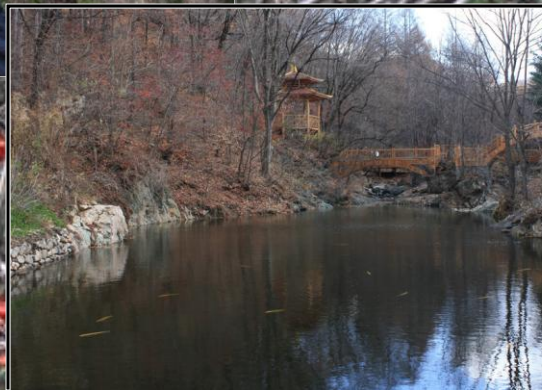


eNTS

The Magazine of the
Native Tree Society
Volume 1, Number 11,
November 2011





eNTS: The Magazine of the Native Tree Society

The Native Tree Society and the Eastern Native Tree Society

<http://www.nativetreesociety.org>

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

Volume 1, Number 11, November 2011

Mission Statement:

The Native Tree Society (NTS) and its chapters the Eastern Native Tree Society (ENTS) and Western Native Tree Society (WNTS) 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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Official membership in the NTS, ENTS, and WNTS is FREE. Simply sign up for membership in our bulletins board at <http://www.ents-bbs.org> Submissions to the website or magazine in terms of information, art, etc. should be made directly to Ed Frank at: edfrank@nativetreesociety.org The *eNTS: the Magazine of the Native Tree Society* is provided as a free download in Adobe® PDF format through the NTS website and the NTS BBS. The editorial staff of *eNTS: the Magazine of Native Tree Society* are solely responsible for its content.

COVER: Manchuria, China by Neil Pederson, 2011.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Changes and Growth - Editor's Corner by Edward Frank	5
Hello from Ottawa, ONT by Owen Clarkin	6
Re: External Baseline Method by Robert Leverett	8
Re: External Baseline Method by Robert Leverett	9
Re: Whirlwind Trip to Great Smokies by Elijah Whitcomb	9
Re: Whirlwind Trip to Great Smokies by James Robert Smith	10
Re: Whirlwind Trip to Great Smokies by Rand Brown	10
Re: Whirlwind Trip to Great Smokies by James Robert Smith	11
Blue Earth Rest Area, MN by Elijah Whitcomb	11
Rocky River floodplain, OH forest additions by Steve Galehouse	13
New Tallest Hardwood Species For California by M.W.Taylor	14
Passage from William Bartram--"Forest of Gigantic Oaks" by samson'sseed	14
Re: Lord's Hill by Adam Rosen	15
Northeast Ohio finds by Steve Galehouse	15
Re: Northeast Ohio finds by Steve Galehouse	16
Re: Northeast Ohio finds by Rand Brown	19
A new way of computing diameters by Robert Leverett	23
Re: Eldorado National Forest in the The Sierra Nevada by M.W.Taylor	24
Central Park Aftermath of Storm Video by Jenny Dudley	26
Manchuria, aka northeast China by Neil Pederson	27
Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China by Neil Pederson	29
Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China by Neil Pederson	33
Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China by Neil Pederson	34
Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China by Neil Pederson	35
Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China by Neil Pederson	38
Plans to re-measuring the Longfellow Pine, PA by Robert Lerverett	40
South Mountains, NC Again! by James Robert Smith	41
South Mountains, NC Again! by James Robert Smith	44
Monster Pines of the Central Sierra by M.W.Taylor	45
Nature's Halloween Tricks, CT by Sam Goodwin	48
Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China by Neil Pederson	51
Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China by Neil Pederson	53
Science Nation - Lord of the Tree Rings Video (David Stahle)	56
Atlanta city Rucker Height Index - November 2011 by Eli Dickerson	56
The tallest linden of Europe by Kouta Räsänen	57
Huge sassafras tree, NC by Carroll Dixon	58
Re: huge sassafras tree, NC by Ed Frank	58
The ENTS method and Longwood Gardens by Scott Wade	59
More KMD state forest, MA by Joh Eicholz	60
Yellow-cedar by Marshall D. Murray	62
500 Exceptional Trees of Ukraine by Ed Frank	62
Re: North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove 11/13/2011 by Tom Howard	63
Confusing red oak family tree ID by AndrewJoslin	64
Re: Confusing red oak family tree ID by Steve Springer	65
Re: Confusing red oak family tree ID by Doug Bidlack	65
Re: Confusing red oak family tree ID by Steve Galehouse	66
New 150ft+ hardwood species for California ? by M.W.Taylor	67
Obscure pop cultural reference to tree-rings by Ed Frank	67
Re: Obscure pop cultural reference to tree-rings by Rand Brown	67
Savage Gulf State Park Hemlock Preservation by Will Blozan	68
Re: Savage Gulf State Park Hemlock Preservation by Neil Pederson	73
Washington Grove City Park by Adam Rosen	73
Re: Washington Grove City Park by Elijah Whitcomb	73
Re: Washington Grove City Park by Adam Rosen	73
Re: Washington Grove City Park by Tom Howard	74

The Treaty Oak, Jacksonville, FL by Duane Hook	75
Re: Monster Pines of the Central Sierra by M.W.Taylor	76
Re: Monster Pines of the Central Sierra by Robert Leverett	78
Re: Monster Pines of the Central Sierra by M. W. Taylor	78
Calibrating the Rifle Scope Used with the Impulse 200LR by M.W.Taylor	79
Sheffield Black Cherry, PA by Dale Luthringer	80
Military Bases Provide Unlikely Refuge for South's Longleaf by Joe Zorzin	83
Re: Military Bases Provide Unlikely Refuge for South's Longleaf by Rand Brown	83
European Records in Finland by Kouta Räsänen	84
Re: A new way of computing diameters by M.W.Taylor	88
Re: A new way of computing diameters by Robert Leverett	88
New 170ft class pine at Cook Forest by Dale Luthringer	88
Re: new 170ft class pine at Cook Forest by Elijah Whitcomb	89
Old Elderberr, Netherlands by Arie Pieters	90
Big Tree Oele, Netherlands by Arie Pieters	90
Native yellow berried Cornus florida by Tim At Nichols Nursery	91
A new area of Monroe SF, MA by Robert Leverett	91
East Branch stroll... OH by Steve Galehouse	95
Tree-ing and outreach by Chris Morris	97
Re: Tree-ing and outreach by Ed Frank	98
Re: Tree-ing and outreach by Robert Leverett	99
Re: Tree-ing and outreach by Chris Morris	100
Re: Tree-ing and outreach by Robert Leverett	101
Re: Tree-ing and outreach by Edward Frank	101
Re: Tree-ing and outreach by Steve Galehouse	101
Giant Tuliptree, Hammonton, NJ by Barry Caselli	102
Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence Lowlands Tree Survey (Tom Howard)	102
November Quote from Sand County... by Jenny Dudley	104
Is This A Red Hickory? by George Fieo	105
Raising the mission, MTSF by Robert Leverett	106
Nikon Prostaff 440's for sale by Dale Luthringer	107
Lynn Margulis Passed Away Nov 22, 2011	107
Re: Lynn Margulis Passed away Nov 22, 2011 by Ed Frank	108
Wooden Grave Markers, NJ by Ed Frank	108
Re: Wooden Grave Markers, NJ by Barry Caselli	109
Inspirational Tree by RyanLeClair	109
Jagermeister by M. D. Vaden	110
Dozens of large & old trees removed at Batsto by Barry Caselli	110
Re: Monster Pines of the Central Sierra by M.W.Taylor	111
Ohiopyle State Park by S. J. Halow	111
Three New Hardwood World Records Verified In California by M.W.Taylor	114
Simple area determination by Robert Leverett	114
Re: Simple area determination by Joe Zorzin	115
Christmas greetings by Fred Paillet	116
Greensboro Watershed and Adjoining Parks,NC by Brian Beduhn	117
Canada's Mossiest Maple Rainforest by Ancient Forest Alliance	117
Vote for photo of Hearts Content old-growth by kirk Johnson	118
From the The Alnwick Mercury in NE England (1881) by Rob McBride	118
Voynich Manuscript	119
Negus Mountain, MA by Robert Leverett	120
External Links	122

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Changes and Growth - Editor's Corner

By Edward Frank

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

As I look over this issue of the eNTS Magazine, I am struck by the variety and scope of the materials that have been posted to the BBS over the past month. There are articles posted on China, champion trees in Europe, big conifers and 150+ deciduous trees in western US, reports from northern Ohio, Georgia, MTSF, the Smokies, and many other sites across the United States. It was hard to choose what to put on the cover this month.

The organization has changed from its origins fifteen years ago. There has been a loss of some of the intimacy that comes from just being a small group of people working on their own projects to the current larger organization. That is sad in many ways, but an organization such as ours needs to grow and adapt as time passes or it will slowly die. Even in this larger structure people only need to read and participate in those aspects in which they are interested.

On the older discussion lists everyone got copies of every email as it was posted. The same effect can be achieved using the RSS feed function of the BBS.
<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=166&t=134> I am currently using the feeds option from Windows Live Mail (other RSS clients will work as also) to get the RSS feeds from the BBS using the RSS link here:
<http://www.ents-bbs.org/feed.php> I have the program set to check for new feeds every 15 minutes.

It works fine. You get the posts almost as soon as they are posted. To respond to a post compose your message as you would with an email response, click the link in the header that says "view online." This will open up the post in your web browser. Click the Reply button in the post, and cut and paste the response you composed into the the BBS window that opens. Then click submit at the bottom of the composition window. It is a couple of more steps than just hitting the reply button on your email, but it is still simple and easy to do.

You can receive a daily digest of the day's posts.

Instructions are here: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=166&t=943>

This month I also modified the NTS Website index page: <http://www.nativetreesociety.org> to include a navigation bar at side and top and a new series of introductory pages. I opted to use frames to create the new navigation menus. CCS might have been better if I were creating a new website from scratch. However, with a couple of thousand existing pages that would need to be modified, frames were a better option than chancing how the the CCS application would affect all of the page displays.

I have given more formal recognition of various projects and surveys in which NTS members are involved:
http://www.nativetreesociety.org/projects/index_projects.htm Tom Howards "Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence Lowlands Tree Survey" is featured in this issue of the eNTS Magazine.

I added a simpler list-type interface to make, at least the initial navigation, more friendly for mobile devices:
http://www.nativetreesociety.org/mobile_index.html

I rearranged the forums slightly on the BBS. The other notable change was I installed a new MOD that reportedly will translate the existing BBS pages, based upon the type of smart phone it detects, into a more mobile friendly display. It is still in the testing phase. Over half of the time, when the internet is accessed these days, it is through a smart phone or tablet. We needed to take what steps we could to make our website and BBS more accessible to mobile devices.

Some of us have also been discussing creating a series of interest groups within the larger organization, to better reflect the interests and aspirations of our membership. There will be more about this idea in the coming month.

Edward Frank

Hello from Ottawa, ONT

by wrecsyp » Tue Nov 01, 2011 2:06 pm

Greetings,

I am a lifelong enthusiast of trees & grew up near Ottawa, Canada. I was fortunate to grow up in close proximity to very large fenceline specimens of White Elm (since dead or is that DED), a small old-growth Sugar Maple woodlot (since developed), and a "less-small" old-growth Hemlock-Sugar Maple-Beech woodlot which is still intact by some miracle and is the only Hemlock site I have seen within 30 km radius. However, this jewel of a site is also presently under threat of development.

I am a physical scientist but my first love was trees. My first "scientific" tree experience was at age 4 when I proved to my father that a grove of Green Ash was not Manitoba Maple as he supposed, via help from R.C. Hosie's classic book (Native Trees of Canada). Now in my 30s I live in Ottawa and have joined ENTS especially because of the continuing losses of our native trees to alien diseases and insects which I find emotionally difficult to accept. When I was a kid in the 1980s-90s "my" elms all died, now the Ash of Eastern Ontario are rapidly disappearing due to EAB, and though I have yet to see its impacts, the HWA threatens what very little Hemlock is left in my area. The documentation of HWA from the heroic efforts of the Tsuga Search project has produced just shocking images...I am aghast.

Urban Hemlocks of Ottawa:

While I appreciate all trees, my fondness for Hemlock has been great ever since I stumbled upon a rare grove of them near Ottawa as a teenager (and didn't even immediately recognize them, having never before seen any in spite of having read about them and being a tree enthusiast since a child). These days, I do a lot of biking and have noticed a handful of locations of mature urban Hemlocks growing in Ottawa. Maybe others will enjoy me sharing some information and pictures of these mostly healthy specimens as a contrast to the greys of HWA. Are there many other mature specimens of Eastern Hemlock growing in the urban areas of North America I wonder?

Site 1 (Colonel By Drive) is a grassy slope with little hope of any reproduction and new houses are being built possibly within the root radius. Roughly 5 individuals.

Site 2 (Vincent Massey Park) is a semi-managed park and reproduction is essentially not occurring as I have only seen one Hemlock seedling/sapling in spite of 10 mature individuals, the largest of which is 2.0 ft DBH or 6.3 ft girth.

Site 3 (Hog's Back Park) has 15 mature individuals (12 living, 3 recently dead) on a north-facing slope at the southern edge of a very busy road (Heron Road).

The largest is 2.25 ft DBH (7.1 ft girth) and appears healthy (all other specimens are also over 1 ft DBH).

However, the non-Hemlock surrounding trees are almost exclusively young deciduous including a nearby grove of all things White Poplar (yikes) and I have not seen any examples of natural regeneration.

Is the march of Norway Maple, Blue Spruce et al. unstoppable...?

I see Hemlocks only very rarely as they are, well, very rare in my area having been wiped off the map for agriculture and other exploitation. I have heard of other Hemlocks being present in pockets near the city and will have to explore those sites as well.

Best wishes to all on this board,

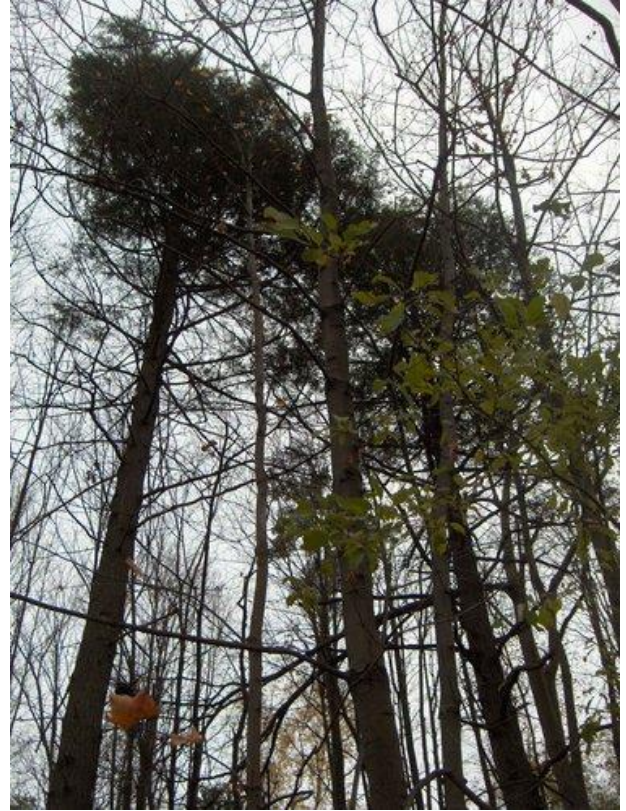
Owen Clarkin



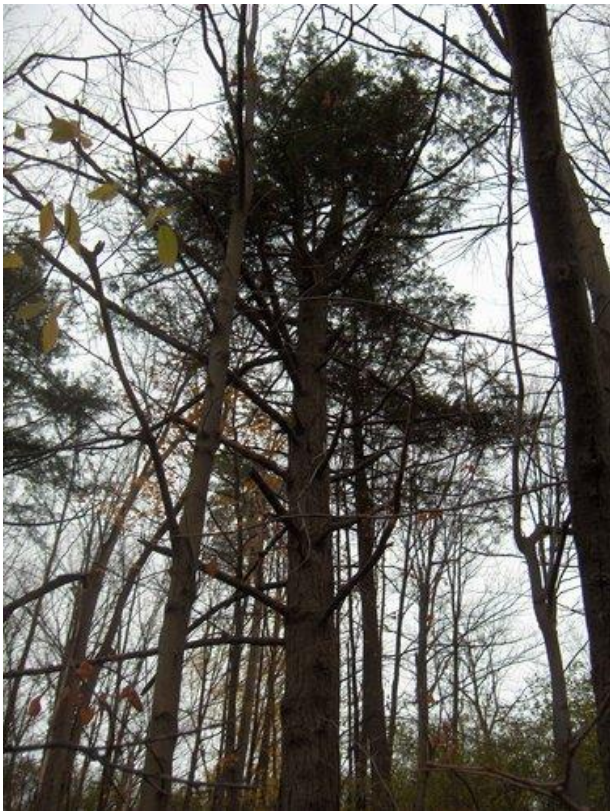
Vincent Massey Park, another specimen



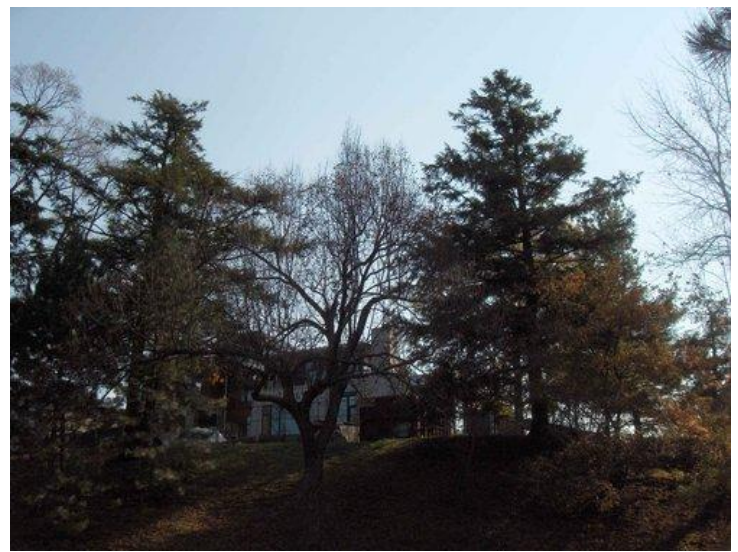
Vincent Massey Park Specimen, Ottawa 2.0 ft DBH



Hog's Back Park Specimens, Ottawa



Hog's Back Park, 2.25 ft DBH specimen



Colonel By Drive, Ottawa Note House being built



Colonel By Drive, Ottawa

Re: External Baseline Method

by dbhguru » Tue Nov 01, 2011 8:57 pm

NTS, The latest version of EBM is attached. Don, Michael, and I would appreciate any feedback any of you would be willing to give. At this point, I'm solely responsible for the mess. Please don't blame them. My objective is to take tangent based techniques to the limits. I start with the basic method and move on from there. I'm sure the graphics could be better. Don't worry about the math unless you want to wade through it. Otherwise, Michael will do the proofing of the equations.

Assuming you see merit in this project, where should we take it? Thanks in advance for any feedback.

 [TangentBasedMeasurementsNewest-1.xlsx](#)

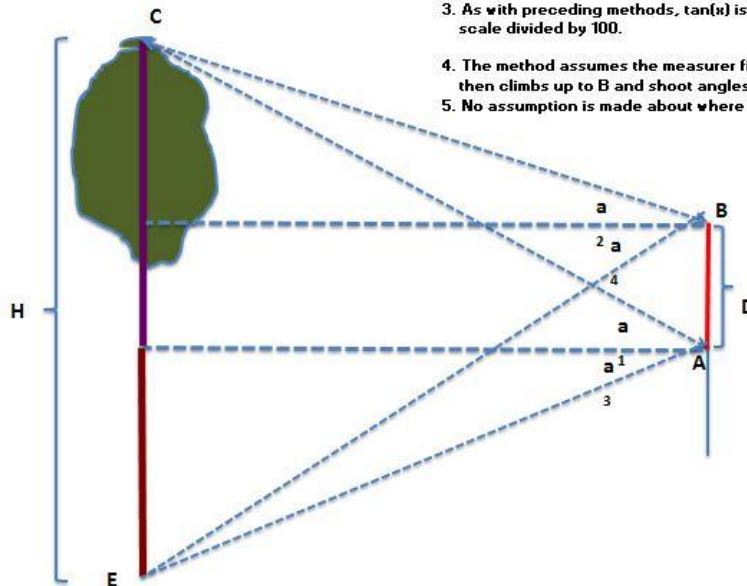
(1.05 MiB) Downloaded 3 times

Robert T. Leverett

Method #3: External Baseline Method: Case of vertical baseline.

Notes:

1. This scenario is unlikely, but an arborist climbing a tree provides an opportunity for application of this technique.
2. The baseline D is vertical.
3. As with preceding methods, $\tan(x)$ is the equivalent to the percentage read on the right scale divided by 100.
4. The method assumes the measurer first shoots angle a_1 and a_3 from point A, then climbs up to B and shoot angles a_2 and a_4 . Points A and B mark the measurer's eye position.
5. No assumption is made about where C is relative to E.



$$H = D \left[\frac{\tan(a_1)}{\tan(a_1) - \tan(a_2)} + \frac{\tan(a_3)}{\tan(a_3) - \tan(a_4)} \right]$$

Re: External Baseline Method

by dbhguru » Wed Nov 02, 2011 1:29 pm

Joe, inroads are there to be made (DCR), partly through the efforts of research foresters like Dr. Don Bragg who commands respect. However, other avenues are opening up to education. Tomorrow, Michael Taylor and I will consult with Laser Technologies Inc. on uses of and potential improvements to the TruPulse 360 (and probably the TruPulse 200 as well). I've done a lot of practical field testing of both instruments and can speak to what they do well and not so well. Michael is full of ideas on how to improve the TP 360. It will be an interesting first meeting. Hopefully, other meetings will follow.

The TruPulse 360 was designed mainly for the forestry community. I don't feel qualified to speak to purely forestry uses, however, I can think of improvements that would benefit other fields such as ecology and maybe geology. I'd have to be careful on the latter, though. I'd want to first consult with big Ed. One improvement I plan to discuss tomorrow is a routine to compute the area of a polygon. The internal missing line routine of the TP 360 would provide the basis for area computations projected onto either horizontal or vertical plane.

Lots to think about.

Robert T. Leverett



Re: Whirlwind Trip to Great Smokies

by lucager1483 » Wed Nov 02, 2011 12:05 am

This is one of my favorite places. Thanks for the pictures. Here's some of my own from Spring 2010.

Elijah Whitcomb

Re: Whirlwind Trip to Great Smokies

by jamesrobertsmith » Wed Nov 02, 2011 1:05 am

The rut was over. The largest males were in a field over at the Palmer House. There was still one big bull hanging out with the cows, but mainly just some spikes were there pretending they were tough. One spike kept trying to mount one of the cows but she was having none of that.



The three big bulls across the road from the Palmer House.



First thing we saw were huge flocks of wild turkey. One ranger told us that she saw a coyote sneak up and grab one this week. The first time she'd seen one do that.

James Robert Smith

Re: Whirlwind Trip to Great Smokies

by Rand » Wed Nov 02, 2011 12:18 pm

Alas, Cataloochee....



All the dead grey hemlocks in October 2007

A couple of closeups of the central area of the above image





Rand Brown

[Re: Whirlwind Trip to Great Smokies](#)

by jamesrobertsmith » Wed Nov 02, 2011 5:40 pm

It was a gorgeous place. When I first heard about hwa I rushed up to Cataloochee to see the groves there before they were gone. I saw them in their glory, before the infestations had reached them. On one recent trip I hiked through a back country campground and wondered what the Park Service was going to do with those sites when the hemlocks start to get shaky. It'll be very unsafe to camp anywhere in that area if they don't start taking down those trees or if Nature doesn't knock them over when people aren't around (a rare thing even in the back country of the Smokies).

I never get tired of Cataloochee. Of course it's hard to go there when you recall what great stands of hemlocks were there just a few years ago. I hauled my little travel trailer to the campground there when I finally located the Sag Branch Poplar after three previous tries. My wife wants to go back there with the trailer. I think the campground is closing for the season soon. But next Spring, maybe.

James Robert Smith

[Blue Earth Rest Area, MN](#)

by lucager1483 » Wed Nov 02, 2011 12:04 pm

I'm traveling on I-90 in Minnesota, headed to western Iowa, and stopped at the Blue Earth Rest Area. This is the next rest area after the I-35 junction.

Connected to the area by a walking/pet/service trail is a river bottom with some fairly large silver maples. Here's some pictures:



72.29' x 18-5" x 63x67 Silver Maple





18-6" Silver Maple



19-2" Silver Maple. Nice-sized critter hole



19-2" Silver Maple

The make-up of the forest was typical flood-plain, consisting of American elm, eastern cottonwood, ash, hackberry, basswood, black walnut, and burr oak.

Nothing of substantial size, though. Being a short-lived, fast-growing, typically ugly tree, I've long ignored the silver maple. But it does grow to a fairly good size when conditions are favorable, and for that I give it props.

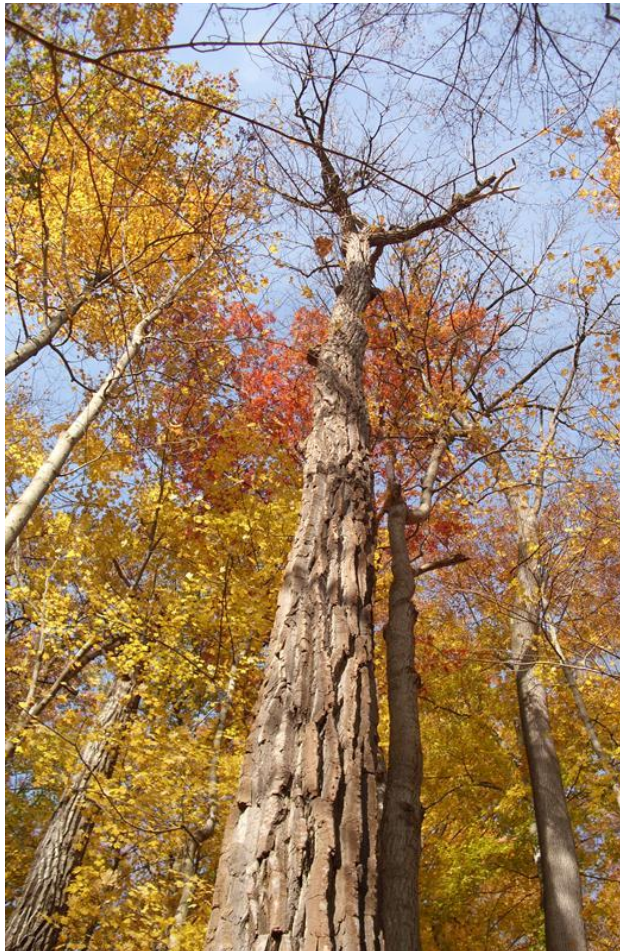
Sorry about the fuzzy pictures. I'm adjusting to a new, cheap point and shoot camera and it was rainy. I'll try to do better next time.

Elijah Whitcomb

Rocky River floodplain, OH forest additions

by Steve Galehouse » Wed Nov 02, 2011 7:39 pm

NTS- This afternoon I went to an area I first measured in March of 2010. I went there "blind", without taking my earlier records or notes. I'm happy to say nearly all the trees I found a year-and-a-half ago are still the tallest of their species at the site, and that most have grown appreciably, either in height or girth or both. A couple of surprise finds, trees not noticed or measured earlier, were a blackgum at 126' x 9' 2", located on a slope adjacent to the floodplain shelf, displaying tremendously fissured bark---



and also a Freeman maple at 130.7' x 7' 6". Freeman maple is a naturally occurring hybrid of red and silver maples, with foliage intermediate compared with the parents, but typically with a tall straight bole, which this tree certainly has---





This would be the only Ohio maple over 130' in height that I am aware of. The revised RH5 for the site is now 130.86, the RH10 is 124.48.

Details here:

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/923/Details>

Steve Galehouse

[New Tallest Hardwood Species For California](#)

by M.W.Taylor » Tue Nov 01, 2011 4:31 pm

I just got an email from Zane Moore who was measuring trees in the south SF Bay Area. He reportedly measured a California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) with laser and digital transit at 152.6 ft. The dbh of this tree is just shy of 6'. This tree makes

a very short list of California hardwoods that surpass 150 ft. There is the Henley Oak, a valley oak that stands 151 ft, a Bay Laurel that stands 151.4 ft in Russian River Valley. I think there is probably a cottonwood and a tan oak somewhere in Northern California that surpass 150 ft but so far none have been located. Other tallest California hardwoods included 143 ft Tan Oak in Big Basin and a 142.6 ft giant chinquapin in Redwood National Park. That's it !

The Eastern sycamore is generally a larger and taller species. This 152.6 ft California sycamore is just over the top.

Michael Taylor

WNTS VP

AFA California Big Trees Coordinator

<http://www.landmarktrees.net>

[Passage from William Bartram--"Forest of Gigantic Oaks"](#)

by samson'sseed » Sat Nov 05, 2011 10:20 am

I want to share this passage from William Bartram's Travels of an incredible forest he traveled through circa 1773. A forestry scientist told me most of the trees represented a lower slope mesophytic forest, but the black oaks didn't fit because they were fire tolerant/shade intolerant whereas most of the other trees were fire intolerant/shade tolerant. Here's the passage.

"Leaving the pleasant town of Wrightsborough, we continued eight or nine miles through a fertile plain and high forest, to the north branch of Little River, being the largest of the two, crossing which, we entered an extensive fertile plain, bordering the river, and shaded by trees of vast growth, which at once spoke of its fertility. Continuing some time through these shady groves, the scene opens, and discloses to view the most magnificent forest I had ever seen. We rise gradually a sloping bank of twenty or thirty feet in elevation, and immediately entered this sublime forest; the ground is a perfectly level plain, thinly planted by nature with the most stately forest trees,

such as the gigantic Black Oak (Q. tinctoria), Liriodendron, Juglans nigra, Platanus, Juglans exalta, Fagus sylvatica, Ulmus sylvatica, Liquidamber styraciflua, whose mighty trunks, seemingly of equal height, appeared like superb columns. To keep within the bounds of truth and reality in describing the magnitude and grandeur of these trees, would, I fear, fail of credibility; yet, I think I can assert, that many of the black oaks measured eight, nine, ten, and eleven feet in diameter five feet above the ground, as we measured several that were above thirty feet in girth, and from hence they ascend perfectly straight, with a gradual taper, forty or fifty feet to the limbs; but below five or six feet, these trunks would measure a third more in circumference, on account of the projecting jambs, or supports, which are more or less, according to the number of horizontal roots that they rise from: the Tulip tree, Liquidamber, and Beech were equally stately."

According to Frances Harper, who followed Bartram's path and added informative footnotes, this area had been abandoned by the Indians 50 years before Bartram traveled here. The Indians maintained it with fire, explaining why black oaks were common, but I think shade tolerant trees were taking over. Harper wrote that this passage gave him a melancholy feeling when he thought how a forest like this no longer existed anywhere in the south.

I drove through this area last summer looking for remnants of this forest of gigantic oaks. All I saw were densely packed second growth pine and sweetgum. I saw not a single tree that was more than 12 inches in diameter. I only saw 1 black oak--a small one.

Mark Gelbart

Re: Lord's Hill

by adam.rosen » Sun Nov 06, 2011 11:01 pm

I was back at Lord's Hill today, with a tape measure. I have two views here of a big old maple tree. It is 151" DBH. I also measured another maple at 11', a hemlock at 92", another hemlock, really, a large,

dignified giant, of perfect dimensions, with a long, straight bole, at 9'1", and a basswood with a tall, long bole at 7'11". Haven't bought that laser rangefinder yet, so I can't tell you how tall.

Northeast Ohio finds

by Steve Galehouse » Sun Nov 06, 2011 8:16 pm

Rand Brown and I returned to Sand Run today to do some remeasuring and further exploration. It was a beautiful day with, 60F and sunny, and the woods and slopes were easy to traverse since we've not had rain for a week or more. Our primary mission was to measure the state record tuliptree, which we had previously measured to 163.72'. We took many measurements of the tree today, and I think we can safely say Ohio now has a 170 footer. We had several measurements in excess of 170', up to 173', and others in the mid to upper 160's. From what seemed to be the best vantage point, we got a 170.57' reading and a 169.46' reading, for an average of 170.01'. Also found were a cottonwood at 143.4' x 7' 10", and a really nice scarlet oak at 119.9' and 11' 8". These finds and other increases in previously measured trees push the Rucker 10 for Sand Run to 137.14, and the Rucker 10 for the Cuyahoga Valley(read greater Akron) to 142.36.

Sand Run:

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/440/Details>

Cuyahoga Valley:

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/924/Details>

These Rucker indices are comparable to those of sites much farther south.

Steve Galehouse

Re: Northeast Ohio finds

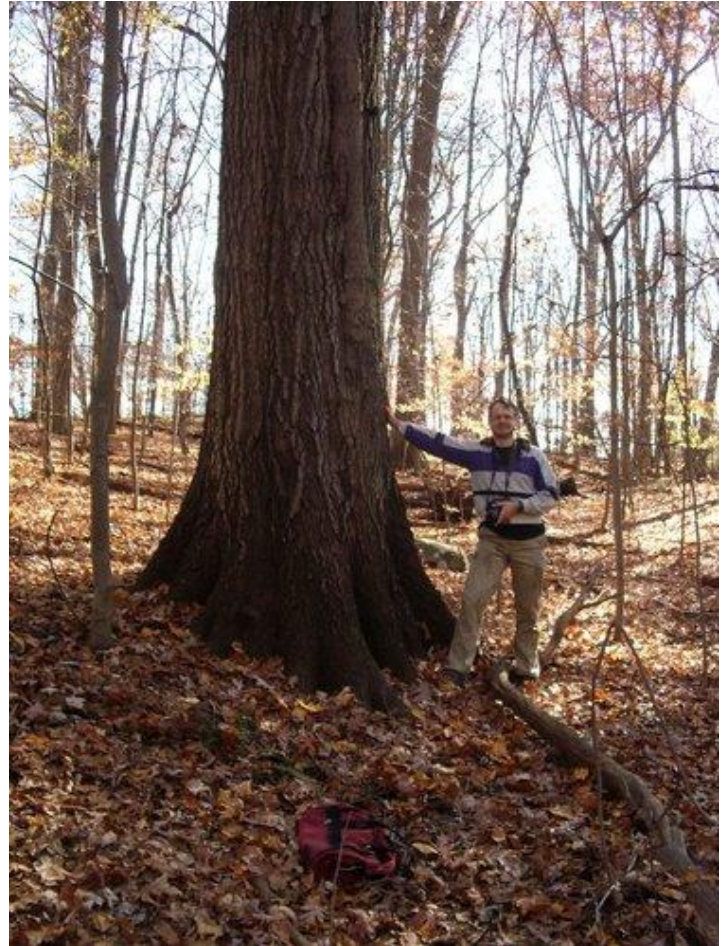
by Steve Galehouse » Mon Nov 07, 2011 10:41 am

Here are a few photos from yesterdays trip:

Rand at the base of the tall tuliptree--



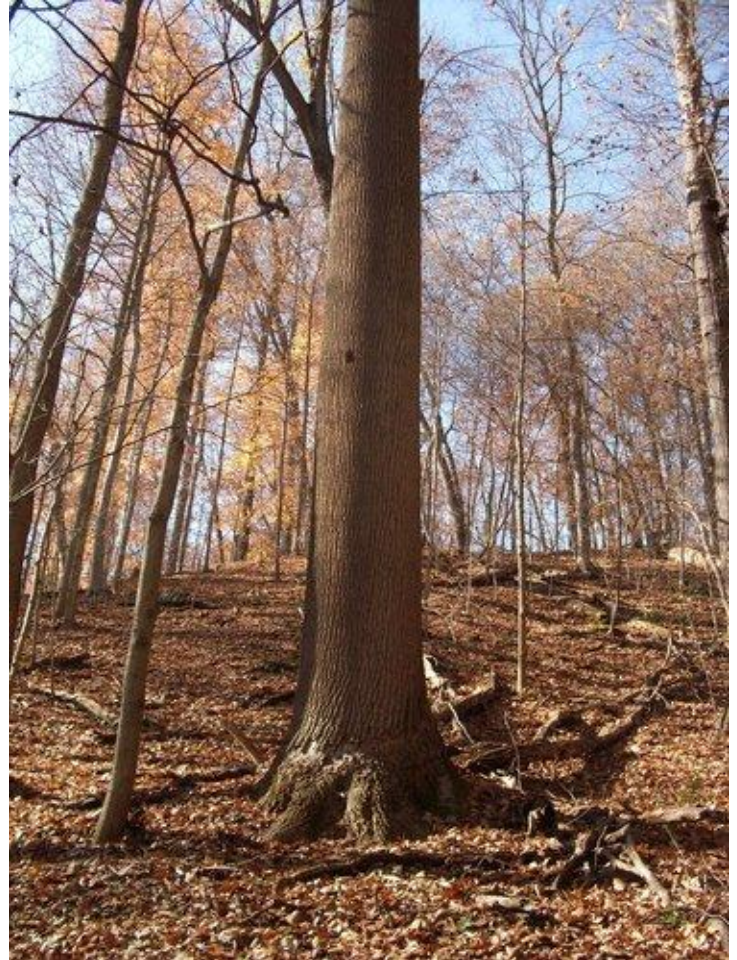
Rand with 119.9' x 11'8" scarlet oak--



Scarlet oak top--

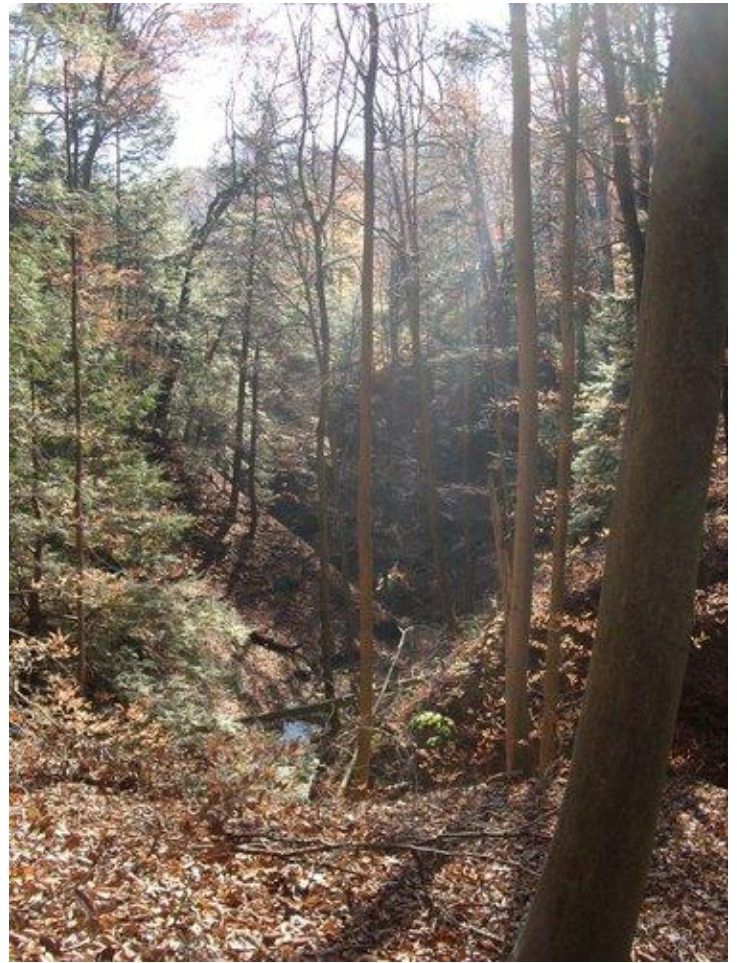


Another nice tuliptree, 161' x 13' 8". This tree looked young and vigorous despite its size, with a very straight and symmetrical bole, and was located at mid-slope on a south facing hillside instead of a ravine.





A typical hemlock ravine. The tallest hemlock we found was 125'.

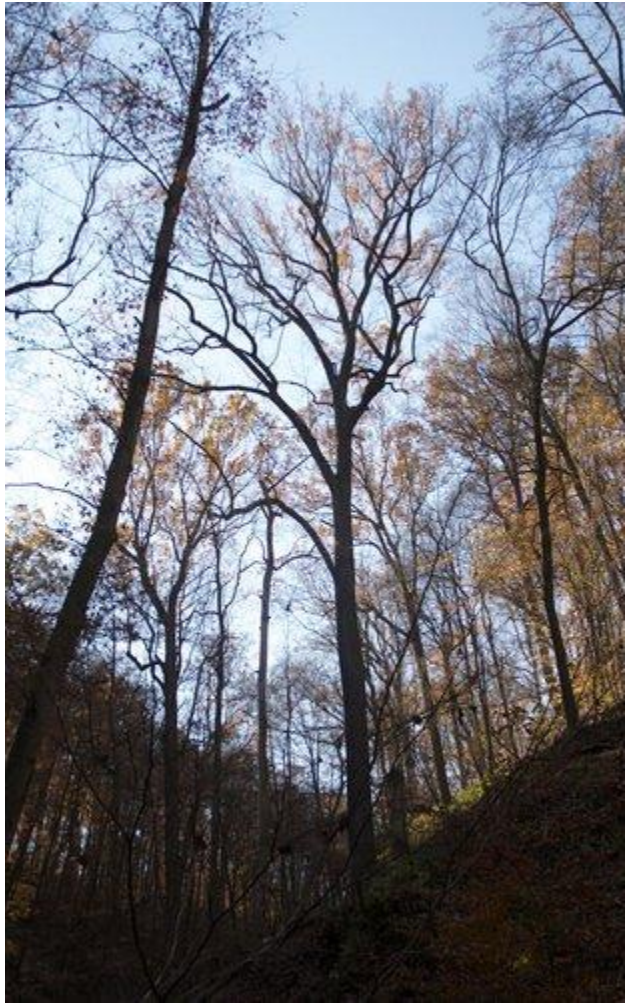


Steve Galehouse

Re: Northeast Ohio finds

by Rand » Tue Nov 08, 2011 9:59 pm

A few more pictures



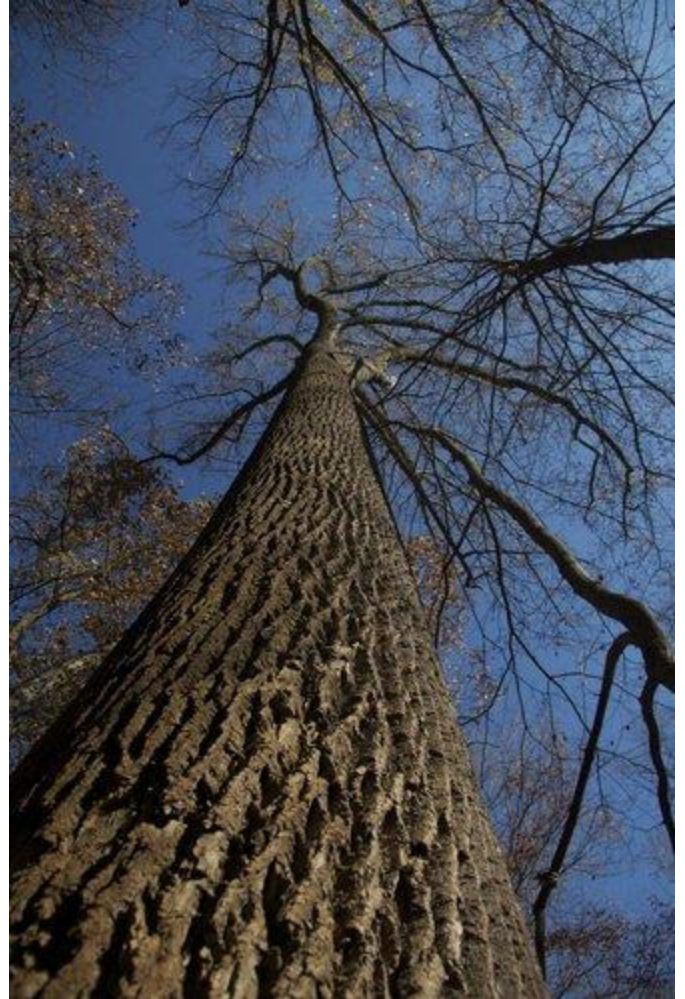
170' x 14' 8.5" Tulip Profile View



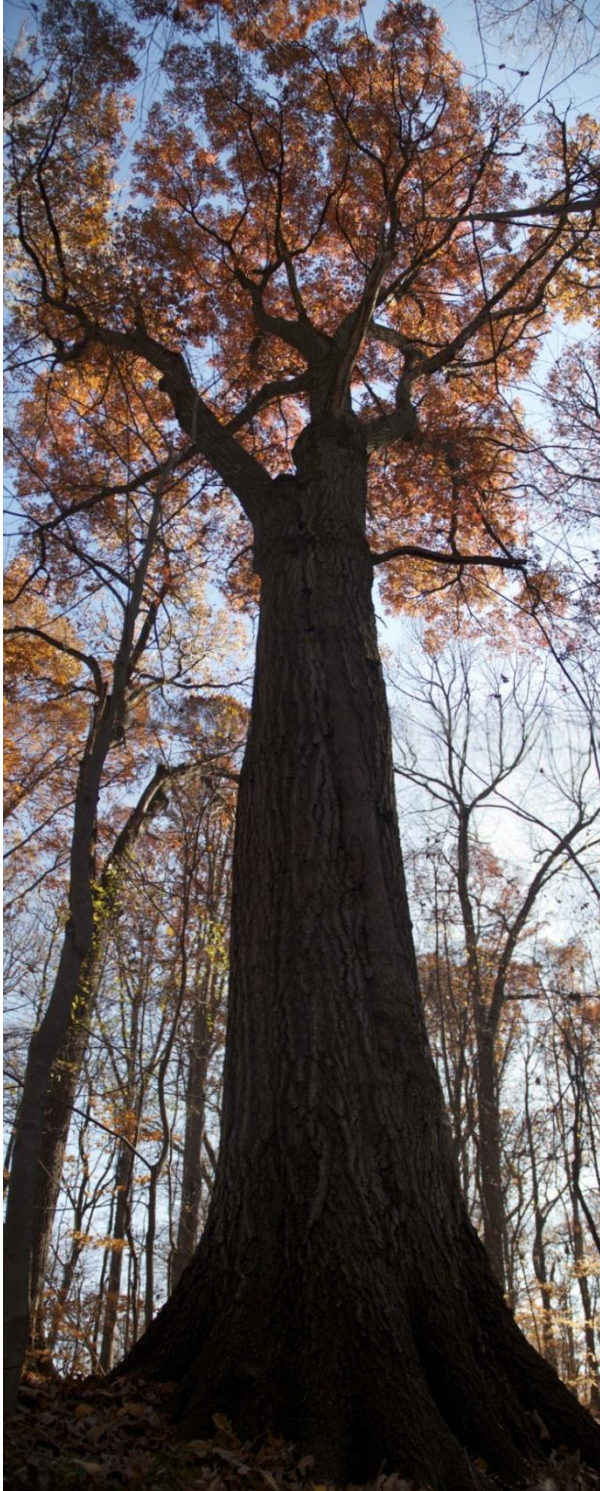
170' x 14' 8.5" Tulip Looking Up



161' x 13' 8" Tulip Tree (Steve's photos stitched)



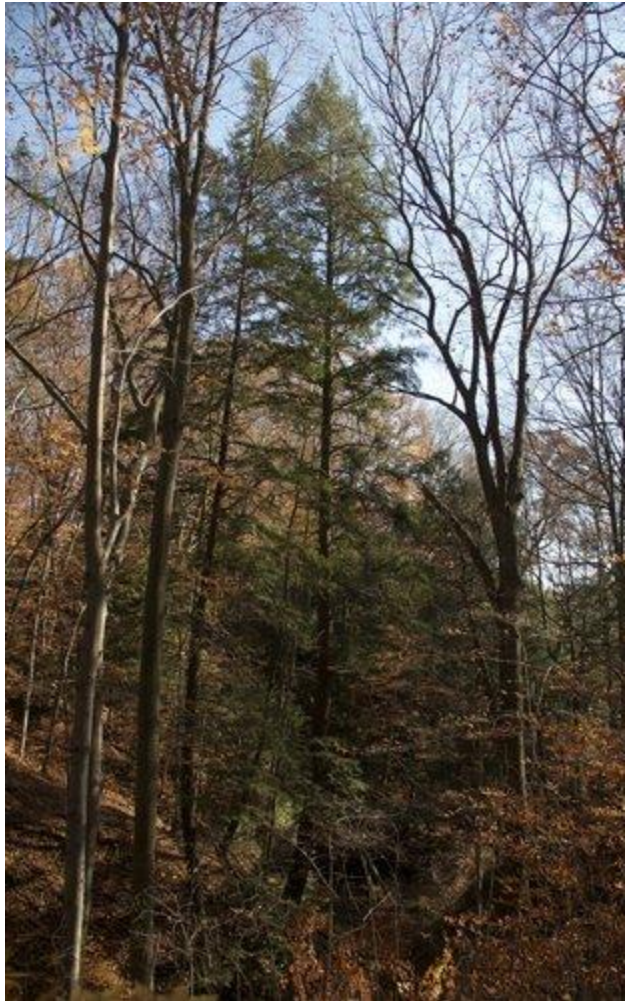
161' x 13' 8" Tulip Tree looking up



119.9' x 11'8" scarlet oak

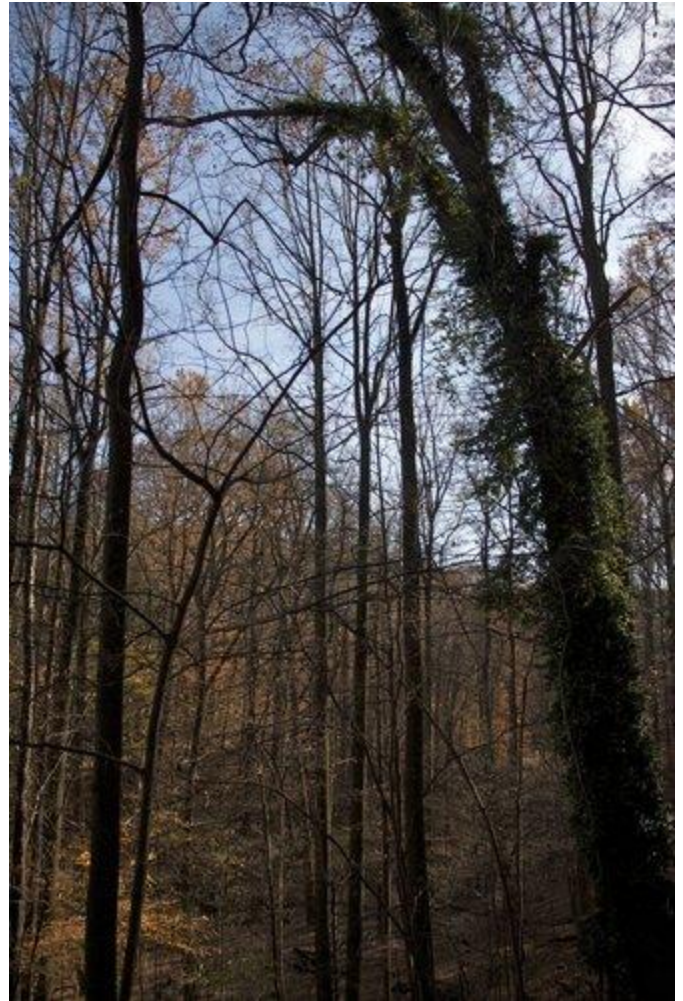


~ 120' x ~11' cbh beech



125' Hemlock

The 141' cottonwood* was located in the bottom of this shallow draw, just downhill from these two twin tulips:



150' x ~7' twin tulips

*As far as I know this is the tallest cottonwood in the state. The next tallest is ~136' in Davey Woods in West Central Ohio. There is also a grove of ~130' cottonwoods at the mouth of blackhand gorge just east of Newark Ohio.

Rand Brown

A new way of computing diameters

by dbhguru » Mon Nov 07, 2011 10:04 pm

One of our most important measuring challenges is trunk and limb modeling. Heretofore, serious modeling efforts have involved climbs. The recent ones have included the use of a sophisticated, labor intensive measuring protocol. Data from a climb are fed to a sophisticated computer model developed by Steve Sillet and BVP.

Ground-based methods are still being employed, but cannot match the Sillet-BVP modeling method. Still, ground measurements can be useful. The problem is that the ground-based methods are also labor intensive. Our standard method is to measure the apparent diameter of the trunk using a reticle device such as a Macroscope 25 or 45. However, visibility from the ground is often a problem. Macroscope optics are minimal and the parallax effect that occurs when the object fills most of the reticle is hard to eliminate. So, although, the reticle is useful, it is far from optimal. Enter Laser Technologies TruPulse 360. I'm embarrassed that it has taken me so long to exploit that instrument's full capabilities.

Over the last several days, I've been working on a modeling method using the TruPulse. I was initially not pleased with the performance of the built in compass to compute horizontal angles, but I now realize that wasn't re-calibrating the compass often enough. In addition, I wasn't using a tripod to hold the TP 360 still. When both steps are taken, the compass proves much more accurate than advertised.

The attachment shows the results of an experiment to measure diameter consisting of 32 trials. For each trial, I placed a marker on the trunk of a tree. At the level of the marker, I measured the apparent diameter using a sophisticated set of calipers. So, I got the width of the tree at the level of the marker that I would then be seeing from a distance. I set up my tripod and shot the distance to the marker using the TruPulse at the point of change-over to the next half foot. The TP 360 is accurate to about 1/10th of a foot at change-over. Next, I shot the azimuth of the left

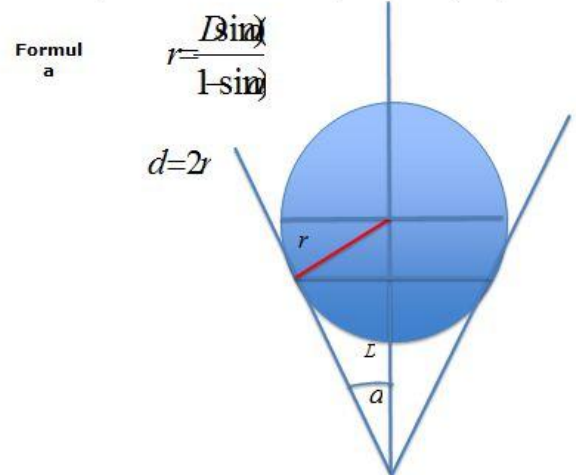
and right sides of the trunk at the level of the marker. The excellent optics of the 360 made seeing the sides of the tree far easier than looking through the Macroscope. I completed the process by using the routine in the attached spreadsheet to calculate the diameter at the point of the marker and compare the result to the measurement made with the calipers. The results speak for themselves. The average difference is 0.8 inches. I think a new day has dawned for ground-based modeling.

I have a lot more to do, but a big hurdle has been surmounted. I can see much better with the TruPulse, and with the one instrument, I can get distance to the center of the trunk and azimuth to the edges. All three measurements are easy to take. I can work up the trunk, using the VD mode of the TruPulse. I plan to do a complete trunk tomorrow, and will report the results.

 [DiamCalcTP360.xlsx](#)

Notes:

1. Measurements are in chronological order.
2. This method was developed because laser returns from the edges of a trunk using the ML routine are difficult to obtain because of visibility and the lack of a firm target.
3. The calipers used to measure diameter are high precision.
4. The diagram below illustrates the common measurement scenario. The measurer can't see the exact edges of the widest part of the trunk, i.e. the full diameter. Using the sine-based formula shown below, the measurer still captures the full diameter. The assumption of circularity is important.



5. For a flat surface, the formula for width is:

$$d = 2 * D \tan(\alpha/2)$$

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Eldorado National Forest in the The Sierra Nevada](#)

by M.W.Taylor » Tue Nov 08, 2011 3:54 pm

mdvaden wrote: Looking forward to getting the numbers on this. Heard from Michael that he went out to that neck of the woods.

Mario,

Why yes I did go out to that neck of the woods. My other exploring partner, Mike Hanuschick was there with me.

We quickly located the big ponderosa and sugar pine as per Don's directions. The ponderosa looked huge from a distance and it was huge, for a ponderosa pine. but unfortunately our tape-line results did not agree with Don's. For the big ponderosa we got 22' cbh, which equates to about 7' dbh and for the big sugar pine just down the road we got a little over 22' cbh. See pictures of Don's tree + a big sugar pine that really is over 10' dbh. Sugar pines of this size are extremely rare. I only know of a handful.

Don, here is what could have happened.

The tape-line you used is not a D-tape and/or the units are something other than centimeters. Are you certain the tape-line units are for centimeters ? I can think of no other way you could be off by almost 10' for the CBH on these trees...see pictures.

What is the origin of this tape-line ?

However, I am extremely happy you motivated me to get back out to Eldorado NF again before the big snow makes the area inaccessible. These pine trees were huge. In a nearby basin off the road a little ways we found some monster sugar pines and a real giant of a ponderosa that we dub the "Mondo Pondo". The "Mondo Pondo" is 8.35' dbh, 201' tall with a slow tapering trunk. I measured the trunk volume at 4,420 cubic feet using a Vortex-RT Solo relaskope. The crown spread is over 70' on this beauty. The next day Mike and I measured an even larger ponderosa that was about 4,650 cubes, 224' tall and 7.7' dbh. and we

found some really huge sugar pines. See additional updates for "Mondo Pundos" and "Monster Sugars" in the California site descriptions section on the ENTS blog.

Michael Taylor



Mike under the columnar trunk of "Tallos"



"Talos" is the Bronze Giant in Greek mythology. Dbh - 7.7ft. Height - 224'. Volume - 4,650 cubic feet



Mondo Pondo with crown over 70 feet across



Me under "Mondo Pondo" with bark plates the size of a man. Cbh is 26.25 feet



This is what a sugar pine should look like when over 10' dbh. Mike is 6'3" for scale and standing at about mid-point of trunk center



This ponderosa is the same one Don reported. Height 150' to a big broken top. Cbh is 22'. I am doing the smell test to make sure it's not a jeffrey pine



take note of tape-line results



Mike is 6'3" for scale

M. W. Taylor

Central Park Aftermath of Storm Video

by Jenny » Tue Nov 08, 2011 12:16 pm

Took this video 2 days after the October 29 storm. The Central Park Conservancy and Dept. of Parks had to bust their butts getting it cleaned up in time for the Marathon Sunday.



Most of the birds are feeding and hanging out on the fallen branches. And I know it's blurry, etc. Time for an upgrade in my video technology. I just don't know what that would be. Any suggestions? I just use imovie then upload it to Vimeo.

<http://vimeo.com/31764196>

Jenny Dudley

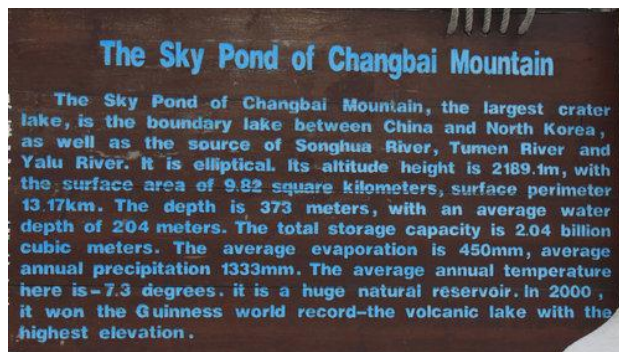
Manchuria, aka northeast China

by Neil » Fri Nov 04, 2011 7:18 am

Apologies for the lack of participation lately. This has been an especially busy period for me that coincided with a fortunate series of visits to other broad-leaved, temperate forests in Asia. It was such a dendro-trip! I was thinking of NTS often, especially those of you living in New England or, specifically, central Massachusetts. I took many pictures of what I saw in Manchuria (northeast China) and western Bhutan; too many. So, over the next few weeks, I will upload pictures of specific plants and landscapes that ought to mostly seem familiar to many NTS. Too bad China so effectively shuts down access to bulletin boards and blogs. There could be a great bridge formed between North American and Asian NTS.

My first stop was to northeast China, an area originally known as Manchuria. I had dreamed of making it to this part of the world after learning of the similar botanical elements and ecosystems. Pictures of Harbin's ice festival convinced me that this part of the world would feel like home (I'm from near the Adirondack Mtns).

I flew into Shenyang late one night and fairly early the next morning was driven 7 hrs to near the border with the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, aka North Korea. The weather held and I got a glimpse of the volcanic lake shared by China and North Korea on top of Changbai Shan.



The other side of the lake is the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

I was repeatedly told this was a rare sighting and I was lucky person; lucky indeed. We drove through a birch-dominated forest to make it to the mountaintop. We didn't get to hike in this forest, but it felt quite familiar.

We did get to hike at lower elevation in the 'Dell Forest'. Most nature preserves I've been in in China have trails that are boardwalked or paved. This was no different.



What really captured my attention, however, was the feel of the forest. I had gone hiking in the ADKs just two weeks earlier with my wife. We hiked through a spruce- birch-maple forest with some ash, larch and a witch-hobble understory in the ADKs. The Dell Forest? Larch, spruce, fir, ash [mountain and true], maple and a handful of other familiar genera like

Rhododendron. Below are some examples of the species we saw. The larch and the mountain ash fruit were in full color. It was lucky timing.



General Dell Forest interior scene



Abies nephrolepsis pole stem



Acer comarovii



largish *Acer ukurunduense* stem



Acer ukurunduense twig and buds



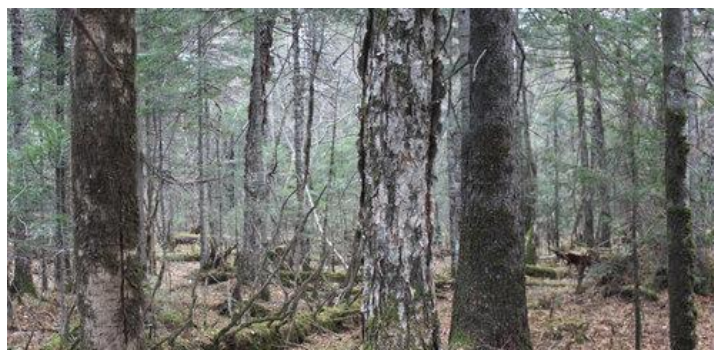
Alnus mandshurica and, a final landscape scene for today:



[Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China](#)

by Neil » Sat Nov 05, 2011 6:54 am

Dear NTS, Some more forest and botanical scenes from the Dell Forest on Changbai Shan.



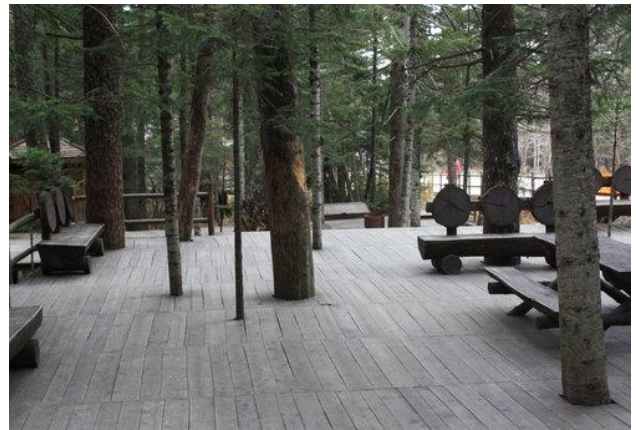
Starting off with another general forest scene - I'm unsure which birch this is, though I think it is likely *B. ermanii*. I'll have more birch in future posts.



Sorbus pohuashanensis



more *Sorbus*



Forested patio



I generally can get a bit fixated on something new. Here, on this trip, I was tripping over *Fraxinus manschurica*. You can see a lunker in this general scene lurking in back towards the right. BTW, if I haven't said it: most of the Dell Forest we hiked in was old-growth. It was a highlight of the trip.



Apparently, *Fraxinus mandschurica* is closely related to *Fraxinus nigra*. The general climatological setting was correct.



Even its architecture is similar to *Fraxinus* in the eastern US.



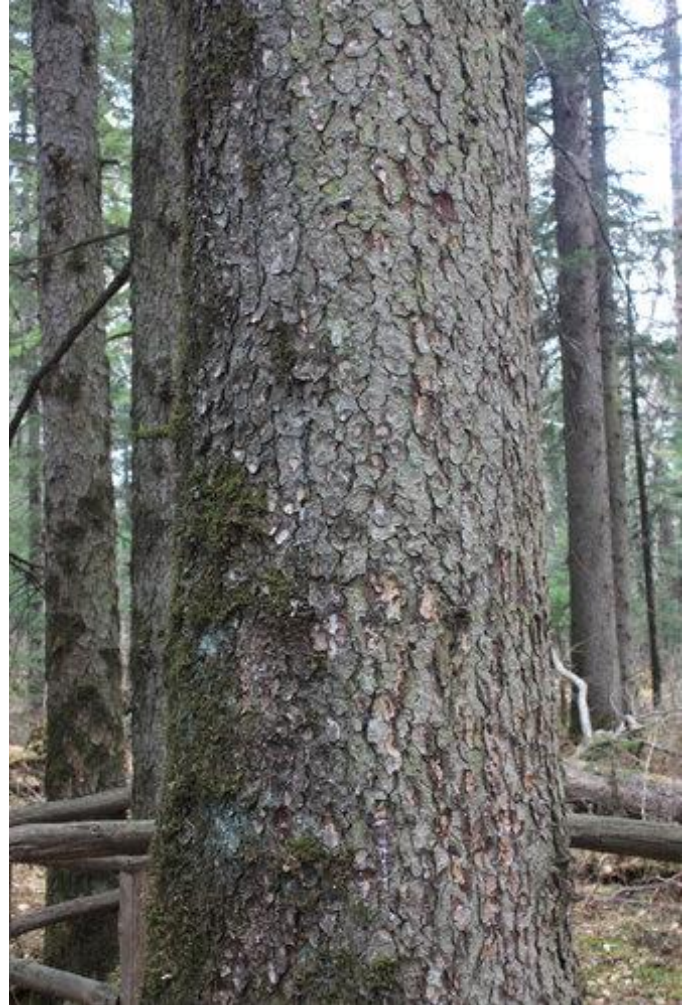
The biggest difference between Manchuria (NE China near North Korea) and the northeastern US is the dominance of *Larix*. Here is *Larix olgensis*.



MA or Manchuria?



Seriously? MA or Manchuria? *Pinus strobus* or *Pinus koraiensis*?



Picea jezonensis



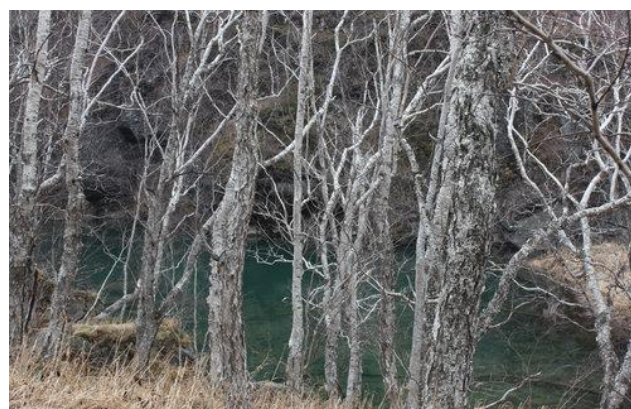
My host, Dr. Zhenju Chen, next to a large *Abies nephrolepis*

Tomorrow we'll move to a different forest on Changbai Shan.

Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China

by Neil » Sun Nov 06, 2011 8:07 am

hi again NTS, Continuing on with the other forests on Changbai Shan, but not in the Dell Forest.



this is a *Betula ermanii* forest [in front of a man-made pond...]. *B. ermanii* dominates the upper forests of Changbai Shan.



the boreal forest, with *Larix* in full color, of Changbai Shan