, I have some experience with horse logging, and want to make it clear to anyone who might want to have their land logged using horses, that there are very different kinds of horse logging, and the results are not always better than more careful tractor logging with something like the Farmi winch. I never did any management of the horses myself, but did tree felling and bucking when the logs were moved to a landing by horses.

First, and what I think is best, is logging with an arch especially designed for horses. One or two people make such arches. What they do, is lift one end of the log off the ground and suspend it. The horses pull the arch which is on tough wheels. To use this kind of arch, the logs must be bucked to length in the woods before they are raised by the arch. The arch I worked with was very maneuverable, but getting the horses positioned, and getting the arch headed the right way, took extra time. But this kind of logging could result in absolutely no damage to other trees in the woods--assuming no damage from felling itself, and very little scraping of the ground, and very little damage to reproduction.

At the other end of the scale is tree length logging with just a singletree. This is not really a "low impact" kind of logging. If the logs are pulled out in tree lengths, or anything close to that, there will be scraping of the remaining trees. If the logger will buck the logs to shorter lengths, and then, if necessary, un-hook and re-hook to get between and around trees, this can be low impact. But, because the end of the log is not lifted, there can be considerable scraping of the ground, and exposed tree roots can be ripped up, etc., etc.

I worked with both of these methods of horse logging.

If one wants the most practical way to do very low impact logging, I recommend a 4 wheel drive farm tractor (with the larger front wheel configuration) and a Farmi winch. Farmi has a website that describes their winches, and describes logging plans/methods that can be used. There are several Farmi winches--I think they come in four sizes. We used the second one from the smallest. It has 165 feet of cable that is not so heavy as the two largest winches, and therefore it is easier to drag the cable and chokers around. The cable in the larger winches is heavier. Farmi winches are easy to operate--one man could log with a Farmi winch. To get around obstacles, other trees, one can hook and un-hook as needed, and/or use a snatch block.

After we logged in the winter with a tractor and a farmi winch, with 6 or more inches of snow on the ground, the next spring, no one would know any logging had been done, unless they looked up and saw an open space in the tree canopy, or saw a stump, or a tree top. I usually flattened the tops as I logged, and they would be hard to notice unless one were looking for them.

Horses require special care and management, preparation each day for logging, transportation to and from the site each day, etc., etc. Yes, it is a nice romantic notion--a natural way to log using an old traditional method, but, not really that easy to do.

--Gaines McMartin

West Virginia Big Tree Register

by tsharp » Wed Dec 14, 2011 8:52 pm

NTS: Two years ago I offered to help update the WV Big Tree Register which had been moribund for about 10 years. The WV Division of Forestry was very agreeable. With a lot of good ideas from the NTS board and Scott Wade's PA list I listed several goals to shoot for when updating the Register.

1. The Register should be online. Finally happened in summer of 2011.
2. All Multi-stem trees should be identified as such.
3. Any circumference not taken at the standard 4 1/2' mid slope height should be clearly indicated.
4. The register must indicate how the height measurement was made.
5. Include the three biggest point total trees in the register but also to include the largest circumference, tallest height, and widest spread. ie basically a maximum dimension list.
6. Update the register annually with the biggest point total tree reinspected within 5 years and the others within 10.

I introduced six district foresters to the sine based method of height determination with a clinometer and laser range finder and they did the bulk of the inspections and we probably got through 90 percent of the database in 2 years.

The results may be found here:

http://www.wvcommerce.org/resources/forestry/big_tree/registered_trees/default.aspx



I will be involved for at least another year and intend to push for a better information on the website especially as it pertains to access/location. At present we only list the tree location to county and nearest town.

I value any comments on how the WV Big Tree Register is presented any improvements that can be made.

Turner Sharp