



not botany, only curiosity - corn and eggs cooked in the hot spring. the water temperature in the hot springs was said to be 60-82 degrees C



Rhododendron chrysanthum



the sapling is *Rhododendron dauricum*

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

by Neil » Mon Nov 07, 2011 8:15 am

Hi Chris - I didn't get a chance to meet many other people besides my host, our driver (Mr. Sun - more on him in a minute), scientists and managers at three institutes and Dr. Chen's students. So, I do not have a good feel for that. Having said that, the people I did meet are as tied to the forest as we are, as the NTS community is. They might approach it differently and use it differently [like, the way they consume forest frogs....], but there is no doubt the possibility of some Manchurian NTS. Mr. Sun is a great example.

He was our driver and was something akin to a technician at the institute hosting me. I'm not sure he

had his BS degree; my host jokingly said Mr. Sun was lazy. If he had a better command of English, I'd bet another word would be chosen. I saw Mr. Sun as someone so curious about everything that he likely has some troubles focusing in an academic background. This man was def a jack of all trades. We leaned on him to track down the scientific names of trees and plants. He must have taken 800 pictures during our 3-4 days in the field. He was focused, no...ok, pun intended, on getting pictures of leaves, buds, seeds, cones, etc. He climbed onto a roof to get pictures of some spruce cones and expressed to me the desire to get tree climbing equipment to get better canopy pictures. He was someone on whose team I'd love to be a teammate.

Of course, the big issue with China is their attempt to control its population. I had no access to the NY Times, FaceBook and any URL with the word 'blog' in it. Maybe this site would work? Interesting article in the Times to day on China and censorship: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/07/world/asia/murong-xuecun-pushes-censorship-limits-in-china.html?_r=1&hp - i have a cousin in China who has access to these banned internet sites. You have to pay extra for a 'very private network' to get there. Not many Chinese can afford this [economically and politically?].

I could see it happening someday, a Manchurian branch of NTS...some day, I hope.

Hi Kouta - yeah, the information about that part of the world is hard to get. I briefly tried to get more information on where I had been. It is a mess. There are long hikes available in the Changbai Shan preserve. We didn't have time to hike on the longer trails. But, opportunities exist. They are just hard to find in an easy way. I'd bet there are touring groups that might have these opportunities.

Neil Pederson

Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China

by Neil » Mon Nov 07, 2011 8:32 am

NTS - continuing on on the way to and at a research forest near Changbai Shan.



Betula costata in the foreground, Betula platyphilla in the background.



general scene in the Changbai Shan Forest Ecosystem Experiment Station experimental plot



flaky *Tilia amurensis* bark. Tilis made up an important component of this forest



smooth *Tilia* bark - apparently, i got pretty fascinated with *Tilia* here



Pinus koraiensis and *Quercus mongolica* forest - *Q. mongolica* can, at times, be a spitting image of *Q. montana*



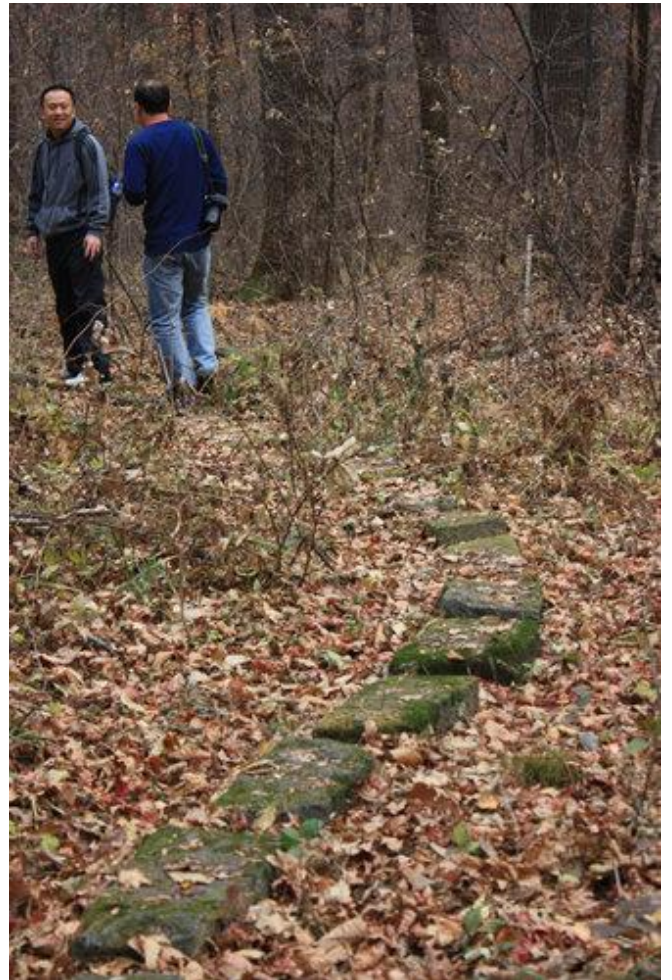
but, *Pinus koraiensis*' bark matures into *P. virginiana*, a bit, as is gets larger.



large *Quercus mongolica*



Pinus koraiensis seedling [EWP, no?]



apparently this forest gets so wet that researchers have put in stone paths to ease field research.

more botany from the Changbai Shan Natural History Museum tomorrow.



Neil Pederson

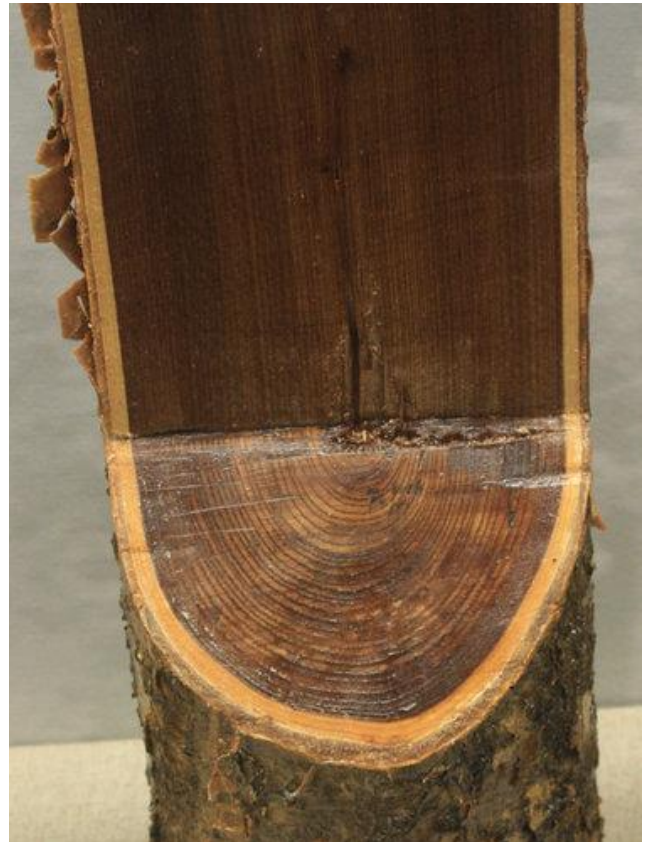
[Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China](#)

by Neil » Tue Nov 08, 2011 8:29 am

After some time in the forest, I was brought to the Changbai Shan Mountain Research Institute and the Natural History Museum [two different institutes]. Here are some botanical pictures from those visits.



I didn't see as much *Juglans manshurica* in the forest. So, here is a wood cut.



Here is a wood cut of *Maackii amurensis*



A press of Magnolia sieboldii



Phellodendron amurense - i did see many seedlings, saplings and poles of the Chinese cork tree



the inner bark is a stunning yellow-gold. and, it is said to be medicine, too.



more Phellodendrum cambium



to follow up on James' comment: these forest frogs were for sale in the gift shop of the museum. to be fair to the plant world, cones of Korean pine seeds were for sale, too.

Neil Pederson

Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China

by [Neil](#) » Wed Nov 23, 2011 8:19 am

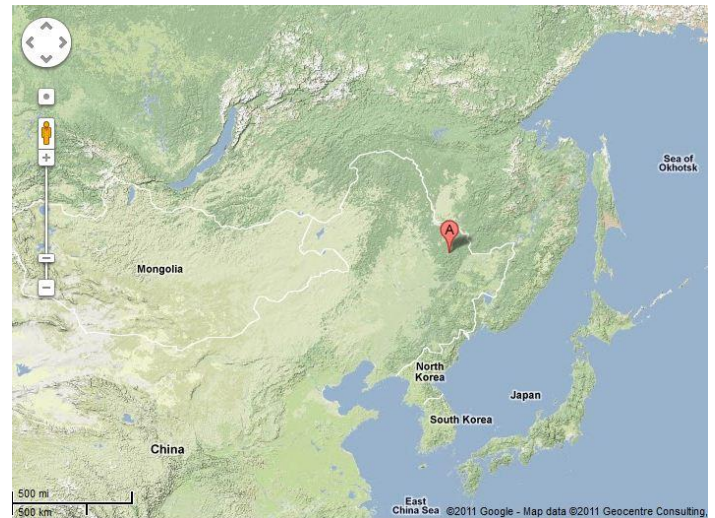
Dear NTS, Apologies for dropping off for a bit. My wife and I are in the midst of baby bliss. You all are gonna love his birthdate: 10:10 am on 11|11|11. Anyhow, wanted to post this; apologies if it is already posted.

A wild Amur tiger was caught on camera in the

Heilongjiang Province in the mountainous Wandashan area of the Amur-Heilong eco-region:

<http://goo.gl/6WsWq>

This region is a good bit further north than where I was last month. But, besides being good news for conservation, it drives home the point, for me, that this part of China - <http://goo.gl/uVBXp> - is truly hinterland.



Neil Pederson

South Mountains, NC Again!

by jamesrobertsmith » Sun Nov 06, 2011 9:00 pm

Holy Moley! I went bushwhacking in the South Mountains again today. Saw a GORGEOUS forest of big tulip trees and a stand of still-healthy Carolina hemlocks on the verge of a cliff face. (They can be saved.)

We found a grove of Carolina hemlocks growing and apparently (so far) unaffected by hwa. This grove could be saved. Carolina hemlocks are present in a line atop the cliff face just below the summit of Buzzard's Roost, the highest point in the South Mountains. I don't know if the trees have been treated, or if they just haven't been hit yet.





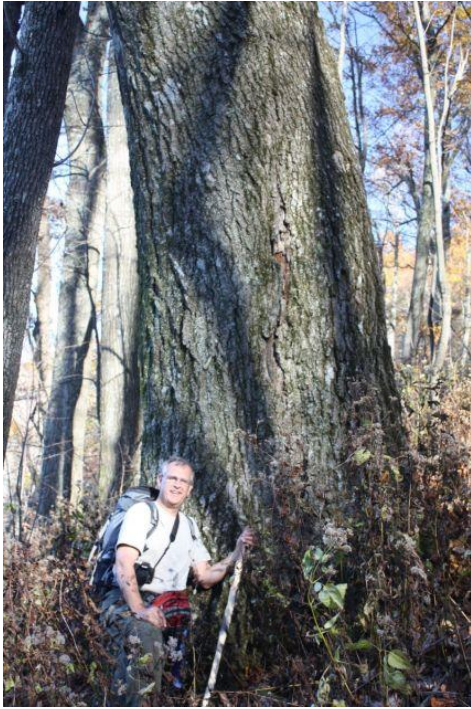
The view from the cliff atop Buzzard's Roost. In this photo I've marked the area in green that has the Carolina hemlocks. The area marked in red delineates what may be an old growth forest of poplars and oaks. Lots of big trees, whether they qualify as old growth, or not.



The very steep north-facing slopes of Buzzard's Roost is home to an impressive forest of hardwoods. This poplar is by no means exceptional in the area below the summit and above the drainage of Clear Creek. We saw a number of trees larger than this one, including some impressive oaks. The trees here grow stout and tall, but my suspicion is that they've been hit hard by ice storms and would otherwise be even larger with bigger crowns.



Here are a couple more shots of big trees on our way down from the summit.



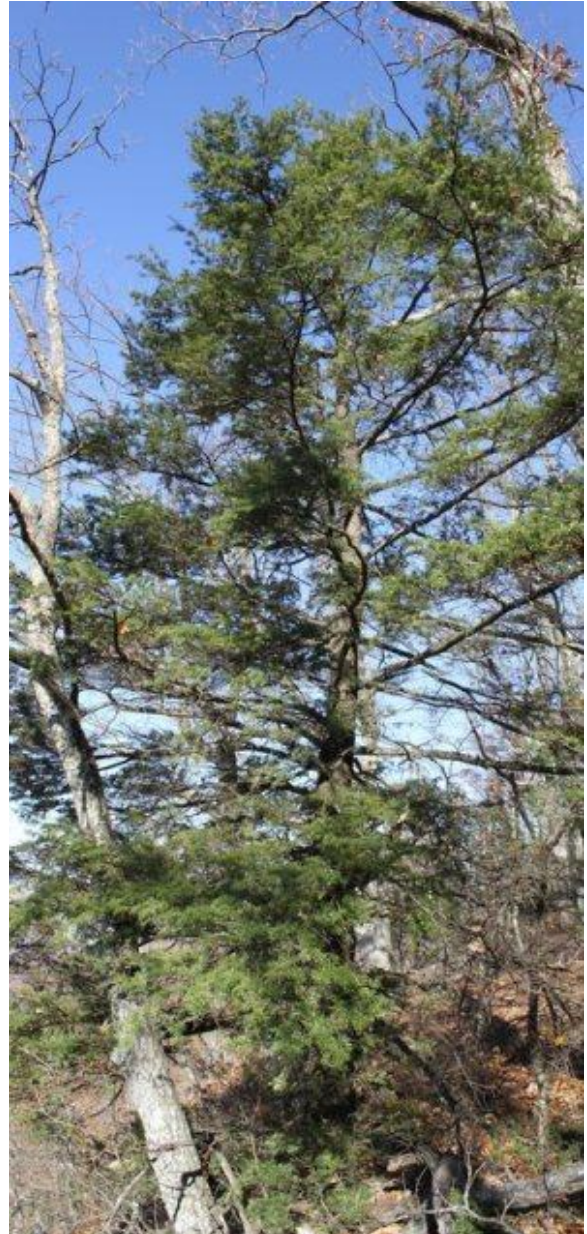
This is an oak. Not sure what species. We couldn't get a good look at the leaves--too high.



Another big poplar. Again, there were much stouter

poplars within sight. Frankly, I was too tired at this point to bushwhack the slopes to them. Getting down from Buzzard's Roost was exhausting. We were following the drainage and the terrain was brutal.

This is one of the hemlocks growing at the cliff. There's a bit of a grove there all along the top of the rock face. All appear healthy with no sign of hwa. I reckon I need to head back up there with lots of water and a sprayer.



James Robert Smith



get to the forest floor since the canopy has been partially denuded. And looks to be a historically ongoing process. Not something that happened recently as a unique situation.

We came down the drainage just to the north of Clear Creek. I could see bigger trees farther over but was too tired to go scope them out. Next time we're going to approach from a high road so that we don't have to make that 1700 foot climb from the lake.

For a look at the Clear Creek Section master plan, go to this website:

<http://www.ncparks.gov/About/plans/master/main.php>

We went up Stony Ridge to the top of Propst Mountain, over the saddle to Buzzard Roost, then down the drainage between Buzzard Roost and Hickory Knob.

Re: South Mountains Again!

by jamesrobertsmith » Tue Nov 15, 2011 5:09 pm

Park at the State Hospital Reservoir. Aka the Broughton Hospital Reservoir, aka Clear Creek Reservoir. All of that is now in state ownership and is part of the South Mountains State Park and will be the location of new campgrounds and cabins when the state actually has the budget freedom to construct such. For now there is a parking lot at the gate where you can pick up the trail and then bushwhack at your leisure. Lots of big poplars and oaks in the drainage as you gain elevation where the slopes are steepest.

One thing I noticed about the forests, especially on Propst Mountain, is that it looks as if the trees have all been stripped due to ice storms. The trees are alive, but bereft of very many limbs. Lots of undergrowth due to so much sunlight being able to

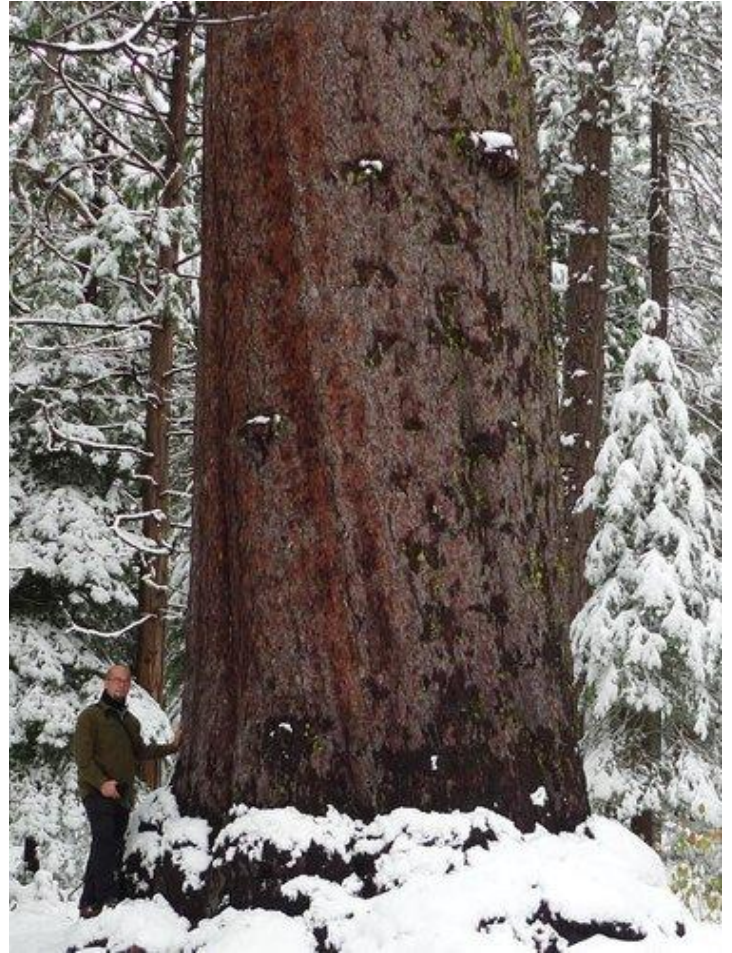
Monster Pines of the Central Sierra

by M.W.Taylor » Tue Nov 08, 2011 6:48 pm

Here are some big tree pictures mostly from my recent expeditions to Eldorado National Forest and Calaveras Big Trees State Park with Mike Hanuschick, the AFA assistant big trees coordinator for California.



shaft-like Eldorado NF sugar pine. 8.6' dbh, 215' tall, 5,250 cubic feet of trunk volume



GIANT Calaveras sugar pine



Enormous Crown of "Mondo Pondo" in Eldorado NF towering above its peers. Volume-4,420 cubic feet

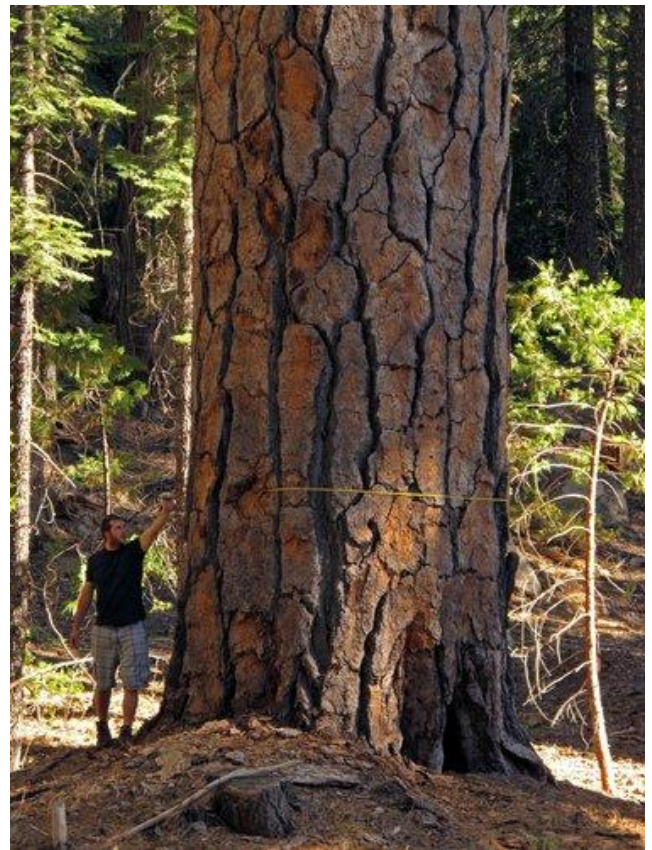


This Eldorado NF sugar pine is 8' thick and has virtually no taper. It reminds me of a parthanon column

Talos, the Bronze Giant. 224' tall, 7.7' dbh, 4,650 cubic feet of trunk volume



8.3' dbh Eldorado NF ponderosa with plates the size of a man. Volume is 4,420 cubic feet. Height 201'



ENORMOUS Eldorado NF ponderosa. 8.6' dbh. 7' thick at 50' off the ground. 235' tall. Trunk volume 5,400 cubic feet



big sugars and pondys often grow together



mini Bob VP underneath an 8.3' dbh Western white pine (*pinus monticola*)



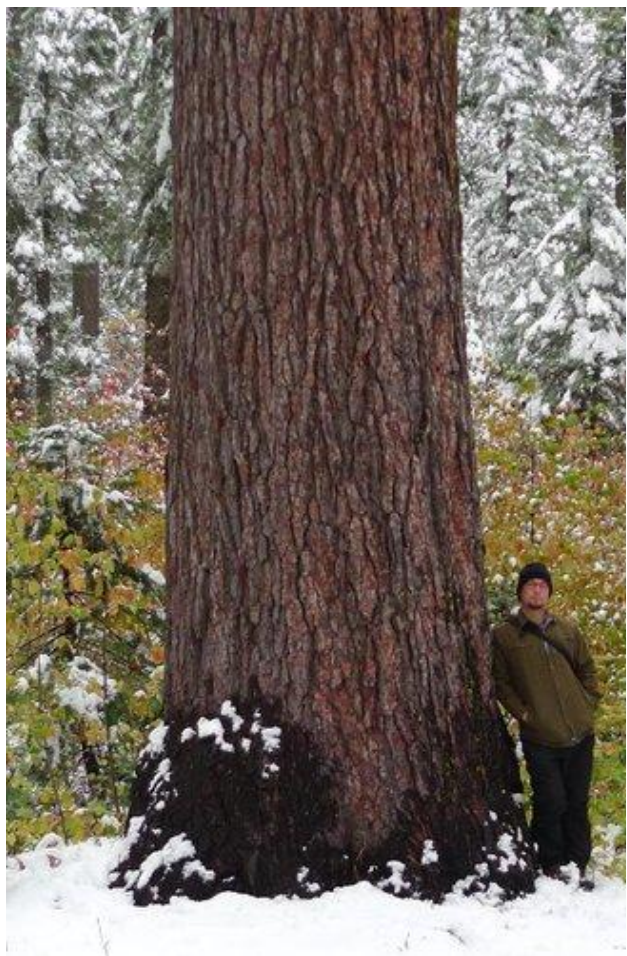
This beast sugar pine near Calaveras SP is still over 9 feet thick at 50 feet off the ground



9.1' dbh sugar pine in Calaveras SP



monster sugar well hidden amongst the dogwoods



This Sugar Pine In Calaveras SP may be the world's tallest. Preliminary height measurement 255'. Dbh is 7'.

Michael Taylor

Nature's Halloween Tricks, CT

by sam goodwin » Tue Nov 08, 2011 7:36 pm

On Sunday we went into Ct. to check on some trees. We checked the Pinchot Sycamore and it suffered some damage but it should not have much effect on it. The sycamores along route 202/10 in Simsbury only suffered minor damage.

Simbury Sycamore





The Dewey/Granby Oak

The Dewey/Granby oak suffered significant damage, about one third of the tree. The Land Trust will bring in a arborist who specializes in old trees to see if it can be saved. The trust has signs posted to stay away and do not remove any of the tree. We checked the Granby black oak off route 20 and it only lost one branch. I will try and down load some pictures.





Dewey/Granby Oak



Re: Manchuria, aka northeast China

by Neil » Wed Nov 09, 2011 8:30 am

Dear NTS, Moving into the Qing Yuan Secondary Broadleaf Research Forest.



a general scene from one of the older sections of this secondary forest



another, "it feels like home" scene



Acer palmatum leaves



Acer palmatum trunk



Acer trifolium



Fraxinus rhynchophylla



Malus baccata (sorry, leaves were off)



Pyrus ussuriensis (sorry, leaves were off)



Finally, for today - the internal investments that China is making are all over the place. From the 3 week old highway north of Shenyang to the new

forest research station they are constructing [the large building rising in the background]. The original station, the one level building in front of it, is only 8 years old. China is building!

Neil Pederson

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

by Neil » Thu Nov 10, 2011 7:22 am

A few more pictures from Qing Yuan Secondary Broadleaf Experimental Forest:



Quercus mongolica acorn and cap



Quercus mongolica bark with *Ulmus lacinata* in the background



Quercus mongolica leaf



Ulmus lacinata bark



Ulmus in full autumn glory



Weigela florida



Tilia, Abies, Betula are the prominent trees from L-R



they were conducting a gap study in the forest that they wanted to share. the really interesting thing was that the gaps were quite full with oak regeneration. i asked them if they had burned the forest as a part of this experiment. they said no. this image is one of the smaller gaps. the saplings with the orange'ish colored leaves are all oak.



the pond in front of the forest administrator's house.
this is where the trees are labeled, too.



lovely bridge work



Again, this trip wouldn't have been possible without support from Dr. Zhenju Chen (baseball cap on backwards). I am indebted to his hosting.

I'll likely take a break for a few days before moving to the Bhutan pictures.

Neil Pederson

Steve Galehouse wrote: Neil, Joe, NTS- Acer palmatum, Japanese maple, is a cultivated ornamental everywhere in the landscape in the East, Midwest, and Pacific Northwest, typically as cultivars such as Bloodgood, Crimson Queen, and Viridis. It seldom escapes cultivation, and I've never

seen naturalized, let alone invasive. It's safe, unlike Norway maple(or Norway spruce). Weigela florida is also a cultivated ornamental with many cultivars, but seems to not escape either. Malus baccata, Siberian crab, is in the lineage of many cultivated flowering crab varieties. Occasionally a flowering crab of Asian derivation is found as an escape, but not to the degree of being invasive.

Science Nation - Lord of the Tree Rings

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAOYkx8E-Gc>



Uploaded by VideosatNSF on Mar 31, 2011

David Stahle travels to ancient forests around the world, collecting tree rings to learn more about major climate and historical events dating back hundreds and thousands of years. With help from the National Science Foundation, he uses Dendrochronology, or tree-ring dating, to get a snapshot of climate change over time. Stahle can also determine things like the socioeconomic impact of droughts. In fact, in 1998, he made the front page of the New York Times with his discovery that drought could have contributed to the disappearance of colonists in Jamestown. He also found that 1587 was the driest year in 800 years. Stahle runs the Tree-ring Lab at the University of Arkansas and what he and fellow tree-ring researchers are learning is that a trend of global warming began in the 1800s and continues today, brought about by changes in tropical sea surface temperatures of no more than a few tenths of a degree Celsius. Today Stahle is working with hydrologists and government planners in California and throughout Mexico to plan for drought and climate change events.

Atlanta city Rucker Height Index - November 2011

by eliahd24 » Thu Nov 10, 2011 5:29 pm

Atlanta city limits Rucker 10 Index inches past **140'**

I just visited and remeasured the tallest White Oak in Atlanta yesterday and got a whopping 143.2' tall!

This was a tree Jess and Doug Riddle measured with me 2 years ago. It's a skyrocket of a tree nestled at the bottom of a hill touching the pond in Fernbank Forest (publicly accessible). With the growth (or apparent growth) of this tree, the Atlanta Rucker 10 is now 140.01- fractions of an inch over 140' I suppose!

Also this tree just surpassed Pignut Hickory as the 2nd tallest in the city. The Tulip reigns supreme at 22 feet taller than the White. I'm still amazed at the great forests in this (over) developed city!

Species	Height'
Liriodendron tulipifera	165.90
Quercus alba	143.20
Carya glabra	142.60
Pinus taeda	142.20
Liquidambar styraciflua	140.20
Quercus rubra	139.20
Quercus coccinea	133.10
Fraxinus americana	131.60
Pinus echinata	131.60
Tilia americana	130.50
Rucker Index	140.01

If any ENTS members are interested in visiting this tree or any other specimen trees in the area, feel free to contact me.

 [ATL Rucker10- 2011.pdf](#)

Eli Dickerson

The tallest linden of Europe

by Kouta Räsänen » Sat Nov 12, 2011 12:53 pm

Here a story about how poorly we still know the maximum heights European trees are capable to attain.

In Hartenstein, Saxony, Germany, there is an large old linden tree called Rotmühlenlinde. A book states it is 44 meters (144 ft) tall and the species is large-leaved linden (*Tilia platyphyllos*). It would be the tallest European linden with a wide marginal.

Last summer, I drove there to measure the tree. It was only 30 meters (98 ft) tall and not large-leaved but small-leaved linden (*T. cordata*). After the measurement I drove away through the town, and after the town center I saw from my car a tall-looking linden tree in a small deciduous forest patch. I had no time to make an extra stop, but in August, I returned Hartenstein and measured the latter tree with a friend of mine (Christoph Hase, in the photo). The tree is a double trunked large-leaved linden, and it turned to be **38.6 meters (127 ft) tall**, the tallest laser measured large-leaved linden with a marginal of 3.4 meters (11 ft), and **the tallest of any European linden** species with a marginal of 1.4 meters (4.6 ft). I have marked the highest point with an arrow in the photo below. The foliage in the foreground is of Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*).

The CBH of both trunks together is 5.27 m. There is a very narrow opening between the two trunks from the height of about 1 meter, and we managed to get my measuring tape between the trunks with great effort; the CBH of the taller trunk is 3.73 m. I measured the height with Nikon Laser 550A S.

Other poor measurements from the same book:

- *Tilia platyphyllos* 42 m - my measurement 28 m
- *T. platyphyllos* 42 m - my measurement 32 m



Both are really *T. platyphyllos*. The two species are easy to identify with leaves, but winter identification may be very difficult. Hybridization of the two species further complicates the identification. The hybrid, *T. x europaea*, is often planted and also occurs naturally. Some trees identified morphologically as *T. platyphyllos* are in reality hybrids.

There are two further native linden species in Europe: *T. tomentosa* in eastern Europe and *T. dasystyla* in Krym/Ukraine. Thus, *Tilia* is one of the few tree genera more diverse in Europe than in North America.



Kouta Räsänen

Re: huge sassafras tree, NC

by edfrank » Sat Nov 12, 2011 3:10 pm

Carol, Is this the sassafras you are talking about?

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/fieldtrips/north_carolina/maggie_valley_tanglewood_sassafr.htm



Photo of the locally famous Tanglewood sassafras in Maggie Valley, NC. I measured it at 16'4" cbh x 51' tall and it has bark like a western conifer. Definitely in the "freak-show" category since it is vastly larger than any other in the region. It has been brutally topped with mere sprouts composing the upper crown. Will Blozan, Aug 29, 2004.

Huge sassafras tree, NC

by carrolldixon » Sat Nov 12, 2011 12:06 pm

Hello,I'm from western North Carolina. There is a huge sassafras tree in Maggie Valley,NC that I would like to get on your list of big trees. My father said a man came from Asheville in the 1930's to measure this tree and said it was the largest sassafras tree in North Carolina at that time.He didn't remember if this man was from the forest service or from some college.I have never measured this tree but I drive by it most every day and it is at least 6' in dia. or more.

Carroll Dixon

This is the National Champion Sassafras in KY:



photo by Michael Davie

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1016/is_n5-6_v100/ai_15473433/

The ENTS method and Longwood Gardens

by pabigtrees » Fri Nov 11, 2011 10:49 pm

Hello all. I have been away. I hope everyone is well.

Ed has asked me to share my work at Longwood Gardens with ENTS.

I started at Longwood

<http://www.longwoodgardens.org> almost four years ago. I was asked to show the arborist team how to measure trees properly. After a short demonstration of the ENTS method, I asked if they needed help part

time, and I was hired on the spot.

They wanted to document every tree on the property. The process is :

locate and identify the tree. Most are already accessioned, having a tag with a number identifying them.

Using the ENTS method, measure the tree
Analyze the tree, inspecting for issues concerning maintenance, defects, previous work completed (lightning protection, cables, braces etc)

Photograph the tree

Enter all data collected into a spreadsheet format, and with photos, submit to the curator.

The curatorial dept. in turn enters the data into BGbase (an inventory system) BGmap (GPS locates the trees for mapping)

Plant Explorer (online database for the visitor to plan visits or view trees online) and finally the digital gallery (huge bank of photos for use in presentations, articles and the like)

The gardens proper, where the visitor can go contain just over 3500 trees. The perimeter areas are in process, but will be thousands more. Maybe I can get an award for measuring so many. I also look for champions of course, as is my original hobby. <http://www.pabigtrees.com> Longwood has 60 champions in the garden and about 30 so far in the perimeter. Many of these trees are odd species that you may never find anywhere else.

Recently I have been given a second task. I am to analyze the older trees (accessions beginning with "L") and select the best example per species so they can propagate them in our nursery for future replacements. I haven't begun to think about how I will select the "best" tree, but I will decide on that later.

Longwood has introduced signage and QR codes displaying the champions, along with tours self and guided. I also lead a bus tour once a year where we go look at big trees for 8 hours.

It has turned into quite the position, and will continue to grow.

I would like to plug my new book, Big trees of Pennsylvania 2011 edition for sale postage paid for \$15 through my website. Thank you to those who have already purchased a copy.

Please respond with questions or answers.

Scott Wade

[More KMD state forest, MA](#)

by johnofthetrees » Sat Nov 12, 2011 6:32 pm

I have taken several more trips to the Kenneth M Dubuque state forest in Hawley and adjoining land in the Savoy Mountain state forest in search of additional trees to complete a Rucker index for the site. Earlier trips to the coves at the lower elevations resulted in finding several groves of large pine trees, including one over 150' tall and at least 10 over 140' but few tall trees of other species. On my recent trips I visited the higher coves and benches and found richer groves of hardwoods and an exceptional pine grove.

I am looking at the site as lying in the Chickley river valley. The Chickley river is a major tributary of the Deerfield river, which it enters from the south at the town center of Charlemont. The Chickley river watershed, composed of the Chickley River and about 10 named tributaries, runs from Plainfield to the south, Savoy to the west, and most of West Hawley from the east, and covers about 60 km2.

Elevations for the Chickley river itself range from 200m near its outlet to about 420m where it is formed from the union of Tilton and Horsefords brooks. The surrounding terrain is mostly quite steep and rises on average about 200m above the river.

The high land levels off and was extensively cleared and inhabited in the 1800's. The area is mostly depopulated now, and more than half of the town of Hawley is state forest. The forest contains lots of pine and hemlock, as well as ash, maples, birches and red oak, with minor representation of basswood, cherry, beech, aspen and red spruce. Most of the forest is under 80 yo by my estimate, especially

where the slopes are not steep, but there are pockets and individual trees that are quite a bit older.

Here is my Rucker index list for the Chickley valley.

I included two trees, the red oak and the aspen, from my family property, which is at the northern end of the valley. The rest are on state forest land.

White Pine	153.7'h	14.62'c (double)
White Ash	132	7.34
Eastern Hemlock	120.5	7.49
American Basswood	115	7.58
American Beech	114.9	6.58
Red Oak	113.9	5.95
Sugar Maple	112.7	5.64
Red Maple	111.9	5.97
Black Cherry	109.2	?
Bigtooth Aspen	108.4	3.97
Rucker Index (10)	119.2	not too bad!

I also found an exceptional grove of pines on the top of a hill. There were several 140'-148' pines and 3 over 150' (151.7' x 9.27', 150.9' x 9.74', 150.4' x 8.22'), as well as another hemlock over 120'. The Chickley valley now has 5 pines over 150' tall! Here are some pictures of the site.

This is one of the new 150' pines



Here is the 115' beech. It is marked with paint, as it is on the boundary of the forest.



114.9' beech

Many of the trees are to be found alongside Mill brook, a tributary of the Chickley



pool on Mill brook

The road was washed out during the storm Irene



road becomes streambed

Not crossing this bridge any time soon!



bridge out

There are still new areas to look into, and it is a nice place for a walk, too.

John Eicholz

Yellow-cedar

by [Mighty Mo](#) » Fri Nov 11, 2011 8:27 pm

I,m a retired forester. I worked in research for both Weyerhaeuser Company and the US Forest Service. I have been retired for 20 years and during retirement I have been interested in locating and photographing yellow-cedar (also known as Alaska cedar) in southern BC, WA, OR, and northern CA. To date I have a little over 300 locations and over 1000 photographs of yellow-cedar. There are more locations I want to visit but time, money, and now that I am 81 years old physical energy, prevents me from visiting all the locations I would like. I have photos of ancient YC (trees 700 to > 1000 years old) at a number of locations in the Olympics and Cascades of WA. Some of the locations are readily accessible - others require a long trail hike. I am willing to take anyone out to see these trees. How about an expedition during late August or early September 2012? This time of year the bugs and snow are just about gone.

2010 - A Tale of Two Cedars PNW-GTR-828

ANCIENT YELLOW-CEDAR GROVES IN THE OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS, WASHINGTON by Marshall D. Murray

http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/olympia/silv/publications/No612_gtr828_Murray_OlympicYellowCedar.pdf

I have been a 'tree lover' since I was 12 years old!!

Marshall D. Murray
Centralia, WA

500 Exceptional Trees of Ukraine

by edfrank » Fri Nov 11, 2011 9:45 am

There was a flurry of posts regarding trees in the Ukraine today on Facebook. I have copied the information here for the rest of the NTS members to peruse. Edward Frank

Investing in National Parks for Our Heritage and Our Economy

by edfrank » Fri Nov 11, 2011 12:25 pm

Made in America

Investing in National Parks for Our Heritage and Our Economy

Made in America

Download Report

http://www.npca.org/park_policy/pdf/Made_In_America_Report.pdf

(PDF, 3.73 MB, 56 pages)

NPCA has just released a new report on the long-term impact of additional funding cuts on many of our most treasured national parks. I hope you will learn more about this important new report and also join us for a live chat about it on Facebook this coming Tuesday, November 15, at noon EST.

Made in America: Investing in National Parks for Our Heritage and Our Economy examines our most challenged national parks at a time when Washington policymakers seek to reduce our national debt.

For the second year in a row, America's national parks face the likely erosion of funding. This will mean fewer rangers to greet us, help us plan our visits, and respond to emergencies. It also means that parks won't be adequately maintained, resources will suffer damage, wildlife will be more vulnerable to poachers, and development threats may increase.

For example, in Everglades National Park, staff is needed to fight exotic wildlife like pythons, fish and the Nile monitor, which eat native species. Further cuts could worsen the situation.

And in Olympic National Park, funding for basic maintenance projects is in short supply and the park must rely heavily on entrance fees to repair trails, replace aging pit toilets, install new picnic tables, and install bear-proof food lockers.

Made in America shows that our national parks are critical to supporting the livelihood of businesses and communities across the country. In fact, they support \$13.3 billion in local, private-sector economic activity and 267,000 jobs annually.

Our national parks are economic engines, civic necessities, and sources of American pride and inspiration. During a time of economic hardship, we need to adequately fund the places that protect our American heritage and draw tourists from throughout the world.

http://www.npca.org/park_policy/made-in-america.html

Yellowstone, Gettysburg, the Statue of Liberty and the Flight 93 Memorial are among the many national parks that we, as Americans, own together. Keeping this magnificent collection of places well-managed and open to everyone costs less than 1/13th of one percent of the federal budget—quite a bargain for a park system that inspires visitors from around the world and produces nearly 270,000 private sector jobs across the country.

Yet for the second year in a row, America's national parks face an erosion of funding necessary to serve the public and protect park resources. And the overall appropriation for the National Park Service (NPS) is nearly \$400 million (or 13%) less than it was 10 years ago. Not only will this mean fewer rangers to greet us, help us plan our visits, and respond to emergencies, but it also means that parks won't be adequately maintained, resources will suffer damage, wildlife will be more vulnerable to poachers, and development threats will increase.

In FY 2011, funding for the National Park Service was reduced by nearly \$140 million, including an \$11.5 million reduction for operations. In tight budget times, it's reasonable for the National Park Service to operate frugally. But thrifty operation isn't enough to keep parks solvent: national parks today receive just 82 cents for every dollar they need to pay for the rangers who are fulfilling the experience of millions of annual visitors and protecting the parks' treasures. And threats are mounting: according to the recently-enacted Budget Control Act of 2011, if

Congress is unable to agree on a level of spending and revenue that reduces the budget, programs from defense to national parks will be subject to a budgetary sequester—which means national park budgets could be cut by as much as 9%.

As this report shows, cuts equal to or even half that amount would be disastrous for many national parks.

Re: North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove 11/13/2011

by tomhoward » Sun Nov 13, 2011 9:13 pm

NTS, On this beautiful cool sunny breezy day I had a glorious visit to the old growth North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove.

The oaks are past the peak of their autumn glory, but they are still magnificent. Many of the oaks are bare, and their incredibly gnarled limbs are easily visible. Leaves remaining on the oaks are mostly a radiant bronze. White Oak #32 still has a few purple leaves. I could hear the wind rustling the oak leaves, and birds singing in the distance. There are many young Black Gums in the grove, and in the still dry vernal pool are several Royal Fern clumps on hummocks. This grove has the best "Old Growth Air" (compliments to Joan Maloof for this term) I have experienced in this area. These densely packed old growth oaks do something to make the air more breathable, and the grove was at its best on a day like this, with a southerly breeze causing a spring-like smell of the Earth to mingle with the fresh fragrance of autumn oak leaves. The Red Maple at the east edge of the grove that was in full green leaf Oct. 30, is now bare.

I updated the dbh of the following oaks:

White Oak #10	38.9
White Oak #15	26.2
White Oak #23	31.4
White Oak #24	24.7
White Oak #33	38.5
White Oak #37	34.2
White Oak #38	42
Red Oak #26	31.1

Red Oak #35 26.5 (north of Black Gum 34)
Red Oak 23.2 (east of Black Gum #34)

Number of Big Oaks in North Syracuse Cemetery
Oak Grove as of 11/12/2011:

("Big Oak" defined as 20"+ dbh or 100+ ft. tall)

White Oak 16

Red Oak 16

Black Oak 1

That is a lot in less than 1.5 acres.

In the second growth forest to the north of the grove are about 9 White Pines. One of the White Pines, a small rough-barked tree, rises out of the base of a larger Red Maple. Near it is a 3-trunked White Pine, and near that Pine is a larger 2-trunked White Pine 103 ft. tall, according to the most recent height measurement. This double White Pine is festooned with large Poison Ivy vines.

Tom Howard

[Confusing red oak family tree ID](#)

by Andrew Joslin » Wed Jul 20, 2011 12:18 am

Need some help ID'ing this oak. It's in Franklin Park, Boston Massachusetts. For a couple of years I've thought it was a pin oak, above the lower trunk it has smooth almost slate gray bark that looks like pin oak. Recently I returned to it to photograph a wild honey bee hive up in the tree and did a double take, the leaves were not pin oak, looked more like red oak or perhaps scarlet oak. The overall form of the tree and bark texture/color looks wrong for red oak. Best guess is scarlet oak. Comments?

Note: it's possible this is an out of range southern species, some odd trees/exotics (for eastern Mass.) planted in this park including tuliptree, cucumber magnolia, sweetgum etc.

Base of the tree



Leaf detail upper crown



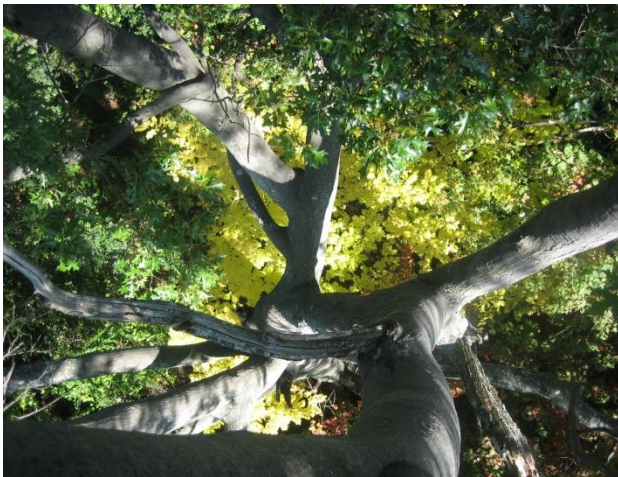
Very smooth bark major crown limbs



Looking up the trunk (photo 2008, red maple and amur cork leaves around the trunk)



Look at [larger version](#) to see leaf shapes (photo 2008)



Andrew Joslin

[Re: Confusing red oak family tree ID](#)

by TN_Tree_Man » Wed Jul 20, 2011 8:35 am

Either Pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) or Nuttall oak (*Q. nuttallii*). Any idea of fall leaf color (from previous visits)? If smoke colored--is pin oak, if red--is Nuttall oak.

These two species are very similar in their appearance.

Steve Springer

[Re: Confusing red oak family tree ID](#)

by DougBidlack » Sun Nov 13, 2011 5:26 pm

Andrew, I think there is a good chance your tree is scarlet oak. I kinda thought this when I first saw this post but I really wanted more evidence...and then I forgot about the subject until recently. The leaves do look funny and certainly not what most books will show regarding 'typical' leaves, but they are actually very common on scarlet oaks around here (southeastern MA). Here is a picture that I took of leaves that I picked up today in my backyard.



The center left leaves are more like what you'll see in most books. Some of those on the bottom are more like the ones in your picture. Here are a couple more pictures of leaves on really young trees.



Here is a picture of the bark of a scarlet oak on the edge of my property. It is a good bit smaller than yours but the bark looks similar.

Your pictures of leaves and bark look to be within the limits of the scarlet oaks that I've seen and I was just up in the JP area yesterday with my family and I noticed a bunch of scarlet oaks all over the place.

Have you been to this tree recently to check out the fall color?

Doug



[Re: Confusing red oak family tree ID](#)

by Steve Galehouse » Mon Nov 14, 2011 12:13am

Andrew, The trunk and bark look exactly like a pin oak to me, and not like a scarlet oak. The foliage is not typical for pin oak, and because of that I think it is likely a hybrid between pin oak and another red oak type, probably northern red oak or another red oak species native to the area. In that it looks like a good sized tree, I doubt it would be a southern introduction. Red oak species hybridize freely, and there are many individual trees that have intermediate characteristics and are hard to identify.

Steve Galehouse

New 150ft+ hardwood species for California ?

by M.W.Taylor » Mon Nov 14, 2011 2:05 pm

Zane Moore of the Santa Cruz has just reported a tanoak measuring 150.4 feet tall in the Santa Cruz area. The dbh of the tree is less than 2'. Site altitude 1500 feet. I hope to have independent height verification of this tree soon and the tall sycamore Zane found and I will post the results. Zane also reports finding a higher leader on the 152ft + sycamore I reported a few weeks ago. The height of the tree is now estimated at 155.4 ft above the average ground level.

Michael Taylor
WNTS VP
AFA Cal Big Trees Coordinator
<http://www.landmarktrees.net>

Obscure pop cultural reference to tree-rings

by edfrank » Mon Nov 14, 2011 10:55 pm

Some posts to the ITRDB Forum:

from David M. Lawrence:
Unfortunately, I wasn't paying that close attention to the television when I heard it, but Turner Classic Movies is playing (as I write) the 1942 movie "I Married a Witch" starring Frederic March and Veronica Lake.

In an early scene, a lightning bolt strikes a tree and releases the souls of two -- a father and daughter -- burned for witchcraft in the 17th century. The soul of the daughter (voiced by Veronica Lake) wonders why their corn field is no longer present. The father (voiced by Cecil Kellaway) says you have to expect a lot of changes in 2xx years. She asks him how he knows how much time has passed, and he says, "I counted the tree rings."

That's pretty good cultural awareness of a discipline really only a couple of decades old.

from April Chiriboga:

I've got two more to add: Alfred Hitchcock's movie, Vertigo. The character, Madeleine, points at a crossdated tree and says: "Here I was born, and here I died"

And there are two episodes of a TV series called Bones, a murder/mystery/procedural, which refer to dendrochronology. Sadly both demonstrate a serious misunderstanding of the science/ methods/biology. In the one episode they date how long ago a body was buried-no details are given as to how to do this other than the entire tree being cut down and reassembled in a lab. In the other episode they find the bullet hole from a gun used in a murder at a height of 12 feet off the ground. It is explained that when the murder occurred, the tree was shorter, and the bullet hole "grew up to that height". sigh. At least the classics get it right.

From Ryszard Kaczka:

Talking about pop culture reference to tree-rings, it is worth to mention next TV series: X-files. In one of the earlier seasons (season one, episode Darkness Falls) FBI agents investigated disappearance of loggers from primeval forest somewhere in West Coast. The nice thing is that they show increment borer, know how to count rings and even mention environment influence on tree growth.

Re: Obscure pop cultural reference to tree-rings

by Rand » Tue Nov 15, 2011 2:01 pm

CSI Las Vegas had an episode where a murder weapon got thrown up in a tree (a hammer or something), and got lodged in a fork. Something like 15 years later they came back, found the nearly engulfed object, cut it out and counted the rings to find out how long it had been there.

Rand Brown