



*Dr. Joan Maloof - Salisbury Colege, MD*

### **Lessons Learned In Old-Growth Forests**

Joan Maloof will be presenting an idea that developed during her visits to old-growth forests in every state east of the Mississippi River. She will be discussing her new book, "Among the Ancients," and her work on the Old-Growth Forest Network. The network will identify one forest in every county, nationwide, which will forever remain unlogged.

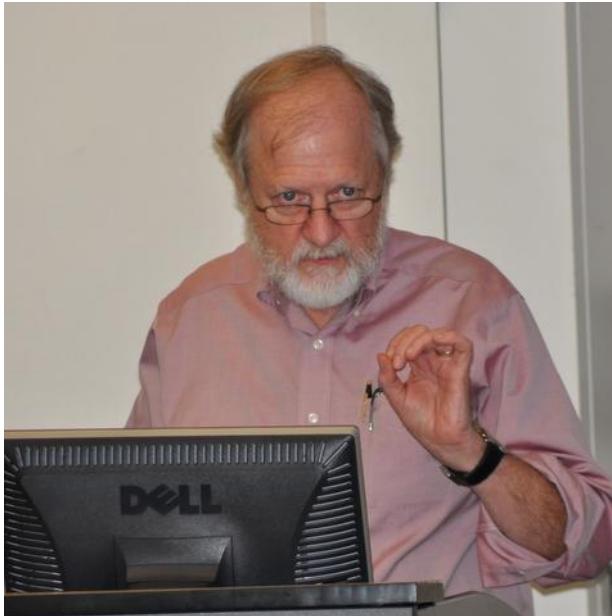
The author of "Among the Ancients: Adventures in the Eastern Old-Growth Forests" and "Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest," Maloof has a BS in Plant Science from the University of Delaware, an MS in Environmental Science from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, and a PhD in Ecology from the University of Maryland, College Park. She is the coordinator of Champion Tree research for Wicomico County, Maryland, where she lives. Maloof recently retired from teaching Biology and Environmental Studies at Salisbury University to work full time on developing the Old Growth Forest Network. Her books will be available for sale at the conference.



*Elizabeth Perry - Wampanoag Nation (file photo)*

### **Pre-contact and Colonial period views, management techniques, and material culture of Native Americans in Massachusetts**

Native American artist and researcher Elizabeth James-Perry will focus her discussion on pre-contact and Colonial period views, management techniques, and material culture involving trees in Massachusetts, the traditional homeland of the Wampanoag, Nipmuc, Pocumtuc and Mahican Native people.



*Dr. Doug Seale – Environmental Ethics,  
Framingham State University, MA*

### **Valuing the Environment in America: A Historical Perspective**

This presentation focuses on the history of evolving attitudes and environmental values in America. Thoreau, Emerson, John Muir, T. R. Roosevelt, Aldo Leopold, L. H. Bailey, and Rachel Carson, among others, are included. All have contributed greatly to our current understanding of environmental and ecological values and of man's place in nature.

Doug Seale is an independent researcher in environmental ethics, environmental philosophy, and the history of environmental ideas, which are his areas of special interest. He holds a Ph.D. in philosophy and teaches Environmental Ethics and other courses at Framingham State University. He is a review advisor for, and frequent contributor of book reviews to, the Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics. He is a former Board Member of the Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, and currently serves as Vice-Chair on the Board of Supervisors for the Middlesex Conservation District



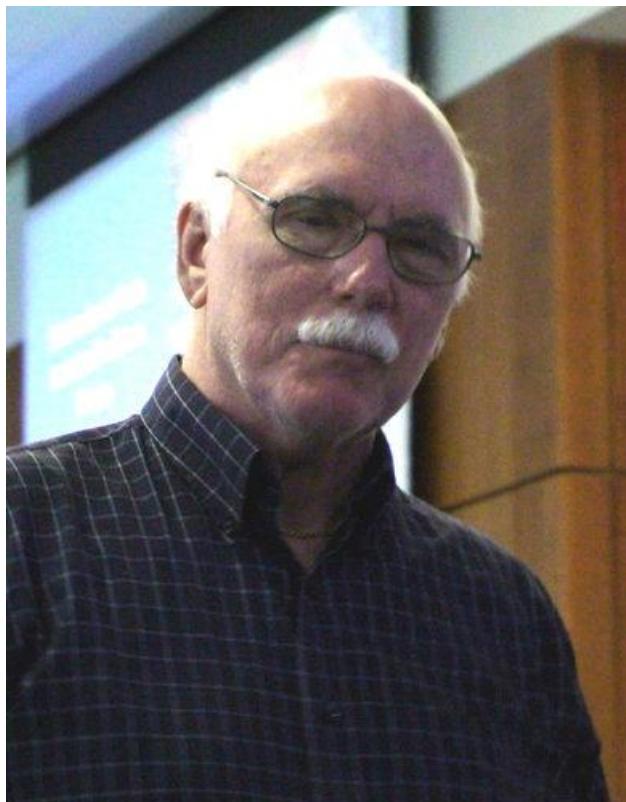
*Dr. Pat Swain - Natural Community Ecologist,  
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program  
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife*

### **NHESP Priority and Exemplary Forested Natural Communities in Massachusetts**

The types of forest communities found in Massachusetts and their role in biodiversity conservation is the main focus of the talk at the Forest Summit. Old Growth occurrences of any type of forest community are considered to be exemplary and are tracked by NHESP. In Massachusetts, some forested natural community types are generally uncommon, others are approaching the northern edge of their range here, and a few other types here are near the southern limit of their distributions - and some others are widespread. Using forest types as examples, the talk will cover what natural communities are and how they are classified, and why their identification is an important tool for conservation.

Natural community ecologist at NHESP since 1987, Pat Swain works statewide identifying and describing Massachusetts' rarest and most imperiled natural community types and exemplary examples of common natural community types. She is revising a classification of the natural communities of Massachusetts. Using the classification, NHESP tracks of examples of the Priority and Exemplary

natural communities. Natural communities are an integral part of the NHESP effort to protect the biodiversity of Massachusetts through conservation planning, land protection, and public education.



Dr. Steve Tilley - Professor Emeritus, Department of Biology, Smith College

**Salamanders in North American Deciduous Forests**

(No Description)



Micheal Wojtech, Writer, Naturalist, Photographer, and Illustrator

**Bark: Get to Know Your Trees**

In New England trees are a primary part of the landscape, and are accessible to people of all ages in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Knowledge of trees—both their species identities and how they interact with their environment—provides an entryway that helps people connect with their local landscape. And it is often from these local connections that broader knowledge, questions, and concerns arise. The traits most often used to describe tree species—leaves, buds, and twigs—are often not clearly visible or, in the case of leaves, absent more than half the year. Bark is always visible, in any season. But bark is typically considered too complex to distinguish for all but the most practiced observers of trees. I will present a system for identifying the multiple stages of bark appearance for each species, which is detailed in my book, *Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast*, that is accessible to people at all levels of experience. I will also discuss some of the environmental cues that have influenced the evolution of bark's diverse characteristics.

As a naturalist, writer, photographer, and illustrator, Michael Wojtech strives to share the science and beauty of natural history in an accessible and compelling fashion. He began his ongoing study of tree physiology and ecology at Antioch University New England, where he earned his Master's Degree

in Conservation Biology. Michael's recently published book, Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast, will be available at the Forest Summit. More about his work can be found at <http://www.knowyourtrees.com>.



*Prof. Gary A. Beluzo - Professor of Environmental Science at Holyoke Community College*

### **Forests Designed by Nature Versus Managed Woodlands**

Professor of Environmental Science at Holyoke Community College. M.S. Global Ecology (Botany) UMASS Amherst. He was the Department Chair 1984-1998. Although Gary's earlier interest was limnology, he entered a partnership with Bob Leverett in the fall of 1998 to inventory, characterize, and map (GPS/GIS) the old growth forests of Massachusetts with a special permit from the MASS DCR and now also the Great Smoky Mountains (TN/NC). Through an NSF Grant in 1996, Professor Beluzo created an Environmental GIS laboratory at HCC and is now developing an extensive geo-database of old growth forests and champion trees for Massachusetts . Professor Beluzo is also the on campus architect of the HCC Forest Summit Lecture Series and Eastern Native Tree Society Rendezvous. This event brings together scientists, foresters, environmentalists, and the public to discuss current

Eastern U.S. Forest Issues. Gary Beluzo is one of two individuals responsible for the old growth inventory, mapping, and documentation for DCR in Massachusetts. Robert Leverett is the other.



*Elizabeth Perry and Robert Leverett*



*Dr. Pat Swain*

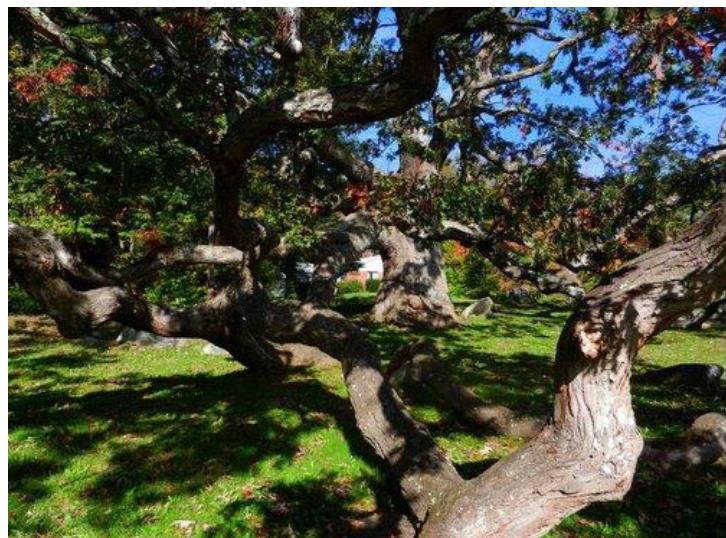
## **Re: The 7th Annual Forest Summit**

by dbhguru » Tue Oct 18, 2011 10:19 am

NTS, The 7th conference in the Forest Summit Lecture Series and associated ENTS rendezvous enters the annals of ENTS history. The event was a notable success by any reasonable criterion. The lectures were stellar because the lecturers were stellar. The visit to MTSF was good as always, and the evening of music, prose, and poetry outstanding, simply outstanding. It was a group effort by people committed to science, the arts, and aesthetics as expressed in and through the trees. My heart felt thanks to all. And now to the details. I'll present them in a series of posts with each submission covering one day's events. This first will cover Oct 11th.

Events of October 11th

I picked Will Blozan up at the Hartford-Springfield airport on Oct 11th. The day was sunny and warm, ideal for tree hunting. At around 9:40AM, we left the airport and headed west to see how the Granby Oak was doing. On arriving at that wonderful tree, we found it beautiful as ever - except for a nasty wound on a limb overhanging the road, which Will noticed later. The top of a truck had run into it. As a consequence, the limb is cracked and there is a gaping wound. I'll leave it to Will to describe what we saw. But on the brighter side, here are four images of the oak as we saw it that morning. Please remember to click on each image to expand it. Full screen images of the Granby Oak have much more impact.





Notice Will in image #4 looking fit as a fiddle even after having gotten up at 4:00AM to catch his flight.

After leaving the Granby Oak, we headed west toward Great Barrington on State Route 57. It is a woodsy route, but we saw nothing overpowering, so I kept the pedal to the metal. After a lunch at Friendly's with questionable service, we meandered around the countryside, eventually ending up at South Mountain State Forest south of Pittsfield. I was going to drive us to the Audubon sanctuary at Lenox, but South Mountain was calling out to be visited. I had been to the property several times before, but always on business with DCR and hadn't had time to do much serious tree measuring on any of those visits. I knew there were some fairly tall ash trees and large diameter N. red oaks within easy walking distance. I had gotten 126 feet out of one ash tree close to a woods road. But there had to be something taller farther into the forest.

The land in the surrounding region got a lot of past use. There is no old growth, but individual trees and clusters along a ridge side present a stately appearance. In fact, as seen from Route 7, the N. red oaks, white ashes, and sugar maples make quite a visual impact, contrasting with the younger trees that one typically sees on private land.

We drove to the South Mountain headquarters and parked. As we suited up, unfortunately, I left my camera in the car so I must leave it to Will to post all the images of what we saw. Will, at least, had his head screwed on. Once in the woods, we measured some fine trees. Here is the list as I recorded our catch of

the day.

Species	Height	Girth
NRO	107.5	13.0
WA	131.6	9.0 est.
WA	130.5	
SM	120.3	
WA	127.6	
SM	112.7	
SM	121.9	
WA	125.0	
NRO	117.9	

We shot lots of other trees, but nothing stood out. As you can see by the numbers, the forest is impressive, but not overpowering. Nevertheless, it represents one more Massachusetts site with ash trees reaching to 130 feet. I'll return and add more measurements to the list. I admit having a fondness for the South Mountain site. It is where we established the 9th Forest Reserve that protects Mohawk Trail and Monroe State Forests.

Leaving South Mountain, we headed north back through Pittsfield and then east across State Route 9, the route that joins Pittsfield and Northampton. We stopped briefly at the Creamery at the intersection of Route 112 South and Route 9 to measure some tall looking white pines that Will spotted near the road. Just a mile away are the fabulous Bryant pines, but as for the trees along Route 9, well, I routinely pass them. I've never paid much attention to the roadside pines. However, Will's eagle eye never lets him down. After slogging across wet ground to a higher perch, we confirmed 137, 138, and 139 feet for the three tallest pines. They are still relatively young trees with plenty of growing left to do. They also illustrate the potential for the Route 9 corridor to produce many noteworthy pines in the next 10 to 15 years.

Once back in Florence, MA, we relaxed at the house. We set Will up in the basement. He usually has it pretty much to himself. Looking back, it was a propitious beginning to a wonderful six days. Later Ed Coyle rolled in preparation for the Oct 12th climb and modeling of Tecumseh. I prepared dinner for the group.

On the 12th, weather permitting, we planned be at the great tree all day. The climbing team would be Will, Ed, and Bart Bouricius. Tim Zelazo and I would provide ground support. In the late afternoon of the 12th, Fred Pialett and Joan Maloof would be arriving at the house, but Ed would have to return to NYC after the climb. He works for NYC and couldn't take more time off. Monica would prepare dinner for the group.

In the evening, Will and Bart coordinated by telephone on the equipment each would provide the following day. Will had established a list of items to be supplied by each member of the team, and he controls the climbing protocol. It is the one established by Steve Sillett and Bob Van pelt. So, we were all set for the climb with an iffy forecast. We went to bed keeping our fingers crossed.

Robert T. Leverett

## **Re: The 7th Annual Forest Summit**

by dbhguru » Tue Oct 18, 2011 8:15 pm

Events of Oct 12th

Will, Bart, Ed, and I got an early start on Oct 12th. A breakfast at the Charlemont Inn fueled our engines and from there we drove to Zoar Gap to meet Tim Zelazo. We made our way to the Elders Grove carrying the climbing equipment. Once at Tecumseh's base, Will, Bart, and Ed proceeded to rig the tree for climbing. I did whatever tasks they requested, but basically it was their show. The Images of the crew getting ready to go aloft and then climbing up the stout trunk follow.





The weather cooperated and the team collected data on 47 limb structures and the trunk. Will will feed the data to the model to calculate volume. We'll hear from him in a few weeks. BTW, this was Will's 3rd climb of Tecumseh and Bart's second.

While the team was in Tecumseh and Tim was busily photographing them, I moved around the area

re-measuring several of the Elders pines and measuring a few hardwoods for the first time. I keep close tabs on the grove and what is happening to the crowns. Re-measuring also allows me to constantly gauge the difficulty of measuring tall pines in a closed canopy grove. It works to sharpen both my measuring and teaching skills.

Most of the results of the climb must await Will's report. One result that doesn't have to wait is the height. Before Will started up the pine, I said that I expected the tape drop height to be around 165 feet or about a foot less than the number I typically report. I use a lower mid-slope position for reasons I won't discuss here. Anyway, the tape drop height of Tecumseh turned out to be exactly 165 feet. It was an immensely satisfying result because it reinforces how well we can measure these trees from the ground even when there is clutter, nested tops, and a limited time period when visibility is optimal.

Much of my time was spent with the hardwoods in the Elders grove. Species of interest include red maple, white ash, sugar maple, N. red oak, and black birch. Nothing is overpowering. Most of the hardwoods are between 95 and 115 feet in height and 5 to 9 feet in girth. One red maple makes 125 (formerly 128). A white ash at the edge of the grove makes 129.5, but these two trees are exceptional. The average hardwood is around 110 feet if not slightly less. The area was an old sheep pasture in the mid-1800s and the forest floor has not recovered enough to support taller hardwoods. However, the pines love the site.

While the others were occupied, I re-measured Saheda from a location that affords a good view of the crown this time of year. I'll relate the measurement when I cover Oct 15th when Will, Don Bragg, and I all three measured Saheda. We hit the road just prior to the beginning of the rain, getting home around 5:30PM. Fred Pialett, Lee Frelich, and Joan Maloof were there waiting. Lee slept in Monica's music room, Fred in the living room, Joan in the guest bedroom, and Will in the basement. It worked out fine. What a great group! The next report will cover day #1 of the conference.

Robert T. Leverett

## **Re: The 7th Annual Forest Summit**

by dbhguru » Wed Oct 19, 2011 9:51 am

### **Events of Oct 13th and Oct 14th**

The conference covered two days from 8:30AM to 6:00PM. The first day of lectures began with Dr. Fred Pialett's outstanding presentation on the American chestnut. The second day started with Lee's equally outstanding lecture on climate change and its projected effects on vegetation. I will not attempt to summarize the lectures here. Future posts will cover specific information that will be of interest to NTS members. I will simply say that the presentations were all outstanding and greatly appreciated by attendees. The conference was a success and our new location of the Kittredge Center is an improvement over the larger less intimate, dark forum.

As with prior conferences, the Mass DCR was a full partner. Director of Forest Stewardship Peter Church made a presentation on DCR's response to the tornado and hurricane damage of the past summer. We also had a presentation by Sharl Heller of the Friends Network. I'll be addressing that network on Saturday to discuss how we can improve the DCR interpretive services program on a shoestring budget.

This seventh conference in the series reinforced how wonderfully giving the scientific and environmental community is in the realm of student education. All participants exhibit a sense of mission and are willing to share what they know to the benefit of the students and general public. They do this year after year. We are so grateful.

For this event, we were privileged to have our own Dr. Don Bragg come all the way from Arkansas to be part of the events. Don made the DCR attendees such as foresters from Fish and Wildlife feel especially welcome. I felt good about that. We ask DCR to participate with us and it is only appropriate that we not only recognize what they do well, but have some presentations of special interest to them.

Another special treat for us was to have Dr. Joan

Maloof present on the Old-Growth Forest Network that she is creating. Massachusetts will be well represented in the network. Joan will be a full-fledged participant in all future conferences. We dedicated a tree to her on Oct 16th. I'll cover that event separately under events of the 16th .

Each presentation at these conferences enriches attendees. We receive excellent reviews. I don't know how many more years we'll hold the conferences, but I'd like to do at least a couple more. I hope we can make next year the conference of the decade. It would be fabulous if we could get some of our West Coast members to join us and present. Also Larry Tucei, Steve Galehouse, Rand Brown, Eli Dickerson, George Fieo, and other standout Ents are needed. We need to see big Ed's return as well as Dale Luthringer. At this point I'm thinking about dividing the lectures between Holyoke Community and Smith Colleges. But there is plenty of time to think about times, locations, and agendas. Ideas are welcome. In addition, we might want to take an overnight field trip to the Adirondacks to visit some old growth forests and big trees in one of the East's most inspiring natural settings. I could see establishing the theme of next year's conference around Joan's Old-Growth Forest Network.

I'll conclude these comments around the 13th and 14th. The next description will cover the events of the 15th. It was a marvelous day in the forest followed by outstanding events at the Charlemont Inn. Please stay tuned.

Robert T. Leverett

## **Re: The 7th Annual Forest Summit**

by dbhguru » Wed Oct 19, 2011 3:21 pm

### **Events on Oct 15th**

Oct 15th proved to be a gala New England autumn day, cool, bright sun, and fall colors. The day's schedule consisted of a field trip from 10:00AM until 3:30PM in accessible parts of MTSF followed by several events at the Charlemont Inn

extending until 9:00PM.

We had our customary breakfast at the Inn then headed to Zoar Gap where we hiked down stream to the Elders Grove. There we shared the great pines with the group. An added benefit of having Will and Don Bragg attending was our collective re-measuring of Saheda. Three sets of equipment, three different measuring locations, and three sets of eyes. Beforehand, I predicted the height of Saheda from the established mid-point would be 166 feet. From my base point, I had gotten 167.1 previously and I knew my base point was higher than Will's by about half a foot. I tend to follow the vertical wood to the lowest point it touches the earth. Well, here are the results:

Measurer	Height
Bob Leverett	166.2
Will Blozan	166.3
Don Bragg	166.5

I settled on Will's measurement of 166.3 as Saheda's height. The actual average of the 3 measurements is 166.333 feet. I plan to abandon my mid-slope positions and stick with Will's for all future measurements. It is less confusing that way. However, note that my prior measurement of 167.1 – 0.5 feet adjusted offset yields 166.6 feet. So the maximum spread for the 4 independent measurements is 0.4 feet. Not bad.

After leaving the Elders Grove, we went up on the boulder field of Clark Ridge. I have reported on the forests of Clark ridge often. It is a rather inhospitable environment for people, but the small group was up for it. It was the only way for the small group of new comers to see a little old growth. The following images show the predominately sugar maple-ash forest that has been so productive in the past, but is now showing signs of wear. The forest may have peaked. In the following images Carl Harting is shown next to an aging white ash tree, followed by an area of exquisite old-growth sugar maples with moss-covered rocks. Next comes our buddy Don Bragg followed by a look at Negus Mountain across the Deerfield River. Finally, we see Magic Maple in her autumn finery.





From the boulder field, we moved down to near the trailhead and then back upslope to the bigtooth aspen grove that grows opposite Zoar Gap. The grove is home to the champion tall aspen of New England and maybe the northeast. We previously had its height at 126.0 feet. Well, we still do. The champ is skinny, but the stand is aging rapidly. I doubt the trees will hold on for many more years. In terms of heirs apparent, I think one other tree in the stand is 122 feet. Most of the other tall ones are about 115. However, a much more attractive aspen in Monroe SF is 125 feet.

From the aspens we made our way by a very tall ash. We settled on 142.6 feet in height. Then it was Magic Maple's turn. She always comes through. Here is an image of this charismatic red maple in her autumn finery. Magic is Tim Zelazo's favorite.



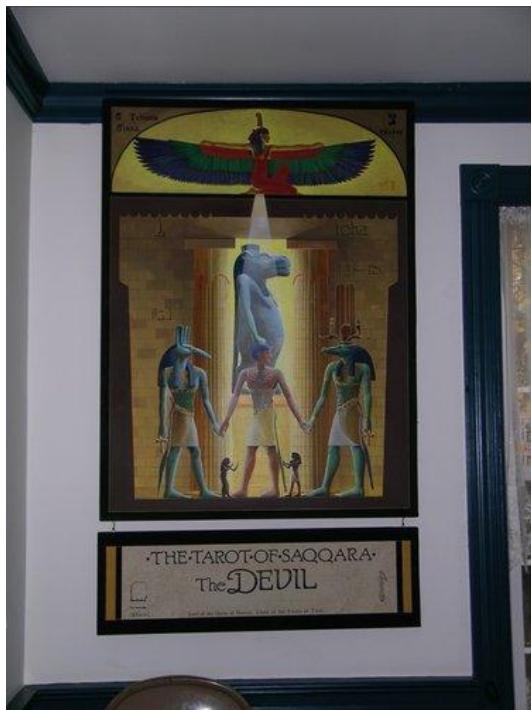
Bidding farewell to the magic one, we moved on for a rendezvous with the Bruce Kershner Memorial Pine. Bruce's tree is one of Mohawk's 150s and is a beautifully formed pine. The small, bubbling streams on both sides of Bruce's tree imparted a feeling of life and vitality to the forest. In the vicinity many beautiful, healthy hemlocks greeted us. After passing Bruce's spot, we worked our way down slope to the Three Graces, white pines that point the way to a small grove down hill that honors standout DCR employees. After passing the dedicated pines, we made our way to the road and walked back to our starting point. Crossing the bridge over the Deerfield, we could see the big pines of the Elders Grove tipping their lofty crowns in appreciation of our visit. It was time for us to return to the Inn for Bart Bouricius's presentation on rainforest tree forms and to partake of refreshments.

Bart's presentation was extremely interesting and held all our attentions. Bart climbs in the canopies of the rainforests of Asia, Central America, and South America. The diversity of the tree forms he showed us was simultaneously fascinating and bewildering. I could not image myself learning to identify all those species, let alone understanding what niches they fill. The tropics add a level of complexity that is not easily disentangled in my aging brain. It is a fact of life. Aging happens.

After an excellent dinner, it was all Monica's show. She always comes through for us and did again with a stellar program of music, prose, and poetry. the program reminded me of the role of the arts can in gaining our appreciation of forests and trees. Monica recruited Dr. David Snyder of UMASS and Amherst to play clarinet. The poetry and prose readings were excellent. Joan Maloof led off. Robin Barber and Carol Edelstein followed. Then came Norma Roche with a conclusion by ENTS poet laureate Susan Middleton.

I know of nobody who wasn't impressed by the quality of the performances. I was a little disappointed that more people didn't make it to evening event, but the Charlemont Inn seems far away to people who might otherwise attend. Next year we may opt to have the evening with music, poetry, and prose in Northampton. It would be a pity

since the Inn is so very, very special. Nonetheless, on that lovely fall evening, there was no finer music and poetry to hear. I think everyone in attendance would agree. I'll close with three images from the historic Inn. The first two show a couple of Tarot images that hang on the wall. The images go all the way around the wall. The last image speaks for itself.



Robert T. Leverett

### Re: The 7th Annual Forest Summit

by AndrewJoslin » Wed Oct 19, 2011 4:50 pm

Indeed! I was experiencing serious "I am not worthy" during the music and readings at the Charlemont Inn. From the musical selections and performances, to the readings and back I was either in rapt attention, laughing, or fighting tears at other moments. Really special.

Here are a few photos from the walk in the woods led by Bob. I have to say Bob outdid himself taking us through classically intense Mohawk Trail State Forest terrain enhanced by wet rocks and leaves. Everyone did very well getting around, it was well worth it, this is the true stuff of the forest experience and tall tree exploring. To spare you the horror I'm not posting photos of the vigorous patch of Netted Stinkhorn (*Dictyophora duplicata*) found by Bart growing in and around a broken stump. Roger Phillips (Mushrooms of North America) describes the

smell as "a very fetid odor". My unfortunate nose concurs.

Another angle on three sugar maples also well photographed by Bob



At the Saheda Pine, Tom Howard, Joan Maloof, Doug Bidlack and others



Lee Frelich talking about heliotropism in hardwood branch ends vs. a different strategy in conifers



Bob talks about mixed stands and biomes in MTSF, then asks "Everyone ready to hike through a steep boulder field?". The unanimous reply "Yes!"



Mohawk mosses



Honey mushrooms



Old Yellow-bellied Sapsucker drillings in a dead American Basswood



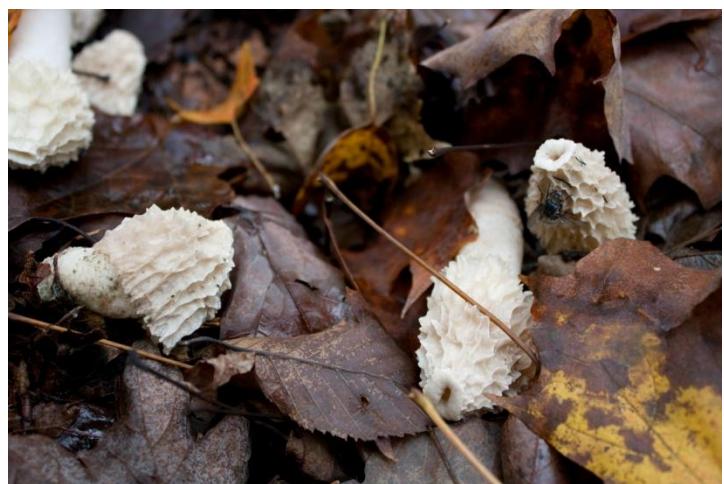
Andrew Joslin

Netted Stinkhorn mushrooms

by AndrewJoslin » Wed Oct 19, 2011 9:36 pm

During the ENTS Forest Summit 2011 field trip to the Elder Grove, MTSF, (October 15, 2011) we came across a patch of the unpleasantly fragrant Netted Stinkhorn (*Dictyophora duplicata*) growing in and around a hollow stump:

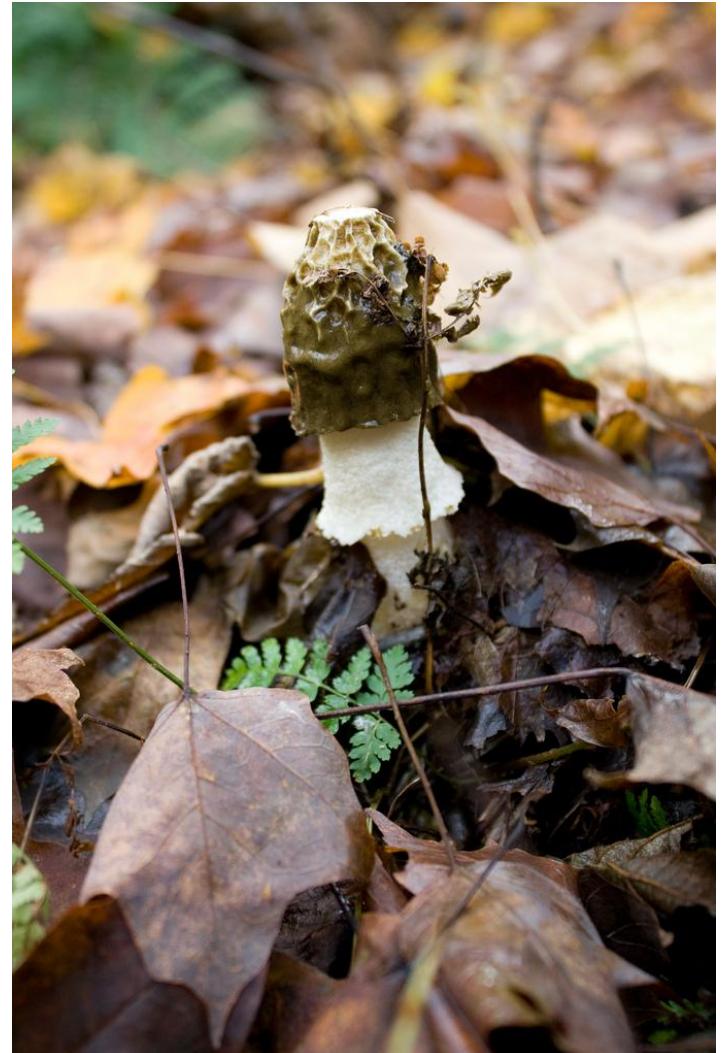
"Freshly" emerged stinkhorns, note the fly perched to the right



A little further along, the egg-like structure that the stinkhorn emerged from visible at the base



The fetid green slime on the top contains reproductive spores presumably distributed by insects attracted by the odor



Just looking at the photos recalls the odor. Roger Phillips (Mushrooms of North America) describes the smell as "a very fetid odor" and mentions Netted Stinkhorn is edible in the early "egg" phase and in the same sentence advises against eating them, duh!!! :-)  
-AJ

## **ENTS Evening of Music, Poetry and Prose 10/15**

by Monica Jakuc Leverett » Mon Oct 10, 2011 3:25 pm

Dear Friends, on Saturday, October 15, at 7:30 pm, Music at The Charlemont Inn will present the "Sixth Annual Eastern Native Tree Society Evening of Music, Poetry and Prose" at The Charlemont Inn on the Mohawk Trail, Route 2, in Charlemont, MA.

Performers will be Charlotte Dewey, soprano, David Schneider, clarinet, and Monica Jakuc Leverett, piano. Writers Joan Maloof and Norma Sims Roche, and poet Susan Middleton will be readers of their own original work. Writers Carol Edelstein and Robin Barber will read a selection by W.S. Merwin.

Admission for the concert/reading is free, but donations to the Eastern Native Tree Society will be gratefully accepted. The concert will be preceded by hors d'oeuvres at 5:15 pm and dinner at 6 pm at the inn at \$25/person, not including drinks. Reservations can be made by email at [dbhguru@comcast.net](mailto:dbhguru@comcast.net).

The evening's music, poetry and prose celebrate nature in all its glory, with a special emphasis on trees. The program will open with what has become the ENTS themesong: a Donald Swann song based on a J.R.R. Tolkien text spoken by the leader of the Ents. Soprano Charlotte Dewey will also sing "Lotusblume" by Robert Schumann. The readers listed above will be interspersed with the musical selections. Other music on the program will include piano and clarinet works by Robert Schumann, and two clarinet pieces by Camille Saint-Saens, including a transcription of the famous "The Swan" from Carnival of the Animals. Monica Jakuc Leverett will play Debussy's "Clair de lune." Composer Jim Ballard (formerly of Charlemont, MA) has written a number of settings of Joyce Kilmer's famous poem "Trees," and Charlotte Dewey will sing two of them, followed by a Gershwin clarinet "Promenade" as a finale to the program.

All of the performers are frequently heard in the Pioneer Valley and beyond. All writers are local, with the exception of Joan Maloof, who is a featured speaker at the Forest Summit Conference at Holyoke Community College on October 13 and 14 (

[Http://www.hcc.edu/news/events/annual-e...est-summit](http://www.hcc.edu/news/events/annual-e...est-summit) ), and the author of Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest, and Among the Ancients: Adventures in the Eastern Old Growth Forests.

I hope you can join us for a delightful afternoon and a delicious dinner. For those of you who like to frolic in the woods, I will be sending shortly an email describing the daytime activities on Saturday October 15.

Best wishes, Monica

## **ENTS Evening of Music, Poetry and Prose 10/15**

by AndrewJoslin » Mon Oct 17, 2011 8:48 pm

Monica, thanks for putting together an incredible program for the ENTS gathering in Charlemont. The depth and the quality of the musicianship, poetry, prose and reading was beyond amazing, I felt honored to be there. Well done to everyone who put their voice or music forward for the ENTS present to contemplate and enjoy!

-Andrew

## **ENTS Evening of Music, Poetry and Prose 10/15**

by tomhoward » Wed Oct 19, 2011 7:48 pm

The evening at Charlemont Inn was one of the best evenings in my life. The dinner was fabulous, and it was great being with our fellow tree lovers. The Evening of Music, Poetry, and Prose topped it all! It is the most glorious musical event I have ever attended. The Tolkien song was glorious, and I was deeply moved by Joan Maloof's readings, by Monica's beautiful playing of "Clair de lune", one of the loveliest pieces of music ever composed. All of the evening was a wonderful experience!

Tom Howard

## **Re: The 7th Annual Forest Summit**

by dbhguru » Wed Oct 19, 2011 5:47 pm

### **Events of Oct 16th**

The final day of the conference-rendezvous centered around an event held in the Bryant woods. We met at the head of the Rivulet Trail at the Bryant Homestead at 10:30AM on the 16th. Julie Richburg, chief ecologist for TTOR, and her young daughter joined us as did Ents Tom and Jack Howard. Tom came over from Syracuse. Jack came all the way from Toronto. The new comers to the Bryant woods were mightily impressed with the site.

The event was the establishment of a grove of pines dedicated to women environmentalists. The first pines dedicated were to Dr. Joan Maloof and the late Dr. Mary Byrd Davis. The selection of a pine posthumously for Mary should not be a surprise. She is legendary. Joan was selected for the other pine for many reasons, which will be discussed in the weeks to come. However, one reason is that Joan is launching a project to establish network of old-growth forests, one per county in each county in the U.S. Now that, folks, is an ambitious project. Many counties have no old growth. So in those localities, a forest intended to eventually become old growth would be selected. Joan conceived of the visionary project to call attention to dwindling natural forests in many parts of the nation. She spoke eloquently to her reasons at the conference. For the record, I am solidly behind Joan. I expect that she will keep us informed on her progress. Hopefully, we in the NTS can help her identify candidate forests.

We walked the regular route along the Rivulet trail. Joan, Tom, and Jack were extremely impressed by the large black cherry that I have frequently photographed. Continuing on, we reached the lowest point the trail reaches where there is a plaque. Joan read Bryant's poem the Rivulet to us from the plaque. I made a recording of her reading. We continued on past yellow birches and that lovely red maple, Magic Maple's younger sister. Then came the pines. I definitely saw Tom's eyes get large. I don't think he imagined so many huge trees. Joan's tree is the first large one on the trail. Mary's is next to Joan's. We

conducted the ceremony and moved on.

Along Pine Loop, we had time for a little tree measuring courtesy of Will's ability to cover ground like a race horse. Will re-measured the Emily Dickinson tree. He got 153.9 feet. I had it at 153.4 from the year before, but failed to quite get 153 in a measurement a few weeks ago. Will diagnosed the problem. The tree has a tricky nested top. It was revealed by gusts of wind. It is a common problem for the Bryant pines that have lots of crown breaks.



*A look at Joan's tree with Joan and Julie's daughter.*

Will also found and confirmed a striped maple in Bryant at 68.0 feet. It becomes the second tallest striped maple in the state. One in Mohawk hit 68.5. Beyond the measurements, Will had the opportunity to assess pine growth from his last visit. He's conclusion is that the pines are packing on the wood. So far, have confirmed 16 pines with a girth over 11 feet. Fourteen reach 150 feet. That is the 5th highest number for a site in the Northeast. The numbers go

like this: Mohawk 117, Cook 112, Claremont 65, Hearts Content 19, and Bryant 14.

Robert T. Leverett

## **Re: The 7th Annual Forest Summit**

by tomhoward » Sun Oct 23, 2011 2:28 pm

ENTS, here is my write-up of this great event:

From Fri. 10/14 – Sun/ 10/16/2011 my brother Jack Howard and I traveled to Massachusetts for the ENTS gathering. We stayed at the Holyoke Convention and Visitor Center.

In late afternoon and evening of Fri. Oct. 14, we went to Northampton, our first visit to this really nice progressive little city. I've been reading about Sylvia Plath lately and we visited some of the sites associated with her in Northampton, where she was a student at Smith College from 1950-1955, and taught English at Smith College from 1957-58. We went to Child's Park, by 337 Elm St. (on Rt. 9) where Plath and her husband the poet Ted Hughes lived when Sylvia taught at Smith. Next to that house, in an adjoining lawn, is a White Pine that seems to be over 110 ft. tall and about 3 ft. dbh. There's no doubt Plath and Hughes knew that tree.

Child's Park had a lot of water as a very heavy rain had just ended. It is a beautiful park with many large trees, including some impressive Pin Oaks, one of which I measured to 45.1" dbh. But the most impressive trees are the towering fragrant White Pines (that Plath refers to her in her poem "Child's Park Stones"), that I measured at 27.7" dbh, 36.5" dbh, 33.7" dbh, 39" dbh – and there are many more. Bob Leverett told me that these trees are about 120 ft. tall – I can well believe it. On this cloudy mysterious evening, I could sense Sylvia Plath's spirit still here, under the dark pines and amid the oddly shaped megalithic looking stones that she wrote about in her poem. We also saw Sawara Cypress, Hemlock, Yellow Birch, Catalpa, White Oak (with deep russet leaves), big Red Oaks (seeming to be about 80-90 ft. tall in forest), large Witch Hazel shrubs, another

White Oak 28.7" dbh, Black Gum, Gingko, European Larch, Red Maple, Scots Pine, Red Pine.

We also explored the lovely campus of Smith College which has many big trees, including many big Dawn Redwoods, and other trees including a big Sycamore near Paradise Pond. But the most impressive tree in Northampton is the giant Pin Oak on Columbus Ave., and we got a good look at – it's awesome! – 17.7 ft. cbh, 113 ft. tall, 107 ft. branch spread, easily the biggest oak I've ever seen, and I've seen a lot of big oaks. In the center of Northampton we saw a huge Silver Maple (possibly close to 5 ft. dbh) on the grounds of the county courthouse – I think that's what the old building is. Northampton is a fantastic place.

Sat. Oct. 15 – The day began sunny, cool, and beautiful, perfect fall weather. Clouds would build up when we were in Mohawk Trail SF, followed by rain in late afternoon. In the morning Jack and I left Holyoke, took I-91 north by Mt. Tom State Reservation, over the Oxbow (the setting of a famous painting by Thomas Cole as well as Plath's poem "Above the Oxbow") but you can't see much from the highway; we saw some Sassafras with bright red leaves as we went north. We took MA 2 west to Charlemont and Mohawk Trail SF. We had no trouble finding the picnic area where we were supposed to park, thanks to Bob's clear directions. We crossed the bridge over the Deerfield River, and walked up the wet trail to where we met the Ents, with Bob Leverett, Will Blozan, Andrew Joslin, Lee Frelich, Jack Sobon, Joan Maloof, Doug Bidlack, Carl Harting (at least that's who I think we met), Bart Bouricius, and others. We followed them up the trail into the Elders Grove, the most impressive grove of White Pines I'd seen up to that time. According to Bob, the White Pines are about 185 years old, only middle-aged, and possibly growing faster now than at any time in their lives. They are the tallest trees I have ever seen in eastern North America, and Saheda Pine is the tallest, most awesome of the Elders. Other Elders Pines are named for Sacajawea, Ouray, Crazy Horse, Tecumseh (that Will Blozan measured to 165 ft. from tape drop 10/12 as I'd find out later). Just upslope from Saheda is a Red Maple that Bob said is at least 125 ft. tall – it looks short compared to Saheda; yet it is the tallest Red Maple I've ever seen,

about 6 ft. taller than the NY record (which I think is a 119.1 ft. Red Maple in Zoar Valley). The Saheda Pine on this day was measured to 166.3 ft. with dbh of 44.9 in. Saheda is about 8 ft. taller than the tallest tree in NY, which I believe is a 158 ft. White Pine in the Elders Grove in the Adirondacks.

Trees seen in Elders Grove – White Pine (glorious!), Red Maple, Sugar Maple, Striped Maple, Basswood, Witch Hazel, White Ash, Beech, Red Oak, Yellow Birch, Hemlock.

Elders Grove is one of the most sacred places I've ever been. Lee Frelich showed us his favorite plant, a ground plant called the Selkirk Violet, which is rare in most places.

A Sugar Maple near Elders Grove was measured to 121.8 ft. and 35 in. dbh.

The walk through a wet boulder field turned out to be too difficult for me so Jack and I broke off from the group and we made our way back down to the trail by the Deerfield River. We took a little snack break by the river and then headed back up the trail to Elders Grove where we spent a magical hour among the great White Pines. I measured a White Pine near the trail at 36.5" dbh, and the 125+ ft. Red Maple upslope from Saheda at 26.1" dbh.

Then we walked back to our car in increasing rain. About 20 minutes later the rest of the group arrived at the picnic area, and we drove to the historic Charlemont Inn (which dates from 1775 with famous guests like General Burgoyne (as POW in 1777), Benedict Arnold, Emerson, Thoreau, Mark Twain). We had a great time there, watching Bart Bourcious's fascinating presentation on tropical forest trees in Peru, then a fabulous dinner, fascinating conversation, and, best of all, the Evening of Music, Poetry, and Prose, the best musical event I have ever attended! Among people met at the Charlemont Inn were the wonderful singer and hostess Charlotte Dewey, Joan Maloof, and the painter Robert Cumming. Monica's playing of Debussy's "Clair de lune" was especially magical, and Jack and I returned to Holyoke with the Moon accompanying us.

Sun. Oct. 16 – another beautiful sunny morning – this time Jack and I went to the Bryant Homestead near Cummington. We took I-91 north to Northampton, went once again through the lovely tree-filled city of Northampton, going west on MA 9 to Cummington. We went by Look Park, saw the tall White Pines in the background (well, some other time), then through Florence, and on to Cummington. At the Bryant Homestead at the head of the Rivulet Trail, we met Bob and Monica Leverett, Will Blozan, Joan Maloof, Julie Richberg of the Trustees of Reservations and Julie Richberg's 5-year-old daughter Isabelle. A glorious outing, the best fall outing I've ever been on, followed. It was a perfect fall day, cool with lots of sun, and some clouds. We took the Rivulet Trail into an old growth forest, the first original old growth forest I've ever been to in New England (and I've been traveling through New England since childhood), the forest that inspired William Cullen Bryant, one of America's first major poets, as a child. The trees he played under as a child are still there, as Bob Leverett has proved by coring – Hemlocks over 250 years old. And in this forest where Bryant found enchantment, Isabelle, the child of the 21st century, found enchantment too. And so did we adults.

One of the most impressive trees in this old forest is a Black Cherry estimated to be about 180 years old, 9.05 ft. cbh, which Bob said is 101.5 ft. tall – it is a beautiful tree. There is also old Yellow Birch, White Ash, Red Maple, Beech in this mostly Hemlock stand. Everywhere in Bryant Woods, including in the incredible White Pine grove we would enter, the ground is covered with Partridgeberry – I've never seen so much of it.

While we walked we could hear the Rivulet rushing through the ravine below – it still flows as it did when Bryant was a child over 200 years ago. A moment of utter magic occurred when Joan Maloof read Bryant's poem "The Rivulet" in her melodious voice from a sign posted on the trail. The Rivulet of the poem provided background music, in its eternal youth.

Then we entered the White Pine grove. These magnificent Pines are not old growth, and are about 150 years old or so, but this does not take away from their grandeur. The Pine Grove at Bryant Woods is

easily the grandest Eastern forest I have ever seen! The Pine Loop Trail, which Bob Leverett laid out, is the best trail like this I've ever been on, and this trail winds from one great Pine to another. These giant White Pines are often only 10-15 ft. apart, and well over 140 ft. tall. The ground under the great Pines was covered by freshly fallen pine needles, and the air was fragrant with the fresh spicy smell of White Pines in autumn.

The first tree we came to was a White Pine 11.5 ft. cbh and 150.3 ft. tall. At this tree a dedicatory grove for Women Environmentalists was inaugurated, and this tree was dedicated to Joan Maloof. It was a special moment, deeply touching with Joan present at the dedication of her tree. A White Pine the same size (11.5 ft. cbh, 150+ ft. tall) was dedicated to Mary Byrd Davis. The Maloof and Davis Pines are 21.5 ft. apart. Some of these magnificent White Pines have been dedicated to poets – Robert Frost's Pine is 154 ft. tall. The tallest tree in the grove (and at the Bryant Homestead) is the William Cullen Bryant White Pine, which is 157 ft. tall. The largest tree in the grove is a White Pine 13.4 ft. cbh. The Centurion White Pine is 12 ft. cbh and 150 ft. tall. All these Pines have huge trunks that soar straight up into the sparkling autumn sky. Words can't describe how glorious this grove is. I well believe, as Bob Leverett says, that these are the best White Pines in New England. This grove has 14 White Pines 150 or more feet tall. Will Blozan re-measured the great Emily Dickinson White Pine (11.1 ft. cbh) to 153.9 ft. tall. An inspiring sight was the broken top of a White Pine well over 140 ft. tall, with vastly spreading branches regenerating the top and looking like a giant eagle high in the sky. We never wanted to leave this wondrous grove!

Other trees (far shorter) among the White Pines are Hemlock, Red Maple, Beech, Yellow Birch, and other trees, there and in the older forest like Striped Maple, Hop Hornbeam. Julie Richberg showed us 3 species of Clubmoss – Northern Ground Pine (or Princess Pine), Ground Cedar, Staghorn Clubmoss (spiky and upright).

We reluctantly left the Pines and walked back along the Rivulet Trail to our cars, where we talked some more about trees, and said good-by. It was wonderful

spending time with everyone, and we bought Joan's books. Jack and I continued west on MA 9 (though a higher area with lots of Balsam Fir, Red Spruce) toward Pittsfield, MA.

In Pittsfield, we turned north on US Rt. 7, stopped for donuts at Lanesborough just north, at a place by scenic Pontoosuc Lake – glorious view of forested mountains across the lake with passing sunlight illuminating fall colors on steep slopes; next door a group of 5 tall White pines, all in all a classic New England scene. Light rain began to fall and rain would be with us all the way back to North Syracuse. We drove by Mt. Greylock to the Clark Institute just south of Williamstown, looked at the magnificent art there, especially some Renoirs. Then we headed back into NY on MA 2.

Tom Howard

### Re: Partitioning Diversity (Conferenc)

» by pauljost » Tue Oct 18, 2011 1:29 pm

As a follow up to this post, a research program activity has been scheduled to discuss my brother's papers. Unfortunately, it is out of reach of most of us in the Americas since it is being held at the Center for Mathematical Research in Barcelona, Spain next year. Grants are available for lodging and reduced fee registration for post-graduate students. A summary of the program follows:

Dates: July 2 to 6, 2012

Place: Centre de Recerca Matemàtica (CRM), Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain

Objectives:

1. Develop diversity measures that are sensitive to species similarity.
2. Understand the mathematical content of Jost's partitioning result.
3. Extend Jost's partitioning result to similarity-sensitive measures.

This activity is not just about creating new mathematics. It is also crucial that the methods developed are useful to life scientists. This requires

communication in both directions: From life scientists to mathematicians and from mathematicians to life scientists.

Scientific Committee

Ben Allen, Harvard University  
Silvia Cuadrado, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
Tom Leinster, University of Glasgow  
Richard Reeve, University of Glasgow  
John Wooliams, University of Edinburgh

Speakers (tentative)

John Baez, National University of Singapore  
Jordi Bascompte, Estación Biológica de Doñana  
Michel Bonsall, Oxford University  
Anne Chao, National Tsing Hua University  
Christina Cobbold, University of Glasgow  
Anthony Ives, University of Wisconsin  
Lou Jost, Independent researcher  
Michel Loreau, McGill University  
Louise Matthews, University of Glasgow  
Hans Metz, Universiteit Leiden  
Theo Meuwissen, Norwegian University of Life Sciences  
Sandrine Pavoine, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle  
Joan Pino Vilalta, Centre de Recerca Ecològica i Aplicacions Forestals/ Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
William Sherwin, University of New South Wales

For more information, please reference:

<http://www.crm.cat/Activitats/Activitats/2011-2012/CBIO/web-cbio/default.htm>  
<http://www.crm.cat/eng/default.htm>

Regards,

Paul Jost

**Re: Pagami Creek Fire, Minnesota**

by Rand Brown » Mon Oct 17, 2011 5:15 pm



Nearly two months after being ignited by lightning, the Pagami Creek Fire in northern Minnesota was nearly contained when Landsat-5 acquired this image on October 10, 2011. Since August 18, the fire has been burning in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Superior National Forest. As of October 11, the fire had burned 92,682 acres and was 82 percent contained. Apart from a faint hint of smoke, there is little sign of current fire activity in the image. The burned forest, however, is charcoal-colored, in contrast to the green forest around it.

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=76104>

**Re: Pagami Creek Fire, Minnesota**

by Lee Frelich » Sat Oct 22, 2011 10:47 am

ENTS: As of today (Oct 22) the Pagami Creek fire is 91% contained, and because an inch of rain fell last week combined with rapidly cooling weather, they are removing crews and equipment from the area. A research program funded by the National Science Foundation rapid response fund is underway, headed by Phil Townsend (U of WI), Peter Wolter (IA State), and Brian Sturtevant, Randy Kolka and others at the

US Forest Service. I am included as a cooperator. This project will obtain immediate data on the impacts of the fire on vegetation and soils, setting the stage for a larger ongoing research project later.

Lee Frelich

## **Chernobyl's de facto Wilderness Area**

by PAwildernessadvocate » Thu Oct 20, 2011 9:27 pm

When the Chernobyl nuclear accident occurred in the Ukraine in 1986 it was (and still is) a terrible human disaster. Whole towns were lost forever.

One of the consequences of the disaster was the establishment of an exclusion zone surrounding the disabled plant, tens of thousands of acres in size, sprawling across parts of both the Ukraine and Belarus. Because of the radiation it is too dangerous to live there full time, and will be for a long time to come. It is ok to go in and visit, but you have to be careful. Especially as you get closer to the plant site itself in the middle of the exclusion zone.

What is fascinating about this exclusion zone is just how rapidly forests and nature in general have taken back over. Eagles, wild boar, wolves, deer, bear, beavers, and lots of other species are thriving in this location - smack in the middle of the otherwise heavily populated eastern Europe - in a way that they haven't done for centuries.

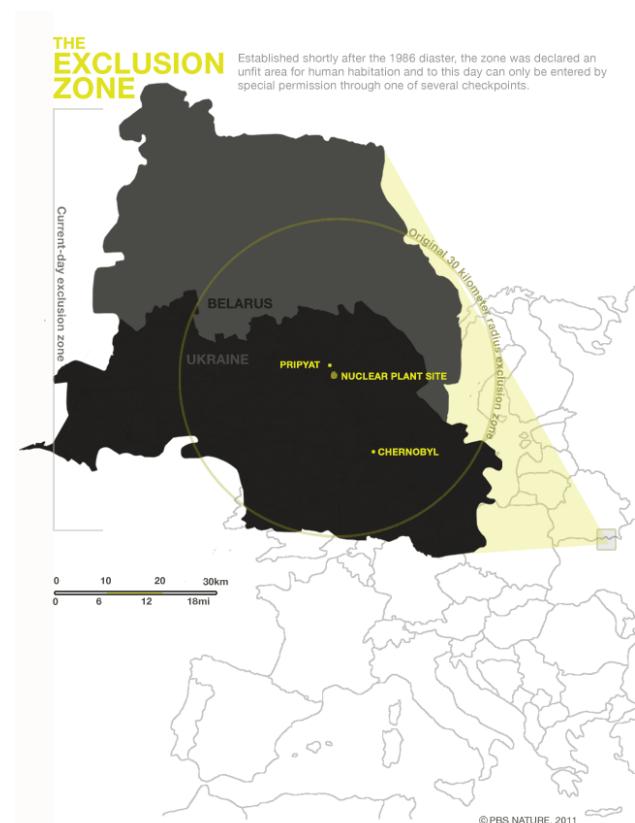
I read a book about this phenomenon several years ago called "Wormwood Forest" by Mary Mycio, which I recommend:

<http://www.amazon.com/Wormwood-Forest-N...0309094305>

Then, last night on the PBS show Nature, there was a new hour-long documentary on the exclusion zone that focused on wolf packs that are thriving in the area. You can watch the full episode online here (I couldn't figure out if there was a way to embed the player):

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes...sode/7190/>

Just another example that once you "untrammeled" an area of forest land from man's overt management, the land and the ecosystem takes care of itself quite nicely, thank you. All the land needs is time and a total absence of interference by human beings. Designate the wilderness, and they will come!



Kirk Johnson

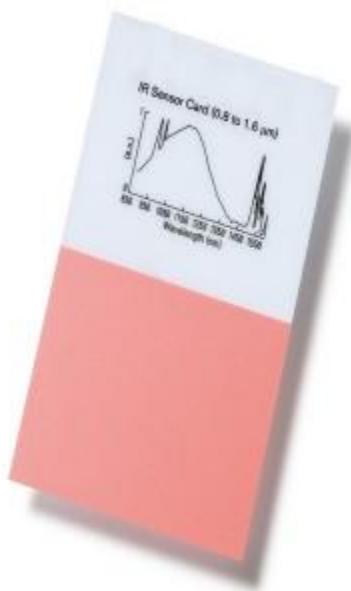
## **Laser beam viewing aid**

by pauljost » Thu Oct 20, 2011 2:29 pm

If you have ever wondered about the size and shape of your rangefinder laser beam, or whether or not it is aligned with the aiming point, there is a tool that will allow you to check out the laser beam and its alignment. Purchase an infrared sensor card for use

at home. Possible sources include the following:

<http://www.greenlaserpointer.org/ir-sensor-card-infrared-lasers/58-laser-ir-detection-card.html>



[http://search.newport.com/?q=\\*&x2=sku&q2=5842](http://search.newport.com/?q=*&x2=sku&q2=5842)  
<http://www.cascadelaser.com/ircards.html>

Good Shootin',

Paul Jost

### Re: Laser beam viewing aid

□ by M.W.Taylor » Sat Oct 29, 2011 12:26 pm

I use my night vision goggle to see the infrared beam. On the Trupulse200, the beam is divergent, not a focused point and about the size of a deck of cards at 50 feet. For the Impulse200LR, the laser is even bigger, about the size of a national geographic magazine at 50 ft. Most IR laser rangefinders emit a divergent type beam, not a focused point.

Michael Taylor

### Oak hybrid opinion solicited

□ by tsharp » Wed Oct 19, 2011 10:40 pm

NTS: I recently collected these leaves from an Oak tree near Parkersburg, WV. They came from the same twig and is a good representation of what the foliage of the whole crown looked like with the possible exception that higher up in the crown some leaves had more pronounced lobes than the left most example. The tree is in a fence line between two properties and not likely to be planted. No acorns present. I value all NTS opinions.

Turner Sharp



### Spring Street Park, MA

□ by sam goodwin » Fri Oct 21, 2011 10:26 am

On 10/20/2011 I was walking around this park in Windsor Locks which was once a fish hatchery. There is a small pond with schools of carp and fishing allowed. By following the outlet stream on a old service road you can see the remains of the holding ponds. There are 3 streams that converge just past the ponds. It was there I saw 2 tulip trees. One was 6' 7" cbh @ 90 plus feet and the other was 5'6" cbh @ 95 plus feet. It was hard to measure the height with the leaves still on the trees. The trees in the park are the usual mixture of oaks, maples, white, grey,

silver birch and white pines. One white pine was 9'6" cbh and another was 8' 2" cbh @ 80'. Many of the trees are in the range of 7 to 9 feet cbh and the 80 foot range. No record setters here but many of the pines and oaks are very straight for most of their heights. Loggers would love the trees! Not in my life time but someday they could be record setters!

Sam Goodwin

Black Locust	99 ft. tall
Black Locust	97 ft. tall
Hackberry	49.4" dbh
(huge open-grown tree, largest Hackberry I've ever seen)	69 ft. tall

Tom Howard

## Eastern NY Sites

by tomhoward » Sun Oct 23, 2011 2:39 pm

Here is some information on sites in eastern NY I visited this summer. I went with Robert Henry to Saratoga Sept. 18, and at the end of that outing I returned his laser rangefinder to him.

Johnstown July 8:

Johnstown Colonial Cemetery:

White Pine big spreading limb	34.7" dbh
66 ft. tall	
Kentucky Coffee Tree	29" dbh
European Larch	41.1" dbh
91.5 ft. tall	
Cucumber Magnolia	38.3" dbh
72.5 ft. tall	

Johnson Hall State Historic Site:

White Pine 85 ft. one of tallest on site

Victory and Schuylerville Sept. 18:

Saratoga Monument stone obelisk	157 ft. tall
White Pine, Prospect Hill Cemetery	114 ft. tall
(by road near Saratoga Monument, dbh about 3 ft.)	
Norway Spruce next to above White Pine	
102 ft. tall	

Schuyler Country House (built 1777):  
Black Locust 1st of several slender trees  
104 ft. tall

## Boston Run, CVNP, OH

by Steve Galehouse » Sun Oct 23, 2011 10:56 pm

Today i visited an area in the CVNP called Boston Run, named after a small stream that flow through it. Most of the woods was visually appealing but without tall trees, with second or third growth the norm. Eventually I got to a ravine area that held some older, taller trees---LiDAR data(from 5 years ago) has hits to 148' in the area, but I didn't survey the area with LiDAR until I returned home.

133.2 tulip:



. The tallest tree I found was a tulip at 133.2'. Also found: bitternut; 110.9'; cucumber magnolia; 110.8'; sugar maple; 108.7'; mockernut; 106'; tupelo; 104.4'; bigtooth aspen; 95'; slippery elm; 91' and yellow birch at 76'. The canopy is still pretty dense---the excessive rain we've had this season has delayed leaf drop by 2 to 3 weeks, it seems. When leaves are down I'll try to return to take better measurements, and target the tallest LiDAR hits.  
104.4' tupelo



Steve Galehouse

## Road trip, Ct/RI

by sam goodwin » Mon Oct 24, 2011 10:55 am

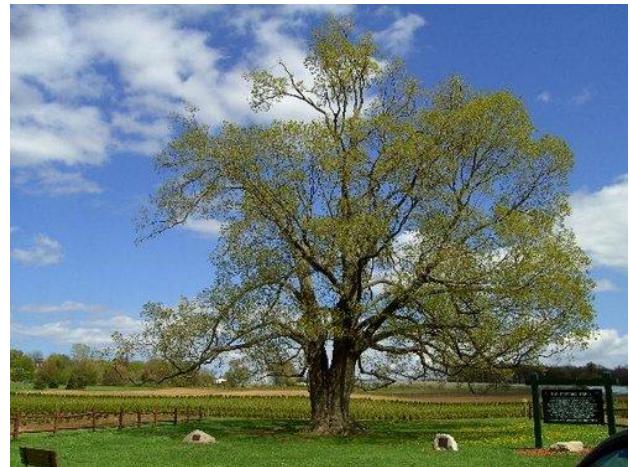
On Sunday, 10/23/2011, we made a tree hunt, geocaching and Johnnycake festival trip through Ct to RI. There is a geocache at the site of the Ashford, Ct, once national champion, northern red oak, that had a 26 foot girth and impressive root-knees. It is still living but dropping branches and has large cavities in the trunk. I posted some pictures.

One of the posted logs for the cache had a picture and note about the Pelham, Ontario, Canada Comfort sugar maple. It has the distinction of being the oldest living sugar maple in all of Canada at 500 plus years old. It is now part tree, part lamppost with the amount of concrete that has been used in order to preserve it! More pictures and you can Google it.

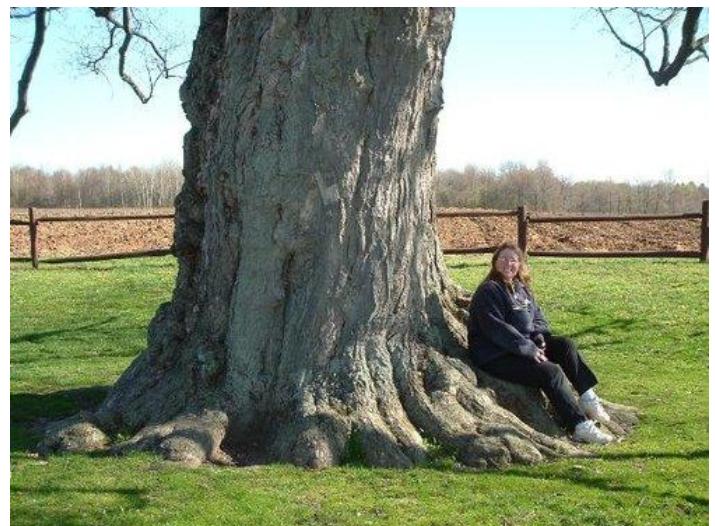
After the festival it was off to Bristol, RI to check some of their trees. There are alot listed for downtown but due to the time remaining and lack of homework on my part, (how hard can it be to find a 115 foot tulip tree on route 114?) I only saw a couple of the trees. One was RI largest, in terms of girth, 16 feet, tulip tree. It is located in someones backyard so I did not try to measure it. From a distance I saw the london plane/sycamore twins. I failed to find one the more interesting sounding ones, called the 3 in 1. A Norway maple, Austrian pine fused together into a helix with a Seberian elm growing out of the crotch. I will have to plan on a return, this time, a walking tour of Bristol! Most of the trees along route 114 downtown had 10" X 5' planks around them. I assume for protection from snowplowing but I did not think they get that much snow and some were a good distance up on banks and far from the road.



Red Oak



Comfort Maple - Whole Tree



Comfort Maple

Sam Goodwin

## **2 Giant Sequoias Fall at Trail of 100 Giants**

□ by edfrank » Mon Oct 24, 2011 5:18 pm

2 Giant Sequoias Fall at Trail of 100 Giants

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ucahb5GGeo&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ucahb5GGeo&feature=player_embedded)



Friday 30 September 2011 2 giant sequoias fall closing Trail of 100 Giants. Footage caught by German tourist.

<http://www.treeworld.info/f7/2-giant-se...22245.html>

Many gather to offer suggestions on downed giant sequoia

<http://www.recorderonline.com/news/sequoia-50595-suggestions-giant.html>

Some more links:

[http://www.kcet.org/socal/socal\\_wanderer/outdoors/video-watch-a-giant-sequoia-tree-fall.html](http://www.kcet.org/socal/socal_wanderer/outdoors/video-watch-a-giant-sequoia-tree-fall.html)

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2011/10/03/2-giant-trees-fall-in-sequoia-national-forest/>

Tallest Trees May Require Better Protection

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/story?id=97661&page=1>

[http://photoblog.msnbc.msn.com/\\_news/2011/10/03/8128088-popular-trail-closed-after-two-giant-sequoias-fall](http://photoblog.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2011/10/03/8128088-popular-trail-closed-after-two-giant-sequoias-fall)

## **Re: Eldorado National Forest in the The Sierra Nevada**

□ by Don » Tue Oct 18, 2011 6:08 pm

Michael-

Don't know if you made it to Crystal Basin area what with the weather of late, but I did find time to capture some images and measurements nearby our campsite. I was there from October 7-12 and experienced a 24 hour period of rain (3 inches), followed by 5 inches of snow. Fortunately several days of bright, blue, down-to-the-horizon clear skies ensued before chasing us out with another storm.

I'm attaching several images of trees of note with dbh's ranging from 6 to 10 feet...: > )

The first one appears above in an earlier closer view, and below with a later view from up the hill. Difficult image to capture with balanced exposure!



10.3' DBH Sugar Pine

Following image is 6' DBH Sugar Pine with prominent cone display



5.9' DBH Sugar Pine

And last but clearly not the least is a 10.56' Ponderosa Pine, significant girth, columnar to short broken but repaired top..."coulda been a contender"!



A large Ponderosa Pine, with large fire scar on Jon's right side, out of sight from this angle

This wasn't a day of precise measurements, but an excursion with friends wanting to know more about

trees. I happily put them to work, with equipment I had along, but I can't attest to the accuracy of our measurements. But I'll bet they're in the ballpark! I'll be back next year, with longer time available to investigate this area.

Don Bertolette

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

by M.W.Taylor » Tue Oct 25, 2011 1:24 pm

Don, I see your big snag ponderosa on Google Earth. The 2011 GE pictures offer stunning clarity and oblique angles which allow trunk thickness measurements. To find base, just follow the trunk profile until you find the shadow projection, which is seen by the and shift in angle.

The blasted out top pf your tree is jagged looking and nearly 8' thick at the break according to Google Earth....see GE picture. I see a large pile of boulders just to the North. Did the forest service people put those there to keep 4x4's off the trees ?

In the general area I see other HUGE pondy crowns 50'-70' accross. What about the big tree 250' away just off the stream ? The trunk looks 7'+ on GE.

Don, do you recall any other large pondys in the area. Any 8'+ dbh specimens ? Any big Jeffreys ? Do you do the smell test ?

The pictures show the clear difference between the sugar pine and ponderosa crown with ponderosa being round, smooth and symetrical and sugar being jagged and irregular. The upright ponderosa candles are visible as well vs. the horizontal sweeping branches of the sugar pine.

Using Google Earth and Don's big tree area as a starting point I plan to mop the place up this weekend.

I am not sure Google Earth's ruler tool is accurate. Hard to believe a ponderosa 8' thick at 100' off the

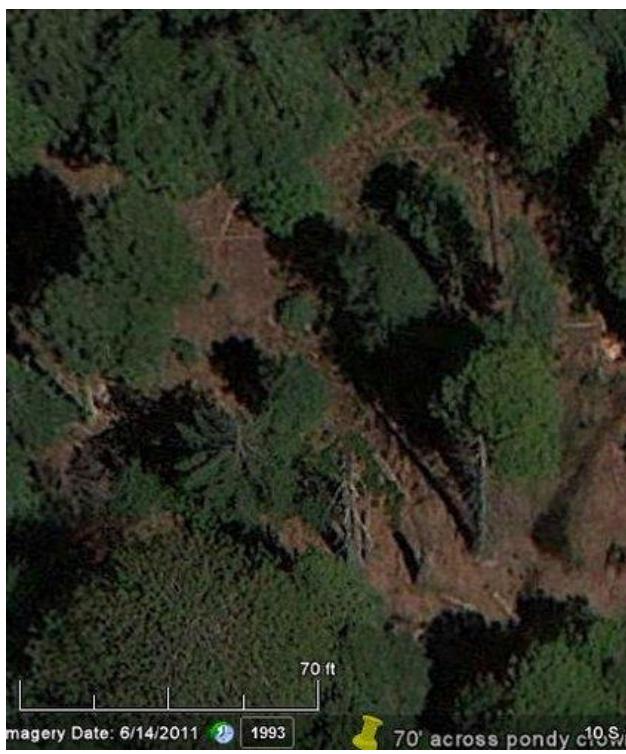
ground. Will have a report soon.

Michael Taylor

WNTS VP

AFA California Big Trees Coordinator

<http://www.landmarktrees.net>



Michael Taylor

## Updated Live Oak Project Listing

by Larry Tucei » Mon Oct 24, 2011 12:27 pm

NTS, Here are the latest updated Listings for the Live Oak Project now standing at 187 trees and rapidly approaching 200!

 [Live\\_Oak\\_Project.xlsx](#) (22.57 KiB) Downloaded 2 times

 [Copy\\_of\\_Copy\\_of\\_Live\\_Oak\\_Project\\_20070524.xls](#) (34.97 KiB) Downloaded 3 times

Larry Tucei

## Northern Lights

by Larry Tucei » Tue Oct 25, 2011 11:16 am

NTS, The Northern Lights reached all the way down to south Ms., last night. I did not see them but my brother called me and said the night sky was red to the north. We have seen them back in the mid 80's, 90's and early in 2001. It is rare for the Solar Flares to reach this far south. We could possibly see them for the next several nights.

<http://sincedutch.wordpress.com/2011/10...-pressure/>

Larry Tucei

AURORAS IN THE USA:

<http://spaceweather.com/> October 25, 2011

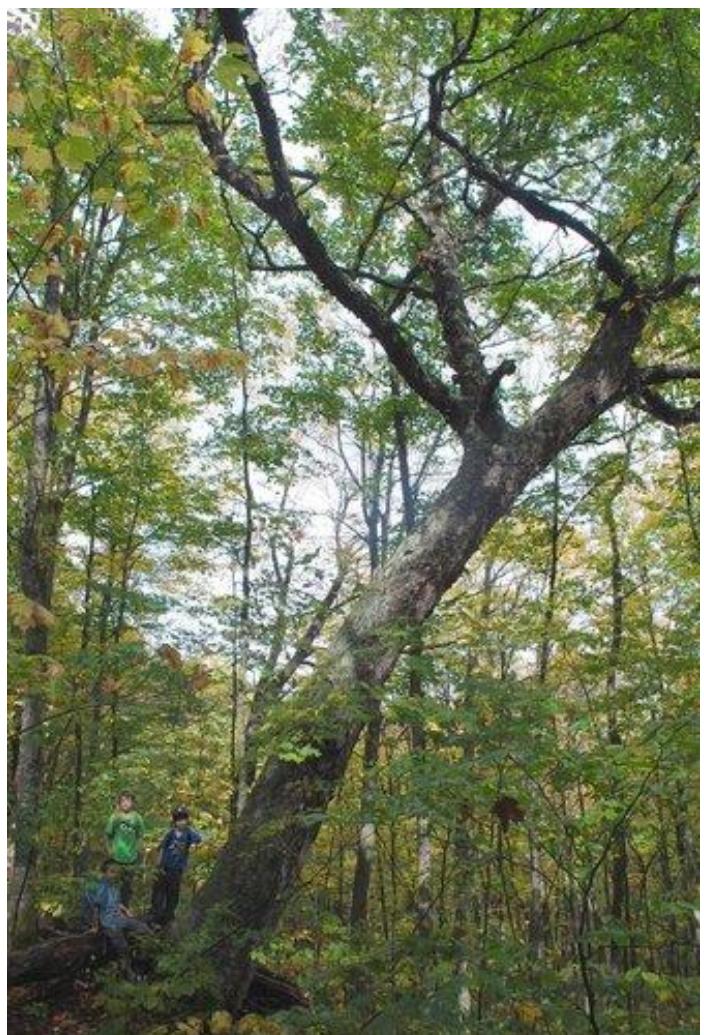
Aurora Gallery

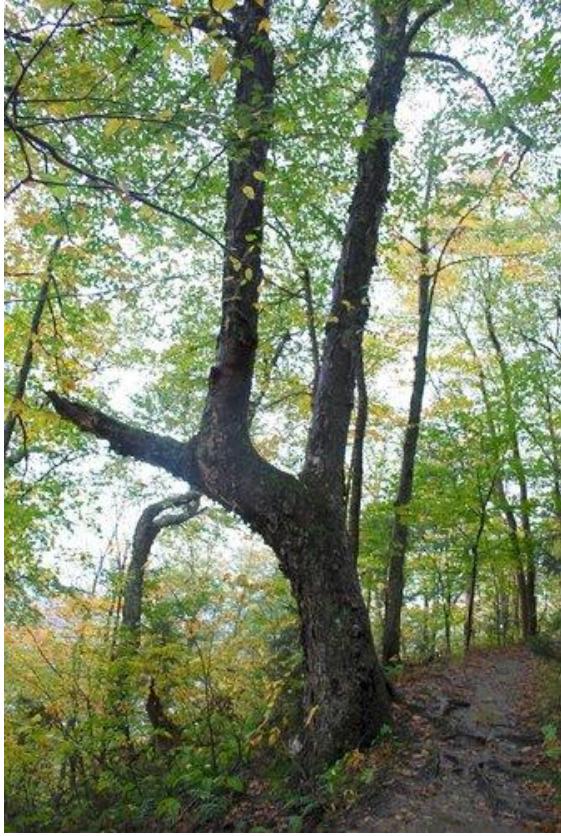
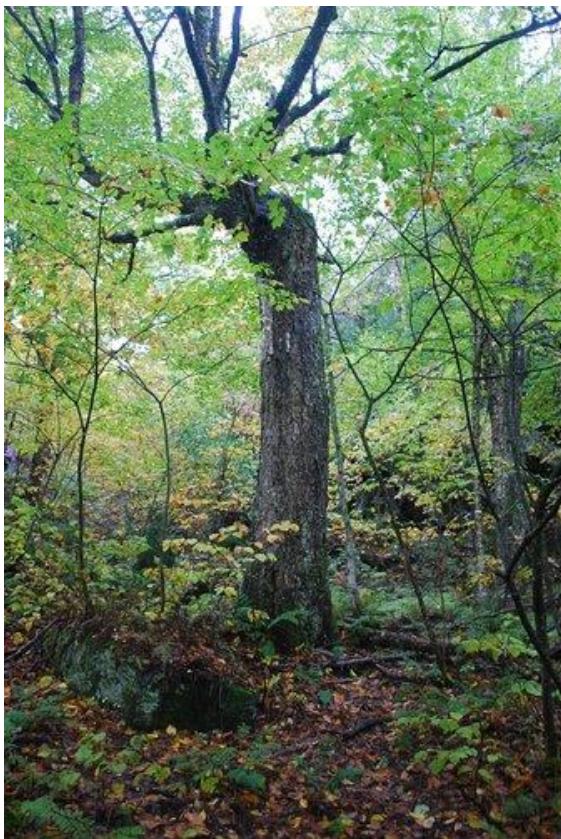
<http://spaceweather.com/aurora/gallery...vmbak8ng0>

## Fall Hike, VT 2011

by adam.rosen » Mon Oct 03, 2011 5:13 pm

I'm in the business of creating little ENTS, (not the reproduction end, the education end). Today we took 130 potential ENTS up Elmore Mountain in Northern Vermont. We enjoyed the company, the good weather and colorful leaves. I took some pictures of a few impressive/older yellow birches, that seemed to have been spared the loggers axe for the last few hundred years. Hope you enjoy them.







obviously clear forests turn to mud and rot quickly right?

So after all he did for them and left them they proceeded to log most of his lands to pieces, even most old-growth parcels were touched. Perhaps as little as 100-200 acres of OG survived it all from his 30,000 gift. On a more positive note, it seems that the reason Camel's Hump area mysteriously seems to have large chunks of OG is because that was an earlier donation of his, one that went better. And the conundrum of what to do with some of his 30,000 donation led to the creation of the northern GMNF which most likely would have never come of pass otherwise.)

Larry Baum

### Re: Fall Hike, VT 2011

by greenent22 » Wed Oct 26, 2011 4:22 am

Good stuff.

I just got back from VT. A few days of leaf peeping up there. The colors are horrendously muted in NJ this fall. Looked to me liek a few spots in the Granville Gulch had some very old and pretty big looking softwoods. Going up Lincoln Gap Rd crossing over the northern GMNF there seemed to be a number of remnant old-growth sugar maples and softwoods along one short stretch.

(Side note: Came across some old articles while I was up there. It was pretty sad to read that someone had had the foresight to leave 30,000 (with many thousands of acres of OG) to Middlebury and the state about 100 years ago because he believed it was a better work of art than any painting, etc. and how marvelous untouched forest was and how this would be so amazing for future generations and boom as soon as they get their hands on it they are all like oh his will couldn't possibly have meant that it should remain unlogged could it? I mean obviously the woods would soon rot themselves to mud in a few years which would be counter to his wishes to forever preserve the woods in their natural state right? SO only clearcutting it can save the forest right? I mean it's not like the whole region wasn't cloaked in impressive timber on lands little managed for thousands of years was it? Without clear cutting it's

### Houmas House Plantation South Louisiana

by Larry Tucei » Mon Oct 24, 2011 10:42 pm

NTS, Houmas House is one of the finest examples of Plantations in Louisiana built by Gen. Wade Hampton in the 1820's. The Houmas Indians held a land grant to the property in the late 1600's, they sold it to Maurice Conway and Alexander Latil in the mid 1700's. Latil erected a French provincial house directly behind the Mansion and it was later used as living quarters for Mansions Staff.

The Plantation was known as "The Sugar Palace" with 300,000 acres of crop production in its heyday. The Plantation changed hands several times, one owner John Burside saved it from destruction during the Civil War by declaring immunity as a subject of the British Crown. After the war in the late 1800's under another owner Col. William Porcher Miles, the Plantation was producing a monumental 20 million pounds of sugar a year.

The home was on higher ground and in the great flood of 1927 it was spared but tough economic times and the great depression helped it wither away. In 1940 it was purchased by Dr. George Crozat of New Orleans as a summer home. He opened the home to tourists in 1963 and the movie Hush Hush Sweet

Charlotte was filmed here.

The property was purchased by Kevin Kelly in 2003 and he has brought this grand Mansion and property back to what it once was. I contacted Mr. Kelly earlier in the week for permission to come down and document the great Live Oaks located there. I arrived on Sunday morning at about 9:30 and introduced myself and was welcomed by the gift shop staff. I met Mr. Kelly on the grounds and he identified the 4 largest trees and helped me measure the CBH of the John Burnside Oak.

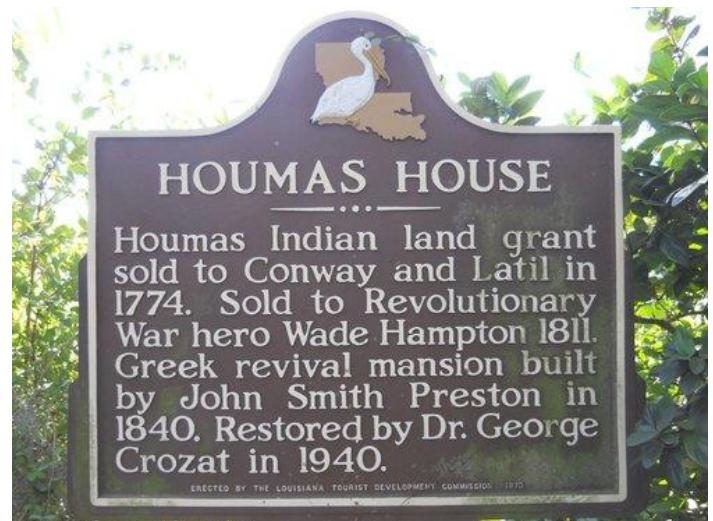
The Burnside Oak is on the front left side of the Mansion and measured CBH-25' 1", Height-72' and Spread-159.5' x 139.5'. This tree is a wonderous Oak with limbs to the ground all around. The second tree the Miles Family Oak measured CBH-20' 8", Height-76.5' and Spread-126' x 121.5'. It grows on the right side of the Mansion. The third tree the Kevin Kelly Oak grows near the front of the property and measured CBH-21' 11", Height-78' and Spread-145.5' x 133.5'. The final tree located in the back of the Mansion the George Grozat measured CBH-27' 7", Height-72' and Spread-112.5' x 75' 5'. This tree had a huge limb at about 5' above ground that grew 90 degrees off the trunk and was massive.

It was a real pleasure to measure and photograph all these beautiful Live Oaks. The surrounding gardens were equally beautiful and well kept, with several ponds and fountains. <http://www.houmashouse.com/>

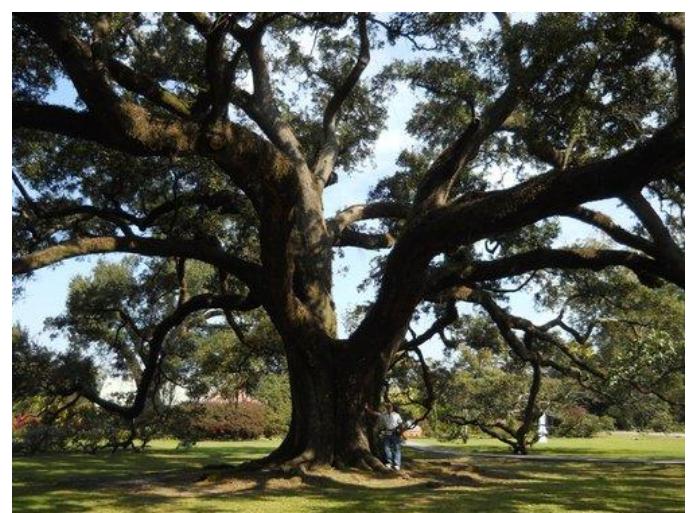
Larry



Houmas House



Burnside and House



John Burnside Oak



John Burnside Oak



Miles Family Oak



John Burnside Oak



Kevin Kelly Oak



Miles Family Oak



Kevin Kelly Oak



George Grozat Oak

CBH-21' 8", Height-69' and Spread-96' x 120'. Both of these fine Live Oaks grow on the eastern side the Home. The third and final tree I measured, the Joseph Landry, CBH-23' 5", Height-71' and Spread-125' x 125'. This Oak grows on the western side of the Home and had an added surprise. A huge Beehive was attached to one of the main limbs at about 20' off the ground and has been there for over 10 years. It was the first time I've ever seen a full colony of Honey Bees on the outside of a tree. It is amazing to me that they can survive the winter temperatures and storms in that open environment.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermitage\\_Louisiana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermitage_Louisiana)

## Hermitage Plantation South Louisiana

by Larry Tucei » Sun Oct 23, 2011 10:07 pm

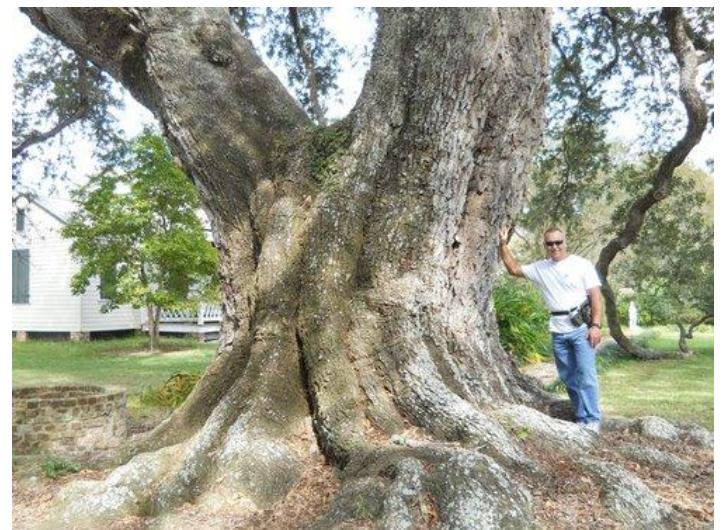
NTS, I visited Hermitage Plantation today to add the three great Live Oaks growing there to the Live Oak Project listing. Mr. Robert C. Judice and his wife were so kind to let me come to their private residence. Mr. and Mrs. Judice gave me a tour of the home built 1804-1815, after much discussion about the Live Oak Project. They both were very interested in what I was doing and I thanked them for their hospitality. We then proceeded outside for a tour of the property and the trees. The three Live Oaks at the home were probably planted at the time the house was built making them around 200 years old.

Emmanuel Marius Pons Bringier had the home built for his son Michel who after serving under Andrew Jackson during the war of 1812 named the property Hermitage after Jackson's home in Tennessee. The property has changed hands many times over the years as most of the great Louisiana Plantations have. The present owners, Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Judice purchased the property in 1959 and are in the process of restoration.

The first Oak I measured was the Louis Judice II, CBH-25' 5", Height-69' and Spread-106'5 x 142.5'. The second tree measured, the Michel Bringier,



Michel Bringier and Louis Judice II Oaks Dr. Robert Judice in the Photo



Louis Judice II Oak



Michell Bringier Oak



Joseph Landry Oak 1



Joseph Landry Oak 2



#### Bees in the Louis Judice II Oak 1

With Honeybees struggling lately it was good to see them in such a natural environment. Down from Hermitage a couple of miles I noticed a bunch a Beehive Supers in a field, when I was driving in, approx, 40. Many farms around that area probably have Beehives and years ago a swarm would have come and chosen the Landry Oak for a colony. Way cool!

Larry Tucei

#### Savoy Mountain pine, MA

□ by johnofthetrees » Sun Oct 23, 2011 9:54 pm

ENTS: I took a bike trip up 8A to check on progress rebuilding the highway after hurricane Irene. It is quite amazing the progress being made, as all of the thousands of feet of washouts have been rebuilt. I was surprised to see a couple of very large excavators working within the stream bed dredging boulders and rebuilding stream side terraces with them. Most of the river bed has been treated this way, giving it a quite sterile look. Continuing on brought me to a part of the Savoy Mountain State Forest. I hadn't visited this spot before so I was looking forward to seeing this part of the Chickley river valley. The forest is for the most part young and undistinguished, with a few older and larger hemlocks present for contrast.

The road was level and in pretty good shape for biking, but I ditched the bike and walked most of the way through the state forest holding. Near the end of my route I saw a large pine tree up the bank, and measured the crown to 230' above eye level! It was not that far up the slope, so of course I went up to visit it. It turned out to be a massive double trunk tree, fused until about 20', with an astounding 14.62' girth at 4.5'. It also was just as tall as it seemed -- I measured (several times) the upper trunk to 153' and the lower to 149'! This tree sticks way up above everything in its vicinity and appears to be healthy and still fast growing. It was pretty much the only tall tree anywhere nearby, which is an uncharacteristic setting for tall pines in this area. I need to go back and take some photos, especially since the tree is so prominent it will be easy to take its picture.

I also was able to revisit many of the recent local finds, including the 140' ash in Catamount, the other 150' pine in Hawley, and the 150' Norway spruce in Buckland. They are all in good shape and growing (well the ash is hanging on). I'll have a longer report on these sites soon.

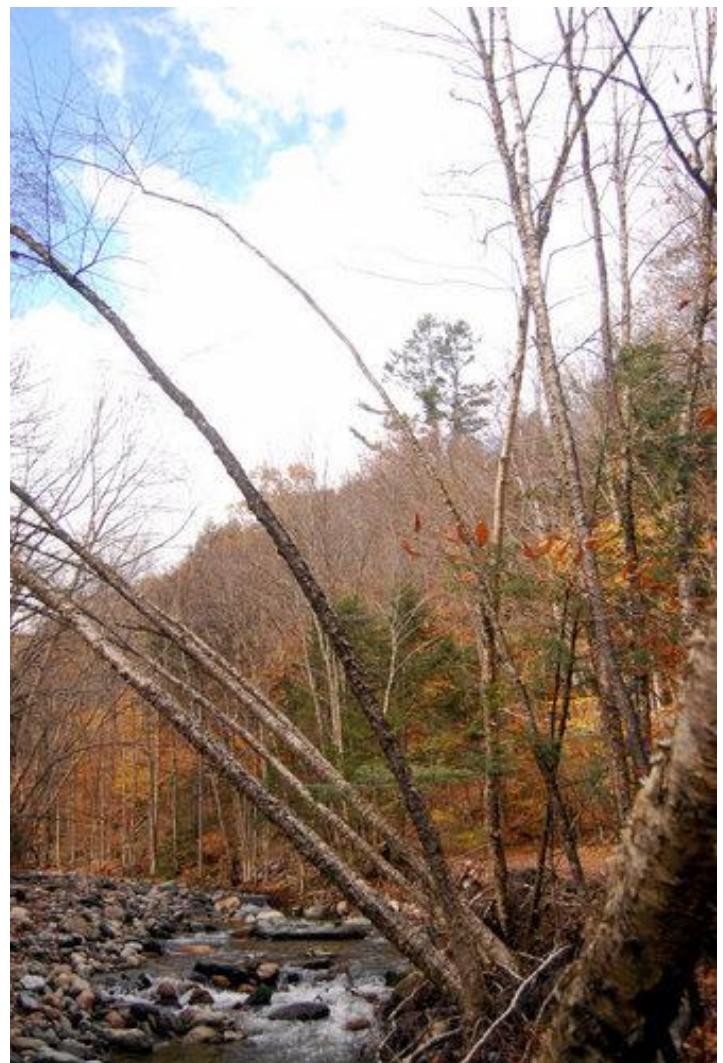
For Bob's database: WP off Savoy Road, Savoy Mtn SF, fused double 14.62'c @ 4.5':  
upper tree: crown: 49.5y 51.8 deg; trunk: 30.5y - 21.8 deg +3' pin. 153.7'h  
lower tree: crown: 50.5y 48.0 deg; trunk: 30.5y - 21.8 deg +3' pin. 149.6'h  
elev. approx: 420m

John Eicholz

## Re: Savoy Mountain pine, MA

by johnofthetrees » Tue Oct 25, 2011 11:07 pm

Here are some pictures of the pine I took today. The first shows how prominent the tree is in its surroundings:

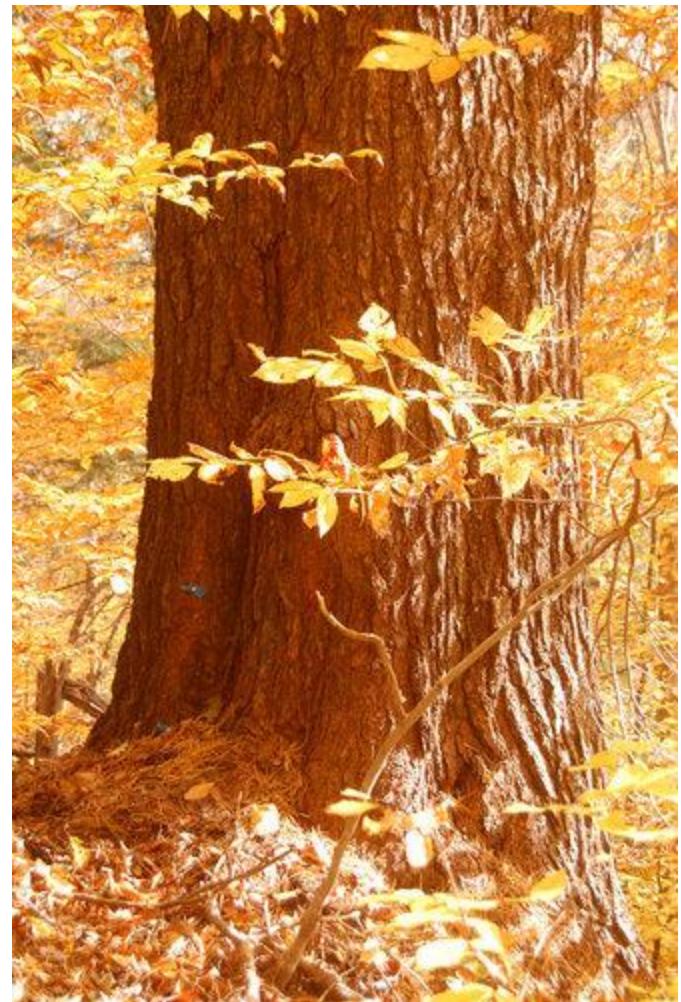


The second shows a view of almost the whole tree:



savoy pine

Finally, a close up of the trunk. The two blue pins are 1.5' apart.



savoy pine trunk

The area obviously can grow really big pines, but there is not much left of the older stuff. I'll just have to hike around more to make sure!

John Eicholz