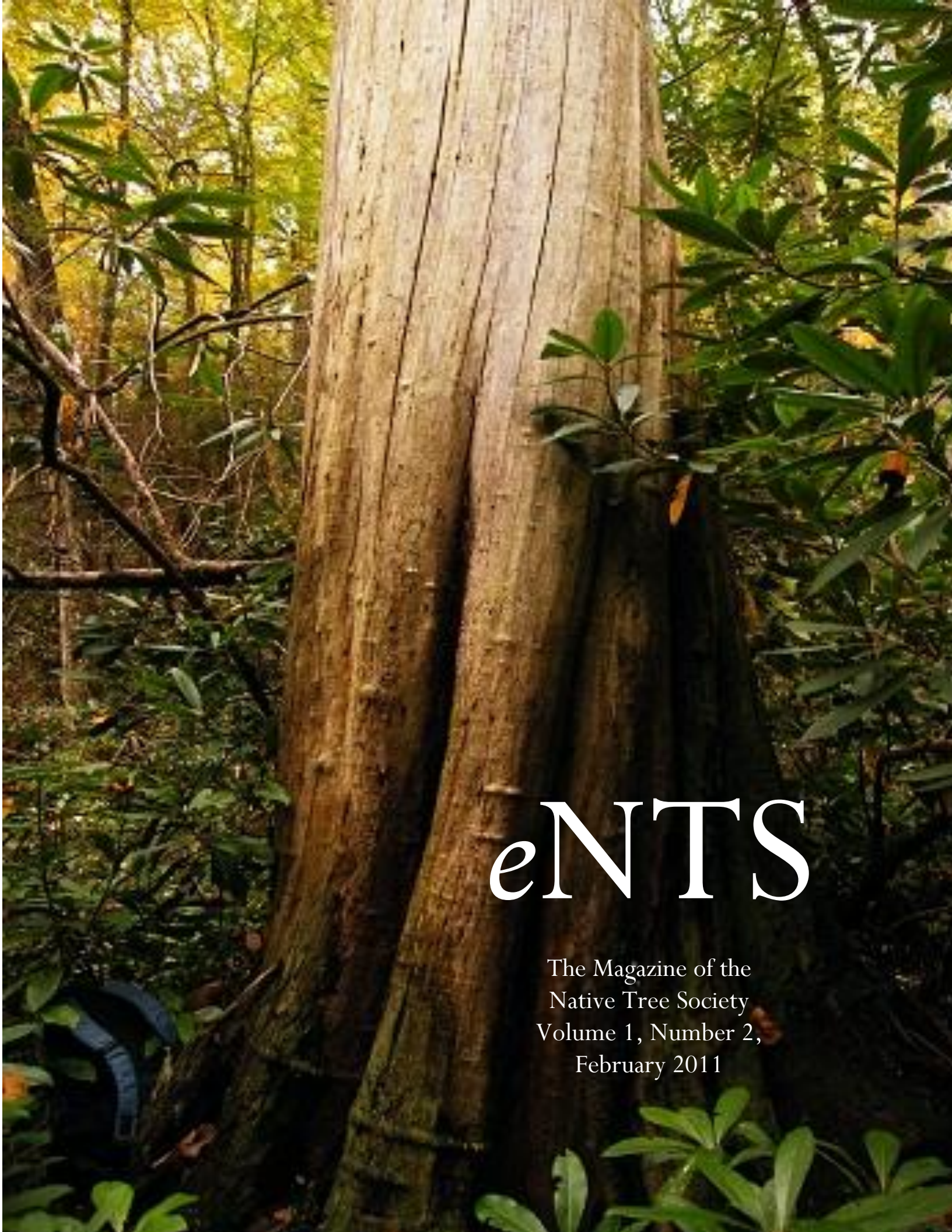

eNTS

The Magazine of the
Native Tree Society
Volume 1, Number 2,
February 2011

*e*NTS: 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 2, February 2011

Mission Statement:

The Native Tree Society (NTS) and its parent organization the Eastern Native Tree Society (ENTS) are 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. ENTS is the premiere tree measuring group of the eastern forest of the United States. 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:Chestnut snag from Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, NC photo by Dan Miles 2011.

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Big Trees from Peru and Costa Rica

by Bart Bouricius » Fri Feb 04, 2011 5:57 pm

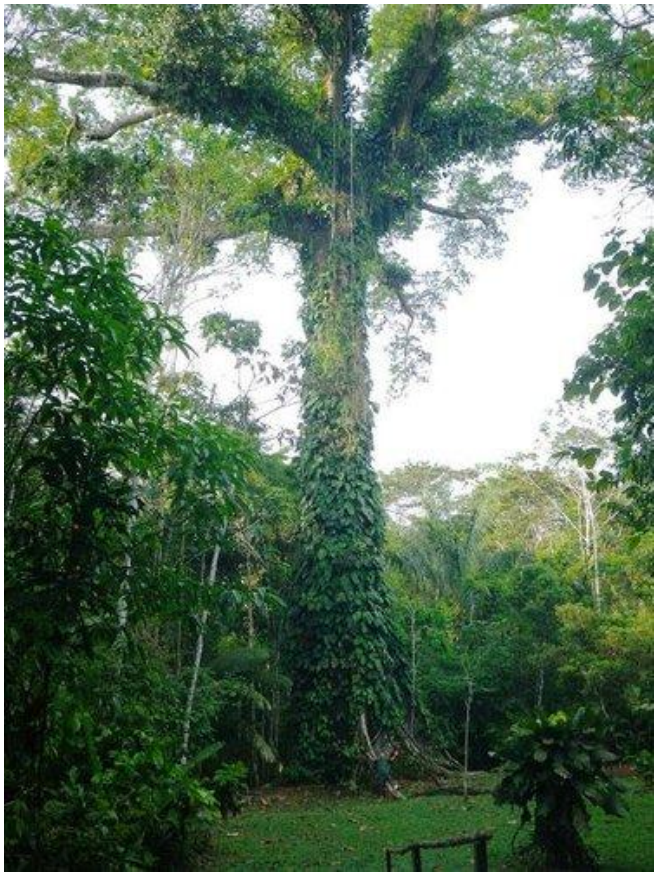
Bart Bouricius on October Peru Trip and December-January Costa Rica Trip

This will be the 1st of two posts on Big trees of Peru and Costa Rica

Along with my co-workers, I spend 1-2 months each year in the Peruvian Amazon building, maintaining or expanding tree canopy walkway systems. These walkways are constructed by Canopy Construction Associates an organization I founded in 1990 which includes several contractors and scientists who get together to build walkways when projects commence.

This year I focused a little more of my free time photographing and measuring some of the trees I ran across in Peru and in Costa Rica where my wife Connie and I were visiting some of our Costa Rican and expatriate friends a few weeks ago. The following is a list of the measurements images and comments. To give some perspective to many ENTS members who are less familiar with New World tropical forests, I will use two quotes from Richard Condit the author of the 2011 book The Trees of Panama and Costa Rica:

"Forests of the tropics are famous for high species diversity. In Panama and Costa Rica, 200 or more species of trees can be found on a walk of a few hundred meters." - - - "in more remote areas where it is difficult to visit, it is typical for tropical botanists to leave as unidentified 25% of the species encountered.". I have been told that in Amazonian Peru an expedition of botanists from the Smithsonian Museum in 1984 counted over 600 species of trees in a single hectare (approximately 2.5 acres) many of them new to science. As I was not looking in remote places at least in Costa Rica, I was able to identify most of the larger trees I encountered, however, even in the less diverse gallery forests of the pacific slopes there is amazing diversity.



These first two images are of a particular Kapok tree Ceiba pentandra which is sort of a mascot for the Ceiba Tops Lodge near the banks of the Amazon in Northern Peru. The lodge is run by Explorama. My Coleague Phil Wittman climbed to the first branch of the tree which he accurately measured at 120 feet high. Phil measured the entire tree from the ground at 220 feet, however he was not using the approved ENTS methodology and I suspect it will have to be

remeasured using a 440 range finder from directly below the tree to get an inkling how close his measurement was. I measured a smaller Kapok (no image) at the Tirimbina Biological Station Reserve at 157' 9".

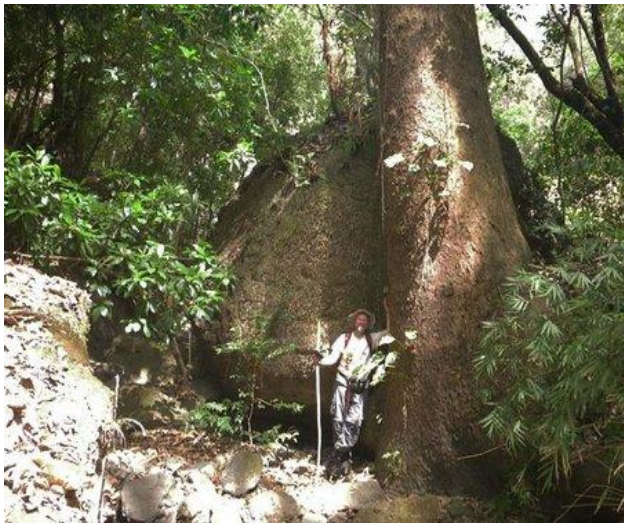
There are certainly larger Kapoks in the area, though few offer the chance to see the whole tree like this one does. It is tall because it grew up in the forest. The forest was cleared around it for pasture or crops and then was allowed to grow back, as you can see the canopy of the surrounding forest is significantly lower than the old Kapok Tree. Just eyeballing the tree, I would estimate close to a 9 foot diameter above the buttresses. I plan to get better measurements on a larger Kapok when I take a group of people down to Peru this summer. By the way I measured another large Kapok at the Puntaleon Beach area in Costa Rica that had 10' of fill above ground level put around it's trunk several years ago. This would have killed just about any tree I know of in the US, but the tree still seems in reasonable health. It was easy to measure above the buried buttresses and it was 31 feet 2 inches CBH and 119' high, so if we include the part of the trunk below the fill, it is about 130' high. I was rushed at the time, so I did not get a picture, but if you Google images of Puntaleone Costa Rica Ceiba or Kapok or giant tree, you can find a few images of it. There is a plaque in front of the tree stating that it is over 400 years old. I have no idea how this is known.

Here I am measuring a smaller but attractive Ceiba pentandra on my friend Bob Lucas's farm near Alta Monte Costa Rica. It's measurements were 11' 3" CBH and 141' high.(305)

The trees on Bob's farm are part of a gallery forest which follows a stream bed adjacent to cow pastures on steep hills.

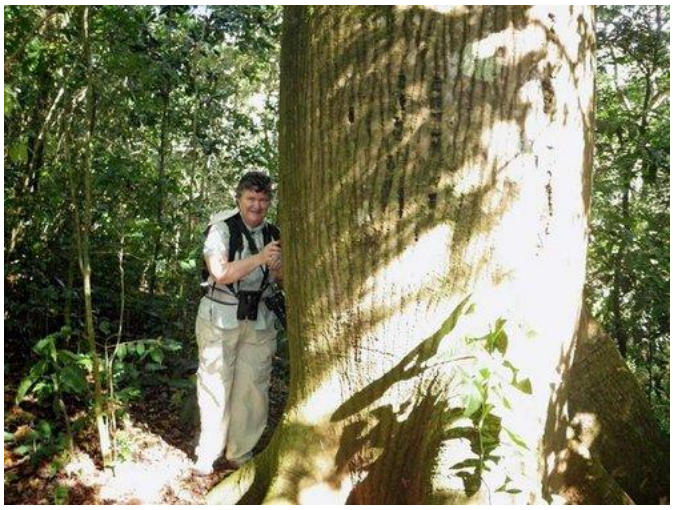
Here is what the gallery forest on the Pacific mountain slope of Costa Rica looks like.

Bob leans against a 158' tall Wild Cashew tree Anacardium excelsum. It was 15' 7". These trees are said to compete with the Kapok trees for height, and large ones can have immense girths as well. CBH. 3027



Here I am with a somewhat larger diameter Wild Cashew not measured.

Bob with Pseudobombax septenatum the Barrigon tree. These trees, in the same subfamily as the Kapok tree, have a swollen trunk with green vertical lines in the bark which has chlorphyl allowing this peculiar tree to perform photosynthesis in its bark. CBH 14' 8" height 107'



Here is my wife Connie with another Barrigon tree CBH 15' 5" but only 93' 3" tall.

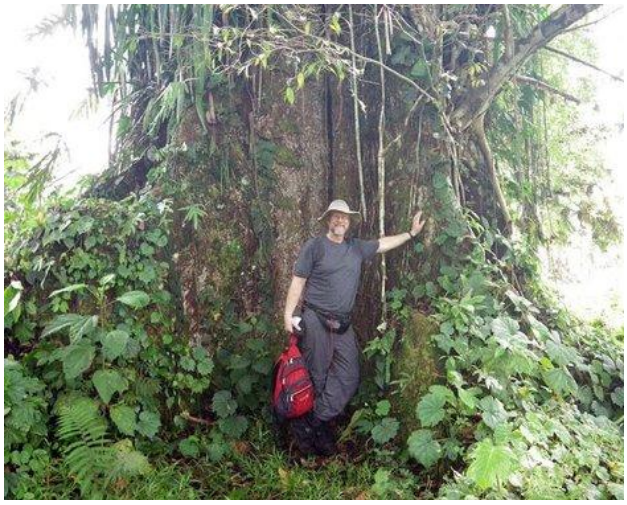
See great web page on this species:
http://www.cds.ed.cr/teachers/harmon/page20.html

Big Trees from Peru and Costa Rica, Second Post

by Bart Bouricius » Fri Feb 04, 2011 7:16 pm

2nd Report on October Peru Trip and December-January Costa Rica Trip

In this report I have some images of trees on another farm and some images from the Tirimbina Reserve both in the province of Sarapiquí Costa Rica on the Atlantic side of the country. I will conclude this post with a large Guanacaste Tree near the town of Balsilla.



Here I stand in front of a Pilon Tree Hieronyma alchorneoides on the farm of the Alfaro family in Sarapiquí Costa Rica on the Atlantic side of the country. You may notice the small fig tree clinging to the right of the Pilon tree. It is a hemiepiphyte which starts on a tree and then grows roots down to the ground. Strangler figs often do this. This Tree was 33' 4" in circumference and 144' high.

My friends Leti and Lisette Alfaro stand next to another tree on the same farm. It is a Wild Almond tree Dipteryx oleifera (recently changed from D. panamensis). This tree was 161.5' tall and 15' 1" above the buttresses. A "much larger" one on the farm was recently cut because it was hollow and structurally unsound. This species according to Richard Condit, is the tallest tree on Barro Colorado Island where an important Biological research station is located. The island is in a large lake that feeds the Panama Canal. The tree in Panama was measured to a height of 53 meters or 172'. This species, which is a very valuable timber tree is protected in Costa Rica. As the tree became scarcer due to logging in the 80's and 90's, the Great Green Macaw, which depends on this particular species for both nesting in and food has become extinct in much of its former range and is now considered endangered. This tree species is so valuable for timber because it has a strong dense wood with a specific gravity of .89 and is said to be impervious to termites.

See info on Green Macaw:

http://news.mongabay.com/2008/1027-costa_rica.html

In this image I am climbing approximately 120' up in a large Kapok Tree at the Tirimbina Reserve.

looking up at the towering Kapok Tree from ground.

My friend Witold, who studies spiders in the canopy at Tirimbina collecting data for his PHD thesis, in the tree with me.

Bob and owner Jonny Cubero in front of a Guanacaste tree measuring 31' 4" in Circumference and 79' tall. This species does not get tall, but this one had a crown spread in one direction of 157'.

Entire Guanacaste tree for perspective

Looking up at Barrigon tree from previous post
Pseudobombax septenatum

Next year when Connie and I visit our friends in Costa Rica again, I will have prepared for side excursions to look for remarkable large trees. Considering that most of these trees were simply trees that we could walk to from where we happened to be staying, I expect to find significantly larger ones. I am told by Lisette Alfaro that near where she works as a guide, there is a truly immense Sandbox Tree Hura crepitans, which is described by Richard Condit as "A forest giant. Trunk can be immense, matching Ceiba (Malvaceae-Bombacoideae) or Anacardium escelsum (Anacardaceae) in size but without buttresses." I was also told of an individual Ceiba tree that is supposed to have a 22 foot diameter, however I find this difficult to believe unless it is not an above the buttress measurement. Nevertheless, I know there are bigger trees out there and am keen to find and document them, this time with my GPS unit in hand as well as measuring tools.

Bart Bouricius

WNTS Gathering for 2011

by dbhguru » Thu Feb 03, 2011 10:09 am

WNTS's distinguished president big Don Bertolette and I have decided on a location for the WNTS gathering for 2011. It will be Pocatello, ID. I have an infrastructure there and Idaho offers endless possibilities for big tree we need to plant seeds in far flung places. We tentatively plan to visit the Grand Tetons as part of the event. The details will take shape later, but as of now, the event will be held at the very end of June. You'll be hearing from Don also. Right now, he's setting up a new computer system, and a bit preoccupied. If you think you'd like to attend, please let us know so we can look to finding accommodations for you, if you would need them.

Pocatello is a cool place - not equal to Durango, but very nice. Like Durango, Pocatello is a college town. It is only 3 hours away from the Grand Teton NP and 4 from Yellowstone. Craters of the Moon NM is not far away. There are hot springs, wildlife refuges, and famous places like Sun Valley and the Sawtooth range are within a half day's drive.

Don communicates with the Idaho big tree program coordinator, who is likely to know where noteworthy stands of the western white pine can be accessed.

After Pocatello, Monica and I will return to Durango, so if any of you would prefer to link up there, there is plenty to see. So long as Monica and I are ambulatory, Durango, the Great Sand Dunes, Mesa Verde, etc. will be on the itinerary. We plan to be in Durango around July 6th or 7th. I hope to return to the La Platas and Hermosa Creek to continue hunting down big Ponderosa Pines, Doug Firs, and Colorado Blue Spruces.

Robert Leverett

Park Wood, Somerset, UK

by Morgaine » Thu Feb 03, 2011 5:43 am

I think one of the strangest woods I've ever visited was Park Wood, in Somerset, UK. It is a remnant of a once-great forest entirely comprised of ancient English yew trees and is possessed of an eerie, silent atmosphere that strongly evokes the feeling of being watched and listened to. The yews are shorter than normal and very squat, with low-hanging branches many of which barely clear the ground, so that one is constantly obliged to stare downwards in order not to trip or damage the trees. Although it was pouring rain when we went there, once under the canopy hardly any rain came through onto us. In the hour I spent there with friends, we never saw or heard a single living creature except the trees. After a long time waiting for the rain to subside so that we could sprint back to our car, we sat down at the roots of our respective specimens. Although nothing perceptible changed, the feeling of the woods shifted from something bordering on sinister to a warmer, calmer feeling. One of our party informed us that Merlin was said to have come here to dream his visions. It wasn't hard to see why such a legend would become attached to the place. If you ever have opportunity to visit there, I highly recommend it.

Caledonia Gorge, NB

by mikekowalski » Mon Feb 07, 2011 12:44 am

ENTS,
I went for a snowshoe through some of the Caledonia Gorge the other day.
http://maps.google.ca/maps?q=moncton&ie ... 4&t=p&z=12

Here are a few sites about the area:
http://www.horizonssauvages.org/photo/c ... tural-area
http://fundy-biosphere.ca/en/explorer/c ... nia_gorge/

A beautiful place; it's the first major river gorge from the eastern edge of the Bay of Fundy, and one of the largest along the southern coast of New Brunswick. The forest there is typical of the area, seemingly dominated by red spruce and yellow birch, and quite a bit of sugar maple. Near the southern end there's a waterfall and a large pool. It all looks so different in the winter, but it's just as nice. Climbing the banks was difficult, considering we have over a meter and a half of snow so far this year, but it was great fun.

Here are a few photos.

IMG_3839 (1).jpg (55.99 KiB) Viewed 85 times

Mike Kowalski

Trees and the City

by Jenny » Sat Feb 05, 2011 1:53 pm

Interesting video - ALL TREES NO BIRDS!!!! I wanted to incorporate some of the buildings around Central Park in this series. I mostly have tried to hide the buildings, so time to look at the trees in a different context. I think I need to reveal some of the realities....

http://vimeo.com/19598508

These pictures were taken over a period of 2 days, there was intermittent snow and it was late afternoon/evening. When it started to get dark, that's when the pictures became very interesting. The ambient city light reflected of the snow so that I didn't have to use a flash. Then when I did use a flash this cool burnt orange sky appeared that wasn't there at all to the naked eye. And with the flash you can see the snow flakes. I fell in love too much with the orange sky pictures, so they go on a bit. I edited out about 5.
I hope that it is interesting in these videos to see the characteristics that make up this almost completely artificial landscape (the park construction was completed in 1873.)

Jenny Dudley

" I know who you are ".

by **James Parton** » Fri Feb 04, 2011 12:24 pm

ENTS,

On Imbolc, Feb 1st, I had a short but unusual dream. I dreamed I was walking down a short trail down to the Green River and upon reaching the water's edge I picked up a rock. I then stepped into the water to wash the rock off. Standing just over knee deep in the clear water I submerged the rock and found myself singing this little tune. " I think I see, I know who you are", while standing in the river looking down at the submerged rock in my hands. The dream was really vivid. It ended at that point.

Upon waking I got up with the tune in my head. I tried to remember if I had ever heard it in an actual song before. I don't think so. I typed it on a notepad file on my computer so I would not forget it. I do remember when I was singing the tune in the dream that I was thinking of Mother Nature. The tune was to her.

Was Nature herself or God trying to convey something to me or was it only a dream? I do wonder.

The dream took place just above a bridge off Green River road near the lower end of the Green River Cove Trail. A place I visited last September.

James E Parton
Bardic Course Graduate - Ovate Student
New Order of Druids

White Pines, spruce with "Parabolic" limbs

by rddl1990 » Tue Feb 08, 2011 9:14 pm

The main objective of calculus is to understand differentiable lines, or as I like to call them, "parabolic" lines. Given in one of the photos enclosed herein are examples of parabolic lines.

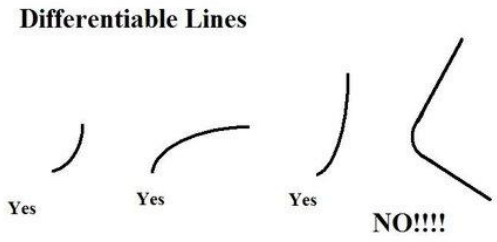
Anyways, over the years I've noticed that many Pinus strobus have "parabolic" branches. I have seen these sorts of trees on the sides of highways my whole life. Herein I have enclosed photos of two different trees with parabolic branches.

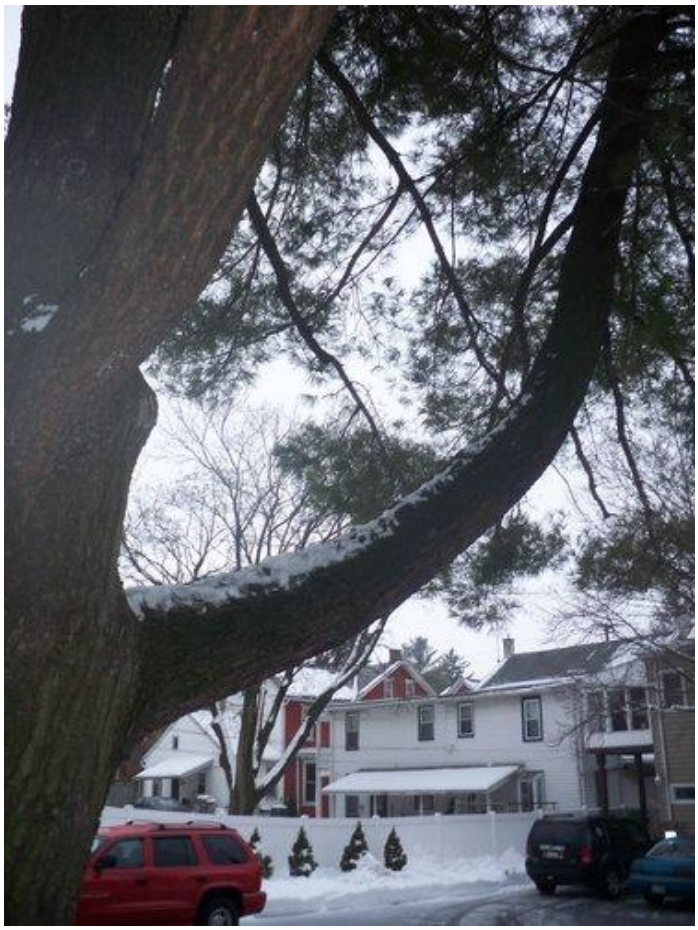
Recently, it came to my attention (through one of Bob's posts) that Norway spruce sometimes have parabolic branches. In the particular post, Bob had a picture of an octopus-looking tree decked out with oodles of these strange limbs. The national champion NS, at Hamilton College, also has parabolic branches.

So anyways, I was just wondering what everyone else's take on the matter is.

--Ryan LeClair

P.S. -- To see a really gnarly tree with lots of these parabolic branches, go to PA BIG TREES and look for the white pine located in Bradford.





Ridley Creek State Park, PA Update 2010

by **George Fieo** » Thu Feb 10, 2011 1:02 am

My initial report on Ridley Creek State Park was focused on a single ravine which yielded a RI of 128.3'. I spent nearly a week in November 2010 exploring the slopes and ridges of Ridley Creek and it's tributary Big Run which make up most of the 2,606 acre park.

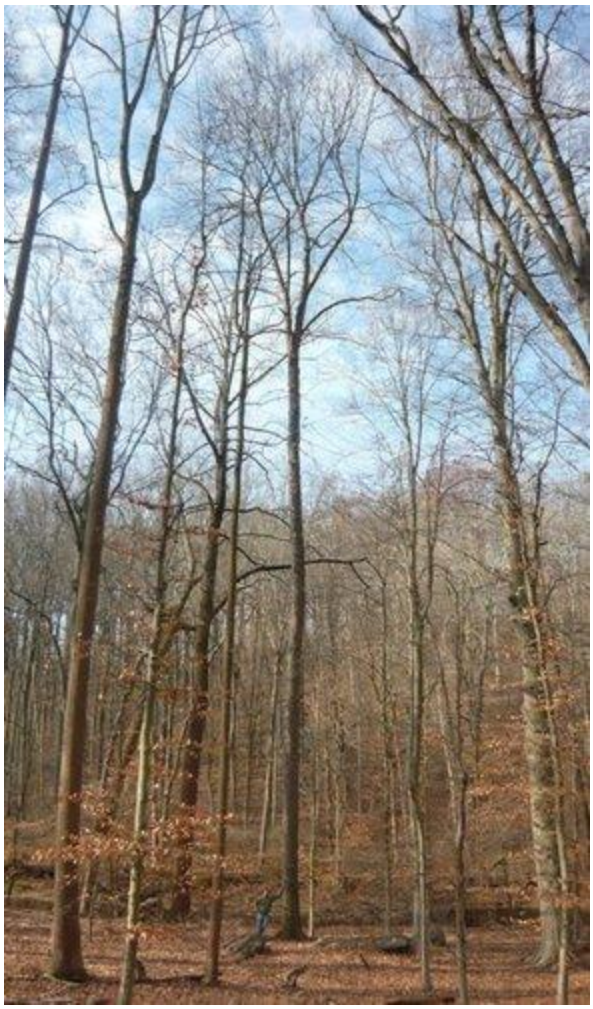
American beech with 9' girths are frequent and the largest measured 11'6" x 120.3'. A total of ten beech were documented with heights over 120'. The tallest is 6'11" x 130', a new PA height record.

Me at the base of a 9'9" x 123.4' American beech.

Blackgum heights are exceptional with six specimens over 110', five of which surpass Pa.'s previous height record. One individual I located on an early scouting trip has excellent form with a straight bole well into it's canopy and measures 8' x 111.4'. The largest and tallest is 9'3" x 118.5' and is a new NE height record.

Black walnut is commonly found along the creek beds, sometimes forming nearly pure stands and infrequently occurring on higher, drier sites. Girths between 4-5' are common and the largest recorded girth was 7'. The lack of mature trees may suggest that they may have been selectively logged. Three specimens were documented with heights over 123'. The tallest is a new NE height record measuring 6'5" x 127.7'.

Hickories are impressive as well. Bitternut, mockernut, pignut and shagbark all had specimens with girths over 9'. Two of the largest were recent blowdowns, a bitternut with a girth ~11' and a pignut ~10' in girth. Both of these hickories were over 120' in height and likely came down in the same storm. The bitternut showed no signs of weakness and splintered above it's root collar. The largest girthed pignut measures 11'8" x 93.4' and has an open grown form. The tree is hollow and stands beside an old cart path that leads to a small family cemetery with burial dates between 1820 and 1861. Pignut registered three trees over 137'. Shagbark produced a new PA height record with a 6'2" x 131' specimen. A 7' x 140.7' bitternut and a 6'5" x 134.6' mockernut are new NE height records. Shellbark hickory may also be present at the site as I found the husk from a nut but could not identify the tree from which it came from. Shellbark hickory has been documented in the Tyler Arboretum which adjoins Ridley Creek State Park at it's southern border.



Me with the 6'2" x 131' Shagbark hickory.

Five species of oak were observed within the park. Several mature swamp white oak were spied along Ridley Creek's east bank in the northern most section of the park having estimated girths between 9-12' and heights of 60-80'. They have open grown forms and are amongst early to mid successional forest. Black oaks with 8' girths and heights between 115-120' are numerous. The tallest black oak measures 9'6" x 129.4'. The park also supports the state champion black oak which is a commanding 20'4" x 127.8'. Chestnut oak is abundant on the ridges and drier slopes with two specimens registering heights over 125', an 8'2" x 126.5' in the southern section and a 5'9" x 127.8' in the northern section which is a new NE height record.

Me at the base of a 9'5" x 118.4' Pignut hickory.

Northern red oaks are the tallest of it's genus with three specimens surpassing 140'. The tallest is a multistem with three boles that is 18'4"(@ 2.5') x 144.8' and is a NE height record. Northern red and white oaks with 10' girths are common in mature stands. White oak also has impressive heights for the species with thirteen documented specimens over 120'. The tallest is 10'10" x 131.9' and is a new NE height record.

PA state champion black oak.

Sassafras is abundant on drier early to mid successional forest types but can be found in mature forests where canopy gaps occur, typically in clusters with tall slender forms. The tallest specimen is 5'2" x 110.7' and is a new NE height record.

Tulip poplar dominates where soils are richer and heights of 140' are typical. Four tulip poplars registered heights of 150', the tallest being a 10'3" x 153.6' specimen. The largest girthed individual is 16'1" x 129.1'.

Sycamores line the creek banks and heights between 110-120' are common. A lone sycamore growing midway up a drainage in a nearly pure stand of tulip poplar mixed with white ash measured 8'1" x 137', the tallest documented for the park and a personal best for me.

An 8'2" x 126.5' Chestnut oak.

White ash achieves exceptional heights in sheltered groves commonly reaching heights over 130' with numerous specimens free of limbs for the first 70-80'. Four specimens were documented with heights over 140' with the tallest measuring 8'3" x 143.9'. White ash commonly reaches girths of 9' or more.

There are more than a dozen white pine plantations within the park. The largest plantation covers more than twelve acres and groves average 125' in height. The oldest grove is located on an east facing slope above Ridley Creek and supports the tallest documented white pine that measures 9'5" x 138.6'. Girths in this stand are between 7-9'. Tulip poplar and white ash are codominant componets in several of the pine groves and spicebush dominates the shrub

layer. White pine is regenerating outside of the plantations when conditions allow ranging in size from seedlings to individuals up to 70'

The base of a 14' x 128.5' White ash.

Ridley Creek State Park Site Index

Species	CBH	Height	Comment
A Basswood	8'	95.7'	
A Beech	7'10"	125.4'	
A Beech	8'9"	128.8'	
A Beech	6'11"	130.0'	new PA height record
A Hornbeam	1'8"	44.8'	2/16/09 measurement
Big Tooth Aspen	4'7"	100.7'	
Bitternut Hickory	8'6"	124.3'	
Bitternut Hickory	5'9"	133.6'	
Bitternut Hickory	7'	140.7'	new NE height record
Black Cherry	3'10"	103.2'	
Black Cherry	8'3"	107.8'	
Blackgum	8'	111.4'	

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A plantation of 130' White pine.

Blackgum	6'2"	114.7'	
Blackgum	7'1"	115.1'	
Blackgum	6'4"	115.6'	
Blackgum	5'7"	117.2'	
Blackgum	9'3"	118.5'	new NE height record
Black Locust	6'3"	116.8'	
Black Locust	4'10"	117.9'	
Black Oak	20'4"	127.8'	PA State Champ
Black Oak	9'6"	129.4	
Black Walnut	6'2"	123.5	
Black Walnut	7'	123.6'	

Black Walnut	6'5"	127.7'	new NE height record
Chestnut Oak	10'5"	119.8'	
Chestnut Oak	8'2"	126.5'	
Chestnut Oak	5'9"	127.8'	new NE height record
E Hophornbeam	3'	67.2'	
Flowering Dogwood	2'2"	44.8'	2/16/09 measurement
European Larch	4'10"	121.1'	
European Larch	5'11"	122.6'	
European Larch	4'8"	124.0'	new PA height record
Mockernut Hickory	9'8"	120.9'	
Mockernut Hickory	6'2"	133.7'	2/16/09 measurement
Mockernut Hickory	6'5"	134.6'	new NE height record
N Red Oak	9'2"	143.0'	
N Red Oak	6'9"	143.4'	
N Red Oak (3x)	18'4"	144.8'	new NE height record
Pignut Hickory	9'	134.0'	
Pignut Hickory	7'	137.1'	
Pignut Hickory	8'5"	137.1'	
Pignut Hickory	5'7"	137.4'	
Red Maple	5'9"	114.8'	
Red Maple	7'7"	118.5'	
Sassafras	5'4"	107.5'	
Sassafras	4'7"	110.4'	
Sassafras	5'2"	110.7'	new PA height record
Shagbark Hickory	7'6"	124.9'	
Shagbark Hickory	5'5"	127.5'	
Shagbark Hickory	6'2"	131.0'	new PA height record
Silver Maple	10'4"	110.9'	
Silver Maple (3x)	14'7"	116.3'	
Slippery Elm	7'	104.9'	
Slippery Elm	6'5"	108.0'	
Sycamore	8'1"	137.0'	
Tulip Poplar	10'4"	148.9'	
Tulip Poplar	11'1"	150.0'	
Tulip Poplar	~11'	150.5'	
Tulip Poplar	11'	150.8'	
Tulip Poplar	10'3"	153.6'	
White Ash	11'2"	139.6'	
White Ash	11'4"	141.2'	
White Ash	6'5"	141.4'	
White Ash	8'10"	141.4'	
White Ash	8'3"	143.9'	new PA height record
White Oak	11'6"	125.3'	
White Oak	8'5"	125.6'	
White Oak	9'2"	127.1'	
White Oak	10'9"	127.3'	
White Oak	10'10"	131.9'	new NE height record
White Pine	7'9"	134.0'	
White Pine	7'5"	134.9'	
White Pine	6'3"	135.9'	
White Pine	7'	136.1'	
White Pine	9'5"	138.6'	
Witch Hazel	9.5"	27.6'	

Ridley Creek State Park 12 x 100 Club

Species	CBH	Height	Comment
Black Oak	12'3"	119.7'	
Black Oak	20'4"	127.8'	State Champ
N Red Oak	13'9"	107.4'	
N Red Oak	13'11"	110.1'	
N Red Oak	13'2"	114.9'	
N Red Oak	12'2"	116.5'	
N Red Oak	15'2"	117.0'	
N Red Oak	16'11"	119.3'	
N Red Oak	14'5"	120.3'	
N Red Oak	13'7"	121.9'	
N Red Oak	12'5"	122.5'	
N Red Oak	12'1"	123.5'	
N Red Oak	12'7"	126.1'	
N Red Oak	15'8"	127.5'	
N Red Oak	12'	130.2'	
N Red Oak	12'	133.5'	
N Red Oak	13'2"	135.0'	
Sycamore	12'3"	132.6'	
Tulip Poplar	14'4"	108.4'	
Tulip Poplar	13'9"	112.2'	
Tulip Poplar	12'4"	121.2'	
Tulip Poplar	12'8"	122.2'	
Tulip Poplar	13'1"	123.0'	
Tulip Poplar	12'1"	123.2'	
Tulip Poplar	12'	123.7'	
Tulip Poplar	15'	124.7'	
Tulip Poplar	15'5"	127.0'	
Tulip Poplar	16'1"	129.1'	
Tulip Poplar	14'3"	131.4'	
Tulip Poplar	12'4"	137.3'	

Tulip Poplar	13'2"	138.6'	
Tulip Poplar	13'	145.8'	
White Ash	12'1"	117.0'	
White Ash	16'	119.3'	2/16/09 measurement
White Ash	14'	128.5'	
White Oak	13'5"	105.3'	2/16/09 measurement
White Oak	14'2"	105.9'	2/16/09 measurement
White Oak	13'3"	117.7'	
White Oak	15'2"	120.6'	
White Oak	12'8"	122.6'	

Ridley Creek State Park Rucker 10 Index

Species	CBH	Height
Tulip Poplar	10'3"	153.6'
N Red Oak (3x)	18'4"	144.8'
White Ash	8'3"	143.9'
Bitternut Hickory	7'	140.7'
White Pine	9'5"	138.6'
Pignut Hickory	5'7"	137.4'
Sycamore	8'1"	137.0'
Mockernut Hickory	6'5"	134.6'
White Oak	10'10"	131.9'
Shagbark Hickory	6'2"	131.0'

Rucker Index 139.35'

Big Northern Red Oak

by tsharp » Sat Feb 12, 2011 3:29 pm

Here are the numbers for a big Red Oak Brent Lyons and I had the privilege of measuring on December 8th 2011.

CBH 272.4" or 22.7'
DBH 86.7" or 7.2'
HT. 124.1'
CS 106' average or 110 maximum
AF Big Tree Points = 423.0

I also took a circumference measurement at 5 1/2' above mid-slope to get above any of the fins influence. This measurement was 354.2" or 21.2' with Diameter being 80.9" or 6.7'

The tree is located in Ohio County in the northern panhandle of West Virginia. It is located east of Wheeling near the town of Tridelphia on private property at an elevation 1160'.

Pictured with the Red Oak is Brent Lyons with the WV Division of Forestry and the owner

Photo by Turner Sharp

This tree can be considered the biggest Red Oak in WV. However we have 2 more know that need remeasured that may be as big.

I suspect this was a line or corner tree which escaped the axe. All the surrounding trees were young with lots of young, dead or dying American Elm

Turner Sharp

Wisteria inquiry

by Will Blozan » Sat Feb 12, 2011 2:56 pm

(Edited version) I recently cut a wisteria vine that was strangling a client's tree. The client stated it had been in the tree as long as he could remember- perhaps dating to the 1950's. To me, the vine did not look that old- and based on its size and what that species is capable of- it appeared much younger.

Wisteria cross section

Upon examination of the vine it initially looked like it was around six years old based on an unusual (and discontinuos) purple spiral that suggested growth rings. However, I shaved it down and looked at what appeared to be growth rings that were concentric and what I would expect a ring to look like.

I counted these rings and came up with 145! What am I looking at here? The supporting tree was no where near 145 years old nor do I believe the vine was that old either. Nor do I think this vine is six years old- I have known the vine that long and encouraged the owner to cut it then. He didn't because it was a "family" legacy planted by his father.

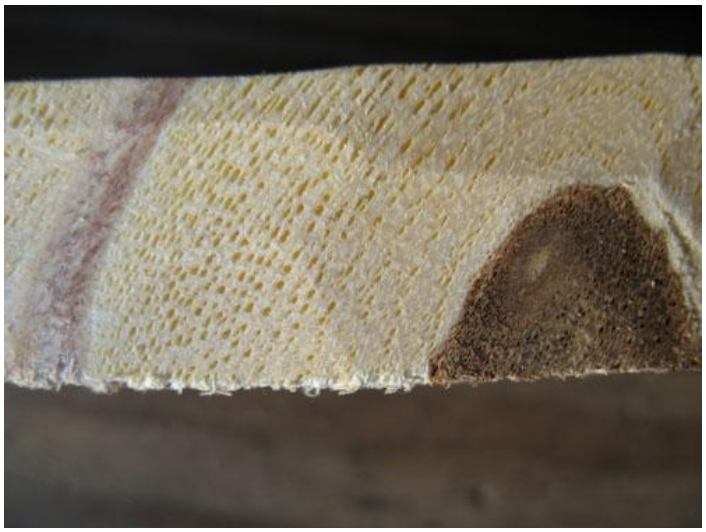
Since the sample is wet I was able to shave it with a razor knife. Here are some macro shots- the best I could get with my camera.

Pith and ring overview

Pith and Ring Closer view

Rings and transition zone?

Max zoom



Tangential pith and rings

Transition zoomed in

Will Blozan

Steve Galehouse replied (Feb 12, 2011):

I think the vine had been twining around itself---the purple rings aren't growth rings, just continuous embedded bark in a spiral. Counting the growth rings between the two outermost purple margins should give a good approximation of age.

Neil Pederson replied (Feb 14, 2011):

The pix look great. looks like it falls in or near the ring-porous category, too. very neat.

i think Steve is on target by counting rings between the purple lines or embedded bark. do that in a couple of places and if you get a pretty consistent answer, you can likely feel pretty good about that. if you could cross-date and get exact ages.....[broken record].... really neat stuff!

What is God or Nature trying to tell Me? A Dream.

by James Parton » Sun Feb 13, 2011 2:01 pm

After my wife left this morning I went back to sleep and this dream came over me.

I remember walking along a trail on the side of a long ridge, it was summertime and all was green. I was accompanied by my wife, Joy. My dad, Jack. My sister, Becky, and who I think was Dee, a pretty 50ish woman who works at my place of employment, GE, was with us.

I remember looking down into the shallow valley and noticing some nice white pines, I remember thinking of ENTS and Bob Leverett. However I noticed some white pines that were scattered among the other green trees were dead or dying. It reminded me of the mass hemlock deaths so common here in the Southern Appalachians.

Hiking down into the valley we reach a small clearing where we reach some golf carts with small trailers attached to them. We climbed aboard one and I drove up a small road ascending a hill. Upon reaching the top we reach a beautiful homestead on a hilltop where an older couple lived. They are friendly but I had never met them before.

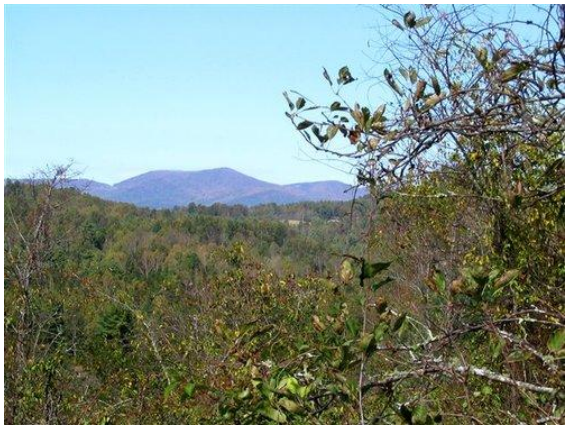
I go into one of the small, but very cozy buildings and find it decorated in a very old-fashoned style. I don't think it even had electric power. I sat down and looked out the window at the beautiful vivid green countryside. I could feel the presence of nature. The very energy of it. I could feel the breeze and smell the air. I started weeping. Blinking my eyes I opened them to see the same place, the same scene but in the autumn. The leaves were a brilliant red, orange and yellow. The air cool and crisp. The elderly couple was sitting in their chairs outside. I was crying good by now.

It was at this time that my phone rang and woke me up. After answering the phone I realized my eyes were a bit wet and I layed back down wondering what the dream could possibly mean, if anything. It was quite vivid and is the third one within a year culminating in " My Memorial Shrine ". I think in the latter part of the dream I may have subliminally realized that in real life it was winter and the dream was my yearning for spring. But winter has gotten lately where it does not bother me so much so I don't know.

What could God or Mother Nature be trying to tell me? The dream certainly had nature at its very focus.

Could my involvement with druidry have something to do with these vivid dreams? I had one besides this one two weeks ago concerning " I know who you are." also about nature. Then the ultra vivid one I had on "My Memorial Shrine " which was just before I found the druidic path when I was seeking a more spiritual path concerning nature, more than Christianity or ENTS alone could do. This dream, like the last one was short and simple. Any yes, I have had other dreams too but they are normal ones with no apparent significance or feelings. Ones like this one REALLY stand out.

I have attached three pictures to help you visualize the dream. Opinions anyone?



James E Parton

Coopers Rock State Forest - Hemlock Trail, WV

by tsharp » Sat Feb 12, 2011 1:05 pm

November 21st found Carl Harting, John Fichtner, and myself paying a visit to a section of Coopers Rock State Forest in West Virginia. This 12,000 + acre state forest is split by I-68 that runs between Morgantown, WV and Cumberland, Maryland. West Virginia University leases the section north of the interstate from the state for research and educational purposes.
Trees were measured in Preston County section of the forest along the Hemlock Trail next to Little Laurel Run just north of I-68 and a parallel state highway. This 10-15 acre tract is along the eastern Boundary of the State Forest and has old growth characteristics. Supposedly, some hemlocks have been cored and ring counted to 300 years. The area next to the run is predominately Hemlock and Rhododendron and the farther from the run and uphill turns predominately hardwoods within 200 yards or so. All trees except one were measured on river right (descending).

Looking upstream along Little Laurel Run

Photo by John Fichtner

The Elevation of all the trees measured is between 1640-1700 feet. We spent about 3 hours in the stand and maybe saw half of it. We had to hustle to find 10 species and finally had to settle on some not to impressive Red Maple and Birches. Finding good lines of sight was time consuming while dealing with the Rhododendron and the plentiful young hemlock reproduction. Carl told me that he is not sure he got the max height of the 129' hemlock. I paid another visit on January 24 to see if I could do any better and maybe measure some other trees. It appeared the best line of sight might have been on the opposite bank of Little Laurel. With the temperature hovering just below 0 degrees and a lot of ice on the creek bank it was a place I was not willing to go. I did measure the 146' Tuliptree on this visit and a slightly taller Yellow Birch. On our November visit, we saw Cucumbertree leaves on the forest floor but it still eluded being measured.

The following is a list of trees we measured listed by species and descending heights in feet. DBH and CBH are listed in inches. NTL means "Not Less

Than". Several trees as listed were measured from the base with a collapsible pole to get above the Rhododendron and/or Hemlock reproduction.

The first number listed is height followed by DBH and CBH if taken plus the initials of the person doing the measuring,

TULIPTREE Liriodendron tulipifera

146.6 NLT 43.5", 136.7" ts
this tree had OG characteristics
134.6, 33.8, 106.2 ts
122.2, 23.8, 74.8 ch
121.3, 29.2, 91.7 ch
110.3, 31.3, 98.0 ts
EASTERN HEMLOCK Tsuga canadensis
129.0 NLT pole 33.6, 105.6 ch
117.0, ---- ----- ts
113.1, ---- ----- ch
112.8, 39.7, 124.7 ch
106.5, pole 22.9, 71.9 ch, jf
96.8, 26.0, 81.6 ts
96.5, 29.8 93.6 ch
84.7, ---- ----- ch
NORTHERN RED OAK Quercus rubra
115.3, 41.5, 130.4 ch
102.2, ----- ------ ts
CHESTNUT OAK Quercus prinus
112.1, 19.0, 59.7 ch
WHITE OAK Quercus alba
112.0, 31.6, 99.3 ts
92.9, 26.25, 82.5 ch
this tree had blue tag with #109
BLACK CHERRY Prunus serotina
107.4, pole 25.5, 80.1 ch, jf
97.6, 22.5, 70.7 ts
SHAGBARK HICKORY Carya ovata
101.4, 14.75, 46.3 ch
RED MAPLE Acer rubrum
93.0, 19.7, 61.9 ts
SWEET BIRCH Betula lenta
91.7, 15.0, 47.1 ch
85.7, 16.2, 50.9 ts
72.3, 10.8, 33.9 ts
YELLOW BIRCH Betula alleghaniensis
72.7, 13.6, 42.7 ts
67.8, 13.4 42.1 ts

RUCKER INDEX 108.1

Carl Harting and Turner sharp with what I think is the 39.7" DBH Hemlock

Photo by John Fichtner

We did not see any presence of HWA. The heights for the White Oak and Chestnut Oak will make the WV Maximum Dimension list when I update it later this year. The tallest Hemlock was in an attractive grove of 6-8 other nice hemlocks and slightly downslope from the trail. A GPS reading from the trail next to this grove is as follows:

N39 39.749
W79 44.232

Hemlock with the only fire scare I noticed. I neglected to measure this tree but the rod across the bole is 4 1/2'

Photo by John Fichtner

Access to this stand is very easy. It is located on the north side of a road that parallels the Interstate. Six miles west from the Bruceton Mills exit or 3 miles east from the Coopers Rock exit. Parking is limited to 5-6 cars, less in snowy weather. Except for the entrance section, the trail is level and is at most a 2 mile round trip hike. Very pleasant

Turner Sharp

Parabolic Arc and Limb Modeling

by dbhguru » Sat Feb 12, 2011 1:33 pm

Recent posts on limb forms for white pine and Norway spruce set me to thinking. Yesterday, I developed an Excel spreadsheet to model limb form using the parabolic arc. The idea is to establish a base point or origin located at one end of the limb to be modeled. The measurer will often be positioned beneath the limb. The measurer lay out a horizontal path running the length of the limb. As the measurer moves toward the opposite end of the limb along the horizontal path, periodic distance measurements are taken to the limb at right angles to the direction of movement. The points can be plotted in an XY Cartesian coordinate system to produce a scattergram. A second degree curve is fitted to the points using the method of least squares. After the equation of the curve has been derived, the length of the curve is computed, i.e. limb length. The attached spreadsheet does the work.

The limb model is obviously simple - an abstraction. The model does not allow for a limb that changes direction laterally. Extremely complex limb structures such as those of the giant sycamores and live oaks have to be modeled in sections. This is at least a start.

ParabolaFitting.xls

Robert Leverett

Salmon River, ID

by tsharp » Mon Feb 14, 2011 12:52 am

WNTS, ENTS:
For the past several years Susan and I have gathered up some friends and organized a western river trip. This years target was the Salmon River in Idaho. The section we had a permit to do was for an 85-mile section between Corn Creek and Vinegar Creek. The river is in the federal Wild and Scenic system with the section we are doing is as classified wild and flows through the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness administered by the Forest Service.
See the following links:
http://www.rivers.gov/wsr-salmon-main.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salmon_River_%28Idaho%29

The last week of August 2010 we took off with the first stop in Idaho at the Mike Harris Campground in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest near the town of Victor in Teton County. Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta Douglas var. latifolia) was plentiful with the largest measured at 4.1' CBH and 111.1' height. Elevation was at 6500'
Next stop was the Corn Creek Ranger Station and Campground where 10 of us would meet with the rangers and rig our boats for a 7 day - 84-mile river trip. We had 2 rafts, 2 catarafts, 1 IK, I kayak and a C-1. Corn Creek is where the road ends and is 46 river miles downstream of the town of North Fork and 8 miles downstream of the confluence of the Middle Fork. While driving along the river to our put-in we stopped to admire a herd of Elk.

While admiring the Elk a local person stopped and relayed the fact that in the 20 years he has driven this road it has only been in the last two that Elk would come down at this low elevation at this time of year. He believes it is because a newly established wolf pack has kept them on the move. There were over 100 head in this herd with several large bulls which are were leading the herd across the river.

Corn Creek is in Lemhi County 2900' elevation. We would take out at the Carey Creek Boat Ramp in Valley County at 1900 elevation. This section has about 25 named rapids and as many unnamed. At low summer flows, it is considered class II –III+ run .
The enabling legislation for this wilderness area "grandfathered" in many activities that are incompatible to wilderness areas such as airstrips, pack bridges, dude ranches and horrors upon horrors - jet boat traffic. It also appears many of the rapids had been "improved" by blasting clear channels for transportation.
Near the ranger station and campground the two largest Ponderosa pines (Pinus ponderosa var. scopulorum) were measured at 11.9' CBH and 119.8' height and 7.1' CBH and 122.5'. Also measured a Blue Elderberry (Sambucus nigra L. ssp. cerulea) at 1.7' and 21.8'

Fruit of Elderberry

Photo by Carol Pamer.

Day 1. We had the only swim of the trip at Ranier Rapid when the IK capsized. Camping was at Upper Devil's Teeth (mile 12.0) on river right. We measured a nice Ponderosa Pine near the camping area at 11.9' and 135.0'.

Day 2. The first order of business was to run Devil's Teeth Rapid, which was right below our campsite. It was not a hard rapid but it claimed Susan's camera when she left it unattached while rowing through the rapid. I pulled the same trick several years ago. We scouted Salmon Falls from river right. All ran with no problems but I forgot to look for relict populations of Grand Fir and Pacific Yew. We stopped at the Hot Springs on river left, which required a scramble up a slippery rock slope to enjoy a nice long soak in the enhanced rock pool with flowing hot water and view.

It was hard to leave this spot but we had miles to go. Camping was at Hancock Beach (mile 25.9). W measured a Ponderosa Pine here at 7.6' and 129.6'.

Photo by John Fichtner. Notice the evidence of fire. I would estimate 75 percent of the area we saw have been burnt in last 20 years.

Day 3. Scouted Bailey's Rapid from river right. Two of us messed it up but no flips. Camped at Lower Yellow Pine Bar (mile 36.7) river right. This gave us a good view of Big Mallard Rapid. I measured a Rocky Mountain Doug-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. glauca)at 6.1' and 111.2' and a Ponderosa Pine at 7.5' and 114.2'

Photo by Turner Sharp. Pictured is Tom Connelly , John Fichtner.

Day 4. Only one boat messed up at Big Mallard but no flip. We stopped at the Buckskin Bill Museum at Five Mile Bar. Some of us got beer and ice cream. Bill died in 1980; a German couple bought the property, developed the museum, and lives here year round. Camped at Bluebird Hole (mile 53.7) river right

Day 5. This was a lay over day with a late breakfast. Various hikes from camp scared up a rattlesnake, some Big Horn Sheep,lots of bear scat but no bears, some Mule Deer, plenty of Chukars and one big Ponderosa. The river terraces had plenty evidence of pit homes made by the original inhabitants.
Sorry I did get any measurements of this tree but I was informed it was equal or slightly larger then the biggest on at Corn Creek.

Photo by Tom Connelly - Pictured Bridget Tincher

The north bank with a southern exposure is mostly grassland with some scattered Ponderosa Pines and the more heavily timbered south bank with a northern exposure. We measured a Doug-fir on a river terrace about 100' above the Campground at 6.6' and 78.0' Day 6. When we pulled away from the previous night camped we encountered this herd of Big Horn Sheep. We camped at T-Bone Creek (mile 71.6) and measured a Douglas-fir at 9.0 and 113.5' and a Ponderosa Pine 6.1' and 102.2'

Day 7. We pulled out at the Carey Creek Boat Ramp, several miles below Vinegar Creek and about 25 miles upriver from the town of Riggins. We de-rigged and somehow stuffed all our gear into vehicles and made it to Riggins to one of the wonders of the world, an automatic "groover "cleaner. All human waste must be carried down the river to be disposed of in sewer system. Recently several areas have installed what is essentially a large dishwasher that can dump multiple containers of human waste and go through a wash and rinse cycle making a distasteful job almost bearable. The first time we came across one it so impressed us that we had our picture taken with it.

Had a leisurely dinner in Riggins and headed to our reserved campsite (Swinging Bridge) in the Boise National forest near Banks Idaho. Enroute, I intended to measure several large Ponderosa Pines in the State Park near McCall Idaho. The CBH were 14.5' and 13.7' but we had dawdled over dinner and drinks to long and it was to dark to take height readings.

The swinging Bridge campground elevation was at 3300' was a much wetter site. Measured a Doug-fir at 11.4' and 147.5'

Photo by John Fichtner - Pictured Turner Sharp

One of our party had not had his fill of paddling and was off to a self-supported solo paddle in his C-1. His goal was to do the Yellowstone River from the Park to it confluence with the Missouri. I believe he made the 550 miles in 20 days not counting his shuttle time. Several of the others were flying out of Salt

Lake City so we camped on Antelope Island in the Great Salt Lake. There are no trees but it is really a unique experience to camp there and I highly recommend it. For more information on see the following links:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antelope_Island_State_Park
http://www.stateparks.com/ponderosa.html

More Central Park....

by Jenny » Wed Feb 16, 2011 5:25 pm

This was at twilight into evening. I was in this awful, angry mood and I wanted to take confusing and even ugly pictures. This song is too soft for what I was feeling. But it takes the edge off some of the starkness.....

http://vimeo.com/20032881

Jenny Dudley

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Tape drop height measurement--obstructing limbs question

by gnmcmartin » Wed Feb 16, 2011 9:02 pm

I am having a discussion with someone who insists that the "tape drop" method of measuring height of a tree can't be possible because of all the limbs that would obstruct the line of the tape to the ground. I quoted this description from the Landmark Trees site: http://landmarktrees.net/measured.html

"Climber Deployed Tape Line

This method is very straightforward, but easier said than done. A climber ascends to the top of the tree and drops a weighted sac that is attached to the end of the tape line. The climber carefully checks to make sure the tape line is free of obstruction from branches and that it drops perfectly straight. A person at the base of the tree helps the climber at the top to pull the weighted end of the tape line straight and taught against a tag which was already placed on the tree. This tag is generally placed at 1m above the tree's average ground level. The tag should always is be surveyed seperately before the tape drop. Continued http://landmarktrees.net/measured.html

But quoting this has not carried much, if any weight, so I am searching for something else i can add to my explanation.

Now it seems to me that if there are an unusual number obstructing limbs, one could simply divide the measurement into one or two extra segments. I have no difficulty imagining how this could be done. But maybe it is never really necessary. Anyway, I am having a hard time convincing this person of the viability of this method, which I think is strange. I have explained all about Steve Sillett, his positiion and reputation, that this method has been used to measure the tallest redwoods, etc., etc. But before I give up trying to explain that the "tape drop" method is an excellent method, if not the best, for measuring the height of a tree, I thought I would ask for some help from you folks, especially in regard to how obstructing limbs are dealt with. Is there any more than needs to be done with some trees, such as dividing the "drop" into more segments, or what, when a tree has a great number of branches that could obstruct the path of the tape downwards?

Is there anything i can add to explain better??

Gaines McMartin

Reply by AndrewJoslin (Feb 16, 2011)

Here are some points to add but if the person in question doesn't want to believe it they won't believe it.
1. Many research climbers have been successfully

performing tape drops in a variety of tree species with varying crown configuration and density.

2. The close correlation of tape drops and ground based measurements indicates sound methodology.

3. There is always a way to get a clear path to the ground, segmenting works very well. On eastern trees I've measured I've never had to segment except for the very top section where I extend a pole up, then measure all way to the ground from the bottom measurement of the pole. I've always been able to find a straight and clear path for the tape.

4. Bear in mind that tape drop measurements are the best and most consistently accurate measurements that tree researchers have been able to devise to date. If at some future time a better method is developed, all the better. For now this is how researchers measure tree height.

Reply by Will Blozan (Feb 17, 2011)

I find it interesting that this method would be questioned. I can see the thought process concerning the branches but I think your friend needs to climb a tree. They are mostly open space and the advantage the climber has while in the tree is a great vantage point. I have a really good sense of verticality and can eyeball a path to the ground and then drop the line down. If it is not vertical I simply pick another "hole" to the ground. I guarantee that a research climber will NOT be satisfied with a less than vertical drop and it will be routed appropriately. We ENTS and Sillett types are in the tree for the best possible representation possible. Sloppy work work is not our mission.

As for the most accurate method it is probably a tripod mounted high-end Impulse laser on a calm day with a reflector at the base. However, this technique does nothing for in-crown research and measurements which are monumented to a fixed tape referenced to the ground. The method used depends on your goals and budget.

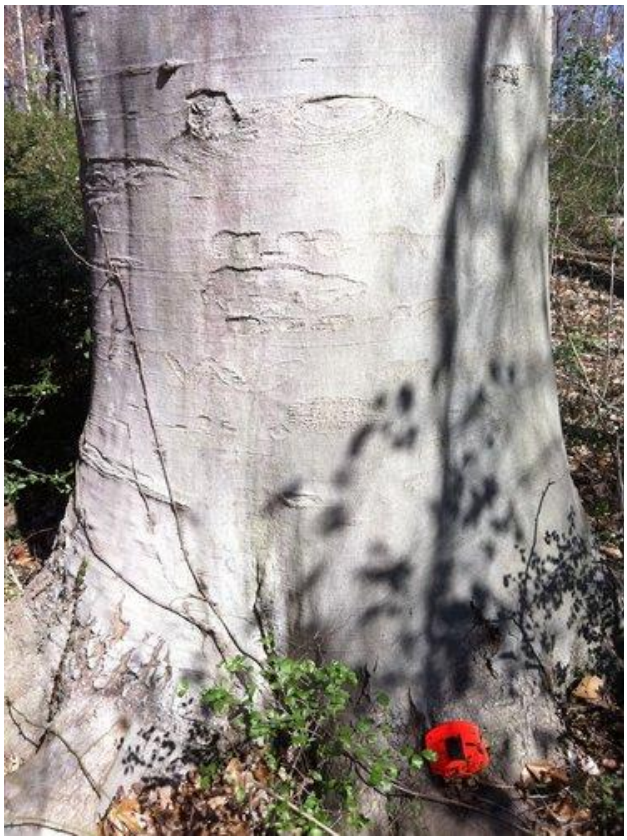
Clear Creek Nature Preserve, Atlanta, GA

by eliahd24 » Thu Feb 17, 2011 10:26 am

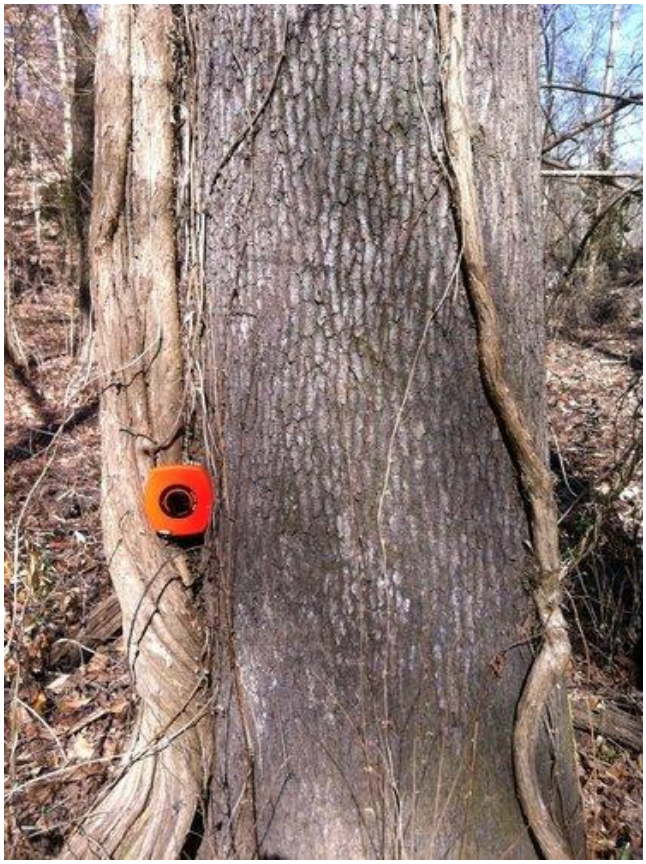
Just when I think I've tromped through every last exceptional urban forest in Atlanta, another one appears. Clear Creek Nature Preserve is over 50 acres of floodplain forest along Clear Creek, north of Piedmont Park in Atlanta, GA. It's owned by the Brookwood Hills Community Club and access is [somewhat] restricted. I stumbled upon this area b/c of a rumored "Civil War era" beech tree. Well on that first visit I didn't find any exceptional beech trees, but I did find what should be a state co-champion Shumard Oak. I contacted the green space owners and they welcomed me with open arms and encouraged further tree hunting, giving me unrestricted access to the forest. On valentine's day I was able to spend the afternoon tromping around the floodplain and was quite pleasantly surprised with the numerous exceptional tree including a state co-champ Sweetgum, a very large Sugarberry, a hybrid *Q x beadlei* and lots of decent sized Green Ash. One of these ash trees had fallen and was cut to reveal ~110 annual growth rings. Here's the rundown:

Species	CBH'	CBH"	DBH'	DBH"	Height	Spread	Points
Acer rubrum	8.83	105.96	2.81	33.73	70.00		
Campsis radicans	1.19	14.28	0.38	4.55			
Celtis spp.	10.83	129.96	3.45	41.37	106.00	86.00	257.46
Fagus grandifolia	10.67	128.04	3.40	40.76	111.50		
Fraxinus pennsylvanica		0.00	0.00	0.00	114.30		
Juglans nigra		0.00	0.00	0.00	98.10		
Liquidambar styraciflua	12.50	150.00	3.98	47.75	125.80	85.00	297.05
Liquidambar styraciflua	10.65	127.80	3.39	40.69	130.30	87.00	279.85
Liquidambar styraciflua	7.83	93.96	2.49	29.91	110.00		
Liquidambar styraciflua	10.83	129.96	3.45	41.37			
Liriodendron tulipifera	21.00	252.00	6.69	80.22			
Liriodendron tulipifera	10.04	120.48	3.20	38.35			
Liriodendron tulipifera	12.50	150.00	3.98	47.75			
Liriodendron tulipifera	8.83	105.96	2.81	33.73	145.00		
Liriodendron tulipifera	9.80	117.60	3.12	37.44	138.40		
Pinus taeda		0.00	0.00	0.00	134.90		
Platanus occidentalis		0.00	0.00	0.00	114.40		
Platanus occidentalis	12.08	144.96	3.85	46.15			
Populus deltoides		0.00	0.00	0.00	116.70		
Quercus alba		0.00	0.00	0.00	109.70		
Quercus bealei		0.00	0.00	0.00	118.70		
Quercus shumardii	14.70	176.40	4.68	56.16	120.50	93.00	320.15
Quercus shumardii		0.00	0.00	0.00	103.20		
Tilia heterophylla	8.00	96.00	2.55	30.56			
Tilia heterophylla	7.60	91.20	2.42	29.03			

-it should be noted that the 21' CBH Tuliptree is a double trunked specimen.



large beech



large trumpet creeper vine

Eli Dickerson

big/tall sweetgum

The Blake House Sycamore, NC.

by James Parton » Thu Feb 17, 2011 1:57 pm

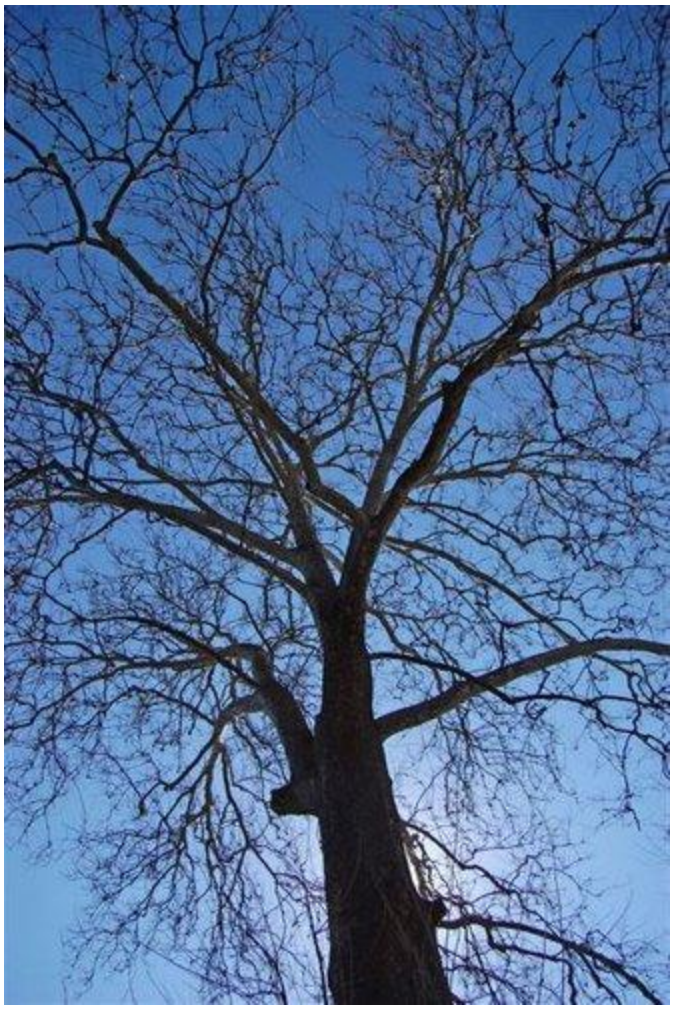
Yesterday I took a short drive to measure a large American Sycamore located at the Blake House Inn which is located on Royal Pines dr off of Sweeten Creek rd, Arden NC.

http://blakehouse.com/

Upon pulling up to the tree I looked at Joy, and told her, I guess the tree to about 15 feet cbh. On measuring it I found I was very close. It measured 14 feet 11 inches in girth. Using the laser by standing at various points under the tree shooting straight up, the highest point I could find was 92 feet up.

Joy was with me so I could accurately and easily measure the spread. I came up with 84.75 ft avg average spread. The tree is not quite as wide as it is tall. All Together. 14' 11" cbh, 92' tall, 84.75 ft avg spr.

The inn dates to 1847 and that may give some idea of the age of the tree. Here are the pictures.



James E Parton

Hampton Hills, CVNP, OH 160.8' Tuliptree

by Steve Galehouse » Fri Feb 18, 2011 11:25 pm

Rand Brown and I took advantage of the thaw and mild weather and explored a couple of sites in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. One of them, Hampton Hills(41.16821, -81.5568), is located on the east side of the river midway between Akron and Peninsula. I had visited this park previously, and while I thought it had some nice trees, I didn't feel it held anything exceptional. The last several weeks I've been surveying potential tall tree sites using LiDAR data in the Fusion program, and the tile covering this site surprisingly showed several LiDAR hits above 150', with one at 161.37', all in a single valley or ravine a few hundred yards long. Rand and I set off to explore that ravine, and we weren't disappointed. Here is what we found, during a brief two hour exploration which was limited by slippery conditions on the hillsides(we still need to get CBH's on many trees).

As always, Tuliptrees rule as far as height in our area, and Rand measured one to 160.8'; the second 160'+ tulip found at a Cuyahoga Valley site, and this one is right near a 159' tulip. There were several other tulips in the 150' range in this ravine, as well as a red oak and bitternut that both hit 135'.

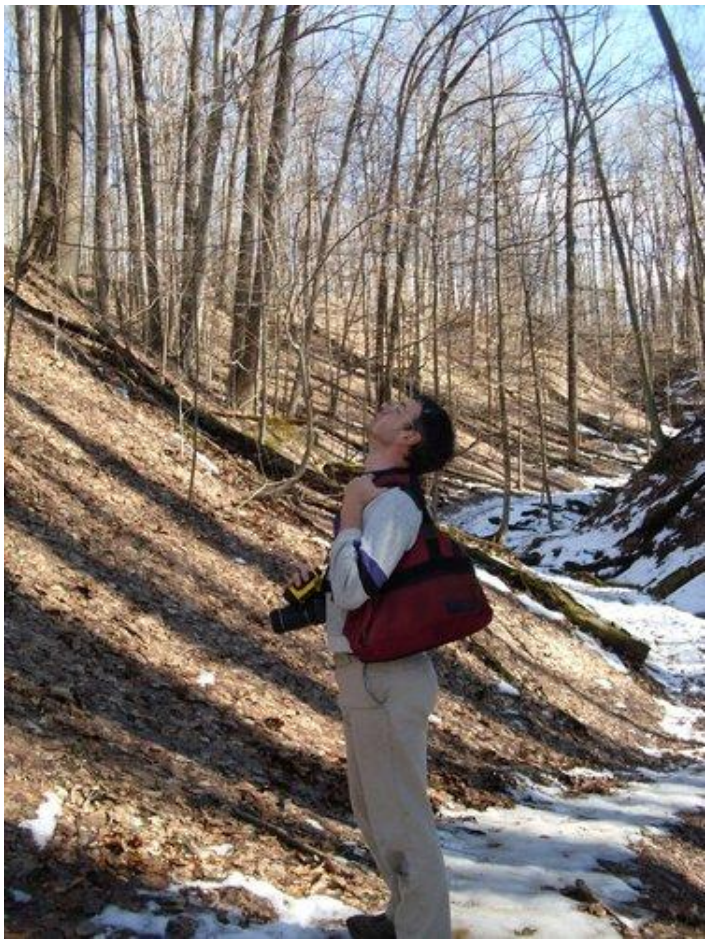
1	Species	Height	CBH
2	Tuliptree	135'	
3	Tuliptree-double trunk	144', 150'	
4	Tuliptree	147'	11'1"
5	Tuliptree	150'	8'7"
6	Tuliptree	159'	
7	Tuliptree	160.8'	
8	White elm	114'	6'5"
9	Northern red oak	135'	
10	Walnut	121'	5'5"
11	Bitternut hickory	135'	
12	White ash	119.5'	10'4"
13	Sycamore	126'	
14	White oak	118'	9'11"

Data Hampton Hills.JPG (21.24 KiB) Viewed 194 times

Tuliptrees, 159' to the right, 160'8' center

Double Tulips, 144' & 150' tops

Tuliptree, 150' x 8' 7"



Rand with his new Hi-Visibility Nikon 550

:

This is the first time I targeted a site based on LiDAR data, and I have to say it was very helpful and accurate---the tall trees were right where the LiDAR data said they should be, and with a tolerance of error(161.37 vs. 160.8) that is really fantastic. It is also encouraging that a tree greater than 160' in northeastern Ohio is not a fluke or aberration, since they have now been found on two separate sites.

Steve Galehouse

Virginia Kendall Park, part of CVNP, OH

by Steve Galehouse » Sat Feb 19, 2011 12:52 pm

ENTS-

Yesterday Rand Brown and I visited two sites in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park; I reported on Hampton Hills yesterday, Virginia Kendall(41.22517, -81.5093) was our first stop and where we spent more time. I've reported about this site previously, but Rand and I measured more trees in some different areas of the park. The area has an entirely different aspect than Hampton Hills, with sandstone ledges instead of steep hills, and a somewhat different species makeup that includes yellow birch, eastern hemlock, and cucumber magnolia. Below is a summary of what we found; the exceptional trees were the 130.5' x 10' 5" black cherry, and the 115.2' x 12' cucumber.

Bitternut hickory	103'	7' 11"
Bitternut hickory	123'	7' 8.5"
Black cherry	114.6'	9' 2"
Black cherry	130.5'	10' 5"
Cucumber magnolia	114.5'	7' 9"
Cucumber magnolia	115.2'	12'
Cucumber magnolia	126'	9' 5"
Eastern hemlock	129'	7' 1"
Northern red oak	108'	7' 6"
Red maple	112'	6' 9"
Tuliptree	121'	9' 10"
Tuliptree	123.5'	10' 4"
Tuliptree	126.5'	11' 2"
Tuliptree	128'	7' 8.5"
Tuliptree	130.9'	8' 5"
Tuliptree	133.2'	11' 2"
Tuliptree	138'	10'
White ash	113.3'	9' 3.5"
White ash	114'	8' 2"
Yellow birch	74.5'	5' 11"

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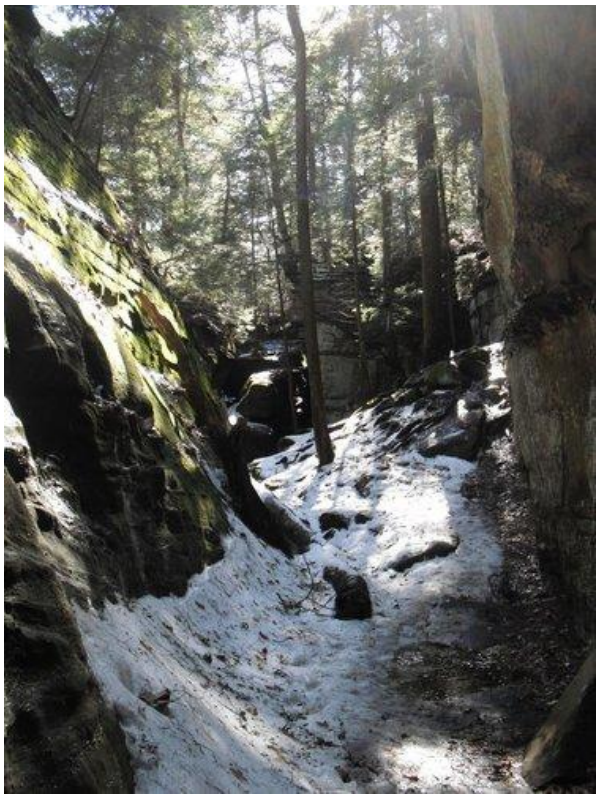
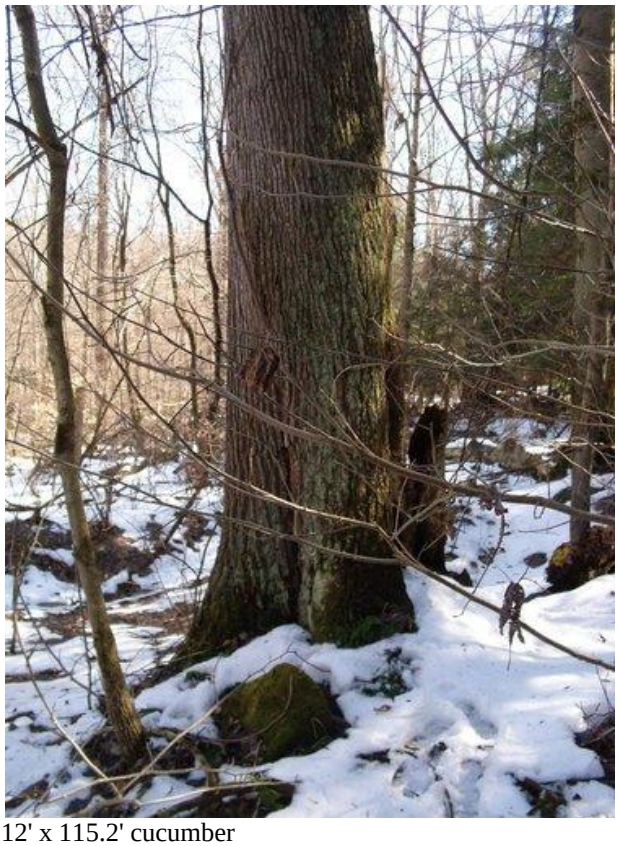


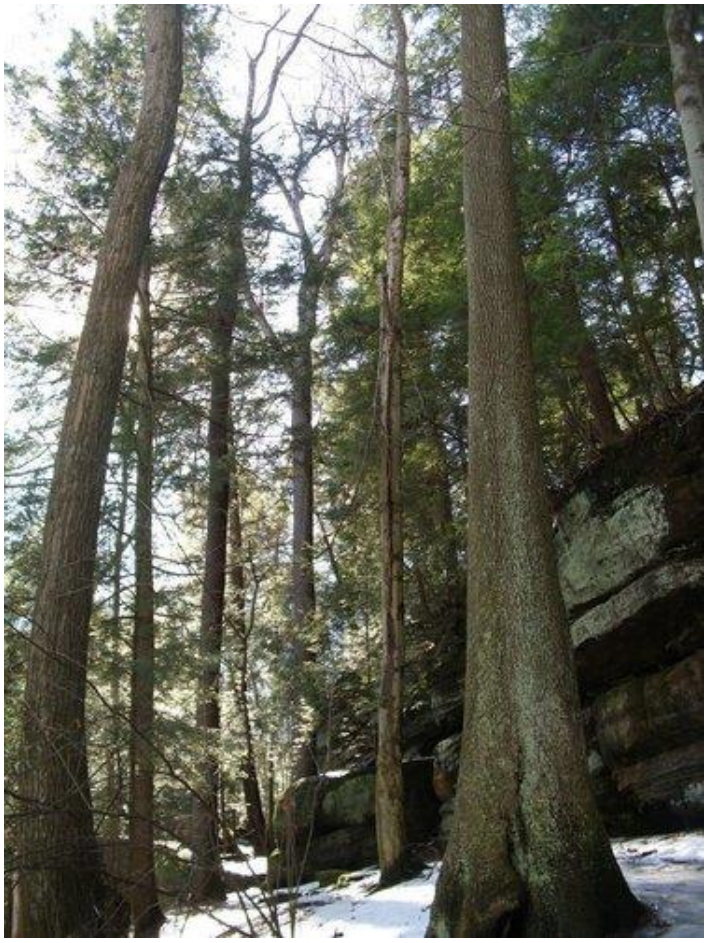
Rock ledges

130.5' x 10' 5" black cherry



12' x 115.2' cucumber

138' x 10' tuliptree



Red oak and bitternut

Steve Galehouse

Blennerhasset Island State Historical Park, WV

by tsharp » Sat Feb 19, 2011 12:48 am

The Island is located in the Ohio River about one mile downriver from the confluence of the Little Kanawha River in Wood County, WV. It is owned by the Dupont Corporation and has been leased to the State of West Virginia since the 1970s for use as a state park. It features a reconstruction of the Blennerhasset Mansion and several other buildings and is only accessible by boat. I spent two days here in October and November measuring trees on the developed upriver end of the Island.
Additional information may be found at these links:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blennerhas ... State_Park
http://www.blennerhassettislandstatepark.com/
What follows is a list of the larger trees I measured listed by descending height.

Height', DBH", CBH"/'
Sycamore- Platanus occidentalis
121.7, 62.6, 199.8/16.7
117.7, 88.4, 277.7/23.1 DBH taken at 5'
Cottonwood- Populus deltoides
111.2, 37.2, 116.9/9.7
111.1, 42.8, 134.5/11.2
Silver Maple- Acer saccaharinum
109.5, 35.7, 112.2/9.3
107.3, ----, ----
Tulip-poplar - Lirodendron tulpifera
100.4, 36.7, 115.3/9.6
Black Walnut - Juglans nigra
98.1, ----, ---- Plantation
96.4, 43.8, 137.6/11.5
96.2, 43.6, 137.0/11.4
89.2, 38.9, 122.2/10.2
----, 60.6, 190.4/15.9 Double stem
Hackberry - Celtis occidentalis
87.2, 29.9, 93.97.8 DBH taken at 4'

Black Cherry - Prunus serotina
86.2, 26.3, 82.6/6.9
73.9, 29.1, 91.4/7.6
Black Locust -Robina pseudoacacia
77.6, 24.7, 77.6/6.5
American Elm -Ulmus americana
64.6, 22.5, 70.7/5.9
Boxelder -Acer negundo
55.4, 23.2, 72.9/8.1
Paw Paw - Asimina triloba
42.2, 10.1, 31.7/2.6
33.3, 10.6, 33.3/2.8

I took additional measurements on the large circumference Sycamore (23.1) and the two Paw paws.

The Sycamore circumference had to be measured at 5' to get above a cluster of sprouts that made the bole swell at 4 ½'. The six sprouts ranged from 2 to 12" dbh, 4 ½ from the main bole. It appears this tree may have started life as a double stem with one of the stems being removed and sending out numerous sprouts. The stub of this stem has completely healed over with only a bulges showing where it was. I took a circumference measurement at ground level on the upslope side at 34.7' and at 1' above ground level at 31.5' I believe that taking the diameter where I did (5')removed the influence of the long gone second stem. The crownspread of this tree was 127' and 72' taken at right angle to the first measurement. Total AF points 420.3. Height to first major limb was 19' and second major limb 37'

About 75 percent of the trees are Sycamores and Silver Maples except for the Walnut plantation and a number or large walnut near the Mansion. There were many multi-stem Sycamore which will be measured at a later date. I did not see but one multi-stem Silver maple. There were still a lot of leaves on the Sycamores and Silver Maples but not the Cottonwoods. The height measuring was not as easy as I anticipated.

Other tress noted but not measured include: Yellow Buckeye (tops blown out), Red Mulberry, Crateagus sp., and Dogwood.

The trees measured were on the developed upriver end of the Island which is maintained understory free by mowing. There is a Walnut plantation established in the 1930's by a previous owner. The DBH in this plantation hovered around 25" but the tallest walnut was in this plantation.

The Rucker Index for the ten tallest species is 91.6'. I covered maybe 50 acres of this 500+ acre island which is about 5 miles long. Because of the islands past exploitation I would not expect to find very many exceptional trees but who knows.

Photo by Turner Sharp
Pictured Susan Sharp and a Sycamore with a Circumference at 5' at 23.2'

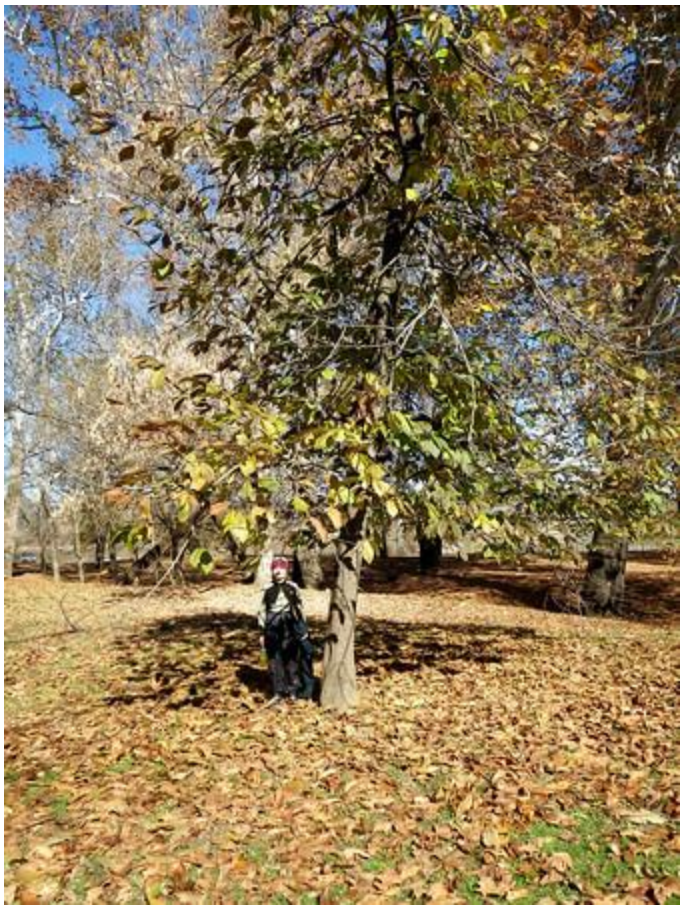


Photo by Turner Sharp
Pictured Susan Sharp and a Paw Paw with a CBH of 2.8'

This Paw Paw will probably make the WV Big Tree list since the previous ones are all dead.

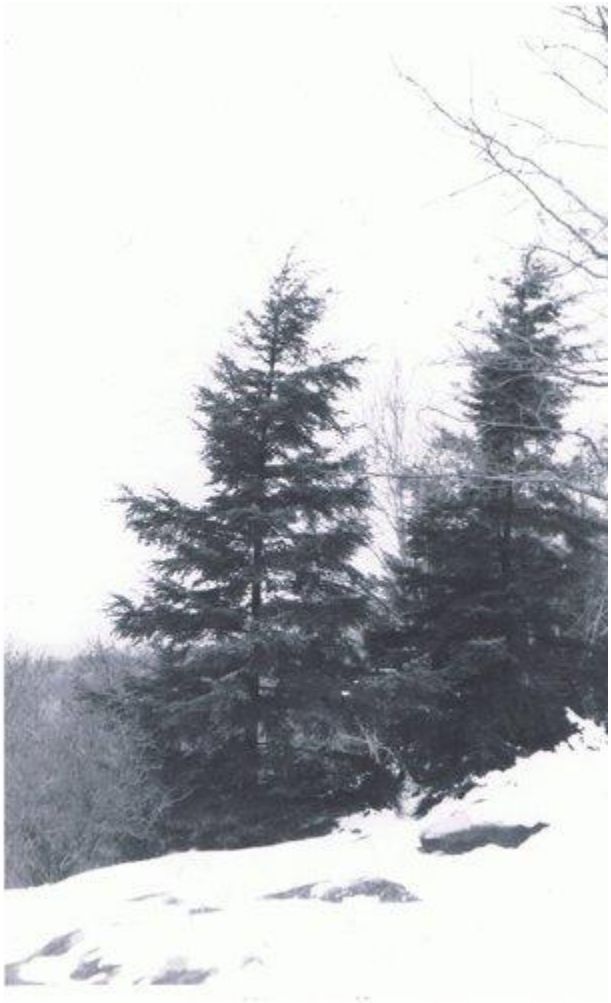
Turner Sharp

Photos of the same trees, 38 years apart, OH

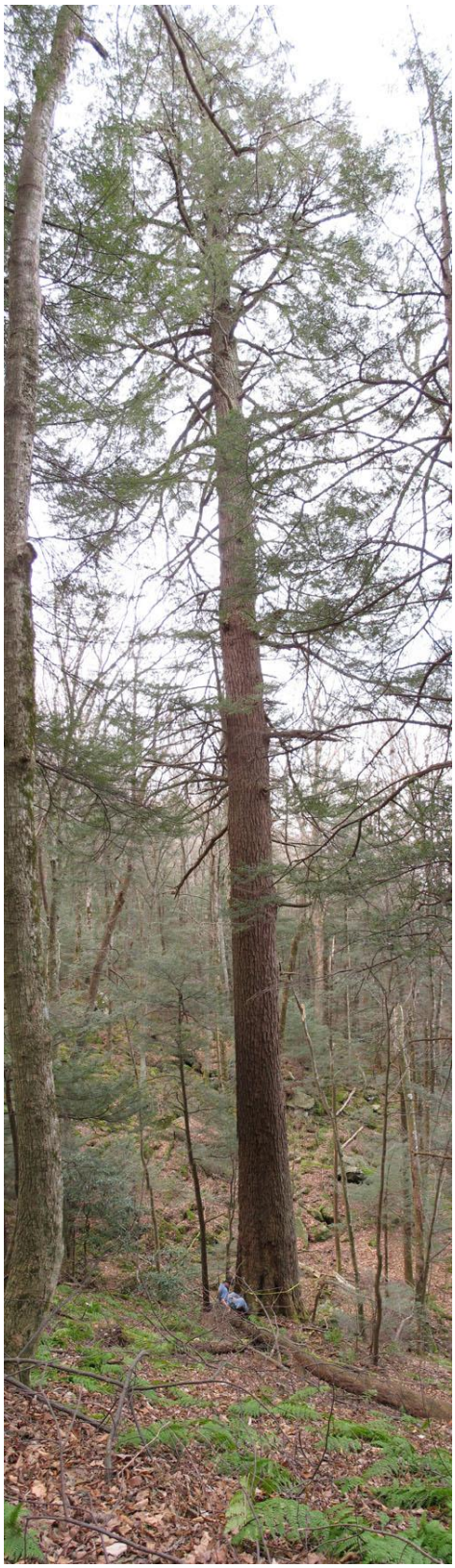
by Steve Galehouse » Tue Feb 22, 2011 11:10 pm

ENTS-

Here are two photos of the same individual trees, Carolina hemlocks, taken from a similar vantage point, one from 1972, the other (color) from 2010. Just sort of interesting.



Steve Galehouse



Whole tree winter 2006

Tsuga Search update: LeConte Creek hemlock confirmed dead, GSMNP

by Will Blozan » Tue Feb 22, 2011 6:53 pm

Today I was informed that the LeConte Creek Hemlock, one of the very few (only 4) 18 foot CBH hemlocks discovered in the Tsuga Search Project, has died. It was systemically treated by the NPS but it was too far declined to respond. It did respond at first but the surrounding death zone was full of hemlock borers which decided the LeConte Creek tree was too tasty to pass up.

NPS staff Jesse Webster at base

Me on trunk during volume modeling

Jess measuring CBH

Although it did not make it as a finalist as a top 15 volume giants it still racked up a lot of wood for a rather short 18.8' CBH X 140.4' height. The tree stood with 1,194 cubic feet and was among the largest found in TN. Sadly, if the tree had survived it would be a National Champion. I just nominated the great Cheoah Hemlock in Highlands, NC as a National Champion; it is the only surviving tree documented in the Tsuga Search Project.

Will Blozan

The Majestic Oak, Savannah, GA

by mdavie » Wed Feb 23, 2011 9:08 am

I just got back from a brief trip to Savannah; I didn't have much time at all to get out, but I did hear of one tree to visit in the city, only a couple of miles from where I was staying. Called the "Majestic Oak", it's in a small subdivision named after the tree, on a lot left alone at the corner of two roads. It's quite a lovely tree. The dimensions are:
24' 8" circumference
71 feet tall
142.5 short spread
157 long spread

Stitch of tree- click to see larger image

Rattlesnake Lodge MST Tuliptrees, NC

by **James Parton** » Wed Feb 23, 2011 1:37 pm

ENTS,

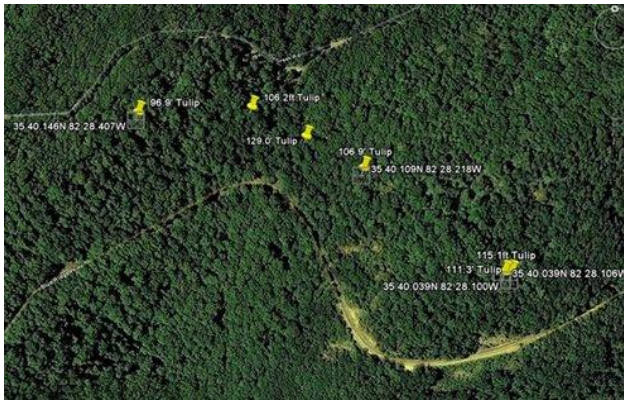
Last Saturday My Daughter Sarah and I got out a little while with the intent to ride up on the Blue Ridge Parkway and check out some nice Hawthorn trees I remembered in the Craggy Gardens area and then maybe head on to the Glassmine Falls area and check out one recently reported there. When we left I knew that they were a good chance that the higher altitude sections may be closed off for the winter but I headed upward just to see if maybe I would have any luck on this warm sunny day. It turned out the road gates were closed where Ox Creek Rd acesses the parkway. This is where you access the Rattlesnake Lodge section of the Mountains to Sea Trail. (MST) I headed up Ox Creek Rd to find an easy access to the trail. Many other people had the same idea and the trail is crouded on this day. I do remember some pretty, though not especially large Hawthorns on a ridge nearby.

Parking the car and donning my equipment with Sarah in tow, we head onto the trail. Taking a right we head up the ridge by a big Tuliptree that I dubbed the " Rattlesnake Poplar " last year. I measured it at that time to be a big 106.2 feet tall and 12' 1" in girth. Heading up the ridge I found the Hawthorns at the summit. I just love these wonderful little trees. I was explaining to Sarah that the Celts often referrred to these as " Faery Trees " and have a lot of mythology surrounding them.

viewtopic.php?f=106&t=632

Heading back down I noticed a beautiful tulip about 50 feet or so off the right side of the trail. It had a nice " meaty " trunk and a beautiful form. Sarah and I went down to it and took the time to introduce ourselves to it and then measure it. I dubbed the tree " The Sarah Parton Tuliptree " and took my 14 year old daughters picture with it. The tree was no record setter but is gotta be one of the prettiest tuliptrees I know of. It is 10' 4" in girth and 96.9' tall.

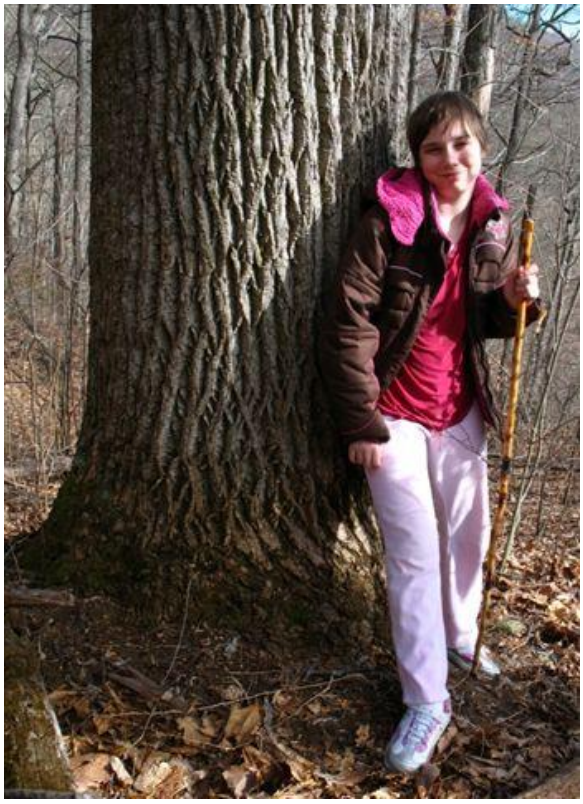
Heading on down and past the trail coming in from the car we head on. Here I measure another nice tulip on the left. At this time I met a nice couple and explained to them what I was doing and of ENTS. They mentioned the redwood researchers out west and mentioned Steve Sillett by name. I told them ENTS had some contacts with Sillett and Robert (Bob) Van Pelt and that Bob is a member of ENTS. I told them of the website and to feel free to join. The Tuliptree here is the tallest measured today at 129 feet tall and has a girth of 10' 5". At this time it occurred to me. Let's see if I can find enough of the bigger ones for Neil's study. This site may demonstrate tulips at an altitude averaging just over 1000 feet above the Asheville plateau. Asheville is at 2160ft asl while the tulips measured here today averaged about 3200 feet asl. Some of the ridgetops have considerable ice damage to the trees but I selected ones for neil's study that were spared from damage and trees in other areas were spared completely so finding decent trees was not that hard. I did not make it up onto the higher ridge to the lodge ruins itself. At those higher altitudes tulips would probably be scarce and if present, have ice damage. The highest altitude tree measured today is 3316ft asl.



Here are the measurements.

Species	Girth	Height
Tuliptree	10' 4"	96.9'
Tuliptree	10' 5"	129.0'
Ash	6' 4"	106.5'
Tuliptree	8' 4 1/2"	106.9'
Tuliptree	9' 9"	115.1'
Tuliptree	6' 9"	111.3'

I also measured an Ash tree today, though I do not know what species. Ash is common here and it made me wonder of the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer.



I also have a larger version of the map photo, if needed.

Sarah and the 96.9’ Tuliptree:

James Parton

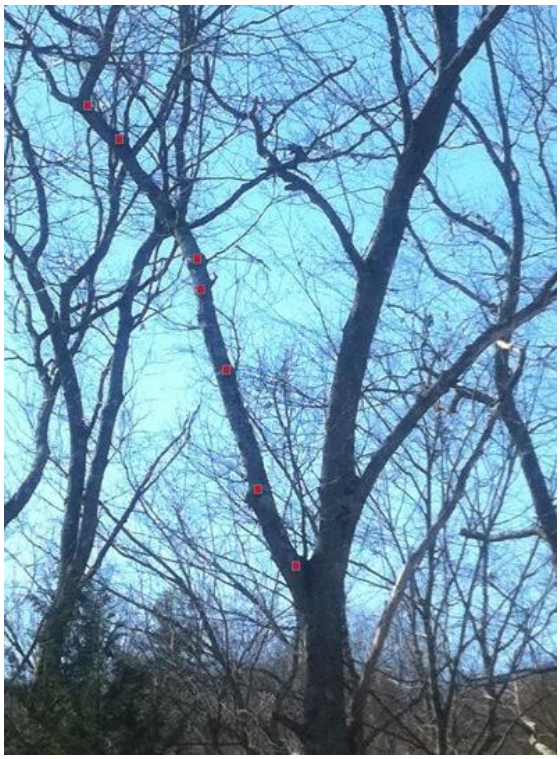
Poplar Forest: Limb Modeling, VA

by **dbhguru** » Wed Feb 23, 2011 1:32 pm

ENTS,

As April 22nd draws nearer, the upcoming project in Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest looms larger in both President Will Blozan's and my thinking. We will be modeling one of the large tuliptrees on the lawn in full view of visitors. It is no small task. Will will be up in the tree and I will be on the ground. In preparation for the project, I've been reworking old material and developing a more functional measurement modeling method. Limb modeling is something I've dallied with for a long time, but not with particularly serious intentions. This is serious. The projects ENTS has in partnership with Congaree NP, James Madison's Montpelier Estate, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest Estate, Morristown National Historic Park, Cook Forest State Park, Mohawk Trail State Forest, and elsewhere place our individual and collective reputations on the line. These are high visibility projects that advertise who we are and demonstrate the contributions we can make.

I have attached the limb modeling method as an Excel workbook with two spreadsheets. The workbook contains the model of a limb on an oak in our back yard. I affectionately call it Oakie. Its nearby companion is? Of course, Doakie. I have also included a photo of the limb being modeled. Red squares show the points chosen to take measurements.



The process of measuring these 7 points took 37 minutes, not including setup. I expect that the tuliptree limbs modeled in Virginia will each take around 40 minutes. So, I expect that will be able to model about 8 or 9 limbs. If Dr. Nancy Weiss is able to employ the process, she could add 3 or 4 more. I'll have two Macroscopes with me. My full list of equipment items is as follows. So anyone who needs to borrow a piece of equipment - no problem.

TruPulse 360 Hypsometer
TruPulse 200 Hypsometer
Forestry 550 Hypsometer
Suunto Clinometer
Nikon Prostaff 440 Laser Rangefinder
Nikon Prostaff 550 Laser Rangefinder
GPS Oregon 450t
Engineers Compass
Laser level
Plumb Bob
Tripod
Macroscope 25
Macroscope 45
Scientific calculator
iPhone 4
200-foot tape

Will and I would be delighted to have other Ents join us and assist with the project. There is plenty of work to occupy a 4 or 5-person team. There is other documentation and measuring to be done beyond the TT modeling exercise. The time will be 9:30AM at Poplar Forest near Bedford, VA. on April 22nd. There will be people from the general public and also the Poplar Forest foundation asking questions. The press will likely be there. Lots of photo opportunities. The Director of Archeology for Poplar Forest is looking forward to a partnership with ENTS.

Note that the limb in the workbook is modeled to a length of 22.4 feet and a volume of 6.7 cubic feet (6.83 meters long and 0.19 cubic meters volume). Oakie is a worthy subject to model as a full testing of the amount of time it would take to model a complete tree of its size. Oakie is about 102 feet tall and has a basal diameter of around 2.7 feet. There's enough tree there to do the modeling job justice. I'll periodically report on progress.

OakieL1.xls

Robert T. Leverett

Caledon State Park, VA

by Ranger Dan » Fri Feb 25, 2011 10:47 pm

East of Fredericksburg, VA, Caledon State Park is an old growth Mecca that I've always found very rewarding for its expanses of clear, open forest full of magnificent deciduous trees. This visit, my buddy Phil and I would discover several giants new to me off-trail, in addition to my old friends along the trails that make this park "second only to Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest", as I had heard quoted years ago in regard to its huge tuliptrees. No doubt many studies have been made of this large park's old growth, among them by our distinguished members, I'll bet. From this casual visit, I'd like to share some images and observations.

We hiked down Boyd's Hole trail to the Potomac River first. There are scattered stately trees along the way through stands of various ages, mostly mature. One stand we explored off-trail appears to be about 200 years, with nice tuliptrees 3-4' DBH beginning to show old growth characteristics.

Caledon 200-y-o tulips.jpg

There is a lot of forest like this in Caledon, perhaps some older.

Near the river there there is a willow oak measuring about 18' CBH. It's a well-formed, tall tree with a straight bole and wide crown.

Any of our viewers know this tree?

The return loop from Boyd's Hole passes through a short stretch of roughly 100-year-old forest in an area of fertile soil where several tall, stately second growth tuliptrees are 10-11' CBH. This stand has some of the best second growth tulips I've seen. From this trail we hiked all of the green trail, and found just off-trail, a wonderful little valley that I think must be virgin. There are several 4-5' DBH ancient trees here, mostly tuliptrees with sculpted old crowns.

Caledon 16' tulip.jpg (122.63 KiB) Viewed 135 times

The largest, measuring about 16' CBH, is a fascinating hollow tuliptree inside which we both stood with room to spare.

Caledon beech.jpg (153.91 KiB) Viewed 135 times

Along the miles of trails here there are many large pristine-trunked beeches, some 3' DBH, and several species of oaks frequently as large and larger, with some approaching 5' DBH. There is a light understory of holly in most areas, and very little undergrowth. One can view through this open, ethereal forest for hundreds of yards across gentle ridges and ravines, and down to wetland flats. There are bluffs in stretches along the river where bald eagles nest (and for this reason, much of the park is closed to casual visitors). The stretch of the green trail that passes near the highway is mostly old field, though spiced with occasional large but relatively young trees. But the best groves of giant, ancient tuliptrees that I know of in this park are on this trail, and it's worth a very long drive just to see them.

Caledon giant.jpg

There are several stunning tuliptrees 5-6' DBH along this stretch of little valleys. The best grove of all is at the very end of the trail, where there are eleven tuliptrees 4 and 5' DBH in a single acre, plus one in view down the hollow to rest the eye.

Caledon grove.jpg

This sanctuary is near the modest plantation house, in a cool, rich hollow where I imagine ladies and gents of the past took their Sunday rest in the shade of these ancient trees, and preserved them for generations for us, so that we might see a glimpse of the world now gone away except for here, and a few other precious places.

Ranger Dan

Voorhees Preserve, VA

by Ranger Dan » Sat Feb 26, 2011 1:00 am

Voorhees is a Nature Conservancy preserve in Virginia's Northern Neck, east of Fredericksburg. This is a part of the state that has retained much of its forested landscape, and a lot of what you see along the roads is mature and inviting. Caledon State Park is here, and the magnificent trees of the "Poplar Walk" at Nomini Hall, as is the newly-protected Crow's Nest, which is reported to be well-endowed with large trees. Visitors are in fact welcome at Voorhees (unlike some other Nature Conservancy preserves), and the people at the adjacent berry farm who oversee its visitation are very friendly. The farm itself, which was owned by the donor of the preserve property, is a pleasant place to see as well, and I suspect that the woodlands within it may be well worth exploring, once permission is given. Though in the coastal plain, plain the topography here is not. At the edge of the Rappohannock River, plateau land ends at high bluffs, and is dissected by deep, very steep-walled ravines that give some of the landscape here a montane feel.

For many years I had read reports of the forest at Voorhees and its huge tuliptrees. This trip would not leave me or my buddy Phil disappointed. The walk begins through a flat field leading to the edge of a forested ravine. Immediately there is scenic, old growth forest with gleaming beech trunks, and an exceptional northern red oak on the ravine wall.

Voorhees NR oak.jpg

You'd need a rope to get to it, but I'd estimate its DBH at about 5'.

From here the trail descends to the river's edge, and crosses the wide, marshy outlet of a creek on a bridge. We saw bald eagles soaring, and more old trees on the slopes beyond. A steep climb brings you to a topographical anomaly...a small plateau atop a hundred-foot high bluff, isolated from the surrounding land by a horseshoe bend. The main trail leads along the brink of this bluff through nutrient-poor, ordinary forest dominated by chestnut oaks. Turning around at this trail's end, I thought the rest of the plateau would be as unworthwhile, and I was ready to go back to Caledon where we had been the day before. But only a short distance from the bluff, the soil is fertile and the dominant trees are tuliptrees...big ones! Starting on the Hollow Tree Trail, there is one of the largest second-growth tuliptrees I've ever seen. It measured about 12' CBH. At the edge of the plateau on its northern edge, away

from the river, there is a grove of older tuliptrees, two of them over 4' DBH. The plateau forest, nearly pure tuliptrees, is an old field. The undulations I noticed in the trail at first made me think of an old railroad bed, where the timbers had rotted away, but then I saw that these were furrows that extended throughout. Almost all of the Virginia pines that once stood here have fallen, releasing the tulips to grow to exceptional size. They look around a hundred years old. There are many we measured at 10, 11 and 12' CBH. Next to Georgia's Sosebee Cove, this is the grandest stand of second-growth tuliptrees I've ever seen!

But it gets better. At the head of another ravine, there is a wonderland of fantastic, ancient tuliptrees with hollows, bulbous basal burls, huge roots, and stout limbs. We had found another portal into the forest past!

Voorhees 5' pair.jpg

These giant brothers are about 5' DBH. The slope they are on is so steep, we couldn't measure them.

Voorhees giant root.jpg

They are full of fascinating details.

Voorhees 5'.jpg (114.32 KiB) Viewed 166 times

The forest along the edges of this ravine is as lovely as any I've seen in the Smokies or elsewhere. Surely it is virgin.

Voorhees beech.jpg (134.9 KiB) Viewed 166 times

There are gleaming, pristine beeches clutching the slopes with ancient hands, butressed northern red oaks, and many other large trees. Also, we found the remains of one large chestnut.

Voorhees forest.jpg

Voorhees 18'.jpg (125.21 KiB) Viewed 166 times

The most outstanding tree of the trip was this 18' CBH hollow tuliptree, the trail's namesake. There is room inside for company. Its chimney extends beyond sight. I expect there are other forest wonders hidden in the many ravines along the edges of the Northern Neck.

Ranger Dan

Bedford Tuliptree video, VA

by Ranger Dan » Sun Feb 27, 2011 6:33 pm

Here is my video of the giant Bedford Tuliptree on Youtube. My buddy Sam takes you all around it, and inside it, where she hugs the huge interior root.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzie0eOLTZc&feature=player_embedded

Ranger Dan

The Giant Bedford Tuliptree, VA: some thoughts on champion trees

by Ranger Dan » Sun Feb 27, 2011 12:29 am

our beloved king Bedford Tuliptree

Samantha inside the giant

Sam hugs the interior root

I visited the Bedford Tuliptree again today. The gate of the fence enclosing the tree is open, so you can go up to the tree and walk around inside the trunk to see just how amazing it is, if you're willing to risk trespass on closed city property. Samantha, who served as my photo model, was in awe. It is indeed alive and has vigorous shoots from its remaining limbs. Sad and enraging it is, though, that it was so mutilated. This tree has been a friend to me since I first saw it in 1971, when I was 13. It was the most amazing thing I had ever seen. It was thought to be at the time the largest tree in Eastern America, and until I experienced the giant trees of the far West, it was the largest tree I had ever seen.

I agree that many trees have been erroneously elected as champions...I recall a disappointing trip through a vast corn field in Ohio to see the then-national champion Sycamore on the Scioto River, with a reported diameter of, I think, 12 feet. I had imagined a single towering trunk like I had never seen. It turned out to be twin trunks fused only a few feet off the ground, so It was not the tree in my imagination, and I thought unworthy of its status. It's an awesome sight, anyway, and deserves to be preserved, nonetheless.

Forty years ago The Bedford Tuliptree was intact and in the woods. With a trunk about 10 feet in diameter, the thought didn't occur to me that it should matter that it branched a few feet off the ground. If anything, that made it more interesting. Now that its interior has been revealed, it's more interesting than ever, with sculptural elements that tell of its ancience. What other tree on Earth has a giant root two feet in diameter arising overhead to feed on the composted wood inside its hollow cavity? It has a presence that I know of in no other Eastern tree. In the years spent out West I've been on many big tree pilgrimages. To me this tree ranks high among even the giant sequoias and the bristlecone pines...many of which, by the way, have multiple trunks. The national champion western red cedar in Olympic National Park is a fascinating tree, too, though its few remaining limbs barely cling to life, and its trunk is rotten except for thin lines of bark. The famous Montezeuma cypress in Mexico, thought by some to be the world's largest tree, has multiple iterations (forgive me if I misuse the term).

Some have suggested that the Bedford Tuliptree shoud be cut down on account of its having been mutilated, or because it may pose a risk to property or human safety, or even because it does not fit into a scientific concept of competitive status as a single-trunked tree. I would hope that we, as the community of big tree lovers might thelp bring to the world an ethic of appreciation for the wonders of nature as they are, rather than for what mankind thinks they shoud be in order to fit our ideals. Likewise, I hope others will be supportive if the need arises to call for preserving this pricelss relic.

I recall reading that some the dead hemlocks in Joyce Kilmer I recently saw still standing had been dynamited. Others I've seen have been cut down in many places that I thought should have been left to a dignified demise. Since my childhood, to me the hemlocks have been the special mountain tree, where my family would retreat to their cool shade on Sunday picnics at the Peaks of Otter...and I grieve their loss everywhere so woefully I can barely speak of it. So, perhaps some of you can relate to my feelings about my beloved tulliptree. I regret that some do not appreciate it as I do.

Dan in yellow buckeye

I recently found a remarkable yellow buckeye, a fantastic, hollow, sculpted tree. It turned out to be the national champion. That matters far less to me than the fact that a remarkable tree had been revealed to the world and was brought to notoriety, so that it might be preserved, enjoyed, and appreciated by others. It is featured in Remarkable Trees of Virginia, by Nancy Ross Hugo and Jeff Kirwan. I am more embarrassed than honored that my name appears in the article about it. I had nothing to do with this tree's greatness, but I'm glad to share this image of me inside it on the day we met in 2008.

Ranger Dan

a "chestnut spirit"

Some Significant American Chestnut Remains, VA

by Ranger Dan » Mon Feb 28, 2011 1:01 am

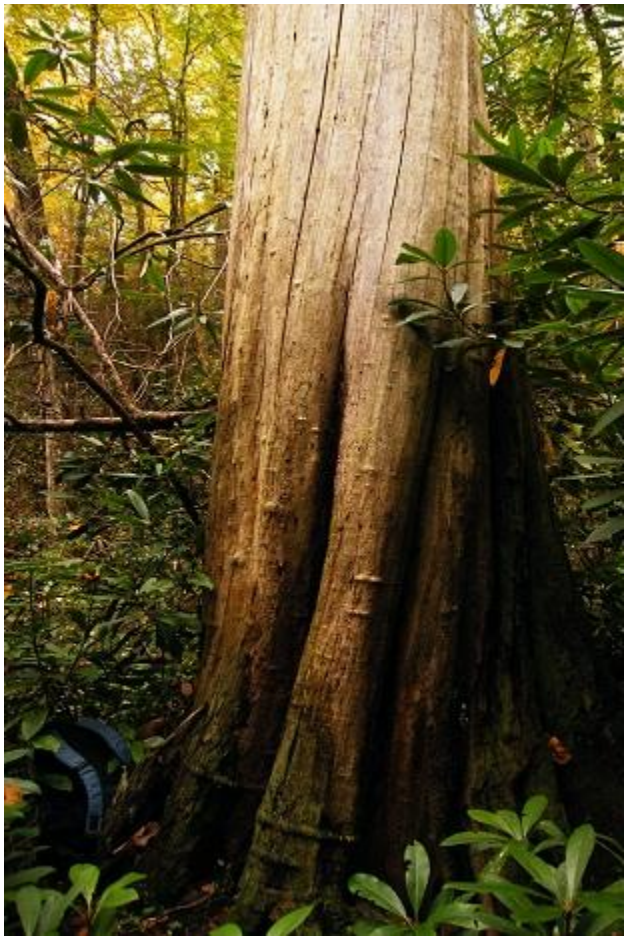
chestnut log & leaves.jpg

chestnut log.jpg

What amazing wood the American Chestnut has. It's still around on the forest floor, and even standing as snags, after all these years. I remember my first trip alone, away from home, to see Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest in 1976. I wanted to see that virgin forest more than anything. Entering the cove of Little Santeetlah Creek from the gap above, I recognized the many logs on the forest floor as chestnut, and grieved that I had been born too late to see them living. In other places,too, I would find remains with intricate patterns in wood of the very old ones...beautiful swirls and patterns I called "chestnut spirits" that I collected to preserve for

posterity, knowing that they would rot on the forest floor (I thought surely, by now). Even if a cure for the blight could instantly restore the trees to full growth, it would be a hundred years or more before such patterns in ancient wood could develop again. Today those remains are fewer, and most a bit mossier, but you can still see the chestnut spirits every now and then.

Rampick is another term for snag. Perhaps it's Norse...a word my brother, who studied extinct languages, used for them on our big tree walks. The biggest chestnut rampick I ever saw was hollow, 5 or 6 feet in diameter, with an entry door and spacious interior. I've encountered a few as large since I adopted digital photography.



that's my small day pack

Bradley Fk 5' chestnut.jpg

Forge Cr 15'2 chestnut.jpg

5' chestnut on nature trail.jpg

5 ft. tape measure in photo 15'2 Forge Cr chestnut.jpg

I've seen mature American chestnut bark a few times. It's a rare sight now. One of the few large, surviving American chestnuts is near Amherst, VA...the Shimp tree. At about 3 ft DBH, it has rough, shreddy bark, very different from the smooth, platy bark of young trees. The champion trees of Oregon and Washington (one is the national champion) have similar bark. It's browner than any deciduous tree in the Appalachian woods now. I've never read a reference to this, but the bark of those mature trunks must have made the woods look very different, too. Sometimes chestnut log buildings still have bark on the logs. But in the forest, the bark rotted away quickly, long ago. Anyone claiming to find American chestnut bark on old wood today might as well say they've seen dinosaur feathers. Well, here goes...in the Smokies, on two stumps of American Chestnut, I found some bark. Once in 1985 on Pole Road Creek, and in another place this year. Here is the stump I found it on:

chestnut stump bark.jpg

chestnut bark.jpg (76.39 KiB) Viewed 126 times

It doesn't look like bark in the photo. You have to see it in person. It's located on the Smokemont Loop Trail, about a mile from the footlog over Bradley Fork, just above the trail. And no, I have never seen Bigfoot.

Ranger Dan

Albany Pine Bush, NY - Obligatory Video

by **Jenny** » Sun Feb 27, 2011 8:48 pm

Nice video of my one day at the Albany Pine Bush pine barrens...well, pine and snow barrens. return visit was attempted during a blizzard and that didn't exactly work out...

http://vimeo.com/20445697

A better quality video than vimeo is here:
http://gallery.me.com/jennifdudley#100530

Jenny Dudley

South Mountains Game Lands, NC

by jamesrobertsmith » Mon Feb 28, 2011 8:51 pm






A few weeks ago I entered the new section of the South Mountains State Park via the South Mountains Game Lands. The section of the game lands that we used had been largely clear cut, so the forests were completely gone. Yesterday (Sunday 2-27) we were looking for a rumored waterfall deep in the game lands and which are NOT accessible via any trail. So we had to bushwhack, eight miles round trip. Eight miles might not sound like much, but let me tell you it was one of the toughest hikes I've ever experienced, and the toughest I've made in the past six years or so.

We saw some more clear cuts, but in areas just outside the game lands on private property. What impressed me about the game lands property was that we encountered a lot of impressive second growth groves. It's possible that we stumbled upon some isolated stands of old growth, but I don't know how to ID such stands. What I can say is that we passed through some areas with lots of big, tall trees (mainly white pines, dead hemlocks, poplars, red oaks, sweet gum, etc.), and the canopies were very, very high and many of the trees were of impressive girth with old, twisted, gnarly tops. Of course when you're never far from 100-year-old narrow gauge rail beds it's hard to think that any of the stands we saw were old growth.

At any rate, we found the waterfall and it was worth every calorie we expended to locate it--in fact, it was a lot more impressive than we had any right to expect. We're calling it Sally Queen Falls in honor of the creek where it's located. Not far from the falls I saw the dead snag of a truly enormous white pine that had snapped off about forty feet up. If that tree had not been killed, it would certainly have been worth walking in to see.

James Robert Smith

About: *e*NTS: The Magazine of the Native Tree Society

This magazine is published monthly and contain materials that are compiled from posts made to the NTS BBS http://www.ents-bbs.org It features notable trip reports, site descriptions and essays posted to the BBS by NTS members. The purpose of the magazine to have an easily readable and distributable magazine of posts available for download for those interested in the Native Tree Society and in the work that is being conducted by its members.

This magazine serves as a companion to the more formal science-oriented Bulletin of the *Eastern Native Tree Society* and will help the group reach potential new members. To submit materials for inclusion in the next issue, post to the BBS. Members are welcome to suggest specific articles that you might want to see included in future issues of the magazine, or point out materials that were left from a particular month's compilation that should have been included. Older articles can always be added as necessary to the magazine. The magazine will focus on the first post on a subject and provide a link to the discussion on the website. Where warranted later posts in a thread may also be selected for inclusion.

Edward Frank, Editor-in-Chief