

## Two tracts of land being cut, NJ

by **Barry Caselli** » Sat Apr 07, 2012 7:04 pm

I made two horrible discoveries, one yesterday and one today.

First, I have to explain a little. In Egg Harbor City, north of Moss Mill Road (CR Alt.561) the city is pretty much wild, except for a short disjunct section of Liverpool Avenue, a block west of CR 563. But then last year the regional high school district decided to put their new high school in Egg Harbor City. Guess where it was put? North of Moss Mill Road, off New York Avenue, which existed only on paper. This is west of Philadelphia Ave (CR 563) and Liverpool Avenue by 2 blocks (on paper). Then just in the past year we find out that the city wants to put in a development on two sides (or three?) of the new high school! (Brad Haber Homes) There hasn't been significant development in EHC since the 1950s, apparently. So yesterday I was driving up 563, and what do I see, but woodland being cleared on the other side of Liverpool Avenue north of Moss Mill Road. The alley (5th Terrace) runs right next to the cleared land, so I drove down 5th Terrace and saw the destruction. It's unbelievable. It's about a 80% or 90% clearcut. All I can say is, I hope they use the paper streets (which are historic to the founding days of the city). But the sight is very disturbing. From what I've read the city council is ecstatic about getting development in.

Now, the second thing I discovered was today. I was driving through Green Bank, a tiny settlement in Washington Township, Burlington County, just over the Mullica river from here. Much of the wooded part of Green Bank is the Green Bank section of Wharton State Forest. And much of that is an old tree plantation, probably from the CCC days. Today I was in Green Bank, driving on River Road. I noticed massive destruction in the woods behind the little park where people can park their cars and walk down to the river. There is also a big picnic pavilion in that park. So behind it was this big pine plantation. The trees are Loblolly and White Pines, among others. So behind this park area and part way along Lover's Lane there is massive cutting going on in this woods,

which is this old plantation. It's really a disturbing thing to see. The forest looks like a war zone. It sort of looks as if a tornado went through. I'd estimate that about 50 to 60% of the trees have been cut, and what's left is a horrible mess of stumps, logs and broken limbs all over the place. And it's right on the edge of the small town. I've never seen anything like this in our area.

Barry Caselli

## Re: Two tracts of land being cut

by **Barry Caselli** » Sun Apr 08, 2012 8:21 pm

Here are two pictures. The one that looks uphill a little shows the destruction in Egg Harbor City. The picture was taken looking northwest, towards the new high school.



I just found that there was discussion of this on the NJ Pine Barrens.com forums. They say it was because of Pine Beetle infestation. Channel 6 from Philadelphia was there and did this little report: [http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?secti ...id=8552307](http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?secti...id=8552307)

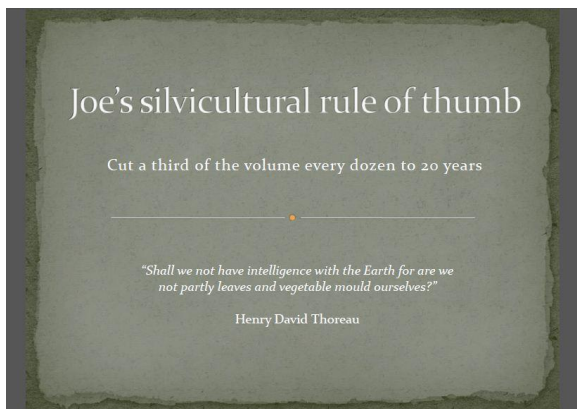


This picture shows the destruction in Green Bank.

But I saw no dead or dying trees there. I drive by there all the time (Green Bank, that is). I also read on those forums that the forest was cut along Quaker Bridge Road, east of Atsion. I also never saw any dead or dying trees up there, and I've been there very recently. Yet on the other hand there is a place in Galloway where there are several acres of completely dead pines, and nothing is being done about it.

Barry Caselli

### Joe's silvicultural rule of thumb



What's so unfortunate is that the vast majority of logging is poorly done. If done right, few people would object because done right, it's really not that objectionable except to dedicated logging haters. As a forester for almost 40 years- I have the "one third rule": <http://www.maforests.org/rulethum.pdf>

Joe Zorzin

### #7) Re: Two tracts of land being cut

by Joe » Mon Apr 09, 2012 7:26 am

lucager1483 wrote

:Joe, Excellent little slide show! I especially liked the picture of Savoy with your palms open. How common is your type of rotational (my term) practice within the forestry industry? Pretty much all I've seen are clear-cuts or high-grading jobs around my area.

Clearcutting was very, very rare until about a decade ago- the forestry "thinkers" started pitching the idea that such work was great for wildlife- but most of the large clearcuts on state and private lands were poorly implemented- angering a lot of people- precipitating a "forest futures vision process" by the state- I was appointed to one of the committees, the technical steering committee:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeet...tryfvp.htm>. High grading until a few years ago was the most common form of logging. Things have gotten better after a small number of foresters fought for years to expose this problem and change the rules.

Regarding that photo in Savoy- I also have a video regarding that butcher job- from which I cut the still shot: <http://vimeo.com/2090043> and I did a powerpoint on that clearcut showing how they messed up a grave yard: <http://www.maforests.org/savoy/savoy-c.pdf>

Regarding the other photo at Gould Farm in Monterey, in the Berkshires of western Mass.: that property is the only Forest Guild Model Forest in this state: <http://www.forestguild.org/mf-gouldfarm.html>  
Joe

PS: the past decade has seen endless forestry battles- and in the past few years, we now have huge battles over solar "farms" and wind "farms"



## The Moody Forest Natural Area, GA

by **samson'sseed** » Sun Apr 08, 2012 10:44 am

I had a chance to visit the Moody Forest Natural Area last week. In 1999 The Nature Conservancy bought 4500 acres from the Moody family, and today co-owns and manages it with the Georgia State Government. The property includes 350 acres of old growth longleaf pine-wiregrass savannah along with 600 year old cypress trees on the Altamaha River.

I was with my wife and daughter, so because there were no restroom facilities, and my womenfolk's tolerance for mosquitoes and heat is low, my time was limited. Nevertheless, I found some interesting stuff.



This was the biggest slash pine I could find. Note the burn marks. The preserve is burned on a regular basis. I didn't see a single longleaf pine in the area I explored--just slash and loblolly.



This is a swamp chestnut oak. Though dominated by pine, there were a surprisingly large number and variety of oaks, including post, willow, southern red, overcup, and either black or Shumard's. I can't really tell the difference between those 2. Reportedly, the preserve hosts 200 year old post and overcup oaks.



Much of the landscape looks like this--open piney woods. Ferns were by far the most common plant in the undergrowth.





This forest floor was recently burned. The only people we encountered were workers with firestarting equipment.



This is the top of an endangered gopher tortoise burrow. I didn't see the tortoise but a couple of rabbits that probably used the burrow were a few feet from the entrance. The preserve also hosts endangered red cockaded woodpeckers and indigo snakes.

I found this interesting mix of species outside the preserve at the Roadside park adjacent to the Altamaha River off Highway 1.



Here, post oaks which usually grow on dry uplands were covered with Spanish moss which usually grows on moist lowlands.

Sampson's Seed

Some other links:

The Nature Conservancy Georgia: Moody Forest Preserve  
<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/georgia/placesweprotect/moody-forest-natural-area.xml>

Oh Ranger.com Moody Forest Natural Area  
<http://www.ohranger.com/ga/moody-forest-natural-area>

Native Tree Society - Moody Forest Natural Area, GA: Long Leaf Pine <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=73&t=778>

Longleaf Pine Forest Video - Moody Forest Natural Area, GA  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYo3r-qNdXo>



## 139' hickory, Derby, CT

by **RyanLeClair** » Sun Apr 08, 2012 6:46 pm

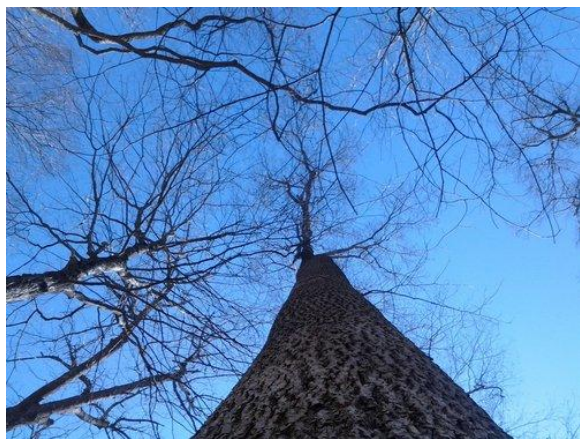
Today I measured a (bitternut) hickory Bart and I stumbled upon a few weeks ago. The tree grows in a ravine, so it's had to grow tall in order to get sun. I got 139' as a height. 7'10" circumference at breast height.

I think this height measurement is reliable. A few weeks ago I got 138 ft. on a straight-up, so 139 certainly is reasonable.

Anyways, it's a neat tree--spectacular, even.



Bark of the tree



Looking up the trunk



My dad in front of the tree



*Carya cordiformis* (Wangenh.) K. Koch - bitternut hickory



## [A couple of Giants in New Zealand](#)

by **fooman** » Mon Apr 09, 2012 1:24 am

On a visit to Hamilton in North Island of New Zealand, I managed to visit a couple of trees, both introduced species, that are amongst the biggest of their species in New Zealand.

### 1. Awhitu Macrocarpa

The Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) is known throughout New Zealand as "macrocarpa".

While researching the location of a large pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) on the Awhitu Peninsula just west of Auckland, I found references to a macrocarpa that was supposed to be the largest in New Zealand. While not native to the country, trees of the species do grow very large here - A tree in Golden Bay with 3 fused trunks was measured at 44 ft cbh, another single stemmed ornamental was measured at 40 ft cbh, and a tree in Tauranga was measured at 50.9 m (167 ft) tall. So a few months after I found references to the Awhitu tree, I flew to Auckland and drove the 100 miles or so to the park where the tree was located.

The tree measured up as being 23.8 m (78 ft) tall, a spread of 29.5 m (97 ft), and most impressively, a cbh of 14.55 m (47.7 ft), for a total of 675 points.

This is slightly less than the American Forests champion (683 points) at Pescadero, CA, but the Awhitu tree has a larger circumference (and is single stemmed). See

<http://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/963> for more details.



The macrocarpa at Awhitu Regional Park. Unusually for a large macrocarpa, it has retained the classical conical conifer form.



The trunk of the Awhitu macrocarpa. The lowest branch comes out from the trunk at approximately 2 m (6.5 ft) high

### 2. Newstead Gum

The Newstead gum is a mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), the species originating in south east Australia, and currently the second tallest known tree species after the coastal redwood. Planted around 1878, it was regarded as New Zealand's tallest tree (measured at 71.3 m / 234 ft) in 1964, when it was 86 years old. In 1968 Cyclone Giselle knocked the top off the tree, reducing the height. When the tree was last measured in 1999, it was 60.35 m (198 ft) tall,



with a spread of 27.5 m (90 ft) and cbh of 12.68 m (41.6 ft).

The field the tree (and neighbouring mountain ashes planted at the same time) had recently been incorporated into a local reserve, enabling public access. I visited the tree in late 2010 to take some photos to submit to the New Zealand Notable Trees Register. Subsequent to that visit, I purchased a Nikon 550 Forestry to assist in my tree hunting addiction. Since no laser-based measurement of the tree had been performed, and it was literally just down the road from my sisters house, a family visit at Easter provided the excuse to try for a laser measurement of the height of the tree. The tree was found to be 62.6 m (205.4 ft) tall, the spread still at 27.5 m (90 ft) and an increase in the girth to 12.99 m (42.6 ft), for a total of 739 points. Even so, the Newstead gum is not the largest of it's species in NZ, there being a larger (in girth and spread, but shorter in height) tree near Dunedin in South Island (<http://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/640>). Also near Dunedin is the tallest tree in NZ, another mountain ash, at 81 m (265 ft) tall as recently reported by Michael Taylor (<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=50&t=3444>).

The Newstead gum is not even the tallest tree at its location these days - A quick scan of the surrounding trees showed one at 64 m (210 ft) in height, and a recently fallen trunk at just shy of 60 m (197 ft) to a broken top. More information is at <http://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/588>.



The base of the Newstead Gum, in 2010.

The Newstead gum is not even the tallest tree at its location these days - A quick scan of the surrounding trees showed one at 64 m (210 ft) in height, and a recently fallen trunk at just shy of 60 m (197 ft) to a broken top. More information is at

<http://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/588>.



The Newstead Gum in late 2010

Cheers,  
Matt Smillie



## Re: A couple of Giants in New Zealand

by **fooman** » Mon Apr 09, 2012 3:32 pm

*Will Blozan wrote: Great post and trees!!! So, is the largest cypress you measured to 78' the one listed as 167'? That would be a world record error! Maybe it was 67'?*

The 167 ft tree is another tree in Tauranga (a city about 2 hours drive from Auckland). I've edited the post to correct the poor wording! As for the 167 ft measurement, BVP performed it, so I'm pretty happy with it, see

<http://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/424>.

The Tauranga tree is in an urban garden and easily visible via Google street view, see attached. There was a tree of similar height in another part of Tauranga (Yatton Park), but that was recently taken down due to storm damage. That tree is shown at [http://www.conifers.org/cu/Cupressus\\_macrocarpa.php](http://www.conifers.org/cu/Cupressus_macrocarpa.php)



Maybe the tallest Macrocarpa in the world?

Cheers,  
Matt

## Re: Pumpkin ash, first in Arundel, MA now state champ

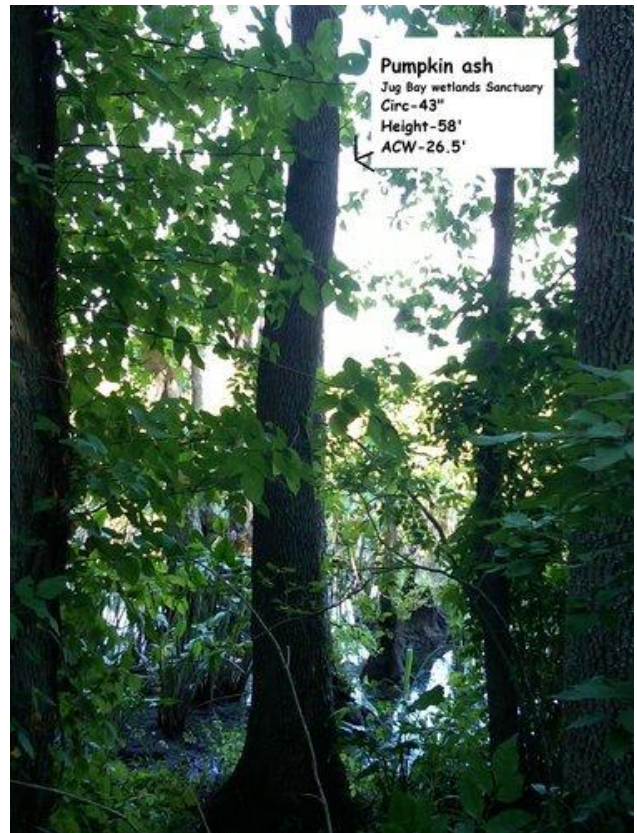
by **bountreehunter** » Mon Apr 09, 2012 5:01 pm

Sorry the pic was so bad, it was dark and I had forgot my camera and had to use my cellphone.

COMMON NAME: Pumpkin Ash – Maryland State Champion – New Species  
LATIN NAME: *Fraxinus profunda*

OWNER: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Chris Swarth, Director, STREET: 1361 Wrighton Road  
COUNTY: Anne Arundel CITY/STATE/ZIP: Lothian, 20711  
NOMINATOR: Dan Wilson  
DATE MEASURED: August 8, 2011

BY: Dan Wilson, MBTP Volunteer  
CIRCUMFERENCE: FEET: 3' 7" INCHES: 43"  
HEIGHT: 58' AVERAGE CROWN WIDTH: 28' x 25' = 26. TOTAL POINTS: 108.0





LOCATION/APPEARANCE/HEALTH OF TREE:

Tree sits 20' from the boardwalk in the NW direction. It stands in the midst of a shallow muddy swamp directly next to open water. It is tall with a narrow crown due to competition from surrounding trees. A significant portion of its roots are exposed above ground. Tree appears healthy. It grows in a clump of 20-25 other smaller pumpkin ash, some of which have fallen over. This tree would appear vulnerable to being blown over as it is not anchored securely. GPS COORDINATES: N38 47 070 W76 42 166



[BT-](#)

[2254 Jug Bay Pumpkin ash Nomination Form.doc](#)

Dan Wilson

### [Vesco Mortuus, Eastern White Pine, Maryland](#)

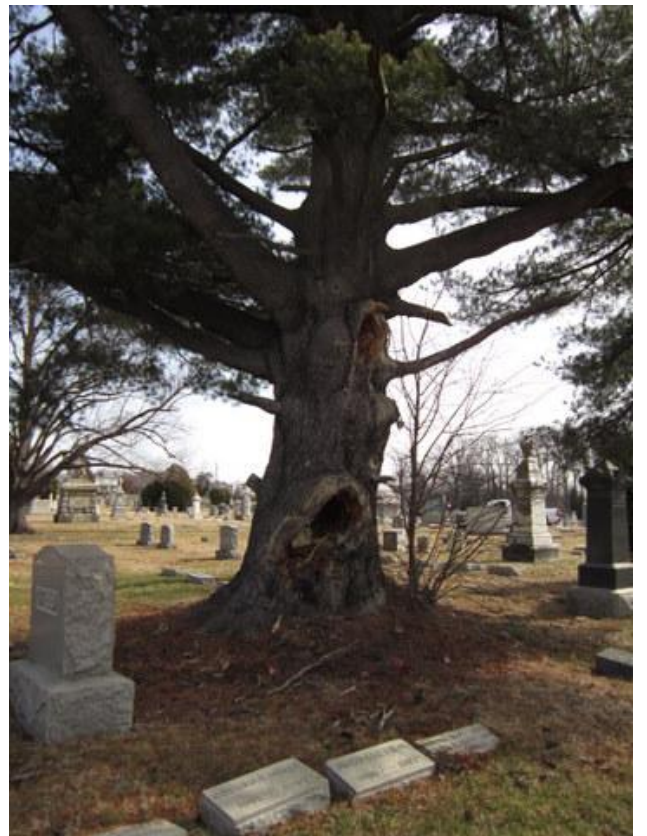
by **bountreehunter** » Mon Apr 09, 2012 8:09 pm

I know these measurements are not comparable to the national champion Eastern white Pine in New Hampshire, but it is more than just girth that makes this tree interesting to me. Its circumference is larger than any White pine recorded in Maryland since they started in 1925 at 186". Its crown spread is larger than any Maryland white pine as well at 77'. It only stands at a mediocre height of 68' but as I said it is not its measurements that fascinate me, but rather where it is this tree is growing. Within Baltimore city, resides Lorraine park cemetery which was established in the mid to late 1800's. It's a 60 acre cemetery that has in the very center of its boundaries a stout Eastern white pine that I like to refer to as Vesco Mortuus. There is no doubt that this tree stood when the property was converted into a resting place for the passed away residents of Baltimore city. There is also no doubt when one sees the granite markers of its lifeless residents, just how deep Vesco's roots penetrate. The markers around Vesco are tilted forwards and backwards by his bulging root system. The ground swells around his base and desecrated an expansive area of evenly spaced

monuments. Leaving no doubt at all as to what is going on beneath the surface. My imagination can't help but picture Vesco mortuus's massive, hungry roots penetrating and breaking in ironically..... Pine boxes.

Dan Wilson







## [Re: Biltmore Estate Trees, NC](#)

by **bbeduhn** » Tue Apr 10, 2012 3:11 pm

I have a few new measurements from the gardens of Biltmore.

Carolina hemlock        103.4'  
Norway or oriental spruce    133.6' This may be a US record for either species.  
Dawn Redwood        124.1' same tree as previous post.  
white pine            158.1'  
I got a 156' shooting straight up and had various numbers in the 150's from multiple angles. One reading had 161.6' but that was with some estimation on the base. It may top 160' but I haven't confirmed it yet. I plan to do an inventory of the gardens this summer. The trees are relatively well spaced.

I finally got a high reading for the Friday's sycamore in Biltmore Village. That tree had frustrated me on two previous visits.  
sycamore    144.0'

Brian Beduhn

## [Redwood Lumber Industry, Northern California - 1947 video](#)

by **edfrank** » Tue Apr 10, 2012 6:10 pm

Redwood Lumber Industry, Northern California - 1947

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcEto\\_Q8MIY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcEto_Q8MIY)



Uploaded by ohlhous on Nov 14, 2008

"What Majestic Trees! - Hey, Let's cut 'em down!"  
Cutting, loading, transportation, mill sawing and finishing operations of the Northern California's redwood lumber industry, 1947.

## [Re: Redwood Lumber Industry, Northern California - 1947 video](#)

by **Don** » Wed Apr 11, 2012 9:37 pm

Ed/NTS members-  
Here's a few that 'got away', from a visit there last week...: > }



Neither of either 'couplets' were under 6' diameter, individually...

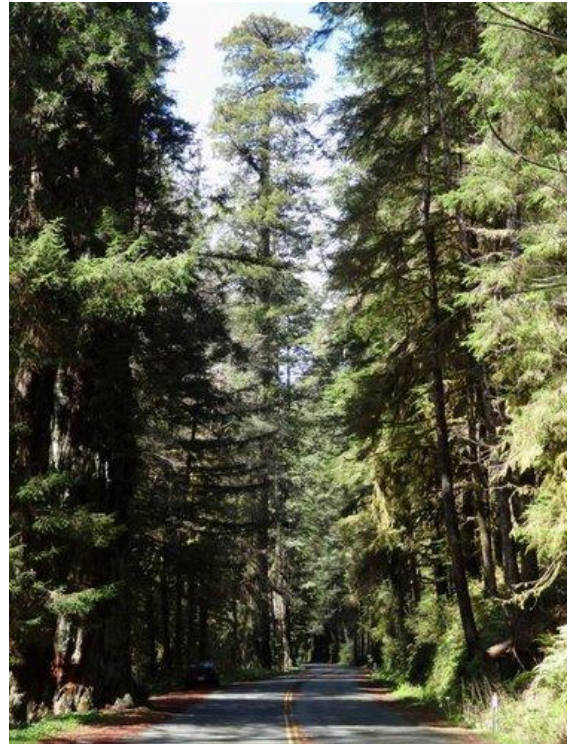




While no measurements were made, the density and mass of these trees is mind boggling!



It is so difficult to take in the full magnitude of these redwoods...



As a one-time forest road designer, it was usually all balancing cut and fill slope masses, occasionally an opportunity to choose a 'terminus'!



Perhaps several thousand years of 'community development', with history of fire, a rich bank of



nutrients to spread out over time, and a pretty good start on diversity...



The exposed roots here expose the source of the nutrients for the younger tree, as well as the structure sustaining it...

I have more coastal redwood forest community members, as well as some of the panoramas of the northern California coastlines and the varied plant communities that populate these gorgeous landscapes.

Sad that we are looking at what is part of what may less than 5% of the original coastal redwood forest ecosystem. Man has at least found the sense to 'have dominion' over this last of the five percent.

Here's one that Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park is proud of, and displays that pride thusly:



Finally an image with a person for scale! I approve of the root protection afforded by the decking...

And the measurements provided by the state park folks...the girth, reasonable...the height, I'll withhold judgment until Mike Taylor or I can properly measure it.



Worthy of a brass plaque, a carved wooden plank (perhaps the source of word plaque?) seems appropriate technology, no?

*Don Bertollette - Moderator, WNTS BBS*

## [Honor The Giants - 1080p](#)

by **edfrank** » Mon Apr 09, 2012 6:57 pm



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vycnMZ2uf3w>

Uploaded by EcoSodaBlaster on Mar 6, 2011

Vintage pictures from the Land of the Giants. Oregon, Washington and California. These pictures represent those that we will not see again, the Old Growth Timber.

## [Three favorite tree Question.](#)

by **bountreehunter** » Wed Apr 11, 2012 7:20 pm

I was Reading Colby Ruckers material today and i was in a part where he listed his favorite trees from 1-65. #65 was his least favorite, and understandably it was a Boxelder. His #1 was surprising to me though. I hesitate to tell those of you who do not know what it is because i don't want to influence my next question. What is your 3 favorite Native trees and list them #1, #2 and #3. Colby gave reasons for his favorites and i would like to hear what your reasons are. I know its a hard question and truthfully my answers may change depending on when you asked me this question.

Dan Wilson

## [The Ankerwycke Yew - video](#)

by **edfrank** » Tue Apr 10, 2012 6:36 pm

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBmWym1vAnU>



Uploaded by Boomadviseur on Apr 9, 2012

This 2,000 years old Yew (*Taxus baccata*) grows in the grounds of the ruined Priory of Ankerwycke. It is said to have witnessed the oathing and sealing of the Magna Carta by King John in June 1215 and to be the location where Henry VIII met Anne Boleyn in the 1530s. We visited this tree during the Ancient Tree Experience 2012, organized by the Nederlandse Boominfodag (<http://www.boominfodag>).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ankerwycke\\_Yew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ankerwycke_Yew)

*The Ankerwycke Yew is an ancient yew tree close to the ruins of St Mary's Priory, the site of a Benedictine nunnery built in the 12th century. It is near Wraysbury in Berkshire, England. It is a male tree with a girth of 8 metres (26 ft) at 0.3 metres. Various estimates have put its age at between 2,000 and 2,500 years. On the opposite bank of the River Thames are the meadows of Runnymede and this tree is said to have been witness to the signing of the Magna Carta. It is also said to be the location where Henry VIII met Anne Boleyn in the 1530s.*



## **Fanny Bennett Hemlock Grove - WV**

by **tsharp** » Tue Apr 10, 2012 9:48 pm

Fanny Bennett Hemlock Grove – near Cherry Grove, WV I had a chance to visit this stand in October of 2011. Several people had told me that the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) had heavily impacted the stand so I thought I should get some measurements while there are still some to get.

This 70 Acre tract is on the Potomac Ranger District of the Monongahela National Forest. The stand was acquired by the Nature Conservancy in 1966 and transferred over to the United States Forest Service in 1969. The stand is easily accessed. From the town of Cherry Grove in Pendleton County, take WV 28 south 3.2 miles to a right turn on Sawmill Branch Road (CR 28/10) and follow this road 2.3 miles directly to the tract boundary on the left.

The Hemlocks had a nice columnar shape with deeply furrowed bark and a more pronounced reddish cast than I have been used to seeing. Elevation was 3,000' at Sawmill Branch which comes off of the eastern slope of Spruce Knob- the highest elevation in WV at 4,663.

I covered maybe 20 acres of the 70 acre stand. This included the bottomland along Sawmill Branch and a small unnamed tributary. I also covered about a 100 foot elevation gain on each side of the small tributary. HWA has been present from at least 2003. My estimate is that 50 percent of the Hemlocks are dead with many on the ground or with tops out. Another 25 percent are heavily infested with HWA and most of the other 25 percent are lightly infested. Several of the trees looked relatively healthy and some of these were highly visible along the road so I checked with the Forest Service to see if any treatment had been applied to the stand. They confirmed no treatments were done.

My main effort was to get an indication of maximum height and circumference of the remaining Hemlocks. Maximum height was 118.9' with maximum circumference of two dead trees of 9.8' both with their tops out and one with bark the other with no bark.

I soon tired of crawling through all the deadfall and after measuring 8 or 9 Hemlocks I headed back to the car and measured a few hardwoods on the way out. Also noticed were lots of Beech sprouts but no mature trees. The complete listing can be found on the "Trees Database at:

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1109/Details>

One of the last trees measured was initially tallied as a Chestnut Oak but after noticing some Chinkapin Oak leaves on the ground I changed my ID. However upon later consideration maybe I saw Chinkapin leaves which is found in that area. So that species ID must remain tentative.

In a way I am glad I did not see the stand in its original condition. It was painful enough.

This tract is in the Potomac River drainage and would be considered in the Ridge and Valley physiographic province. Sawmill Branch is a tributary of Big Run which is a tributary of the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River. How's that for a river name.

For another description of the stand check out this link.

<http://www.asecular.com/forests/fannier.htm>

Turner Sharp

## **Re: Fanny Bennett Hemlock Grove - WV**

by **Chris** » Tue Apr 10, 2012 11:37 pm

Thanks for the report. I looked back at my notes and photographs from a visit of May 2011 [I must have been in the good mood, I didn't mention HWA, but noted "lots of snags and woody debris on floor and in stream channel"....]. Anyways, besides some of the species you mention, I noted a few very tall Red Spruce [impressed me most because it seems like the tallest I have ever seen] near the center of the tract along the stream and a few big White Pine and White Oak far up on the south facing ridge. I didn't measure or anything.



tall red spruce



up look at white pine



white oak

### [Re: Fanny Bennett Hemlock Grove - WV](#)

by **tsharp** » Wed Apr 11, 2012 11:48 am

Chris, NTS: I recently talked to a person formerly associated with Nature Conservancy who remembers a visit to the stand in 1979. He indicated the canopy along Sawmill Branch and for a distance up the side tributary was totally dominated by Hemlock with a few Beech. At mid day it was dark and gloomy and delightfully cool for an August visit. Totally different now.

Chris: Did you enter the stand at the bottom along Sawmill Branch or walk down from above. I did see two Red Spruce but did not measure either one. The White Pine and White Oak escaped me but I did not measure very far up slope although I could see various Oaks further uphill.



## [The Guardians - Video](#)

by **edfrank** » Wed Apr 11, 2012 9:58 pm

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



Published on Apr 3, 2012 by LeeHarrisEnergy

This movie is the winner of the Films for the Forest 2012 Professional Category. It was first screened in Austin, Texas on March 12, 2012. Please enjoy this short movie.

\* The movie collaborators wanted to give something back to the Trees and they did it the best way they know how by sharing from their hearts. This movie is dedicated to The Guardians of planet earth.

### Film Synopsis:

The trees and humanity share a common home called Earth. The trees have been Earth's guardians since the beginning of time. They have supported humanity and all life on earth with their many gifts. As they stand tall in their loving silence they wait patiently for humanity to rise in consciousness so we may remember to fulfill our responsibility as earth's guardians. It is our turn and this is our time.

### FILM CREDITS

Text & Narration - LEE HARRIS  
(leeharrisenergy.com)

Music & Sound - DAN BURKE (shiftsmusic.com)

Photography - BRAD OLIPHANT  
(bradoliphantphotography.com)

Closing Tree Quote - DIANNE ROBBINS  
(diannerobbins.com)

Introduction, Film Editing, Design and Production -  
ORIBEL DIVINE (oribeldivine.com)

Music - "Flight" from the album "SHIFTS"  
([www.shiftsmusic.com](http://www.shiftsmusic.com))

## [Bibliography on Forest Resources & Ecology of Ethiopia](#)

Sun Apr 08, 2012 9:24 pm



<http://treefoundation.org/wp/2012/04/08/bibliography-on-forest-resources-ecology-of-ethiopia/>

### PDF Version

[http://canopymeg.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Bibliography\\_on\\_Ecology\\_and\\_Forest\\_Resources\\_of\\_Ethiopia.pdf](http://canopymeg.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Bibliography_on_Ecology_and_Forest_Resources_of_Ethiopia.pdf)

This entry was posted on Sunday, April 8th, 2012 at 9:06 pm and is filed under CHURCH FORESTS OF ETHIOPIA, RESEARCH.

## Tree Haiku by Basho

by **Jenny** » Thu Apr 12, 2012 9:46 am

Found a bunch of great Spring Haiku poems by Basho:

Spring too, very soon!  
They are setting the scene for it --  
plum tree and moon.

From all directions  
Winds bring petals of cherry  
Into the grebe lake.

The leafless cherry,  
Old as a toothless woman,  
Blooms in flowers,  
Mindful of its youth.

That great blue oak  
indifferent to all blossoms  
appears more noble

The oak tree stands  
noble on the hill even in  
cherry blossom time

Spring rain  
conveyed under the trees  
in drops.



## Mystery tree on UNC campus

by **pdbrandt** » Thu Apr 12, 2012 11:16 am

Dear NTS,

Can you help me identify this interesting tree that is currently flowering on UNC campus? Is it *Paulownia tomentosa*?

It is *Paulownia tomentosa*

Thanks!

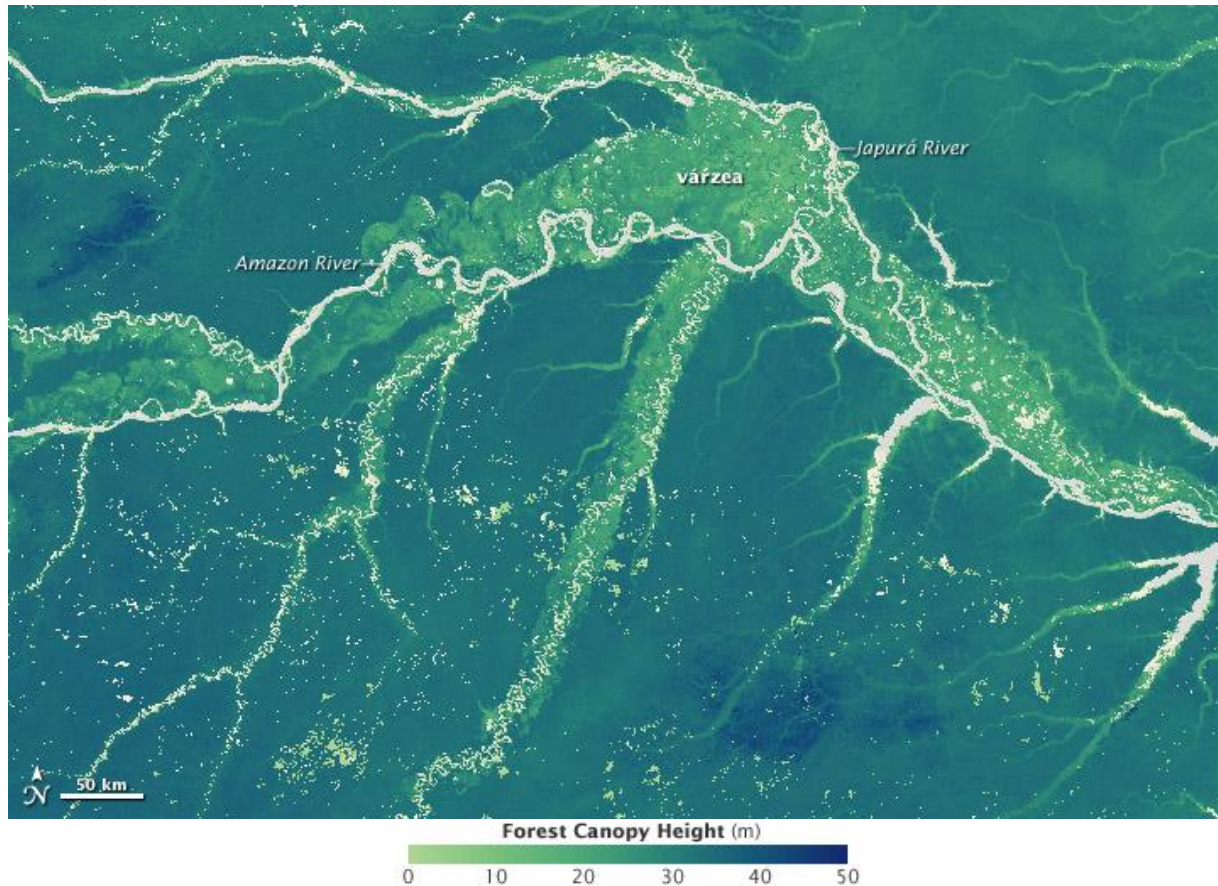
Patrick Brandt



## Global Forest Canopy Heights, Take Two

April 13, 2012

by Chris » Thu Apr 12, 2012 8:48 pm



acquired April 12, 2012 [download](#) large image (5 MB, JPEG, 4832x3608)

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=77637&src=iotdrss>

<http://lidarradar.jpl.nasa.gov/>

When [Michael Lefsky](#) of Colorado State University released a [first-of-a-kind map](#) showing the height of the world's forests in summer 2010, he made clear it was a first draft that would be refined in the future. Sure enough, a second map of global forest canopy height [appeared in the pages](#) of the *Journal of Geophysical Research* about a year later.

A team led by [Marc Simard](#) of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory developed the newer map. It shows that, in general, forest canopy heights are highest near the equator and decrease the closer forests are to the poles. The tallest forests, shown in

dark green in the map above, tower higher than 40 meters (130 feet) and are found in a band in the tropics that includes the rainforests of the Amazon, central Africa, and Indonesia.

One exception: the temperate rainforests in Australia and New Zealand, where stands of eucalyptus, one of the world's tallest flowering plants, reach similar heights. The map shows that temperate conifer forests in the Pacific Northwest—full of Douglas fir, western hemlock, redwood, and sequoia—are home to exceptionally tall trees that grow fairly far from the equator as well. In contrast, boreal forests in Canada, northern Europe and Russia (comprised mainly of spruce, fir, pine, and larch) tend to have canopy heights less than 20 meters (66 feet)....continued

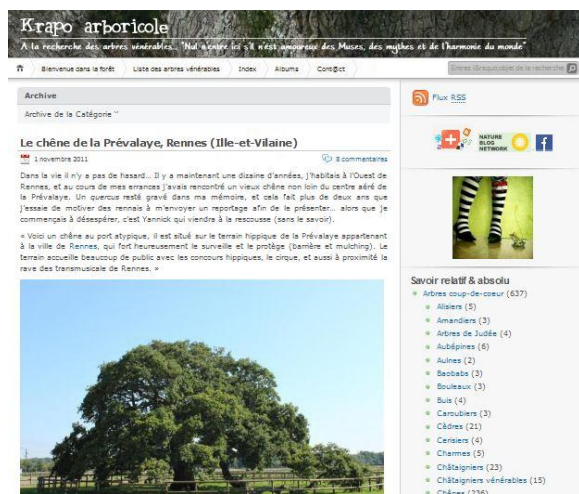
## Krapo arboricole

by **edfrank** » Thu Apr 12, 2012 9:53 pm

Jill Butler wrote:

This great French blogsite had slipped my mind but I was reminded of it today by a French friend. One of the latest blogs has one of the most complete lists of arbres remarquables in France.

<http://krapoarboricole.wordpress.com/category/arbres-coup-de-coeur/chenes/chenes-%C2%AB-aux-longes-bras-%C2%BB/>



## Re: Krapo arboricole

by **Rand** » Fri Apr 13, 2012 11:06 am

Oh wow. There are a ton of cool pictures in there.

For those who might not be aware, running the page through google translate makes it easier to navigate (see right hand sidebar):

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fkrapoarboricole.wordpress.com%2Fcategory%2Farbres-coup-de-coeur%2Fcypres-chauves%2F&act=url>

Rand Brown

## Least favorite trees

by **RyanLeClair** » Thu Apr 12, 2012 2:10 pm

Now that Bountreehunter has made a 3 Favorite Trees thread, maybe it would be funny in a tasteless sort of way to list our LEAST favorite trees. Nothing too vicious, it's all tongue-in-cheek ;)

If you can include a blurb with your three choices. Here's a hilarious blurb by Michael Dirr on white mulberry:

"LANDSCAPE VALUE: none. According to a landscape architect, whose name will remain anonymous, this tree has excellent color, texture and form; possibly she and I are thinking of different trees; the only beneficiaries are the birds and the silkworms..."

Again, be nice to the trees! Don't be too harsh!

Ryan LeClair

## Dorsey Farm Mt. Nebo, WV

by **tsharp** » Fri Apr 13, 2012 11:50 pm

NTS: In May of 2011 I found myself in the far suburbs of Mr. Nebo high on a ridge bouncing across a rutted farm road on a 4-wheeler and driven by a person who belatedly informed me he was legally blind. We were crossing the farm of Jerry Dorsey, the driver, who said not to worry it was only his lack of peripheral vision. He was going to show me a large Yellow-poplar which was a corner tree referenced in an 1860 deed. It turned out to be over 4' diameter, but was impossible to get a good height reading so I promised to come back in the fall after leaf drop to get an accurate reading. Before leaving Jerry showed me a patch of timber on another part of the farm which he had cut 25 years ago but left the hemlocks and less valuable hardwoods. Since the property had been in his family for over 150 years he thought he was the first one to cut in that patch. The



hardwoods showed a lot of old growth characteristics.. The Hemlocks ranged from 3-4' diameter.

On 11/17/2011 I returned to the Dorsey farm accompanied by Dr. Amy Hessel and Matt Merrill from West Virginia University. Dr Hessel is associate professor of Geology at the University. I am not sure what Matt is working on but it requires coring Hemlocks and he has been to several tracts that I am somewhat familiar with including Fanny Bennett and Shavers Mountain.

The Yellow-poplar is centered in picture below. It measured at 13.8 girth and 135.6' height. No record holder but a nice tree.



13.8' x 135.6' x maximum spread 86'  
Photo by Turner Sharp 11/17/2011

Matt cored two Hemlocks. He later told me they were in the 250-300 year age class but were pretty poor quality cores. I believe he is on the prowl for 400+

year age class Hemlocks.

The two Hemlocks that Matt cored were measured at 12' x 110.8' and 11.7' x 107.7'.



Matt Merrill coring the 12.0' x 110.8' Hemlock

Entered into the "Trees database" at  
<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1194/Details>  
Photo by Turner Sharp 11/17/2011

Turner Sharp

## [Liverpool School Maple Grove Apr. 6, 2012](#)

by **tomhoward** » Sun Apr 15, 2012 10:40 am

NTS, On Good Friday, Apr. 6, 2012, Jack Howard and I visited the Liverpool School Maple Grove, a site of about 11 acres that contains some of the oldest trees north of Syracuse. As you'll see, the Beech trees are among the oldest in the Northeast.

I got the following measurements with "D" tape:

Onondaga County champion Red Maple

37.2" dbh

Black Cherry NE (looks like Black Cherry, with dark rough bark, and leafing out) 25.4" dbh

Red Maple west in low area 33.2" dbh

spiral grain, in area with many old Red Maples

Typical Beech SE 23" dbh,

many larger than this

Sugar Maple east stem sinuosity,

32.7" dbh

balding bark, massive craggy limbs

Hop Hornbeam trail entrance old, rugged

19.2" dbh

The Sugar Maples in the canopy were starting to leaf out and bloom, giving these magnificent old trees a soft green aspect. The grove's largest tree, the Onondaga County champion Sugar Maple (52.6" dbh, 116 ft. tall) was a glorious sight, with the tops of its massive lofty branches turning the soft green of new leaves and flowers. It is a healthy tree despite the huge scars that have marred its trunk for possibly well over 2 centuries. Sugar Maple seedlings were coming into leaf everywhere.

The ancient Red Maples in the lower western part of the grove were easy to identify as their lofty gnarled crowns were covered with bright red sunlit seeds, a glorious sight.

Also on 4/6/2012 I counted 283 rings (1.2 ft. radius) on a log cross-section of a fallen Beech tree on hill to south. Lowest part of trunk was hollow, and this cross-section was about 20 ft. above tree base – it is the highest ring count I've ever gotten in this grove,

and the maximum for Beech in Onondaga County; a cross-section from another part of the same tree (also 1.2 ft. radius) had a count of 277 rings. 283 years is a higher age for Beech than in the Eastern Oldlist and in the ENTS maximum list for New York.

There were many spring wildflowers in bloom, including Red and White Trilliums, Trout Lilies, Mayapples, and others, many more flowers than in the old growth oak groves of North Syracuse.

We saw 2 Pileated Woodpeckers in the grove, heard their powerful tapping, and on a snag just above us, saw the red crest of one of then Woodpeckers catching the sun.

Tom Howard

## [Bear Rd. School, North Syracuse White Oak](#)

by **tomhoward** » Sun Apr 15, 2012 10:46 am

NTS, On Apr. 5, 2012, Jack Howard and I went to Bear Rd. School, where we used "D" tape to measure the diameter of the Onondaga County champion White Oak – this is a fast-growing tree, open-grown, 68 ft. tall (12/2009 height measurement), measured at 73.5" dbh 3/31/2007; on 4/5/2012 that measurement is 77" dbh (20.16 ft. cbh); it is the largest tree in the North Syracuse area, and seems to have been planted about 1827 to mark the separation of the newly created Town of Clay from the Town of Cicero; the tree is on the town line, and this tree was cored, and found to be growing extremely rapidly; it is an ideal location without competition on a hilltop at the edge of a small swampy 2nd growth forest; a White Oak of similar size due north of it was blown down in 1998 and found to date from about 1827. The largest trees in the 2nd growth forest are Black Cherry, Yellow Birch, and Black Willow.

On 4/5 we examined more of this 2nd growth forest of Yellow Birch, Black Cherry, big Black Willow, Red Maple, Silver Maple, Boxelder, Butternut, Black



Walnut, Elm, Quaking Aspen, Cottonwood, Norway Spruce. There is lots of Skunk Cabbage and many Cattails in the swamp, and we saw Geese and Mallard Ducks in the swamp. We walked along a paved trail, which is a North Syracuse School District right of way with the swamp on either side of us. At the eastern edge of the swamp and due south of the champion White Oak is another very large open-grown White Oak, but this tree is not accessible as it is behind a backyard on Elm St. The right of way goes up a hill into a pleasant Red Pine plantation behind houses on Elm St. These Red Pines were said to have been planted by SUNY ESF students some years ago, and in the 1990s the Red Pines overflowed into yards of West St. that goes south from Elm St.

Tom Howard

### [Re: Washington Grove City Park, NY](#)

by **larrychampoux** » Sun Apr 15, 2012 10:05 am

Greetings all, My name is Larry Champoux and I live next to Washington Grove. I am a volunteer with a group called the Friends of Washington Grove (FOWG), whose mission is to restore and protect this unique habitat.

I had the pleasure of meeting Tom Howard by accident one day last week while he was researching the Grove. I look forward to seeing his report here.

I have passed along this link to other members of the FOWG. If ever any of you or perhaps a group of you wish to come to the Grove to do some more measuring of our great trees, I would be happy to arrange a time for you to also meet some members of our volunteer group, or perhaps even our City Forester, Brian Liberti who some of you may already know. Please come back to the Grove. Thanks,

Larry Champoux

### [#11\) Re: Washington Grove City Park](#)

by **tomhoward** » Sun Apr 15, 2012 10:21 am

NTS (especially Adam, Elijah),

All you say about Washington Grove City Park is true. This old growth oak forest is truly extraordinary, with oaks, that are, indeed, much larger than in North Syracuse. The Black Oaks may be among the oldest of this species in existence. My brother Jack Howard, who lives in Toronto, spent a week with me here in North Syracuse, and we used his car to get to Rochester sat. Apr. 7. Washington Grove was easy to find, and is in a remarkably beautiful neighborhood with tree-lined streets, and many trees in lawns. Such neighborhoods are virtually non-existent in the North Syracuse area.

Adam, I believe I saw the oak log cross-section you counted 220+ rings on - it was near the entrance, was, as you said a smaller tree, and, indeed, had at least 220 rings. It's the log of a Black Oak. We did not see any Black Gum at Washington Grove, but the dry upland of Washington Grove is poor habitat for Black Gum.

What follows is a report I did on Washington Grove:

 [Washington Grove City Park.docx](#)

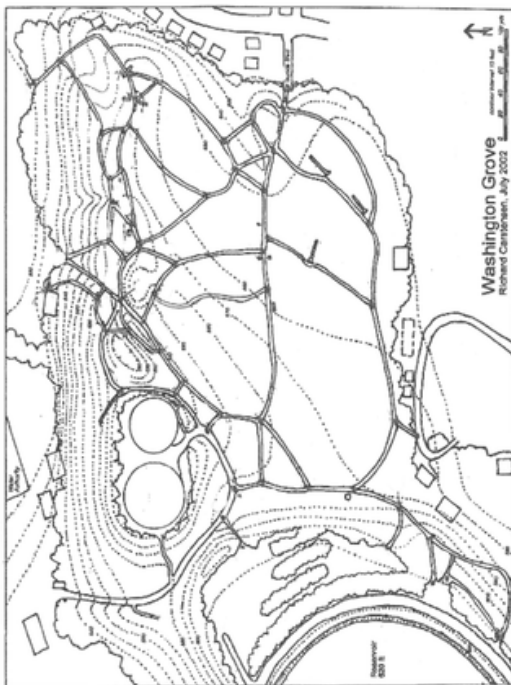
Tom Howard

## [Re: Washington Grove City Park, NY](#)


by [larrychampoux](#) » Sat Apr 21, 2012 7:14 pm

Elijah, If you do come back to Washington Grove, I know a few people who may be very interested in working with you and learning about tree measurement. I am a volunteer with the Friends of Washington Grove and we are fascinated with Tom Howard's report. If you would like to meet a few of us, please e-mail me. (It will also be very helpful for our restoration efforts to learn more about your efforts.) Attached is a map for visitors to Washington grove that may be helpful for plotting locations of trees.

Trail Map



Attached is a document that was prepared a few years by the Committee to Restore Washington Grove in order to make the case for additional protections for this valuable resource. This group evolved into the current Friends of Washington Grove.

 [Project to Restore Washington Grove.pdf](#) (2.2 MiB)

### PROJECT TO RESTORE AND PROTECT THE WASHINGTON GROVE

#### MANAGEMENT PLAN



OCTOBER 2009

### PROJECT TO RESTORE AND PROTECT THE WASHINGTON GROVE

#### MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### VISION STATEMENT

The Project to Restore and Protect the Washington Grove is sponsored by the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club in partnership with the City of Rochester. This coalition includes neighborhood associations and concerned individuals who have come together with a shared vision that honors the Grove as a unique woodland area to be maintained for future generations.

The Grove offers a variety of paths that wind through majestic oaks, hickories, tulip trees, and other large tree species native to this area. It demonstrates what a classic oak-hickory forest might have looked like at the time of the Iroquois. It is remarkable that a woods of this quality remains in the middle of urban Rochester, and we feel a deep responsibility to protect and maintain it.

But the Grove is undergoing many changes. Trails are eroding and becoming wider. Undergrowth is thinning, and some native species are disappearing due to disease and competition with exotic species. Large oaks are falling as they age, opening up gaps which encourage the growth of invasive, non-native species.

The goal of this long-term project is to maintain a mature grove that resembles what might have been seen hundreds of years ago. In order to succeed in this endeavor, the Grove will continue to be a woodland, but one that is intentionally managed to protect and propagate native species and to control exotics. A variety of strategies will be necessary to preserve the integrity of the Grove and protect it from further degradation. To accomplish this, we will plan activities to educate the community about the value and uniqueness of the Grove, discourage misuse, and enlist on-going community involvement with the Project.



## Checking in from the Blue Ridge Parkway

by dbhguru » Sat Apr 14, 2012 4:43 pm

Hi Folks, Well Monica and I are winding down our BRPW visit, which got considerably curtailed because of Lyme disease for yours truly. Yep, on the antibiotic. Nuff said.

Here are some images from this visit.

From near the beginning.



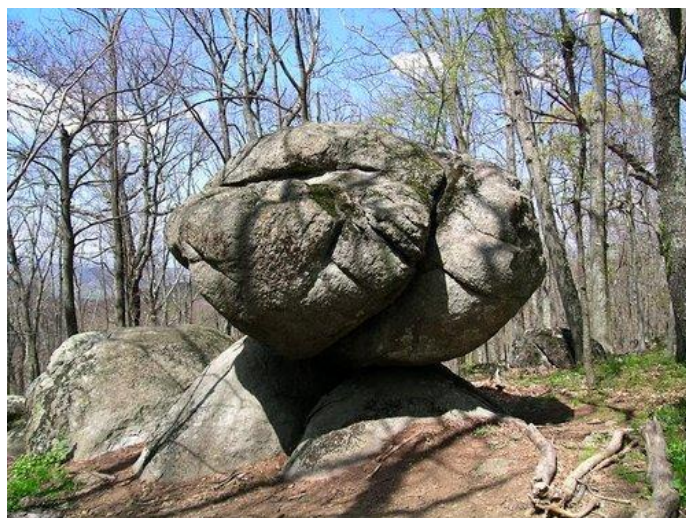
From Peaks of Otter Lodge.



Series from Harkening Hill. First on is from summit looking toward Apple Orchard Mtn



A balanced rock, but not THE balanced rock on Harkening Hill, which is rinky dink.





Neat shagbark hickories



You tell me.



There will be more to come on the Parkway, but after the Cook Forest rendezvous. Tomorrow, we head north with a stop-over at Ramsey's Draft.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Highland Park, Rochester, NY](#)

by **tomhoward** » Sun Apr 15, 2012 10:29 am

NTS, On Apr. 7, Jack Howard and I visited Highland Park after our survey of Washington Grove City Park. It has been many year since we have been to

Highland Park. We have good memories of the Lilac Festival, and of beautiful conifers from all over the Northern Hemisphere. On Apr. 7, we focused on the conifer collection or Pinetum.

What follows is a report on this visit:

On this beautiful sunny cool day Jack Howard and I explored the Pinetum at Rochester's Highland Park. We have not been to this park in many years, and Highland Park holds many good memories for us, as we visited the park just about every May for the famous Lilac Festival. Back then, we also visited the Pinetum; The Pinetum is one of the finest collections of temperate zone conifers anywhere.

We parked along a narrow road right under the prickly needles of a Chinese Needle Juniper, and across the street from a crooked spreading Limber Pine from western North America. The Pinetum consists mostly of rolling hills covered with rough-barked fragrant Eastern White Pines that average over 2 ft. dbh, and are possibly about 100 years old and 100 ft. tall. The breeze made a beautiful sound through the White Pines, which are among the most musical trees. The groves of our eastern North American White Pines often give way to groves of large and lovely, more stiff-looking Austrian Pines. There is also some 2nd growth hardwood forest with some large Northern Red Oaks (one Red Oak had what looks like an increment borer hole) and Black Oaks.

Many of the trees here have labels identifying species, and these labels made the identification of many of these exotic trees possible.

Trees (and other plants) seen:

Eastern White Pine typical of many  
27" dbh

Pyramidal Chinese Juniper

Blue Atlas Cedar – several small trees

Weeping Atlas Cedar

Northern White Cedar

Sawara Cypress (from Japan)

Dawn Redwood

Cucumber Magnolia

Oregon Grape Holly – tall shrub in fragrant yellow bloom, common in Northwest USA



Holly – small evergreens near Oregon Grape Holly  
Slavin's Weeping English Yew  
Lacebark Pine from China  
Mugo Pine – small tree not shrub as usual  
Limber Pine – like White Pine with 5 needles per cluster, rugged gray bark, bigger cones than Eastern White Pine  
Ponderosa Pine (amid Eastern White Pines)  
28.3" dbh  
Red Oak open-grown in 2nd growth  
40.7" dbh  
Douglas-fir  
Austrian Pine with 4 trunks and a massive base  
Shorter needled form of Austrian Pine from Bosnia  
Blue Spruce  
White Spruce  
Engelmann Spruce  
Norway Spruce  
some big Cottonwoods  
European Larch  
Siberian Larch in soft green leaf  
Big Nikko Fir from Japan – several like this  
26.8" dbh  
Big Golden-Larch from China  
28.6" dbh  
Tall impressive Algerian Fir (from Atlas Mts.)  
32.5" dbh  
Another big Algerian Fir  
27.5" dbh  
Big 3-trunked Eastern Hemlock  
Small Japanese Umbrella-Pine  
In same area as these trees Japanese Bigleaf  
Magnolia with huge leaves, easily over a foot or more long on ground  
Tall Black Cherry in same area – native tree looking sort of out of place  
Nordmann Fir – tall, straight  
Japanese Black Pine – twisting small tree, like out of a Japanese painting  
Huge Caucasian Spruce (*Picea orientalis*)  
32.5" dbh  
Japanese Bush Spruce  
In more open area, a huge Cedar of Lebanon  
41.6" dbh  
magnificent spreading tree – largest conifer seen  
Huge Ginkgo crown split into 2 big ascending limbs  
50.1" dbh below split  
Armand Pine – White Pine from eastern Asia with big cones

On a hilltop we saw 2 huge spreading trees that looked like Sycamores with peeling bark, but their branch and twig structure was too fine for them to be Sycamores. One of these trees had at least 7 trunks, and the other had a single trunk 40.4" dbh. A small tree nearby with identical branch and twig structure had a plaque identifying it as a Zelkova. So these huge trees are Zelkovas, a fairly little-known tree native to Asia.

We also saw some small Japanese White Pines that still had seeds in their cones; these seeds have much smaller wings than the seeds of Eastern White Pines. Near these pines, were some Flowering Plums, which are most likely also Japanese.

Sonoran White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), a nice-looking medium-sized White Pine

Carolina Hemlock really lovely small tree

17.1" dbh

2-trunked Lawson Cypress (in its native land in northern California and southern Oregon called Port Orford Cedar)

Swiss Stone Pine

A rather small multi-trunked crooked Globe Red Pine (*Pinus densiflora globosa*) from Japan, bark redder than the young bark of Scots Pine.

As we got ready to leave, we saw a small Butterfly with black center, orange, black, yellow outer wings, perched on the Limber Pine across from the car.

## **Re: Highland Park, Rochester, NY**

 by **RyanLeClair** » Sun Apr 15, 2012 7:10 pm

That area of NY--Rochester to Buffalo--might have been a great place for big trees pre-colonial era. Word is that area has always had great soil.

[http://soils.usda.gov/technical/classification/orders/alfisols\\_map.html](http://soils.usda.gov/technical/classification/orders/alfisols_map.html)

Ryan LeClair

## "virgin forest", a useful and pleasing term

by **Ranger Dan** » Sat Apr 14, 2012 3:01 pm

There have been many negative comments about the term "virgin forest". I think it is not an undignified practice to occasionally use unscientific terms, especially when we are called upon to regard the forest for aesthetic appreciation. To some, a definition of "virgin forest" would exclude all human influence such as introduced species or human-induced climate change, and of course to those people there is no place on the planet that is "virgin".

I have always thought of the term simply to refer to forest on land that has never been logged, and so it seems to me that the term simplifies the issue of how to refer to the status of a stand of forest, young or old, on land never logged. Somebody tell me if there's a better term for that. "Primeval", "original", "primordial"? "Never-logged" is an awkward and unclear term I feel forced to use instead (my 10-year-old stand of pines has never been logged, but I wouldn't call it "never-logged").

Virgin forest isn't necessarily full of old trees, if it has experienced stand-replacing fire, for example, which occurs naturally nearly everywhere. Much of Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest is that way...stands where trees relatively recently have been killed by fire and replaced by young regeneration, but on land never logged.

My Washington state Forest Service timber beast colleagues despised the term "virgin forest" because to them it seemed a sissy term that took the idea of the extractable "forest resource" outside of their familiar utilitarian concepts and into an uncomfortable, unmanly aesthetic ether where trees are not thought of as lumber. They always referred to de facto virgin forest that had burned within the time of European-American habitation as "second growth", even if the fire was of natural origin, and even where some ancient trees survived. I see no relevance to the word "second" in this case (and how do they?). By their own insistence, all the forest there has burned time after time for centuries, which to them conveniently did away with the suggestion

that any of their extractibles could qualify as "virgin".

I always enjoy talking about the *Virgin Forest* in the company of the timber beasts whenever I visit a U.S. Forest visitor center. It's at least as effective as fingernails on a chalk board. They don't like to hear "old growth" either. I was told during a recent visit to a visitor center for Pisgah National Forest that there is no old growth forest there. In other words, already screwed, so we can do with it as we please.

I think it would be preferable for those of us who cherish the groves of ancient trees to err on the side of oversanctification, and call them *Virgin Forest*.

Dan

## Re: "virgin forest", a useful and pleasing term

by **Will Blozan** » Sat Apr 14, 2012 4:34 pm

Dan, as an ecological purist, I will never use the term "virgin forest" until I see one. Only the rarest fragments of forest not impacted by mis-managing humans would ever come close. Carolina hemlock bluffs come to mind provided they have not received human fire protection or HWA.

An unlogged forest that has lost American chestnut, eastern or Carolina hemlock, Carolina parakeets, ivory-billed woodpeckers etc. is not virgin in my mind. Labeling it virgin negates or glosses over the impacts of humans. An unlogged stand of table mountain pine, longleaf pine or any other fire driven forest ecosystem that has had its fire regime disturbed would also not be virgin even though not mechanically disturbed. Same for floodplain forests that no longer flood due to dams or diversions.

Extreme I know, but this topic will have a huge spectrum of responses and opinions.

Will Blozan



## Re: "virgin forest", a useful and pleasing term

by **Josh Kelly** » Sun Apr 15, 2012 12:02 pm

Dan, Thanks for the thoughtful response about virgin forest. I occasionally use the term myself, mostly in communicating to lay people that understand "virgin" means ain't-never-been-logged.

I, also, like bringing discussions of nature into the realms of aesthetics, emotions, and values. I find these areas to be less abstract than the utilitarian view of forest as board feet, biomass, and the false presumption of human control of nature. Huge influence - yes; control - never. If we had any measure of control, the clearcuts I regularly tour would be full of red oaks instead of red maple and poplar. It is our quest for control of nature and each other that leads to so many of the unintended tragedies we see around us, but that is best left to another thread.

It's sad that so few of the employees of Cherokee, Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests recognize the amazing old-growth stands they are responsible for. Many of these stands do not live up to the stereotype of having huge trees, but some do. The fact is that these three national forests collectively have nearly 100,000 acres of old-growth, and each forest has sites that should be famous, even without the already famous Joyce Kilmer. I encourage any NTS that encounter the ignorance of employees of those forests about old-growth to politely inform them that there are excellent examples of old-growth on their forest. Evidence of those stands can be found in the Forest Service's land acquisition records, in their own FS Veg data base, in the Region 8 Guidance on Protecting and Restoring Old Growth Forest, Mary Byrd Davis' "Old Growth in the East", and in scientific literature.

Thanks for your perspective!

Josh Kelly

## Re: "virgin forest", a useful and pleasing term

by **Don** » Sun Apr 15, 2012 3:45 pm

Ranger Dan- Like Will and many others, the search for the right word or phrase has eluded us. My UMASS prof in paraphrasing

United States Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart to describe his threshold test for pornography in *Jacobellis versus \_\_\_\_\_* "I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be ... But I know it when I see it", Dr. David Kittredge said "I can tell when I walk into it [old-growth], and when I walk out of it", but he too also struggled in coming up with a definition, back then (1990's).

For my part, I take neither extreme (for example, Hunter who takes the purist stance and claims that man's influence is everywhere pervasive, a rather exclusive definition; or at a similar time, the USFS which was trying to establish a country-wide minimum criteria, which oddly enough functions to be an inclusive definition, characterized by numeric limitations).

I would proffer a definition that recognizes the difference between natural and unnatural...which gets into it's own morass early enough (g). By this I mean that man by himself is as natural as ANY other critter on earth. Period. Even men in tribes. But somewhere along the way, man's nature in a larger society, and a technological one at that, and in my view differs from 'natural man'.

For an example, an area (for instance a watershed) that has as it's most significant disturbance, cyclic wind events such as hurricanes...would qualify for further contention, as "old-growth". Still in contention though is the level of influence by man, either natural, or as defined above, unnatural.

Another criteria would have to be age (a criteria hinted at in the phrase "old-growth" itself), and in my imperfect world I'd classify that to recognize the the proportion of the old-growth's ecosystem's component's age maxima. This works across regions, as a definition of old-growth in a temperate NW US

forest with Douglas fir (1200-1500 years) predominating would be a very different thing than say that of an eastern forest dominated by Fraser fir (less than 200 years).

Where it gets 'touchy' is say in the Southwestern US, where bimodal climate regimes called a Monsoon have for millenia created a natural fire regime based on more or less random (speaking spatially and temporally) lightning downstrikes match any in the nation. When did the arrival of indigenous peoples' use of fire for their needs, become significant in comparison to lightning sourced fires? Equal? More prevalently man-caused?

That's a little easier, as considerable study has been applied towards this historical reference condition. Another question to ask is: Can the efforts of the Grand Canyon National Park's fire staff and fire scientists' reintroduction of a more natural fire regime (using only wildfires for resource benefit) restore the ponderosa pine ecosystem (PPE) to a vector that will take closer to where the PPE might have gone without unnatural man's influence?

Sorry if I've rambled...but Aldo Leopold's right, everything's connected to everything else!

Don Bertollette

### **Re: "virgin forest", a useful and pleasing term**

by **Chris** » Mon Apr 16, 2012 1:20 am

Lots of good thoughts, but I actually have another problem with the term itself [I realize some, perhaps lots will groan]. Virgin is a term used to describe human and in particular, *female sexuality*. It isn't *not* descriptive whatsoever for a forest, unlike unlogged or old-growth that is at least to some extent. I don't know for sure, but my guess is the origin is *very loaded* [nature is feminine; western society has tended to highly value/demand female virginity, therefore a virgin landscape is more pure, better].

Chris Morris

### **Re: Daniel Boone Carving on Beech Tree, TN**

by **kkaled** » Mon Apr 16, 2012 8:51 am

Hello Gentlemen, I was on the computer researching Daniel Boone's Beech Tree and came upon your postings. I own a wooden mallot that came with a framed document that states: Made from the wood of the famous beech tree which stood on Boone's Creek, Washington County, Tenn., and which bore this Inscription: D. Boon Cilled A. BAR On Tree in ThE yEAR 1760 The document goes on to say: This tree fell during the winter of 1917-18 and its wood was purchased Nov. 1937 by the John Sevier Chapter, D.A.R., Johnson City, Tenn. This article was made for and sold by that Chapter. No. 401.

This document with the number 401 mentioned is referring to the number of my wooden mallot that has engraved on it the D Boone inscription mentioned above. The mallot and document have been in my family for well over 50 years. My father's family was from the South. I will provide pictures at your request. I hope this email makes sense. Feel free to contact me. Hope this helps.

Kkaled

### **Re: Daniel Boone Carving on Beech Tree, TN**

by **TN\_Tree\_Man** » Mon Apr 16, 2012 9:51 am

ENTS, I think that a couple of Boone Beeches are being confused. The one that JohnHagy is looking for in Eastern Tennessee (Washington County) is gone. The one cited by The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council <http://www.tufc.com/registries.html> is legitimate and is located in a farm field outside of Jackson, Tennessee (West Tennessee).

Documentation regarding its authenticity is vast enough to be convincing.

Steve Springer



## Savage Gulf State Park Hemlock Preservation COMPLETED!

by **Will Blozan** » Sun Apr 15, 2012 6:24 pm

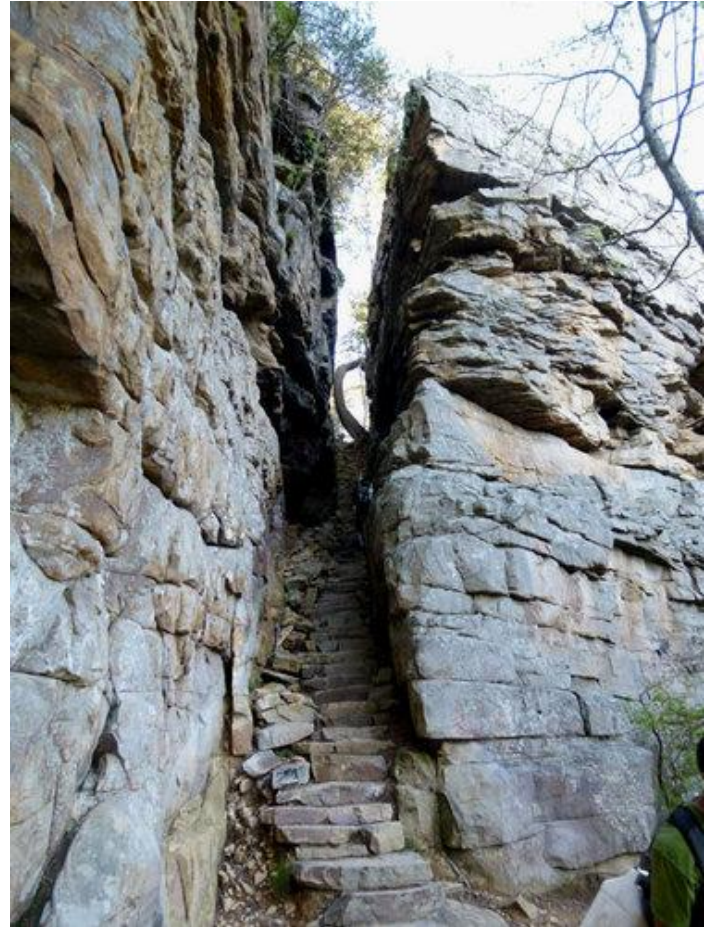
NTS,

At long last the epic project to treat a significant portion of the eastern hemlocks at Savage Gulf State Park has now been completed! We survived the job with no major injury and blessedly few chiggers and ticks. No snake bites either- we were warned by park rangers to get out soon as timber rattlers were waking up. Apparently the park is world-reknowned for its density of rattlesnakes...

The last push of the project was entirely on Big Creek- the largest tributary in the park. This section entailed more than 15 miles of treatment area and long sections of extremely rocky conditions. I went through another pair of boots on this phase.



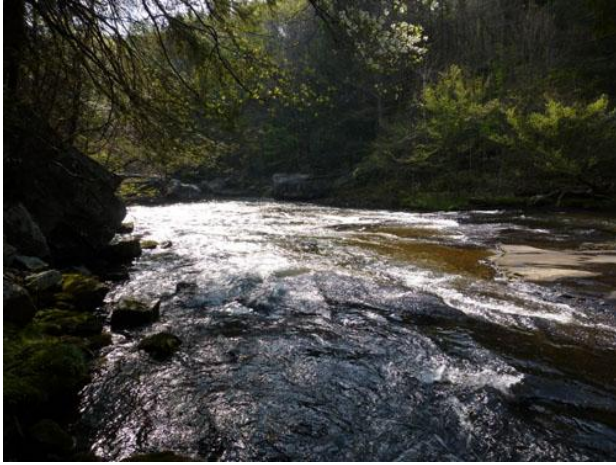
*Vista of Big Creek from Stone Door overlook*



*Stone door entrance to Big Creek*

Big Creek proper is also well known to disappear and reappear in a network of sinks and springs. The lack of water threw our plans for a loop on several occasions, as did the extreme amounts of water after a rain. Finding crossing points proved difficult unless below a sink.

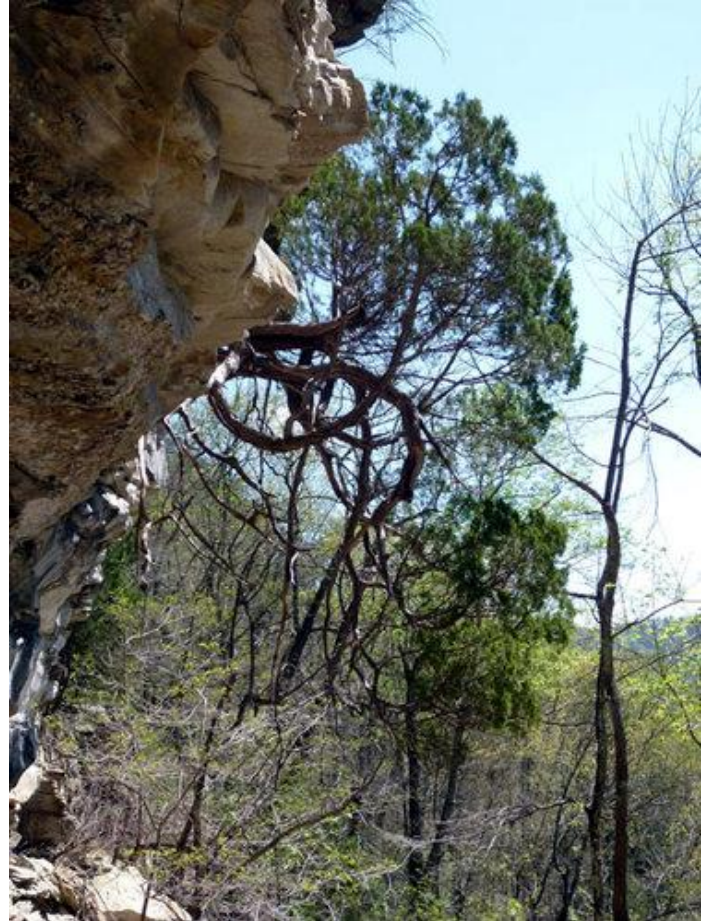




*Big Creek above sinks*



*Big Creek below sinks*



*Ancient cling-on cedar*



*Unfinished business on Big Creek*





*Reeves Falls on Falls Creek*



*Lower Falls Creek above the sinks. Note water pouring out of the slope.*



*Cute little bugger!*

Some tributaries- like Ranger Creek- had tons of water until it plunged over a ledge and disappeared into a hole. Same for Falls Creek- a raging whitewater tributary that simply vanished into the side of the cove. A placid pool near the end of Big Creek lured one to swim but it had a menacing swirl to it as thousands of gallons of water emptied down a crack about 8 feet under the surface. We wondered how many animal carcasses where down in these sinks. Lots of trash I'm sure. We we told Collins River (which Big Creek "empties" into) reappears many miles away in a huge spring near McMinnville, TN.





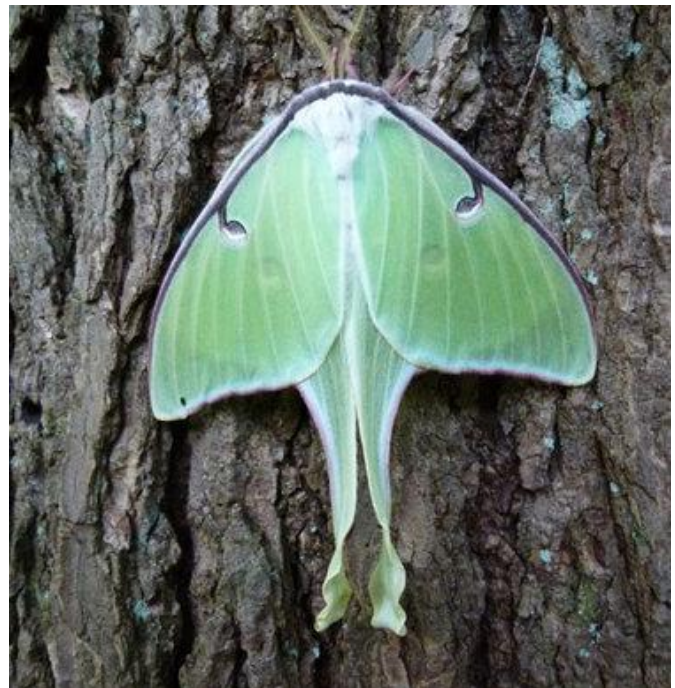
*Ranger Creek Falls and treated hemlocks*



*Ranger Creek Falls*



*Ranger Creek Falls*



*Fresh hatch*



We did have a bit of mop-up on Collins River which included one of the most impressive falls- Suter Falls. This is one sketchy trail when wet!



*Trail to Suter Falls on scree*



*Suter Falls*



*Suter Falls*

Total tally of the project was 8,521 trees 12" or greater in diameter totaling over 155,000 diameter inches. These were located on about 1,200 acres of the park in varying density. The project took 133 person days and 8 work weeks on site, which is less than we thought. We estimate a total of 90 miles of hiking for access and treatments for each member of the team.





*Last day of treatments- coming up with a plan*

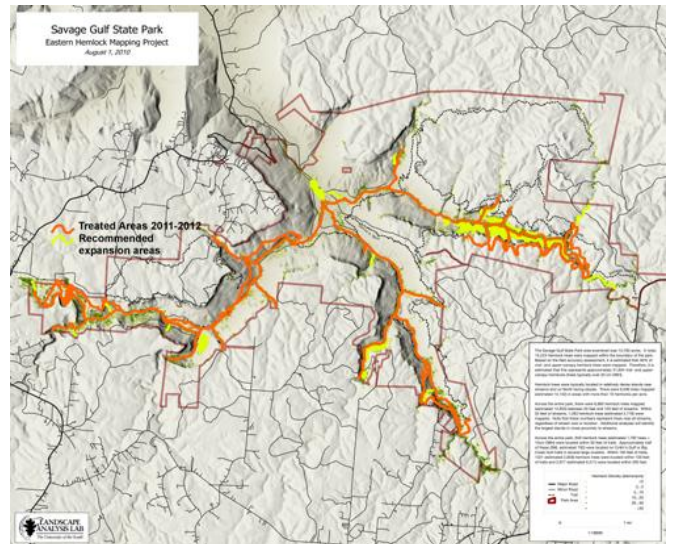


*The team before last day on Big Creek*



*The last tree!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

Many thanks to the team members; from Appalachian Arborists, Jason Childs and Nick Smith, and from Cortese Tree Specialists; Aaron Reid, Lydia McClure and Tim Perry. But thanks most of all the the staff at South Cumberland State Park (of which Savage Gulf is a part), specifically George Shinn and John Cristof. Without your perserverance and passion this project would not have happened when it did.



*Treated areas and expansion suggestions*

Will Blozan

## Re: Tree Haiku

by **bountreehunter** » Fri Apr 13, 2012 5:42 am

*My spirit seeks out,  
what the Frenzied man ignores,  
peace in tree's shadow.*



## [Re: White pine climb with Michael Gatonska](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Mon Apr 16, 2012 7:10 pm

Hi Bob, Ed, and Andrew!

My climb with Andrew was a super introduction to the tree-climbing craft; I learned a bunch from Andrew, and he was very methodical, great at explaining techniques, and a terrific climbing mentor.

Once we were up at about 3,000 feet, or actually more like the 70-or-so-feet that Andrew described in his official post, I experimented a little bit with taking some audio. I have to mention, that once we had gotten into the canopy, what I heard, or learned, was that previously (from ground level) I was recording the sound of a tree. Now that we were in the canopy, I was "in" the sound - and this experience was completely different and all-ear-encompassing.

Personally, it will be important that I find a way to capture this surround-sound sonic truth. On my maiden voyage with Andrew, I was experimenting with 2-channel stereo recording -- but now in our future climbs I will definitely need to switch to making 4-channel stereo recordings.

I also discovered that wind in the canopy can be a different kind of factor than on the ground; it can create points of distortion in the recording, even with a windscreen on the mic. So, I have bought a bigger, and deeper dish, and I will need to experiment with that fixture before we get to the Bryant Homestead.

My plan is, with a few more climbs with Maestro Andrew, that I can begin to focus on trying varying recording techniques in the canopy, and begin capturing some really good soundscape recordings.

To prepare for this, I have contacted a very good sound engineer who is a friend of mine, who will listen to the takes I that I made with Andrew and offer his *in the field* suggestions as to how I can proceed.

Andrew - great photo of the Trout Lily!!!

Michael Gatonska

## [Re: White pine climb with Michael Gatonska](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Wed Apr 18, 2012

Hi Andrew-

I am definitely looking forward to our next climb, and I have just finished building a new version of dish to bring into the canopy. Next time we will do some good, long takes, with hopefully some good winds.



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJ\\_JbOb-Uwg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJ_JbOb-Uwg)

As a side 'note', hear is the audio (with video), I captured of the stream near the Barred Owl Pine that you thought had a nice sound. I went back and recorded the audio the next morning after our climb.

Michael Gatonska

## [Re: White pine climb with Michael Gatonska](#)

by **AndrewJoslin** » Wed Apr 18, 2012 10:54 am

Transports me back to the woods, nice. Could listen to that all day

Makes me wonder if one approach to capturing a sound portrait of a particular site could be to position microphones with separate recording devices (or as many as needed so you wouldn't have wires all over the place) at different locations, one by a brook, one

up in a tree, another in a patch of trout lilies etc. Similar to the idea of a studio recording session. Each "musician" has its own microphone. Then later in a mixdown session, the "conductor" could "move" the listener around in 3 dimensional sounds space by adjusting levels for each mic location. When a goldfinch takes a solo the listener could move close to the goldfinch and still hear the other woods sounds in the background. then when a bumblebee visits some flowers on the ground, it's bumbling buzzing could be brought to the forefront. If done well it would accurately capture a site and give the listener the feeling of freely moving in 3 dimensional space to focus in on a particular part of the woods orchestra.

If that makes sense ;-)

-AJ

### [#11\) Re: Suggestions for a tree lovers visit to GSMNP?](#)

by **Ranger Dan** » Sat Apr 14, 2012 12:51 pm

Porter's Creek, near the Ramsay Cascades Trail, is one of my favorite ancient forest trails, with a nice, long stretch of never-logged forest with giant tuliptrees and other ancient trees starting after a mile or two, and beside a beautiful stream. In the Cades Cove area is the Forney Ridge Trail, where there are extensive areas of streamside and mountainside never-logged forest full of magnificent specimens, especially if you are into off-trail exploring. As for the Booger Man Trail, there is a short stretch in the mid-section with big tuliptrees and other hardwoods along it, but I personally have found the trailside forest to have little bang for the buck compared to other trails in the area, so you'll want to explore off-trail there to make it more worthwhile.

In most places in the Smokies you will encounter lots of dead hemlocks, ancient ones. But there are areas of never-logged forest where you can avoid the sadness. The upper end of the Long Bunk Trail goes through magnificent forest dominated by oaks with very few hemlocks, and in the lower part there are

never-logged groves (some hemlocks) along with old field and habitation sites. The high ridges of the Smokies have lots of never-logged red spruce and gnarled birch (though they are not extremely large), and few hemlocks. The most easily accessible place is at Newfound Gap.

In Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, the grove of incredible tuliptrees along the Poplar Cove Loop has long been known by big-tree lovers as the single most magnificent stand of trees in Eastern America, and in my experience, it is indeed. I have explored all over the big tree forests of the Northwest, giant sequoias, redwoods, and many old-growth sites in the East and Midwest, but to me Poplar Cove stands out as one of the most wonderful forest groves of all, though it is small. To gaze up into the ponderous architecture of sculpted, ancient limbs of one incredible tree after another is something you'll want to savor slowly.

The heart of the grove, thankfully, has no significant hemlocks. Do go there, but do not go on the trail to the left across the creek, which goes through nearly pure dead hemlocks (none of which were very large, anyway). Take the trail to the right from the parking lot to the Kilmer Memorial, where there is the remains of the only large hemlock in the area, which died of natural causes before the adelgids arrived.

The best part of the grove is above the memorial plaque. If you explore off-trail, high along the east-facing walls of the valley, there are nearly hemlock-free, open groves of magnificent red oaks and other northern hardwoods.



## **Trees housing mammals needed for research study**

by **pdbrandt** » Mon Apr 16, 2012 9:17 pm

Dear NTS, Dr. Roland Kays is a zoologist at NC State and a newly recruited member of the research faculty at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. He studies arboreal mammals in temperate and tropical forests and is looking for trees that house mammals in the piedmont of North Carolina to validate the use of a new series of motion activated cameras. Once the new cameras prove themselves here in the piedmont he will use them to capture images of tropical mammals like the ones mentioned here: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0...index.html> (see also: <http://alloveralbany.com/archive/2009/0...he-fishers>)

I am wondering if any of you know of trees in the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area that house flying squirrels, raccoons, porcupines, opossums, etc that Dr. Kays could outfit with his new cameras.

Thank you,

Patrick Brandt

## **Mackey Mountain, NC backpack coming up...**

by **jamesrobertsmith** » Thu Apr 05, 2012 9:14 pm

A couple of my backpacking friends and I will be going into the Mackey Mountain area for an overnigher. We hope to find a stand of old growth trees that one of them stumbled upon during a bushwhack some years back--about 18 years ago, I think. Part of the backpack will be on established trails, but at least half will be off trail, but through

older forests with little undergrowth.

I'll report back after the backpack, which will take place next weekend. I'll try to take a tape measure to at least get CBH measurements.

James Robert Smith

## **Re: Mackey Mountain, NC backpack coming up...**

by **jamesrobertsmith** » Tue Apr 17, 2012 1:11 am

Well, the backpacking trip did not end up the way we had planned. Our access trail was The Mackey Mountain Trail. However, the Forest Service has obviously ceased to maintain it. The trail vanished completely somewhere before the summit of Mackey Mountain. We were going to use it to access the coves leading down toward Mackey Creek where we hoped to see some old growth poplar groves that one of our group had viewed a number of years back. At any rate, we tried to muddle through and ended up going over the wrong peak and we ended up above Lake Tahoma, about two miles off course to the north. We tried to backtrack to locate the old trail, but still missed the branch and so we cut our losses and returned to our vehicle.

We camped at a free National Forest campsite and then the next morning hiked the ridge between the Blue Ridge Parkway and Graybeard Mountain and back via the Mount Mitchell Toll Road. We did not see any of the big trees we had planned on seeing. But we did encounter a couple of notable gnarly old trees that I thought you ENTS folk would enjoy seeing:



This one was on the slopes of Mackey Mountain, around the point where the old Mackey Mountain Trail vanished.



This one is on the saddle between Rocky Knob and Graybeard Mountain. The orange sign on the huge limb is a no trespassing warning you to stay out of the Asheville Watershed. The trail dogs the border of that watershed.

James Robert Smith

### [Til the Last Hemlock Dies - How We Screwed Up](http://tilthelasthemlockdies.blogspot.com/2012/04/how-we-screwed-up.html)

<http://tilthelasthemlockdies.blogspot.com/2012/04/how-we-screwed-up.html>

We started out our Mackey Mountain hike with good intentions...

James Robert Smith



## [Re: Mackey Mountain backpack coming up...](#)

by jamesrobertsmith » Tue Apr 17, 2012 7:10 pm

Here's another interesting thing I saw on the hike:

From the summit of The Pinnacle we could look down into the Asheville Watershed. Way down at what looks to be 3500 foot elevation or so, on a ridge, is an open patch of what looks to be either grass, or heath, or rocks, or a combination. It is completely surrounded by forest and is pretty much round, or oval-shaped. Hard to say how large the patch is. But it does make me wonder what it is and how it developed and what kinds of things are growing there.



Here is a long view. You can see the bald patch like a tiny spot roughly in the center of this photo.



And here is the patch cropped from the large photo. Would love to be able to hike down there (or up to it) to see what it is.

James Robert Smith

## [#4\) Re: Liverpool School Maple Grove Apr. 6, 2012](#)

by tomhoward » Wed Apr 18, 2012 7:58 pm

Larry (and other NTS),

The Liverpool School Maple Grove is indeed a beautiful place, but it is exceptional for this area. This grove (and the 2 old growth oak groves of North Syracuse - North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove and Wizard of Oz Oak Grove) are islands of beautiful old forest in a sea of suburban sprawl, in communities that are becoming increasingly run down and more and more dominated by the automobile. These old growth forests are the rarest treasure in a region like this. The School District that owns the wonderful Maple Grove is not aware of what a treasure it is, and its preservation status is uncertain. Unless they are specifically protected by a land trust or by the state, all the old growth forests around here are threatened. People who live near the Maple Grove use it as a place to dump lawn waste, and young people have marred the grove with dirt bike trails. Yet this grove contains what could be the only NY Military Tract Witness Tree in existence (the Military tract covered much of this area and was surveyed about 1790 - the Witness Trees were scarred by surveyors so positions of the lots to be given to Revolutionary War veterans could be located - the grove's big Sugar Maple - 52.6" dbh - has scars just like the surveyors used, and a Sugar Maple Witness Tree stood on that spot - this tree has all the signs of an extremely old Sugar Maple), the oldest American Basswood ever found, what could be the oldest Beech trees in NY (est. 300 years old from 283 rings on log), one of NY's few old growth stands of Shagbark Hickory (and possibly the tallest Shagbark Hickory in NY at 117 ft.), and possibly the finest old growth stand of Red Maple in NY with rugged trees at least 200 years old.

Tom Howard

## Protests and the Redwoods...

by **Don** » Fri Apr 20, 2012 9:27 pm

After graduating with a pre-Forestry degree in 1968 from our community college in the Southern San Joaquin Valley in mid-California, I drove up to Arcata, California where my prospective college experience loomed ahead of me that Fall. On my way to my first summer job away from home, all the trappings of adventure were there. I was off to check out my future, to be shaped by Humboldt State College (HSC) Forestry Department.

I recall driving along the Trinity River on Hiway 299, which amounted to a three hour drive through some of the finest scenery I had seen (still quite worthy!).

The last thirty miles was a very steep and very curvy stretch of two lane road, loaded with logging trucks, loud with their engine brakes, big with their heavy, one-log loads (some only 8', few longer than 16'). So steep it was, the trucks had reservoirs of water that were gravity-fed through hoses to the big, finned brake drums to cool them, in their long descent into Humboldt Bay. My car, large by today's standards, seemed rather small in their presence.

Loggers and logging truck drivers and contractors in support of the numerous timber operations, all depended on the uninterrupted supply of big redwoods. It had been their source of income, way of life for many decades, generations even, and woe unto anyone who would disturb their way of life.

Well, outside of Humboldt County, and for that matter, the Southern San Joaquin Valley, the era we now know as "The Sixties" had begun. Many things the "Sixties" were, but my focus here is that of the protest movements that came with them. By the late 60's, a fair number of HSC students (most of whom came from outside the County, often urban areas where parents were looking for a safe haven for their kids) had been exposed to some of the movements going on across the US. Awed by the redwood forests they had driven through to get to HSC, they were dismayed at the number of logging trucks, and the redwoods transported by them.

Protests became common (whether for wars, or what have you), and certainly the cessation of harvesting redwoods in and around a presciently created Redwood Park was brought about by such protests as they gathered national force.

Decades have passed since I last was a Humboldt County resident, but just recently it became apparent that The Sixties are still alive and well in Humboldt County, as witnessed by the scene below in Richardson Grove, where CalTrans had plans of doing some curve-widening along tight stretches of Hiway 101, near the Avenue of the Giants (Eureka Times Standard):



Don Bertollette



## Re: Cook Forest, PA April 18-19

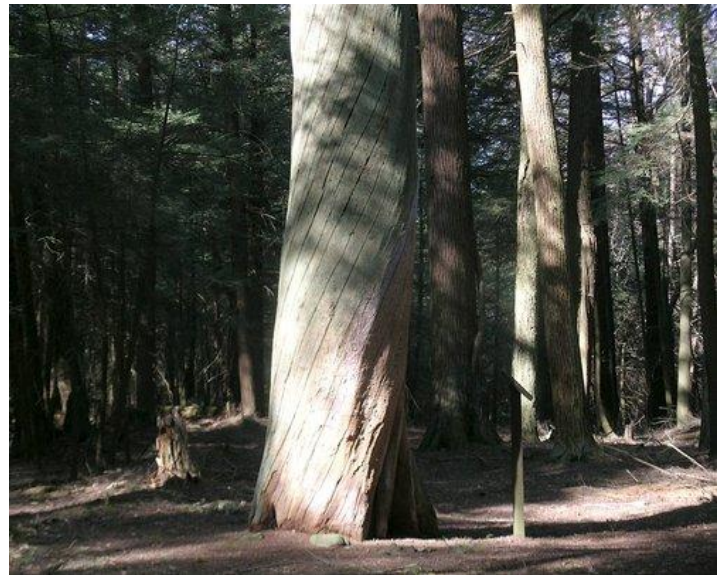
by dbhguru » Fri Apr 20, 2012 8:51 pm

NTS, The advanced tree measuring workshop at Cook Forest enters the pages of NTS history. It was probably our best in terms of enthusiastic participation by attendees, and we accomplished a lot on a number of fronts. Dr. Joan Maloof dedicated two areas of old growth forest in Cook to kick off her Old Growth Forest Network - one OG forest per county in the U.S. with eligible forests. It is a heck of a project. I stand in awe of Joan and what she has taken on.

In terms of the Network, Cook Forest is located in three counties and two sites were chosen in Cook to cover two of the three counties. The Longfellow Trail was selected to satisfy the requirement for an old growth forest in one of those counties. Couldn't have been a better choice. Here is an image from the dedication of the Longfellow Trail as the county site.



On the 19th we revisited a prominent old American chestnut snag. Here is a look at it. This is a much photographed snag. Two images are devoted to this forest icon.

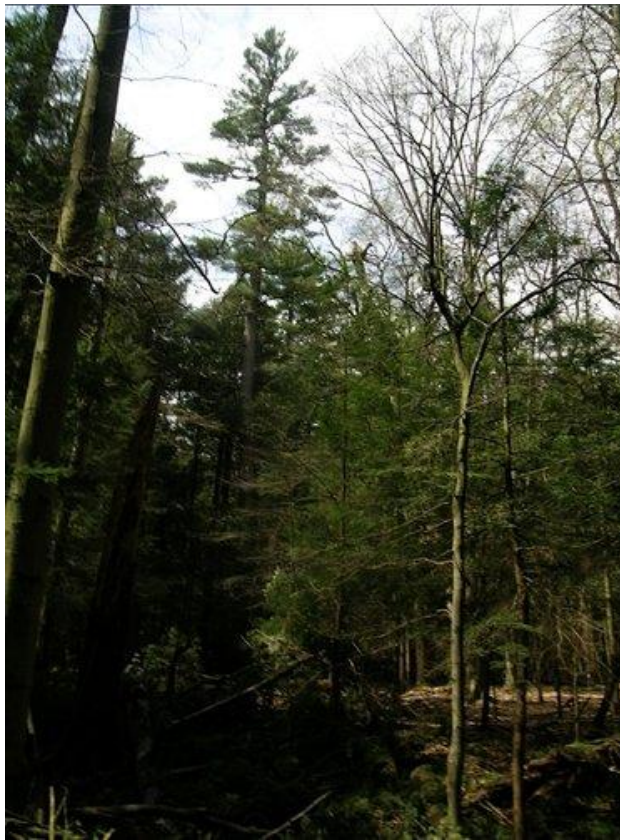


But, I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's go back to to the afternoon of the 17th, Monica and I arrived at Cook. After getting settled in our cabin, I went to the Longfellow Pine and remeasured that tallest of all Northeastern trees. It was originally measured in 1997 by Jack Sobon, using a transit. Then it was 179.1 feet. We've monitored it since, to include a climb by none other than Will Blozan. On the 17th of April, 2012, I settled on 184.0 feet. I had originally placed its height at 184.7, but couldn't justify that height. And we still weren't through with Longfellow. We measured it again as a group on the 18th. After many shots from two locations, we settled on 184.0 feet. BTW, Steve Colburn from LTI and Sheri Shannon from American Forests were present at the



measuring. After completing the re-measurement I headed back to our cabin. I'd had enough for the day. We would return to the field on the 19th. We had a target in mind.

With the state champion Seneca Pine going down hill, health-wise, we focused our attention on the other huge-tall white pine in Cook, the Cook Pine. On the 19th we went to the huge Cook Pine to measure and model it. Before giving the stats, here is a look at the pine.



Now the stats. The Cook pine is 12.54 feet in girth and 164.0 feet in height. We modeled it to 888 cubic feet of trunk space. Total volume is around 945 cubes when limbs are included. Steve Colburn from LTI took diameter measurements with his RD1000. I was grateful. Yours truly did the math. BTW, from our vantage point, we had initially settled on around 162 feet for the Cook Pine's height. But Steve Harlow's wife found a spot that yielded the 164-foot height. She was dead on. Chalk one up for the lady Ents, a major accomplishment.

On our walk Dale took us to see another Cook Forest big tree. It is shown in the next three images - a whopper eastern hemlock. Its dimensions are 14 feet around and approximately 118 feet in height. Carl Harting and Joan Maloof are in the first image.





We got back to our vehicles and drove to the beginning of the Cook Trail, which Joan selected for the second dedication in her Old Growth Forest Network. Here's a look at all of us forming a people network. Okay Ed, give us a funny caption for our odd looking behavior.



Now for the other details. My presentation on tree measuring given on the 18th went well. I got several compliments afterwards. However, I acknowledge that there is room for improvement. I shall continue working on the presentation. I'm sure there are better ways of making key points. The presentation remains a work in progress.

After my presentation, we went outside and measured a white pine from different distances using sine and tangent methods. The exercise was a success and illustrated what I had been lecturing on. I think Steve Colburn found the exercise valuable also. We're making progress. Regrettably American Forests representatives hadn't arrived in time for the lecture our outdoors exercise. Both would have been of great value. Maybe next time.

The lectures on Wednesday evening went very well. Dale started off with a look at important big tree and old growth forest sites in PA. Dale's presentation was followed by Sheri Shannon's presentation on American forest's National Register of Big Trees. I thought she did an excellent job. And lastly, Joan Maloof gave a presentation on her Old-growth Forest Network. Joan is a member of NTS, and we are most fortunate to have her on board. Joan will be the star of the October event in MTSF.

I'll close by relating that American Forests wants to do an article on the competition between Cook Forest and Mohawk Trail State Forest as the premier tall tree site of the Northeast. I'm very pleased. It will highlight the similarities and differences of these two great properties.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: Cook Forest, PA April 18-19](#)

by dbhguru » Sat Apr 21, 2012 12:37 pm

Here are some images from the Longfellow Trail.







Those of you who have been long time NTS members are well aware of the importance of Cook Forest. Newcomers may not be familiar with Cook's many tree treasurers. I hope the images below capture a little of the magic.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Christy Clark Grove, BC](#)

by **edfrank** » Fri Apr 20, 2012 11:04 pm

<http://www.ancientforestalliance.org/photos.php?gID=16#1>



Here are some photos of the enormous ancient trees in the recently found "Christy Clark Grove" on unprotected public land in the Gordon River Valley, only a 45 minute drive from Port Renfrew. The Grove includes the "Gnarly Clark", a massive redcedar, and the "Clark Giant", a near record-size Douglas-fir that, at over 31 feet in circumference, makes it the 8th widest known Douglas-fir in BC! This magnificent grove has been named after BC's current premier Christy Clark (2012) with the expectations that she won't let a magnificent heritage grove named after herself get logged and that she will undertake a new provincial plan to protect endangered old-growth forests across BC. On Vancouver Island, 90% of the valley bottom ancient forest have already been logged. Sign our online petition at <http://www.AncientForestPetition.com>



Slide Show:

<http://www.ancientforestalliance.org/slideshow.php?gID=16#slide>



## Prescribed burning in Minnesota oak savanna

by [Lee Frelich](#) » Sat Apr 21, 2012 2:55 pm

ENTS: Its difficult to schedule a class field trip a month in advance which turns out to be the day of a fire, but this happened April 12 when I took my Forest fire and disturbance ecology class to the University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, 35 miles north of the Twin Cities. The area is on the Anoka Sand Plain, with soils that are 95% or more sand, and the pre-European settlement vegetation known in the Midwest as sand savanna, historically dominated by bur oak with some northern pin oak. When we arrived, they were doing a backburn in one of the 'burn units', units of 5-20 acres in size which have been burned at different frequencies in an experiment going on for 46 years. The area was savanna in the early 1900s, but due to fire exclusion since that time, had grown up into oak woodland. The experimental burn frequencies to see how fire frequency affects vegetation have been 8/10 years, 5/10 years, every 3 years, once every 5 years, once a decade and never burned (the experimental controls). Photos by Kalev Jogiste, visiting Scholar from Estonia.



Fig. 1. Backburn in progress, unburned on left and backburn on the right, in an area burned 5/10 years:



Fig. 2. Burn crew member lighting/observing fire-- beige areas are made by the University of Minnesota mascot, namely gopher mounds with exposed sand



Fig.3, heat from the fire creates an impressionist painting





Fig. 4. Burn crew watches fire approach the northern pin oak and bur oak woodland



Fig. 5. Fire enters the woodland.



Fig. 6. Lee Frelich talks to the class about bur oak ecology in another burn unit (10 days post burn) burned 8/10 years for the last 46 years. Bur oak tree is about 150 years old.



Fig. 7. The class examines a 250 year old bur oak. Many of these bur oaks had been overtopped by the fast-growing, relatively-large northern pin oak during the fire exclusion period, but now, at least on the frequently burned units, are once again on the open savanna (this area burned 8/10 years). Bur oaks growing on units with low burn frequency have a higher mortality rate than those on the high-frequency units, due to being shaded by the pin oaks.





Fig. 8. A fire scar has formed (white charred area at base of northern pin oak in middle of picture), because another tree had blown down with its crown near the base of the tree, allowing the fire to burn there for the 15 or so minutes necessary to cause a scar. The bark and cambium have been killed in the charred area and the remainder of the bark will fall off, creating a scar shaped like a Gothic church door. Grass fires do not last long enough (<1 minute) to scar oaks. The pin oaks are being scarred, rotting at the base, then falling during thunderstorm winds, and causing other pin oaks to be scarred, thus accelerating the process of the woodland opening up at 40+ years after the burning regime began. This is increasingly leaving only bur oaks behind as the dominant tree in areas burned with high frequency.



Fig. 9. Example of a northern pin oak that blew down due to rotted fire scar at base, and causing an area of high fire intensity where the crown landed on the

ground, in an area burned 8/10 years. Note how open the savanna is after the high fire frequency for 46 years.



Fig. 10. Gopher mounds and a gopher snake going after its prey.





Fig. 11. Areas burned 8/10 years (left) and never burned in the last 46 years (right). Note thin barked tree species such as serviceberry and red maple invading the unburned woodland, as well as the density of brush.



Figure 12. A unit burned every three years for 46 years. Note that it is restored to bur oak dominance with occasional pin oaks, but that the understory is dominated by 3 foot tall hazel (brown in color at this time of year), rather than grasses as in left side of Fig. 11 which is burned 8/10 years (green understory is

dominated by grasses), which gradually removes hazel and allows grasses to dominate the understory.

*(Is the increased fuel load from downed Pin Oak is creating long enough burns to impact Burr Oak? - Chris Morris)*

Some of the bur oaks are impacted by these fire scars, but they have thicker bark (therefore not scarred as often) and can effectively contain rot when scarred, so that they still live much longer than northern pin oaks under a frequent burning regime. One thing I didn't mention previously is that a lot of the pin oaks are in clumps of 2-4 trees, so that they trap leaf litter and twigs between trunks near the ground, which leads to long-duration fire and the resulting fire scars.

Lee Frelich

## [Re: Protests and the Redwoods...](#)

by **Larry Tucei** » Sat Apr 21, 2012 8:54 am

Don, Had NTS members been out in that part of the country in the 60's many of us would have felt the same way- protect the giants! As for the photo I would be right there with them. Maybe not nude or in underwear, then maybe why not, Ha Ha! I remember back in the mid 90's a Logging Truck such as you describe came through our region with a huge Redwood Log 8' Dia., to make people take notice what was happening out west. It was the largest log I'd ever seen and made me feel somewhat ashamed of the Human race. To much greed in the world I guess..

I have a wonderful book about the Redwood Forest by Jeremy Joan Hewes with tons of old photos and such. I remember in the book that in 1850's when the whites discovered the groves there were 2 million acres of trees. We now only have less than 200,000 left at the time of the publishing around 1995 if memory serves me. Such a travesty- some of the largest and most beautiful trees on the planet the remnants should be protected forever!

Larry Tucei