

eNTS

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Native Tree Society
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eNTS: The Magazine of the Native Tree Society

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

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COVER: Bracket Fungi at Cook Forest State Park, PA by Rand Brown, April 2012

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Guest Editorial- Taking stock and making wishes

By Robert T. Levertt, April 23, 2012

Co-founder and Executive Director
Eastern Native Tree Society
Co-founder and President
Friends of Mohawk Trail State Forest

NTS, a couple of times a year I go into strategic planning mode, thinking about NTS. I begin with where we started as an organization, look to where we are presently, and think about where we are pointed in terms of a future direction.

The BBS continues to be a success, though it is not without its challenges. It can be a little overwhelming, but Ed has provided ways to manage the volume of traffic. I wouldn't dream of returning to the older system. And I'm sure the BBS has contributed handsomely to our expanding membership, and our excellent new contributors are inspiring.



We have a steady flow of interesting material. Michael Gatonska's recent contributions have been very exciting. They are remindful of how broad and accomplished our membership is. Will Blozan's post on Savage Gulf reminds us that there is a lot of serious work going on under the umbrella of or at least connected to NTS. Then there is the recently concluded Advanced Tree Measuring Workshop in Cook Forest, PA. We are getting excellent tree and site reports from afar, and the corps of accomplished tree measurers is expanding. I could go on, but the point is that our outreach has never been greater and with the NTS magazine and Bulletin, there is a good paper trail for researchers to follow.

The future is bright, but there can always be improvement. Going into dream mode, if I could have a few wishes come true, what would they be? Here is my wish list.



First, I'd like to see each Ent take ownership of a favorite site or two and keeping the information up on the chosen site(s) in a special place on the BBS set aside for that. At this point, I would dispense with formats and let each site custodian free form it. We can agree on a minimal format in time. The key here is to maintain an up-to-date set of descriptions that a newcomer can go to. It's that simple. It is fairly obvious who the site custodians are for a good two dozen sites, if not more. There can be joint custodianship. Whatever works.

My second wish is for a place on the BBS for big tree facts. Some people would call it tree trivia, but regardless, it should always reflect the superlatives in updated form. For instance, if someone wants to know what the tallest tree we know about in the country, the West, the East, North, South, etc. where would that person go? How much research must be done to ferret out the 191.9-foot tuliptree that Will and company climbed in the Smokies? How many posts have been made about the Longfellow Pine? Will a researcher settle on 184.7 or 184.0? The information on tree superlatives obviously changes, and there is no spot where one can confidently go to get the most current information. Where does one find a ranked listing of Rucker Indices? I could go on, but the point I'm sure is clear. How to best implement an NTS Book of World Records, so to

speak, I have no idea. I think I know a few folks with the expertise to figure it out, though.

My third wish is for the import capability to the NTS database to be completed so that I can get spreadsheet information into the database. Like most of you, Excel will function as the primary tool to initially organize information from site visits, because extracts can easily be sent to others in the appropriate format for the receiver. I send many Excel spreadsheets custom designed for the recipient.

My fourth wish is for us to expand our tree measuring workshops. Success at Cook has spurred my enthusiasm. One individual from Penn State commented to me on how valuable the workshop had been for him. It cleared up a lot of questions. So, we're getting the format down. In terms of the future, I can see progress being made within certain elements of the academic community, among naturalists, and with big tree hunters. After October in MTSF, a workshop out in say Ohio might be something to pursue.

My fifth wish is that we gain ground more rapidly in being a backup to the state champion tree programs. It is true that more individual coordinators are finding their way into NTS. At the Cook event, we had Turner Sharp, coordinator for WV and Scott Wade, coordinator from PA present. Present coordinators such as Turner Sharp, Scott Wade, Michael Taylor, Don Bertollette, and BVP are the ones who will have to bring this to pass. I think it has to be an inside job, and one that I don't envy them. I do not possess the patience, but it is an important mission to pursue – if for no other reason than to help get the junk out of the lists.

My sixth wish is related to number five. I hope for more progress in cooperative ventures with American Forests. I sense that they are serious about making progress. NTS has a role to play in their progress. That role became ever more clear at the Cook event when Sheri Shannon of AF gave an excellent presentation on the history of the National Register of Big Trees. She mentioned a couple of big performers who presently have the most champions listed. I'll forgo names. However, my Buddy Will Blozan and I met the chaps once and attempted to train them into

the better method of measuring tree height. Will got wind that they had rejected the better technique because they get higher heights going the tape and clinometer route. What more needs to be said?

My seventh wish is that the connections we've made to Laser Technology Inc. continue to grow. LTI is the Cadillac of infrared laser technology for business and sporting purposes. We are the Cadillac of tree measuring organizations. I think the two organizations now recognize each other's dominance. LTI will be at MTSF in October. At Cook there was a hint that LTI might be willing to make an equipment donation to NTS. That would be way cool. So things are moving, I guess I'm just a little too impatient.



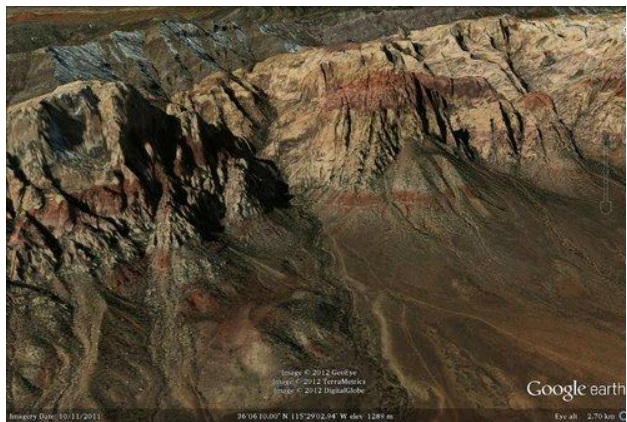
I have other wishes, but will dispense with discussing them now. As a finale, I mention that around June 17th Monica and I will head toward Durango, CO. On the way there I hope to visit a few big tree sites. My schedule is iffy, so I can't commit to any rendezvous with others yet. Once in Durango, I'll return to all big tree spots and update our measurements and hopefully add new sites. This is what I do when I go on the long trips. There are always tree sites to visit and data to collect. Standing alone, a dataset might seem superfluous or unimportant, but in the proper context, it helps paint the picture of a species. I do hope that when my lady and fellow Ents take trips to far away places, they will always be mindful of our need to gather data and of the potential importance of that data.

Robert T. Leverett

Oak Creek, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, NV

by **Chris** » Sun Apr 01, 2012 1:37 am

The [Red Rock Canyon NCA](#) is located west of Las Vegas, at the base of the Spring Mountains. It is most famous for a 3000 ft red sandstone escarpment and is a very popular rock climbing site. A number of short, steep sided canyons have cut into the escarpment. These create shady, cooler, and moisture sites that allow a chaparral community to grow. Most canyons also have springs that have associated riparian zones.



Oak Creek at Red Rock Canyon NCA



View across Oak Creek at sandstone escarpment

I know this group is focused on trees, but I couldn't resist posting the below photograph. Blackbush (*Coleogyne ramosissima*) forms a transition zone between lower, Creosote (*Larrea tridentata*)

dominated Mojave desert and the higher, Sagebrush (*Artemisia sp.*) Great Basin. It is long lived [up to 400 years], slow growing, poor dispersing, and killed by fire. Sharp transitions between Blackbush dominated and free areas are common and often are artifacts of decades old burns. With age, Blackbush dominate, creating high cover, nearly uniform height stands. So the below is a good example of an "old growth" shrub-land.

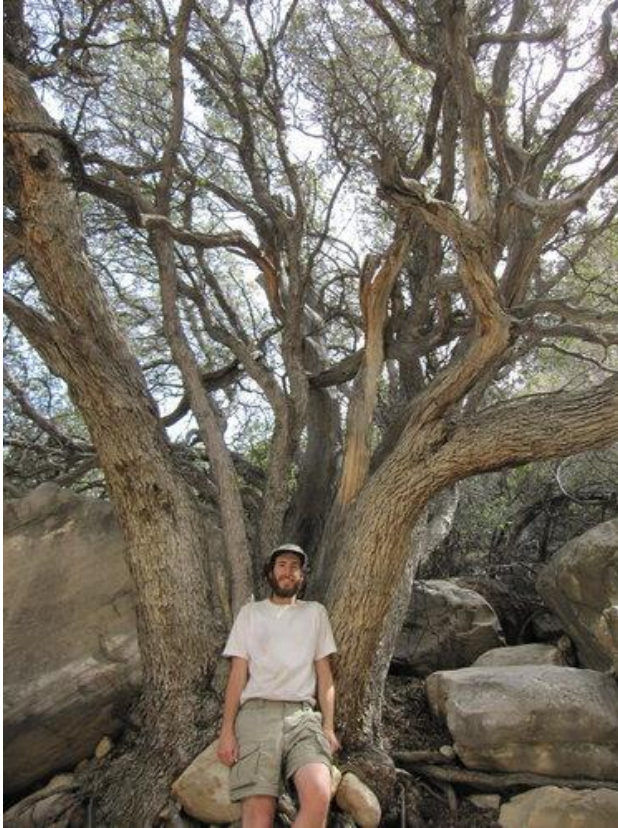


"Old growth" Blackbush shrub-land

But back to the trees. Oak Creek is well named for the many Shrub Live Oak (*Quercus turbinella* var. *turbinella*) a species [described in another post](#). And there were some great examples. The largest were ~ 30 ft tall and with 2 ft diameter stems.



Two stem Shrub Live Oak. Very usual bark color



Shrub Live Oak with myself for scale

These tall oaks were found on the banks of the dry creek. As you moved away, upslope, they became smaller and mixed with a number of species including Ashy Silktassel (*Garrya flavescens*), Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon angustifolium*), Cliffrose (*Cowania mexicana*), Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*), and Singleleaf Pinyon (*Pinus monophylla* var. *monophylla*).



Large Singleleaf Pinyon Pine



Singleleaf Pinyon are easy to ID because they have a single needle per fascicle [most of the time...]

The creek channel itself was full of large boulders and generally bare. But in somewhat protected places, California Redbud (*Cercis orbiculata*) and Netleaf Hackberry (either *Celtis reticulata* or just a variety of Sugarberry, *Celtis laevigata* var. *reticulata*). During floods, rocks and other debris would crash through the channel, resulting in most of the plants being twisted and broken. But they live on.



Twisted, debris covered Hackberry



Velvet Ash (*Fraxinus velutina*)



Blooming Redbud

As the dry creek bed exits the canyon, a spring flows for several thousand feet creating a riparian zone. Shrub Live Oak is still common, but is dominated by Velvet Ash (*Fraxinus velutina*). There are also thickets of willow [and all the associated taxonomy confusion], probably Coyote Willow (*Salix exigia*) but possibly Arroyo Willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and a few Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*).

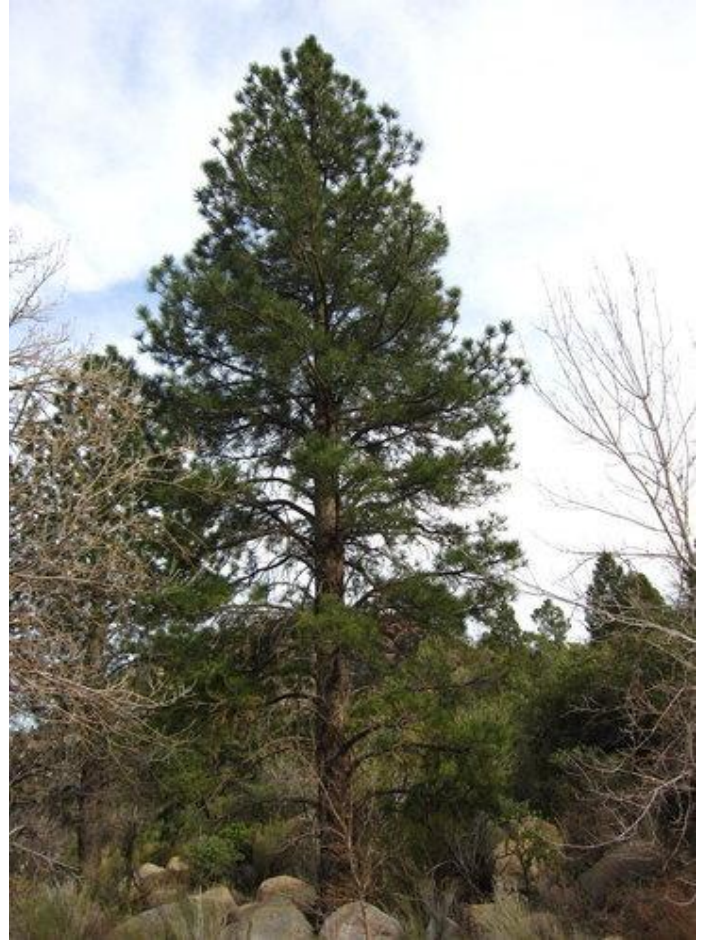


Velvet Ash samara



old looking cottonwood, ~ 3 ft DBH

But the tree these springs are most famous for are Interior Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa* var. *scopulorum*). They are found at much higher elevations in the Spring Mountains, but here at 4,000 ft they form small, relict populations. The next canyon north, Pine Canyon, has a large number of trees. At Oak Creek I counted a grand total of three live trees and a few more dead snags. None of the populations are reproducing. The trees all looked healthy with a number of cones are present, but no young trees.



Ponderosa Pine, 1.5 ft DBH, ~50-60 ft tall

Chris Morris

[Corcoran wood's Hercules Club](#)

by **bountreehunter** » Sun Apr 01, 2012 6:37 pm

Colby Rucker's Report on Corcoran woods speaks about several Hercules club that are located as he descibes below.

Hercules club (38.7'): A group of perhaps six trees was found in an opening on rich soil near the tallest tuliptree in the Big Poplar Grove. One specimen was unusually large, and proved to be a Maryland point champion.

I have walked the park several times and have not

found them as of yet. Have Any ENTS seen these trees and if so i was wondering if you could try to describe approximately where they are at. I Know Mr. Ruckers report speaks about them being near the big poplar Grove and describes it as;

Big Poplar Grove: This is an old-field stand of tuliptree, with some specimens in excess of 150 years old. It extends from the side fence on the right to the Big Oak Grove on the left. The soils are somewhat light, but rich. Spicebush is common, but seldom reaches arborescent stature. Showy orchis and hercules club also occur on rich soils at this site, and several old black oaks and hickories remain in the left portion. Part of this grove shows evidence of a woods fire, with many trees having some charred bark. The largest and tallest tuliptrees were found here.

If you look at the trail map i posted i believe his base reference point is the X on the right when he uses terms like "right" , "Front".

I just thought that maybe someone has seen them and throw me a bone. Thanks for any help.



Dan Wilson

(Edward Frank wrotes: The Hercules club is almost assuredly Aralia spinosa rather than the other species called Hercules club Zanthoxylum clava-herculis which is only found in the extreme south.)

[Re: Corcoran wood's Hercules Club](#)

by **bountreehunter** » Sun Apr 01, 2012 8:36 pm

Well that explains a lot because as a matter of fact when i was down there this morning i spotted a group of Devils Walking stick and took a measurement of the largest one there. I was assuming he was talking about southern prickly ash. Thanks for the clarification.

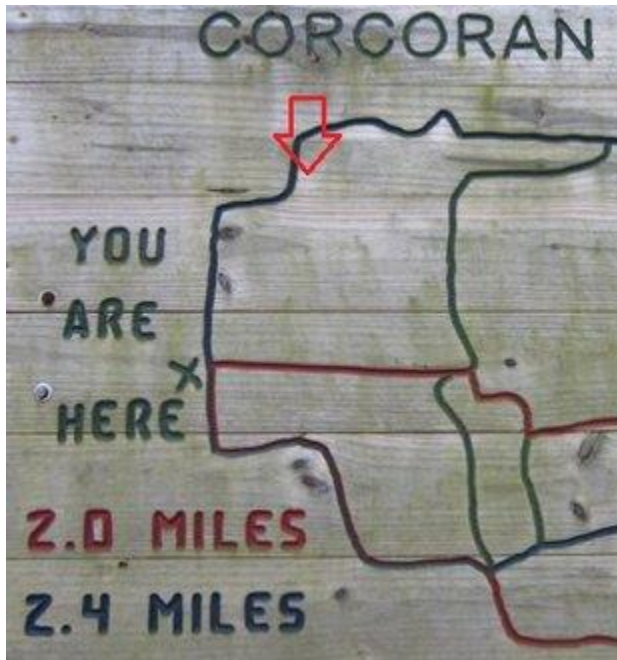
Here are the Coordinates 39 2.325,-76 25.132

Here are the measurements of the largest tree. There were at least 6-10 nice size trees in that immediate area (above 3"DBH).

CBH- 12"
Height- 25'
ACW-12'



The Red arrow is their location. they stand about 15' east of the trail and clearly visible.
let me know if you need any other info.



Ain't scientific names great and assumptions a pit fall. Thanks so much for your help on that, clearly i need to read the reports a little better. I do remember seeing a couple of other trees he listed (Mazzard cherry, large tulips,) let me know if you want more info .

Dan Wilson

[Lexington, KY: Northern Catalpa](#)

by **Barry Caselli** » Mon Apr 02, 2012 12:05 am

According to what my brother read, this tree is a Northern Catalpa. It looks like all the Catalpas here in South Jersey, and I've been told that they are all Southern Catalpas. Anyway, I'm not sure if this is the National Champion, or something else, like the second largest in the state, or fifth largest in the state. I can't remember. But here it is, in the front yard of a private residence, which is the reason we didn't photograph each other in front of it. I love old Catalpas, and all but one have been removed at Batsto, which used to contain the largest collection of

old (and cool-looking) Catalpas.

I'm not sure if my brother read about this tree in that new Virginia tree book, or on the National Register. If he were here in the room I'd ask.



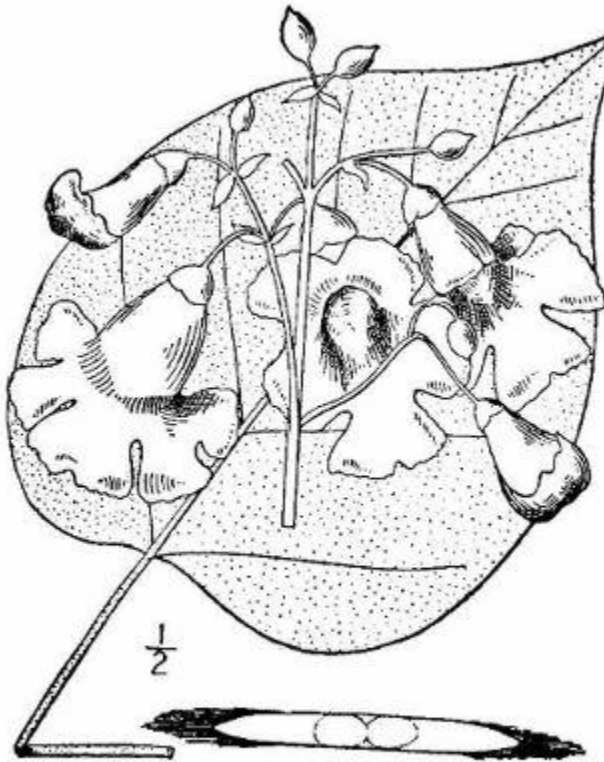
[Re: Lexington, KY: Northern Catalpa](#)

by **edfrank** » Mon Apr 02, 2012 8:38 am

Barry, the two catalpa species are difficult to distinguish and I am not sure yo really can tell without leaves and flowers. I have wrestled with distinguishing the two in the field and even now I am not sure I have got it right. Highlighted below are the

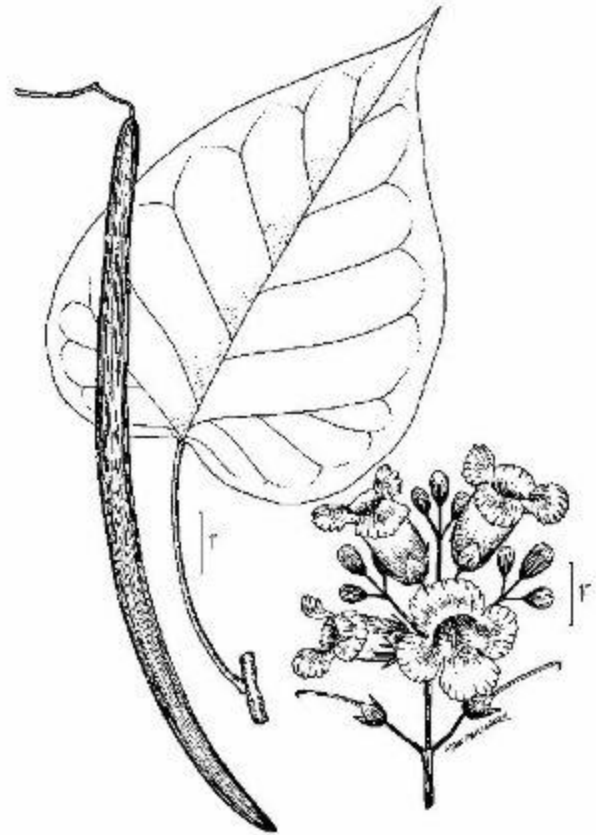
best clues I can find to distinguishing the two species.

The difference odor of the foliage when crushed is pretty good as it can be checked whenever the leaves are present.



Northern Catalpa

Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. Vol. 3: 238. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society. Scanned by Omnitek Inc.



Southern Catalpa

USDA NRCS. Wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Provided by NRCS National Wetland Team, Fort Worth, TX.

Northern Catalpa

Flower/Fruit: Upright panicle of white, bell shaped flowers with orange strips and purple spots and strips.

Leaves are simple, large ovate to ovate-oblong, from 8 to 12 inches long, are heart-shaped tropical looking without any lobes and are yellowish green in color. Leaves are generally opposite on large branches and often whorled in 3 on young stems. They turn an undistinguished yellow in the fall before dropping.

Southern Catalpa

Flowers: 6 to 12" panicle of white bell shaped flowers with two rows and ridges of yellow spots and numerous purple spots in early summer Flowers later than *C. speciosa* and has more purple color.

Leaves are simple, may be opposite or whorled (3 per node), pinnately veined, 5 to 12 inches long , 4 to 6 inches broad, heart shaped at the base, and have a long petiole with entire margins and soft pubescence on the underside, which is also a lighter green than the top surface.

http://ohioline.osu.edu/b700/b700_66.html

Key to Catalpa Species

I. **Leaves are 6-12 inches** (15-30 1/2 cm) long with acuminate leaf tips. **Foliage has no odor when crushed.** Flowers are white with yellow-striped or brown-dotted throats. Flowers are borne in comparatively small terminal panicles. Flowers open in June.

Catalpa speciosa -Northern Catalpa

II. **Leaves are 4-8 inches** (10-20 cm) long with abruptly acuminate leaf tips. **Foliage has an unpleasant odor when crushed.** Flowers are white with yellow stripes and brown dots in the throat. Flowers are borne in many-flowered clusters and open in June and July.

Catalpa bignonioides -Southern Catalpa

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/tabid/5349/default.aspx%20Northern%20Catalpa>

Differences between the two species of Catalpa.

Cigar-Tree/Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*) -apex of leaf long-acuminate;flowers 5-6cm wide, **faintly purple spotted in flower.**

Indian-Bean/Catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides*) -apex of leaf abruptly aciminate; flowers 3-4cm wide, **conspicuously purple-spotted in flower**

Harrisonburg, VA: Woodbine Cemetery

by **Barry Caselli** » Sun Apr 01, 2012 11:58 pm

Okay. This cemetery was our first tree-related stop on the trip (mentioned in the post about Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond). The main reason for visiting was the National Champion Fraser Fir. I don't have the stats in front of me, but it was an impressive tree, and the largest fir of any kind that I've ever seen (though I've seen very few fir trees in my life). We also happened upon this huge oak. I think it was a Scarlet. I can't remember now.

My brother and I took pictures of each other in front of most of the trees we saw. So here are the pictures:





Barry Caselli

[Re: Harrisonburg, VA: Woodbine Cemetery](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Mon Apr 02, 2012 7:48 am

Barry, I'm glad you took some photos on your trip and the supposed National Champion Fraser fir. It is not a Fraser fir, though. Looks like *A. nordmannii* or *A. alba*. This misidentification happens in every register I bet.

Will Blozan

Invasive species control, MD

by **bountreehunter** » Sat Mar 31, 2012 2:35 pm

I have a question. What can be done about non native invasive species when one sees them in a confined area but spreading quickly? In Baltimore City there is Wyman Park which sits directly next to the Ever famous Johns Hopkins university. This Park is over run with Paper mulberries and some what confined to a small area in Baltimore which includes this park. when i say over run, i mean it. They have become the dominant tree in this park around stony creek and the problem is only exponential with the shoots that are started by each tree. I have written to the City Arborist twice about this with absolutely no response at all. So has anyone had any experience with control or alerting others in with invasive species. Ailanthus has such a foot hold in the city that controlling has now become futile. Isn't there something that can be done when a non native invasive species is seen. Here is a map of the affected area. I have seen no paper mulberries outside this area. what are your thoughts.

<http://www.zeemaps.com/324605>

Dan Wilson

Re: Invasive species control

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Sun Apr 01, 2012 10:52 am

I worked for the National Park Service during the summer of 1999 not far from you in Rock Creek National Park in Washington, D.C. on their non-native invasive species control program. We used a variety of herbicides and mechanical methods to work toward eradicating ailanthus, multiflora rose, asiatic bittersweet, porcelain berry, kudzu, and many other invasives. It seemed like a losing battle.

My personal opinion is these species are here to stay, there's little we can do about it, and we won't know how everything is going to play out for maybe 500 years or more. Throw in some global warming just to

make it interesting. Eventually some sort of ecological equilibrium will be established. But we've shuffled the global deck, and there's no putting the toothpaste back in the tube at this point. To mix metaphors.

That's not to say you shouldn't try to save individual trees and so forth in your particular park. Keep after the city arborists to at least try to tamp down your problem invasives in Baltimore.

Kirk Johnson

Bonsai Stamps from the US Postal Service

by **edfrank** » Mon Apr 02, 2012 2:35 pm

I discovered the USPS had issued a series of stamps showing Bonsai trees when I went to the post office for stamps yesterday.



On January 23, 2012, in Sacramento, California, the Postal Service™ will issue a Bonsai stamp (Forever® priced at 45 cents), in five designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) double-sided booklet of 20 (Item 688000).

With these five stamps, the U.S. Postal Service® celebrates the beauty of bonsai, a horticultural art form that has become quite popular in the United States. The word “bonsai” is Japanese for “plant in a pot.” It also refers to the practice of cultivating plants — usually trees — in trays, pots, or other containers. One of the common styles of bonsai is depicted on each stamp: (1) a Sierra Juniper in semi-cascade style, (2) a Trident Maple in informal upright style, (3) a Black Pine in formal upright style, (4) an Azalea plant in multiple-trunk style, and (5) a Banyan in cascade style. John Dawson painted the stamp art. Ethel Kessler was the art director. The stamp will go on sale nationwide January 23, 2012. Distribution: Item 688000, First-Class Mail Bonsai (Forever priced at 45 cents), PSA Double-Sided Booklet of 20 Stamps. Stamp distribution offices (SDOs) and stamp distribution centers (SDCs) will receive their standard automatic distribution quantity for a PSA booklet stamp. Distributions are rounded up to the nearest master carton size of 4,000 booklets.

http://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2...fo_020.htm





<http://blog-stampofapproval.com/tag/bonsai-trees/>

<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/01/20/4202844/new-bonsai-stamps-to-debut-in.html>

<http://www.beyondtheperf.com/stamp-releases/bonsai>

Edward Frank

Cherry Blossom Centennial Stamp

by **edfrank** » Mon Apr 02, 2012 5:01 pm

NTS, Since I posted about the bonsai trees, I thought I would add the Cherry Blossom Centennial Stamps to the discussion:



This panoramic USPS cherry blossoms stamp commemorates Tokyo's gift of cherry blossom trees to the city of Washington D.C. as a sign of growing friendship between Japan and the United States of America.

In 2012, the U. S. Postal Service commemorates the centennial of the gift of more than 3,000 cherry

blossom trees from the city of Tokyo to the city of Washington, D.C with the Cherry Blossom Centennial (Forever®) stamp design. The two stamps, which are near mirror images, form the left and right halves of a panoramic view of blooming cherry trees surrounding the Tidal Basin. The stamp on the left depicts blossoming trees arching over two girls dressed in bright kimonos, and a family on a stroll with the Washington Monument in the background. On the second stamp, the Jefferson Memorial forms the backdrop for tourists taking in the sights under a canopy of pink blooms.

In early 1912, more than 3,000 Japanese cherry blossom trees arrived in Washington, D.C. The trees — a gift from the city of Tokyo to the city of Washington — honored the friendship between the United States and Japan. In 1927, local citizens held a pageant, including a reenactment of the original planting ceremony, to celebrate the gift of the stunning trees. During the 1930s, similar celebrations became annual events. Revived after a hiatus during World War II, the National Cherry Blossom Festival today encompasses myriad events such as a parade, concerts, galas, and a variety of cultural events, drawing more than a million visitors to the nation's capital each year.

Artist Paul Rogers worked with art director Phil Jordan to create the two stamp designs. A brief history of how the cherry trees came to the city of Washington appears on the reverse of the stamp pane along with a modern translation by Emiko Miyashita and Michael Dylan Welch of a traditional, circa ninth-century poem written by Ki no Tomonori (c.850-c.904).

The Cherry Blossom Centennial stamps are being issued as Forever® stamps, which are always equal in value to the current First-Class Mail one-ounce rate. Made in the USA.

https://store.usps.com/store/browse/uspsProductDetailMultiSkuDropDown.jsp?categoryNavIds=catBuyStamps&categoryNav=false&navAction=jump&navContent=2&productId=S_468240&categoryId=catBuyStamps

[#27\) Re: Moravia, NY, Cottonwood](#)

by **Jamelleigh** » Mon Apr 02, 2012 10:19 pm



Camera Roll-166 by jamelleigh, on Flickr

This is the Cottonwood in Moravia, NY. I read that some would have liked to view the original picture with a "scale" to size it. It was quite convenient that I just took this photo this past Saturday. This truly is a remarkable old growth tree, one that is a rarity in the north east and in the middle of a town to boot! Puts a big smile on my face :)

Jamelle

[Black Oak at Fairfield U., CT](#)

by **RyanLeClair** » Tue Apr 03, 2012 3:03 pm

Just measured the big black oak at Fairfield University. 101.4' x 16'9". This tree is one of two giant oaks at the University. The other is a *Quercus*

rubra; it's not very tall, but it's probably fatter than the black oak. . It's a wonderful tree--robust, healthy, and FOREST grown. It's a perfect specimen.

Here are those photos of the black oak. The tree is much bigger than anything else around--it must have been spared the saw some time ago.



Crown of the *Quercus velutina*



My backpack in front of the tree



Far shot of tree

Ryan LeClair

imagine how big and old it could potentially get with time. Maybe I could bring my grandchildren out here to show them someday, I thought. I'd been visiting the tree for at least ten years.

Well, yesterday was the first time I stopped by the location again in probably more than a year. Wouldn't you know it, the tree has fallen. Probably sometime as recently as during this calendar year, but I bet not within the last month given that upon examination it could be seen that the buds hadn't started expanding like they have done so early this year.

I would estimate the tree to be about 50 years old, and it was probably about 70-75 feet tall. Maybe 18" dbh. Not huge, just one of my personal favorite trees.

Funny how randomly these things can happen. There was no other recent wind thrown trees like this one anywhere in the immediate vicinity.

[A favorite Norway spruce has fallen](#)

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Tue Apr 03, 2012 10:00 am

I guess you just never know which tree could randomly bite the bullet at any time in the middle of the woods.

Ok, this was not *that* big of a tree. However, there is a place in the woods above Bradford, PA that I always liked visiting when I was hiking out there. It was a nice quiet little secluded spot, like a little cove, with a nice Norway spruce growing in the middle of it. Seemed like a relatively sheltered location, hidden from view, not close to any trail or any of the old logging roads back there. I always liked to stop and rest there for a few minutes, sit down under that nice straight, seemingly healthy Norway spruce and





Kirk Johnson

Lightning Arrestor Systems in Trees

by **Larry Tucei** » Tue Apr 03, 2012 9:57 am

NTS, I have some questions for you. What is thinking on Lightning Arrestor systems in trees? Do they work? Are they needed yes or no?

Larry Tucei

Re: Lightning Arrestor Systems in Trees

by **TN_Tree_Man** » Tue Apr 03, 2012 7:13 pm

Larry, Lightning protection for trees has been around for a while. The basic premise is that of a lightning rod similar to what you might install on your house only for trees copper wire is used to direct the high voltage electrical current safely into the earth.

Here is a pretty good link from Bartlett Tree Experts regarding lightning protection systems for trees.

There are also some useful side downloads that talk more about this.

<http://www.bartlett.com/lightning-protection.cfm?rs>.

These systems are fairly common in historical/ landmark trees that are in regions that receive high lightning activity. They are a pretty reliable safeguard for taller trees that may be subject to lightning strikes.

Steve Springer

Re: Lightning Arrestor Systems in Trees

by **Will Blozan** » Tue Apr 03, 2012 7:37 pm

Larry, I have installed a number of systems. The good is they minimize or negate strike injury to the tree. The bad is they can induce a strike and cause collateral damage if near a structure. Root damage is also possible. Are they needed? Yes, for peace of mind and preservation of historic trees. Trees with systems installed PROPERLY are much more likely to survive a strike, if struck. What is the likelihood of a given tree being struck? Extremely small. I think a strike is more likely to happen on a well-grounded tree with a huge root zone, not necessarily the tallest tree. I have a client who had a hemlock (that we treated the previous day for HWA) that was shattered by a strike. This tree was in the understory of a tuliptree grove and within 100 feet of an installed lightning protection system! It was not even close to being the tallest tree around. Go figure...

Will Blozan

Re: Lightning Arrestor Systems in Trees

by **gnmcmartin** » Tue Apr 03, 2012 8:55 pm

ENTS: If you want to have a lightning protection installed, make sure that the copper wire is a very, very, very heavy gauge, and that the grounding post, which also should be very thick, is put down very deep.

Our house was hit by lightning the same year we had it built. The top of our chimney was destroyed, and the chunks of masonry as they fell busted our roof in several places. Luckily no fire. We did some research, and were able to get a true expert to come and install a system on our house. I saw him put the grounding posts in and they went in the ground 10 feet. Of course bedrock can prevent their going down that deep. The man who did our house also did MT. Vernon and a number of other historic sites. He may have done some of the trees there also. He used top grade materials and knew exactly what he was doing. And he walked on the roof (which when I get up on it, all I can do is keep from sliding off) just like a cat. We have 9 air terminals. My wife and I have complete peace of mind in our house in any kind of thunderstorm now. In the same storm that hit our house, another about half a mile away was also hit.

I have seen a lot of trees destroyed by lightning. On my timberland the most spectacular hemlock--I won't try to describe its special beauties, but it was huge and very old--was completely blown to bits by lightning. There was nothing left but scattered chunks. I saw another hemlock, much smaller, but a substantial tree nevertheless, was similarly blown to bits. And, what was a bit unusual, a circle of trees around it died afterwards. Maybe electrocuted somehow? Most often the damage is a line of destroyed wood and bark running down the trunk into the ground. In a couple of cases I have seen that the lightning travelled along a root and heaved up the soil above it. I am not sure what causes some trees to literally explode when hit by lightning--super-heated water inside, maybe, expands and blows them apart.

Gaines McMartin

#10) Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Tue Apr 03, 2012 9:35 am

I made a quick trip to Biltmore over the weekend with my daughter. It's tough to measure very much with a 2 year old but I spent some time on the Dawn Redwood. I got three measurements very close to each other and one anomaly. 123.1', 123.3', 123.5' and 125.8'. I'll go with the average of the three similar measurements. In 2004, Will measured it to 118.8'. In 2008, James Parton got 117'. I was a bit too close and missed the top last year at 115.7'. I redid the numbers on the tall measurement and they worked out but I'll err on the side of undermeasurement, especially since three other measurements came out about the same.

Metasequoia (Dawn redwood)	123.3'
Chinese fir	100.5' 85.9'



Dawn Redwood at Biltmore by Larry Tucei

[eNTS eBook Idea](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sun Apr 01, 2012 9:18 am

Ed, Another stellar contribution. Our collective thanks. The eNTS magazines are huge and whether loaded as a single file or accessed in sections, the sheer volume may deter some from reading. This said, I wouldn't change a thing. The photography, the narratives, and information is sooooo good. A further point, and perhaps the most important, is that a lot of the information in the magazine is conveniently obtainable nowhere else. This can be said of the data/information presented in virtually any scientific study, but the general public doesn't read science journals. Most folks look to articles in magazines, newspapers, and shows on T.V. to get information about nature, delivered in a pre-digested and often lightweight form. For trails in parks, they usually rely on trail guides, go on interpretive walks, or get Internet summaries. If they don't get the information through one of these sources, they don't get it. Our site-oriented approach fits handily with the trail guide idea, but has added value. We provide original information that is obtainable nowhere else, and the magazine assembles the information for the convenience of the reader.

This brings me to an idea. I think we have reached the stage where book publishing can be realistically undertaken by NTS. I'm speaking of ebooks. The first book could be a guide to significant forest sites. Each site would be authored or coauthored by members of NTS. There would be a loose format - nothing too onerous or complicated, and a maximum length, both in terms of words and bytes. We could tackle other ebooks later, but this would get out into the public information of exemplary forest sites as seen through the eyes (and numbers) of NTS members. The book would be organized by state. Only visitable sites would be included. We would periodically update the site descriptions. We don't want a long trail of outdated materials to haunt us, as is the case now.

I make this recommendation now for several reasons. We have a growing number of Ents who are making important contributions, but given the sheer volume of material that we've accumulated and are

daily posting, their contributions become increasingly diluted and scattered. A regularly maintained ebook would give them visibility and more permanence. It would also force all of us into greater state of discipline. It is too easy to quickly post to the BBS and move on leaving site descriptions half done.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: eNTS eBook Idea](#)

by **edfrank** » Sun Apr 01, 2012 4:07 pm

Bob, You have outlined quite a project. First about MTSF - I would encourage you to write a book about Mohawk Trail State Forest yourself drawing from your Friends of MTSF Reports and the many trip reports you have written and others have contributed to for the forest. You could incorporate NTS data from the forest into the book. I would look to see it published under your own name and offered for sale to the general public. The proceeds would go to you as author and you could do with them as you will - most of your money you spend on NTS stuff anyway. A chapter or section dealing with NTS would be appropriate, but it should be your book. I have thought about writing a book on Cook Forest on my own, drawing from my own observation, commentary, and also including some specific data published on the NTS website. Others with large public park sites could be encouraged to write their own guidebooks for their parks drawing on NTS information with a nod to NTS in the final product.

Trail guides to be most useful need to be available to be distributed as a physical pamphlet. That would require the cooperation of the State parks, etc. In this time of budget crunches it would be hard to get the parks to print the guidebooks on their own at their own cost, or alternatively they could be printed and sold for cost, but that would require someone to do it and collect the money.

The eBook idea is something that would be worthwhile. Something like Mary Davis's "Old Growth in the East" books with perhaps fewer sites and enlarged and more detailed descriptions of key

sites. A section could be created for downloadable copies of trail guides from our website as e-files that the individual could download and print. They could alternatively be downloadable from the various park websites with cooperation of the respective operating agency. Finally QT-Tags could be created and posted at trail heads so that by scanning the tag with a smart phone the tag the trailguide could be downloaded. This last could be implemented regardless of who hosts the guidebooks - the QT-Tag would simply take them to the appropriate webpage or file.

The authorship of the guides is where the problem comes in. In any cooperative or group effort it ends up that one person ends up doing the bulk of the work for the entire project. I am unwilling to take this on myself. You already have a hundred oars in the water and I would rather see you continuing to work on what is already on your plate than trying to take up another task. Perhaps something can be worked out if someone steps forward who wants to take on the task, or several people with their own particular areas that will compiled into a final product.

It would be nice to have a standard length for each site description. They should include a specific set of information within each site description. But beyond that, the descriptions should be free form to highlight what is the most interesting or significant aspect of that site. A few years ago the National Park Service went to a standard format for park descriptions in a bureaucratic spate of nonsense. Prior to that all of the webpages were not exactly the same, but each park website was developed to highlight the best and most important features of that park. Now much of the interesting material is hidden among the levels structure instead of where people can easily find it. My point is that within some loose constraints the site descriptions each guidebook should strive to feature what is neat about that site.

Choosing what is an important site worth highlighting is another problem. You write; "Many sites will be important to individuals, but exhibit nothing special when viewed from a higher perch." I am not sure what is a higher perch when compared to those who are intimately familiar with a site. Different people have different ideas of what is

interesting and important. I have wrestled with this idea in my significant patches discussions. People - visitors need to be made aware of what is worthwhile at any particular site they visit, and it may not always be the heights of the tallest trees.

I am just brainstorming right now, and the idea may be workable, but we need to think things through and discuss it more before jumping into the effort.

Ed Frank

[Re: eNTS eBook Idea](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sun Apr 01, 2012 5:36 pm

Ed, Wise words, good points. Maybe we can kick this thing around for a time and come up with a workable plan. I just believe that collectively we could write a heck of a fine site-oriented book, but the workload might be prohibitive. As an alternative, though, maybe could persuade our key contributing members to commit to each writing a guide for a favored site that fits a loose format that we would first mutually agree on. Then we could have one section of the BBS set aside for these site guides. Maybe nothing more involved than this. I can certainly take all my Mohawk material, extract, and fit the best stuff into a guide based on an agreed to format, and still do all the other stuff. Each author would be individually responsible for keeping his/her guides current. The ebook thing might then eventually take shape from the individual site guides, and maybe not, but we'd have our stellar work organized around maintained site guides.

I'll expand on the vague "higher perch" comment in a future post.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: eNTS eBook Idea

by **dbhguru** » Tue Apr 03, 2012 2:30 pm

NTS, Not much response on the ebook idea. Perhaps the time has not arrived. However, I do believe the 'adopt-a-site' alternative idea has merit. I hope others agree. I make my case as follows.

Information on important forest sites is too scattered. It isn't anyone's fault. It is the way we communicate in the daily flow. After a few weeks information reported on an important new site has to swim in a sea of communications. If we know about the site, we can do searches, but it eventually becomes an awkward process to assemble the most current information. The more scattered the information is, the greater the chance for misinterpretation, and perpetuating out of date information.

Suppose we were to organize our information about important sites in such a way as to always be current and be in a place specifically devoted to important forest sites. We'd have a powerful new tool to communicate with the public and would help anyone doing research find the latest information. We could form a group to oversee the inclusion of new sites. We would develop some kind of criteria for site identification. I'm sure the truly important sites would be recognized without hassle, for example, the Smokies, Congaree, Cook Forest, MTSF, the Porcupine Mtns, etc. Other sites would need more of a vetting, which gets me to my higher perch comment. A site would need to standup to scrutiny and review by an objective panel. I'll use Massachusetts as an example. MTSF, Ice Glen, MSF, Bryant Woods, Mt Greylock, Mt Tom SR, Robinson SP, and Savoy Mountain SF are shoo-ins. Bartholomew's Cobble, Bullard Woods, Petticoat Hill, Forest Park, Hopkins Memorial Forest, Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, and a couple or three of private sites would require more thorough vetting. Then there are many third tier forest sites in Massachusetts, some of which will be important to local advocates, but with nothing exceptional about them. They would not pass muster.

We might aim at the top dozen sites in each state to include in a compilation. In Connecticut Indian Well SP would make it in the first tier. We would not be comparing the sites in one state to those in another, and we might not reach 12 sites in some states - at least not initially. That's okay.

Examples of what would qualify a site for inclusion would include criterion such as old growth, champion trees, a high Rucker index (RHI or RGI), exceptional diversity, exemplary forest development (yes, nebulous), historical importance, and exceptional scenic setting.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: eNTS eBook Idea

by **Chris** » Tue Apr 03, 2012 8:54 pm

I *strongly* support the idea. I would also imagine local members 'adopting a site'. Depending on large you make it, it isn't that big of deal. It isn't like you need to update heights every year or write 20 pages of prose. Maybe some of the more 'spectacular sites' would deserve more, but for a start, it could be pretty terse. As I mentioned before, I really like Important Bird Area descriptions. They aren't great reading, but they have some common structure and they provide the important information. For example:
<http://iba.audubon.org/iba/profileReport.do?siteId=910>

You get where, how to get there, description, significance, tables for sizes/ages/diversity indices, etc.. . You would probably want something for photographs too. And every one has the same general structure. But there is room for individual stuff. Once you get the basic stuff there, it would just be filling out with new interesting information or explaining more if you want. Maybe this isn't as big as you want, but it seems like a good started that could be filled out with time.

Chris Morris

[Re: eNTS eBook Idea](#)

by **dbhguru** » Wed Apr 04, 2012 9:56 am

Chris, Thanks for weighing in. I think we agree that we should start small. The adopt-a-site approach is the best way to go. The trick is to have a place on the BBS-website to go to quickly update information on one's chose site or sites. Keeping the body of information highly visible and convenient to access is the key to success.

In terms of individual workloads, I can personally cover between a half dozen and a dozen sites - maybe more - but I don't want to be hoggish. Anyone who wants to be the lead on a site that I have previously reported on is welcome to do so - except for MTSF, MSF, Ice Glen, and Bryant Woods. I have so much data on those sites and visit them so often that I'm the obvious person. There are other equally obvious choices. Dale Luthringer is the person Friday for Cook Forest. George Fieo has sites in southern PA that carries his stamp. Steve and Rand in Ohio have their turf, and so on. And we have our colleagues in Europe. There is a good chance that we could compile an impressive site inventory within a year for the eastern United States for those states with key resident Ents. However, the West presents an enormous challenge. Michael Taylor and Mario Vaden have their spots in California and Oregon. I have some spots in southwestern Colorado, but outside the few locations in Colorado, California, Oregon, and maybe Washington, the West is wide open and begging for some champions to come forward. Geography works against us, but I hope we can get something going, however minimal.

If we get this initiative off the ground, one point needs to be made up front, however delicately. If someone agrees to adopt a site for the purposes outlined here, that person needs to be serious. A lick and a swipe won't do it. The site needs to be periodically revisited and the information updated. Of course, people shouldn't feel obligated to annually measure and re-measure every important tree like I am compelled to do. But observation as to what has changed over the course of a year is important. If a champion tree is damaged or hits the ground, that

event shouldn't go unreported for several years. So, currency is next to Godliness. Otherwise we perpetuate what we have now.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: eNTS eBook Idea](#)

by **Larry Tucei** » Wed Apr 04, 2012 11:24 am

Bob, Ed, all, I have been compiling all my information about the Live Oaks I've been measuring these past few years into word format. I have all 201 trees with storylines and photos of each tree. Some have multiple trees at the same location and some are just on a specific tree. I also have historical information, locations, listings, etc., some lengthy some not. I have wanted to put this all together in a book with various chapters on them but it would be long, somewhere around 250-300 pages. With of course Live Oak descriptions, native ranges, growth rates, maximum ages, maximum sizes, etc. I decided to break it into States making in smaller and easier for me and the reader. I may just get crazy and put all the info in one book divide by States. I need to contact a publisher and get the ball rolling, I've have been putting it off for far too long. I would be glad to send some of the stuff for an E-Book if you guys go that way. The NTS Magazine that Ed compiles is truly Awesome! I don't recall reading a better one yet. Also the one Don Bragg puts together is good. Just my thoughts.

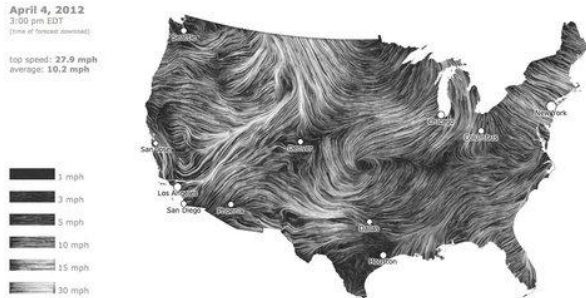
Larry Tucei

Real time wind map

by **Rand** » Wed Apr 04, 2012 3:14 pm

Here is a neat page that maps the current speed and direction of winds across the continental US. It's updated frequently so it's kinda neat to watch as the weather changes:

wind map



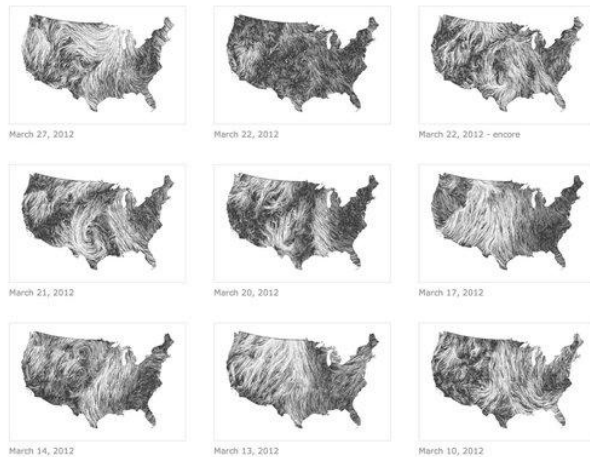
<http://hint.fm/wind/>

It's actually animated and you can click on the map to zoom in (click the unzoom button on the left side of the page to zoom back out)

Here's a link to the archives to see the wind on past days:

Snapshots of Winds Past

Explore the variety of wind patterns. Click any of the thumbnails to walk through the gallery.
To see current data, view the [live wind map](#).



<http://hint.fm/wind/gallery/>

Rand Brown

Re: Richmond: Hollywood Cemetery

by **Barry Caselli** » Thu Apr 05, 2012 4:43 pm

Most of the American Hollies in this cemetery were big and tall. Here is one of the biggest:



Barry Caselli

[#23\) Blue Ash versus Green/White Ash \(Re: Lower Huron Metroparks, MI\)](#)

by **Rand** » Wed Apr 04, 2012 2:25 pm

Doug, I took some pictures of blue and green/white ash so you can see how they compare. I uploaded high resolution copies so be sure to click on them to get a closer look.

First, two pictures of a well formed blue ash as it appears when walking up to it in the woods. Notice how the twigs and smaller branches are thick, and densely spaced:



Blue Ash Growth Form



Blue Ash Growth Form

Compare this with the finer small branches and less dense branching habit of a green or white ash:



Green/white ash growth form

Also here is the more 'ratty' appearance blue ash often assumes:



'Ratty' Blue ash growth form

Finally here are two pictures comparing blue ash vs green/white ash bark:

Rand Brown



Blue Ash Bark



Green/White Ash Bark

Fairfield Town Hall Sycamore

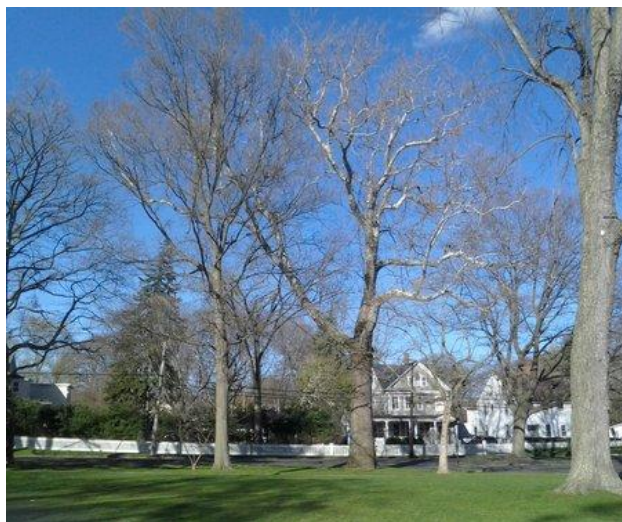
by **RyanLeClair** » Thu Apr 05, 2012 8:50 pm

Here is a picture of...you guessed it...a sycamore at Fairfield town hall. There are a number of neat trees on the property (including silver maples in the 11' CBH range), but this tree is far and away the largest.

I couldn't find the exact top, so I did a straight-up shot. I got 90 ft.

The most impressive stat: 17'3" for a CBH! That's 5.5 ft DBH.

Here are two photos of the tree.



View from the west



View from the south

Here is a picture of the tree from one year ago.



Ryan LeClair

Moon of Falling Leaves performance in Chicago

by **michael gatonska** » Thu Apr 05, 2012 6:14 pm

Hello all; For those of you who are in the Chicago area, the Chicago Chamber Musicians will be performing my 20' composition for Clarinet, Violin, Viola, Violoncello and Piano titled *The Moon of Falling Leaves (Arboreal Night Music I)* on April 11th. These performers are really some of the best around! So if you are in the area please come by for a listen! Here is the link with the details;
<http://www.chicagochambermusic.org/tickets/ComposerPerspective20102011.htm>

Michael Gatonska

Emory University trees and state champ Shumard Oak, GA

by eliahd24 » Thu Apr 05, 2012 8:59 pm

Emory University is a large private school in Atlanta, GA. It owns hundreds of buildings and probably over 1,000 acres of property between Atlanta and Decatur, GA. I would say they are better than most schools in their environmental and ecological ethic in regards to property management. They have numerous very nice green spaces and have taken great effort to have little-to-no canopy loss in recent years. Endangered plant species like Bay Starvine (*Schisandra glabra*) have been found on their property, along with a handful of state champion trees and numerous city champion trees. I happen to live (and work) less than 5 miles from Emory and have spent much of the last 3 years exploring their numerous and varied green spaces. This is a synopsis of my most recent trip on April 1st, 2012. (no fooling)

The first and possibly most impressive tree I "found" was a specimen Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardii*).

This tree may actually be on CDC (federal) property, though it is nearly surrounded by Emory University property. It lies on the south bank of S. Fork Peachtree Creek. It's above the normal floodplain, but probably still getting ample water from having its roots down near the creek. It's a whopper of a tree.

Will be the new state champion by over 30 points!

Stats: 16'11" x 123.1' x 107' (!)



State Champion Shumard Oak



large cave at base



my friends Matt and Sara who helped with the spread measurements (thanks!)

The trees/data:

Carya alba 7'2" x 119.2'

Carya alba 6'1.5" x 110.3'

Cornus alterniflora 10" x 23.5' x 22.5' (city runner up)

Liriodendron tulipifera 12'10.5" x 149.5'

Liriodendron tulipifera 10'10" x 144.9'

Liriodendron tulipifera 10'11" x 147.6'

Liriodendron tulipifera 9'0.5" x 151.9'

Liriodendron tulipifera 11'1" x 142.5' (OH shot)

Liriodendron tulipifera 10'11.5" x 154'

Liriodendron tulipifera 9'3" x **164.6' (!?)** (probably the tallest in Atlanta and top 5 measured in GA)

Magnolia tripetala 2'1" x 69.1' (2nd tallest in GA?)

Ostrya virginiana 60.1'

Ostrya virginiana 3'4" x 66.9' (city champ)

Quercus falcata 6' x 117.3'

Quercus rubra 9'1" x 123'

Quercus rubra 9'6" x 128.3'

Sassafras albidum 3'0.5" x 68'

Tilia heterophylla 6'8" x 117.8'

The north facing cove of the final spot I measured was LOADED with tall trees. Great habitat, moist habitat, and just a fantastic spot for big trees. With our early spring in Atlanta, I was measuring in poor conditions- by that I mean the trees had already FULLY leafed out. Oh well. If I'm getting numbers this high with a full canopy, then I can't wait for leaf drop in the fall!



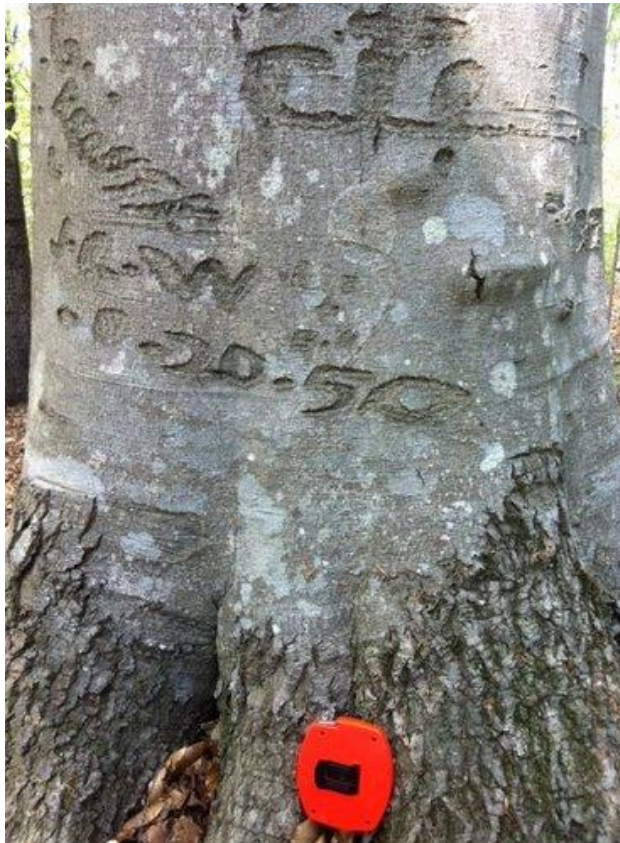
164'+ Tulip Tree



city champ Mockernut Hickory



Alternate-leaf dogwood



62 year old Beech tree carving

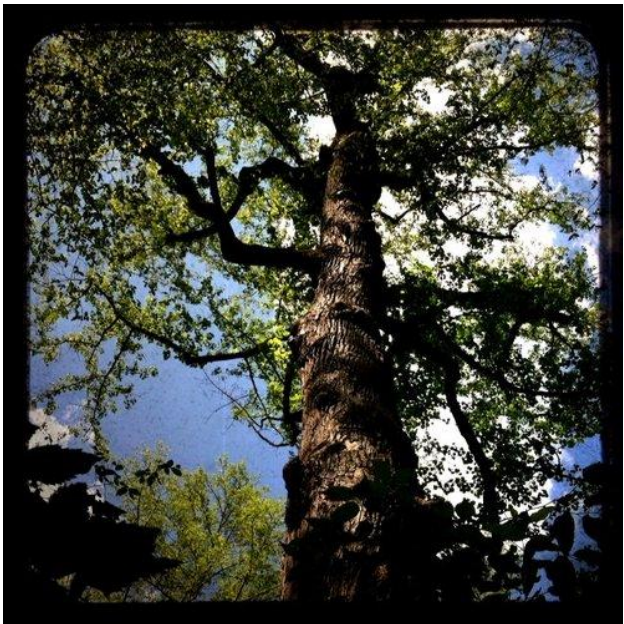
One particular green space within the campus is loaded with great trees that exhibits many of characteristics of old trees that Neil Pederson has mentioned in his posts and papers. Here's some pictures of the gnarl-factor:



Gnarly white oak



"Castle Greyskull" Tuliptree



Gnarly LiTu



wintergreen

The wildflowers:



Wild geranium



Trillium cuneatum



Trillium luteum



Sweetshrub flowering



Solomon's Seal



mayapple



Solomon's plume



Doll's eyes flowering



old bridge over Peachtree Creek

Eli Dickerson

#1) Imadacloprid culprit for bee demise?

by **jamesrobertsmith** » Fri Apr 06, 2012 7:06 am

I just read this article, and several others over the past few days on the same subject.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/new-pesticide-link-to-sudden-decline-in-bee-population-7622263.html>

Bad news all around.

James Robert Smith

Use of Common Pesticide Linked to Bee Colony Collapse

For immediate release: Thursday, April 5, 2012

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/2012-releases/colony-collapse-disorder-pesticide.html>

Boston, MA – The likely culprit in sharp worldwide declines in honeybee colonies since 2006 is imidacloprid, one of the most widely used pesticides, according to a new study from Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH).



The authors, led by Chensheng (Alex) Lu, associate professor of environmental exposure biology in the Department of Environmental Health, write that the new research provides “convincing evidence” of the link between imidacloprid and the phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), in which adult bees abandon their hives.

The study will appear in the June issue of the Bulletin of Insectology.

“The significance of bees to agriculture cannot be underestimated,” says Lu. “And it apparently doesn’t take much of the pesticide to affect the bees. Our experiment included pesticide amounts below what is normally present in the environment.”

Pinpointing the cause of the problem is crucial because bees—beyond producing honey—are prime pollinators of roughly one-third of the crop species in the U.S., including fruits, vegetables, nuts, and livestock feed such as alfalfa and clover. Massive loss of honeybees could result in billions of dollars in agricultural losses, experts estimate.

Lu and his co-authors hypothesized that the uptick in CCD resulted from the presence of imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid introduced in the early 1990s. Bees can be exposed in two ways: through nectar from plants or through high-fructose corn syrup beekeepers use to feed their bees. (Since most U.S.-grown corn has been treated with imidacloprid since 2005, it's also found in corn syrup.)

In the summer of 2010, the researchers conducted an in situ study in Worcester County, Mass. aimed at replicating how imidacloprid may have caused the CCD outbreak. Over a 23-week period, they monitored bees in four different bee yards; each yard had four hives treated with different levels of imidacloprid and one control hive. After 12 weeks of imidacloprid dosing, all the bees were alive. But after 23 weeks, 15 out of 16 of the imidacloprid-treated hives—94%—had died. Those exposed to the highest levels of the pesticide died first.

The characteristics of the dead hives were consistent with CCD, said Lu; the hives were empty except for food stores, some pollen, and young bees, with few dead bees nearby. When other conditions cause hive collapse—such as disease or pests—many dead bees are typically found inside and outside the affected hives.

Strikingly, said Lu, it took only low levels of imidacloprid to cause hive collapse—less than what is typically used in crops or in areas where bees forage.

Scientists, policymakers, farmers, and beekeepers, alarmed at the sudden losses of between 30% and 90% of honeybee colonies since 2006, have posed numerous theories as to the cause of the collapse, such as pests, disease, pesticides, migratory beekeeping, or some combination of these factors.

This study was supported by a grant funded by Harvard University Center for the Environment.

“In Situ Replication of Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder,” Chensheng Lu, Kenneth M. Warchol, Richard A. Callahan, Bulletin of Insectology, June 2012

[Re: Imadacloprid culprit for bee demise?](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Fri Apr 06, 2012 10:09 am

JRS, This is a hugely debated topic as CCD has been recorded well before the introduction of imidacloprid. Fortunately, imidacloprid use for saving hemlocks has no impact on bees when properly applied (honeybees do not use or pollinate hemlock). Unfortunately, hemlocks may "bee" a victim of public ignorance and blanket regulations, should the use of neonicotinoids be banned here.

Many of my clients are now discussing this topic with me. Interestingly, the EPA refuted this claim just last year or the year before.

 [CCD background.pdf](#)

Will Blozan

[Re: Imadacloprid culprit for bee demise?](#)

by **Larry Tucei** » Fri Apr 06, 2012 10:23 am

NTS, I'll weigh in on this to. " Lu and his co-authors hypothesized". I raised Bees in the 90's in the Deep South and had 15 colonies in three different locations. I had hive loss to Hurricanes, virus, mites, wax moths, ants, etc. I'm sure pesticides have played a role in loss of bee numbers also but to say that imidacloprid is the reason I don't think so, it is a combination of many factors. Down South we see less Honey Bees than in past years but I don't think anyone knows exactly the reason.

<http://environment.about.com/od/biodiversityconservation/a/honeybees.htm>

Larry Tucei

[Re: New video of Chestnut Ridge, Allegheny N.F. PA](#)

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Fri Apr 06, 2012 8:56 am

A few scenes from a recent hike into the proposed Minister Valley Wilderness Area:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wETOrRau7ow>

Kirk Johnson

[Ents site descriptions](#)

by **dbhguru** » Fri Apr 06, 2012 9:39 am

NTS, I'll make one more pitch for the compilation of site descriptions into a guide, and if the idea doesn't catch on, I'll pipe down and drop the subject. No problem.

I realize that each of us has to budget his/her time. Few un-retired Ents may feel they have enough free time to buy into Chris's adopt-a-site idea, which implies keeping descriptions current. I understand limits on time and respect individual situations. However, at least conceptually, I believe the idea of a maintained guide to our best sites is worth further discussing.

Collectively, we have amassed an enormous amount of information on a wide range of forested sites. Not infrequently, we champion sites that otherwise are bypassed in terms of recognition of

their best trees. Indian Well State Park comes to mind. There it sets in Shelton, CT, stocked with gorgeous tuliptrees, the best site for that species I've seen in the Constitution State - in fact in all New England. Who, if not we, are going to take notice, visit Indian Well, measure its best, and report on it? So, if Ryan LeClair, Bart Bouricius, and yours truly do just that and render a few site reports, is that enough? Well, if the past is an indication of the future, the few site descriptions would be left to float in cyberspace, and be less visible as time goes on. But if Indian Well is as good as I've indicated, it deserves a heightened visibility and a chance to be given a place among other big/tall tree sites in CT and regionally. An NTS maintained guide to the best forest sites organized by state would give Indian Well that visibility.

Another site that comes to mind is Sosebee's Cove in North Georgia. I visited that site back in the 1970s. Jess Riddle and Will Blozan reported on it and most recently Eli Dickerson. It's a fine site - one of Georgia's best. Sosebee's Cove deserves a place of prominence, such as in a guide to Georgia's top big/tall tree sites. Other examples could be given.

Perhaps what I'm really arguing for is better organization of the material that we submit on our best sites. Ed Frank can't do it all. He's done an outstanding job of developing the BBS for us. And it isn't merely a case of convenient access - as important as that is. Good organization focuses attention and adds weight. Places like Cook Forest, MTSF, and hotspots in the Smokies receive lots of attention. They're always on the front burner courtesy of the fanatical among us. But other fine places are left largely to fend for themselves. A Internet-based guide book would serve to elevate them and keep the spotlight on them.

For my final point, I'll start by asking: Who speaks best for the big tree sites? If not NTS, then who? Public forestry organizations are usually given credit for knowing where the big trees sites on their properties are, but often have limited interest in those sites for reasons I won't go into here. The big environmental organizations maintain a big picture perspective, but seldom know squat about big tree-tall tree details. The champion tree lists are individual

tree oriented and don't concentrate on site-based information. And so the list goes. Who is left? I think the answer is obvious. How well are we doing the job?

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Ents site descriptions

by **edfrank** » Fri Apr 06, 2012 11:38 am

Bob, I think the eBook idea is worthwhile and should be pursued, but we need to first figure out what sites we want to include and how we are going to pursue the goal. So there is no need to shut up about it, the conversation needs to continue. We need to generate a list of sites to include in the book. We need to develop a site at a glance format that is consistent between sites that includes heading site-at-a-glance information such as site name, size, location, access, overview and key points, to be followed by a more detailed description of what things to see at the site and what makes those things notable. At the end perhaps there could be links to some of the individual trip reports we have published on the site being described. Do we want to include maps? photos? What will be the source or the maps?

Edward Frank

Re: Ents site descriptions

by **eliahd24** » Fri Apr 06, 2012 9:27 pm

I'm completely on board for this project. Ed brings up a good point- what determines a "good" site? Top 12 RI sites? Sites with the most state/national champs? Most diversity? If we can come up with an NTS standard protocol, then I'm more than happy to tease my data to develop sites. I've been daydreaming about doing this for Atlanta sites anyway. Most recently I wanted to compile Rucker

Indices for about the top 10 Atlanta sites and compare this to the size (acreage) of these sites... just the tip of the iceberg in terms of ways to analyze these data. Let's keep the conversation going. Jess, Will, NTS... what say you? :)

Eli Dickerson

Re: Ents site descriptions

by **RyanLeClair** » Fri Apr 06, 2012 9:39 pm

Would using a map interface be a good idea? Like Google Maps/Earth, but with thumbtacks at NTS sites?

Users could view the sites we've visited and click on them as they please. I've attached a picture of a prototype.

The database might be unwieldy if it doesn't use a visual interface like this.



Ryan LeClair

White pine climb with Michael Gatonska

by **Andrew Joslin** » Fri Apr 06, 2012 10:11 pm

I met with Michael today to introduce him to rope and harness tree climbing technique. The goal is to enable Michael to do some wind and tree sound recordings in the forest canopy and to prepare him to climb and make recordings for a future NTS event. We hiked in to woods east of Hartford CT and found a fine old white pine in a grove by a small river. As we started setting ropes a dog barked off in the woods which triggered an unusual mid-day Barred Owl duet. After Michael made an impressive 65' or so ascent using single rope technique we re-pitched up a little higher and set up equipment to do some test recordings. The weather cooperated and some gentle gusts came in creating a nice sway in the trunk and the soft whooshing sounds characteristic of wind in white pine. A newly arrived spring migrant Pine Warbler visited and hopped around the limbs near us, not too bothered by our presence. Eventually and reluctantly we returned to the ground and enjoyed another round of Barred Owl calling back and forth as we took the ropes down. Michael's a natural in a tree, I think we're off to good start exploring the New England forest canopy soundscape.

Andrew Joslin
Jamaica Plain, MA

We have lift-off!



Look down from 65' or so



Taking in canopy space



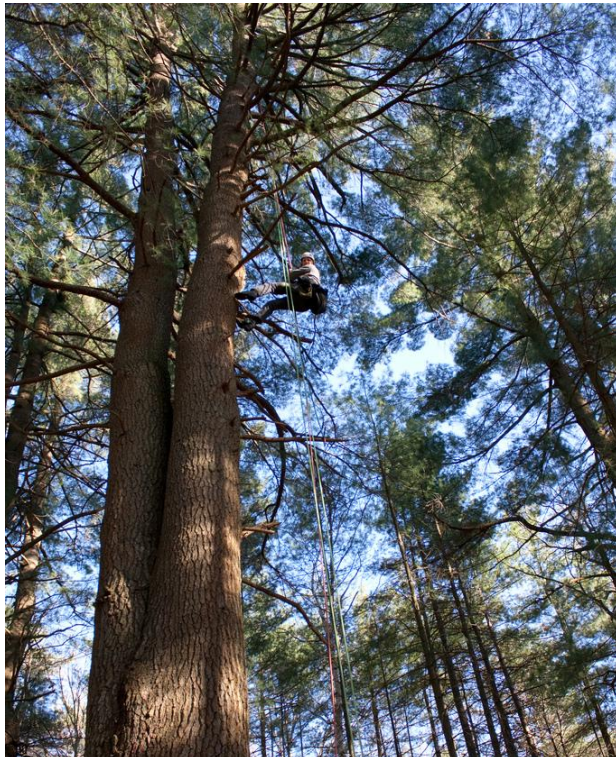
Touch down, congrats on a great first climb!



Base of the trunk detail



Descending out of the tree



Trout Lily on the edge of the white pine grove



[El Yunque National Forest Quarters](#)

by **edfrank** » Sat Apr 07, 2012 7:44 pm

2012 America the Beautiful Quarters Three-Coin Set™ – El Yunque National Forest (N81)



http://catalog.usmint.gov/webapp/wcs/st...y_rn=51501

2012 America the Beautiful Quarters Three-Coin Set™ – El Yunque National Forest (N81) As part of the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program, the United States Mint introduced the America the Beautiful Quarters Three-Coin Sets to honor the Nation's national parks and other national sites.



http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/atb/?local=Yunque

The El Yunque National Forest quarter is the first of 2012 and the 11th overall in the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program. El Yunque National Forest, located in Puerto Rico, is the sole tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Forest System. Despite the forest's relatively small 28,000-acre size, it is significant for its immense biodiversity and is popular with visitors for its year-round tropical climate. More than 1 million visitors from all over the world visit the forest each year to sample its eco-tourism pleasures while developing a greater understanding of its ecological importance by walking along the many beautiful trails. It was first established as a national site on January 17, 1903 (32 Stat. 2029).



The reverse design depicts a Coqui tree frog sitting on a leaf and a Puerto Rican parrot behind an epiphyte plant with tropical flora in the background. The Puerto Rican parrot is a highly endangered species unique to Puerto Rico, and its recovery began with the few birds left in El Yunque. Inscriptions are EL YUNQUE, PUERTO RICO, 2012 and E PLURIBUS UNUM. Design candidates were developed in consultation with representatives of El Yunque National Forest.

Edward Frank

Maryland's largest striped maple tree in Druid Hill Park

Maryland's largest striped maple tree found in Druid Hill Park by Catherine Mezensky
Baltimore Gardening Examiner

Continue reading on Examiner.com

http://www.examiner.com/gardening-in-baltimore/maryland-s-largest-striped-maple-tree-found-druid-hill-park?CID=examiner_alerts_article#ixzz1rJxYINvQ



*Recently, a local volunteer discovered a large striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*) for the record of Maryland Champion trees. Daniel Wilson, a self taught tree expert spotted the tree on one of his regular walks through Druid Hill Park in Baltimore City. The new striped maple Big Tree Champion is 47 feet high and the trunk is 2 1/3 feet around, according to The Baltimore Sun. Champion trees are assessed according to trunk circumference, crown spread and height. While this tree may seem small, it is very large for a striped maple.*

Re: Maryland's largest striped maple tree in Druid Hill Park

by **bountreehunter** » Sat Apr 07, 2012 12:01 pm

Hey all, I am the one who found and I think incorrectly ID this tree. I now believe it is a *Acer*

Davidii. (*Acer davidii* is non native and from china.) I found and ID the tree in February when it did not have leaves and I rushed to judgement based on the striped maples I had seen previously but were much younger than this tree. I informed the Program several weeks ago that I think I botched it and am planning on confirmation that it is a *Davidii* when the leaves are fully out. I feel pretty lousy about it, especially when articles still come out on it. Here are pics of the actual tree. What do you think, Did I blow it or not?

Dan Wilson





[Re: Maryland's largest striped maple tree in Druid Hill Park](#)

by **bountreehunter** » Sat Apr 07, 2012 1:09 pm

Turner Sharp wrote: I soon learned that if it is planted tree in a park or old estate you have got to assume the tree came from anywhere in the world and research accordingly.

That's one of the problems. The whole native/ non native doesn't really apply so much in that this tree seems to be part of an abandoned arboretum or garden. there are many trees in this area that were clearly hand planted by someone. There are southern prickly ash, lacebark pine, water oaks, sugar berry, hawthorns, magnolias, etc. the place has been overgrown and looks like a normal wooded area but there is more to the story told be the variety and spacing of plants. If it is a striped maple it was planted by someone and did not occur naturally. Any help on this would be appreciated. i don't know if anyone on the forum is good with the maples but any help is great.

I really would like input on the ID though.

Two foresters went out to look at it and neither of them said it was not a Striped maple so I am really curious as to its identity. I will go this week and get some leaf samples and post them.

Dan Wilson



[Re: Maryland's largest striped maple tree in Druid Hill Park](#)

by **edfrank** » Sat Apr 07, 2012 9:34 am

The largest in the NTS dataset, unless a bigger one has been found since Jess's compilation is 46 inches in girth

Acer pensylvanicum Maple, Striped (Max
Circumference specimen) girth 46 inches
Forest Trillium Branch Greenbrier,
GSMNP TN 4/5/2007 W Blozan, J
Riddle

Acer pensylvanicum *Maple, Striped* (Max
Height specimen) girth 22.5 inches height
74.7 feet Forest Shanty Branch
Cataloochee, GSMNP NC 4/24/07 W
Blozan

[Re: Maryland's largest striped maple tree in Druid Hill Park](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sat Apr 07, 2012 3:52 pm

NTS, The largest striped maple I've personally measured grows (or grew) in the Green Mtns of Vermont. Its stats were girth = 44 in (diam = 14 in) at the time of measurement. It was about 45 feet tall. I hit a 40 inch girth striped maple on Mt Greylock - maybe 35 feet tall. I got a striped maple in MTSF to 39 inches and about 35 feet tall, and have measured at least 3 others to over 30 inches in girth. The tallest I've personally measured is 68.5 feet, and it grows in MTSF. In Bryant today, I measured a striped at approximately 63 feet. Last October, Will Blozan hit 68 in Bryant. I've measured them to 26 inches in girth in the Adirondacks and up to 54 feet tall.

Most striped maples that people see are quite small because they see them in young woods. In time that becomes the norm.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Maryland's largest striped maple tree in Druid Hill Park](#)

by **George Fieo** » Sun Apr 08, 2012 7:20 pm

Dan, I'm not familiar with *Acer davidii* so here is a photo I took of a striped maple from Potter County, Pa. I hope this helps.



[Re: Maryland's largest striped maple tree in Druid Hill Park](#)

by **Chris** » Sun Apr 08, 2012 11:58 pm

Those twigs/buds look very similar [to this example](#) of *Acer davidii*

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/acda8.htm>

vs Striped Maple

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/images/acpe5348.jpg>

But as Ed said, everyone makes mistakes. I also second Bart. Usually the bark makes it a dead ringer.

Chris Morris

Re: Project Budburst for 2012

by **lucager1483** » Sat Apr 07, 2012 9:09 pm

Gary, Sugar maple and tamarack in the early stages of leaf-out, and tulip tree and white oak about ready to burst. Exotic cherries and willows are about the only trees fully leafed out so far. Port Byron, NY (Cayuga County).

Elijah Whitcomb



Prunus avium?



Liriodendron tulipifera



Acer saccharum

[Re: Moravia, NY, Cottonwood](#)

by **lucager1483** » Sat Apr 07, 2012 10:15 pm

NTS, Jamelleigh,

Thanks for posting your picture. I got back down to Moravia this afternoon and took some more pictures (with my new Sony HX9V!). I'll not comment further on the nature of the tree (single-stem or multi-stem) other than to say I don't know. For your viewing pleasure:

Elijah Whitcomb





Populus deltoides with hat for scale



First image of the tree:

