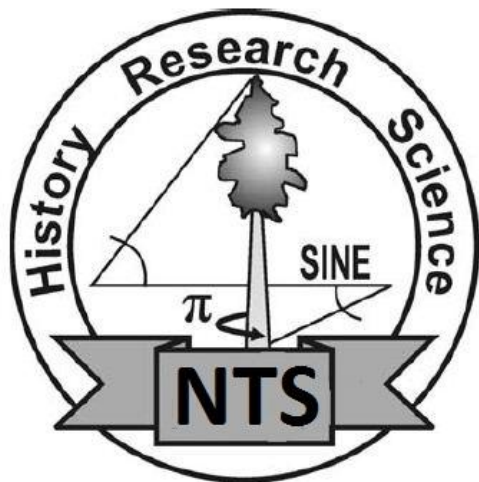


# *e*NTS

The Magazine of the  
Native Tree Society  
Volume 2, Number 08,  
August 2012





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

The Native Tree Society and the Eastern Native Tree Society

<http://www.nativetreesociety.org>

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

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### **Mission Statement:**

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

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*COVER: Romania. Photo by Anthony Croft 2012*

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I want to remind the readers of this magazine that the articles presented here are only a part, usually just the beginning, of the discussions being held on our BBS at <http://www.ents-bbs.org> . The full discussion can be read by clicking on the link embedded in the title of each individual article. - Edward Frank

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## Select Quotes

### Editor's Corner

By Edward Frank

Webmaster , BBS Administrator,  
eNTS Magazine Editor-in-Chief  
[edfrank@nativetreesociety.org](mailto:edfrank@nativetreesociety.org)

I always seem to place some portentous post here about the future of the forests or some commentary by one of our esteemed members. This month I thought I would do something different and simply post a series of quotes I found interesting, thoughtful or humorous.

"Small minds are stuck in the same rut, while great minds think alike." - unknown

"Oh, I call myself a scientist. I wear a white coat and probe a monkey every now and then, but if I put monetary gain ahead of preserving nature...I couldn't live with myself" - Professor Hubert Farnsworth

"If you want to be a better photographer, stand in front of more interesting stuff." - Jim Richardson

"In the absence of clearly-defined goals, we become strangely loyal to performing daily trivia until ultimately we become enslaved by it." -- Robert Heinlein

"Knowledge embiggens the mind." - Jebidiah Springfield

"I want my story to inspire people to help protect and connect the last remaining wilds of the eastern U.S. and Canada,"-John Davis

"Keep your love of nature, for that is the true way to understand art more and more." - Vincent van Gogh

"The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious—the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science." — Albert Einstein

"What is a scientist after all? It is a curious man looking through a keyhole, the keyhole of nature, trying to know what's going on." - Jacques Cousteau

"I love science and it pains me to think that so many are terrified of the subject or feel that choosing science means you cannot also choose compassion, or the arts, or be awe by nature. Science is not meant to cure us of mystery, but to reinvent and reinvigorate it." -Robert M. Sapolsky

"That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind." - Neil Armstrong

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature -- the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter." — Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

"Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language." — Aldo Leopold

"Few are altogether deaf to the preaching of pine trees. Their sermons on the mountains go to our hearts; and if people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish." - John Muir

"Someone told me that each equation I included in the book would halve the sales." - Stephen Hawking on "A Brief History of Time"

Ah, but I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now - Bob Dylan

"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that "my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge." - Isaac Asimov

## Measurement Certification

by **edfrank** » Fri Aug 03, 2012 3:04 pm

NTS, As we add more members from various areas of the world, the question is raised concerning how we can certify new member's measurements and accept them for in our database. By far the best way is to actually have that new person go measuring with another member who already has a good track record of producing good measurements. I have some other thoughts for how to deal those people who are starting to do measurements, but are not close to another NTS member with measuring experience. I would like to see comments by others.

I received an email from a newer member who has purchased a Nikon 550 hypsometer. This was my reply:

*The biggest concern from NTS is whether you are using the proper instruments and the right methods.*

*The latest Nikon 550 models have two routines built in to measure height. One is called simply the two point method and the other the three point method.*

*The two point method requires that you take a height of the tree above eye level and a second reading of the distance the base is above or below eye level.*

*This is the method that you want to use. It uses the  $\sin(\text{angle}) \times \text{distance}$  process that will yield an accurate height. If you use this method, your heights will be fine. You really can't screw up and get a height that is too tall unless you measure the base of one tree and the top of another.*

*The three point method built into the Nikon 550 uses the distance/slope or tangent method. Any measurements taken of height using the three point routine will be WRONG no matter how perfectly you do it. Do not use the three point routine in the instrument. Use the two point method only.*

*Get a field book, write down the raw numbers measured by the instrument (shown on the display on the side) and the height calculated for both the portion of the tree above eye level and the bottom portion of the tree. Be sure to note whether the base of the tree is above or below eye level.*

*Do you have a GPS? They are nice to locate the trees measured, but are certainly not required.*

*Get girths for the trees for which you measure heights. Measure a 4.5 feet and note if the tree is a multitrun tree or a single trunk tree. If multitrun list the number of trunks. If there is an obstruction, knot or something at the 4.5 feet height and a slightly higher or lower girth measurement point is more appropriate, measure at that point and measure the height above ground level for that girth measurement.*

*Read the NTS Tree Measuring Guidelines <download/file.php?id=5869> and The Really Really Basics of Laser Rangefinder/Clinometer Tree Height Measurement <download/file.php?id=5870> documents. Remember Two point routine GOOD, three point routine BAD*

I should also have mentioned crown spread measurements, encouraged taking photos, encouraged adding the data to our database, and providing a map of the location when posting to the BBS.

Edward Frank

## Re: Measurement Certification

by **dbhguru** » Sat Aug 04, 2012 10:18 am

Ed, You did a good job of laying out the requirements. You make the statement that basically the three point method is verboten. It actually is a convenient technique to have to get quick approximations, but Oh Boy, I say this with trepidation for reasons that the faithful will well understand. In some century in the future, maybe the brain-programming so thoroughly done by the timber profession will wear off. But in the interim, we'll be faced with at least one or two more generations of timber professionals who will go to their graves defending a flawed process.

Robert T. Leverett

## How long before a tree rots away?

by **edfrank** » Mon Jul 30, 2012 7:16 pm

How long before a tree rots away?

July 30, 2012 - 07:15

By: Ida Korneliussen

<http://sciencenordic.com/how-long-tree-rots-away>

Various comments:

**Will Blozan** wrote: *Jess Riddle and I cored yellow birch growing on a fallen hemlock log in the Smokies that were ~90 years old. The log was still above the ground level and not yet punky.*

**Joe Zorzin** wrote: *Again, I fantasize what the forests looked like before the pale faces showed up- there must have been a tremendous amount of "woody debris" in the forests, which made for an incredibly rich habitat- we have a hint from surviving old growth, but only a hint and then we can fantasize before the Indians arrived and their forest burning.... the full richness of nature, of which we know so little.*

**Larry Tucie** wrote: *Ed, Will, Joe, I wish we could know how long the downed trees of Southern Forests lasted before the arrival of Formosan Termites and many other insect Pests. A tree falls here and in a matter of one decade to two it's gone, three at the most. Exceptions are some Pine Stumps they may last up to 50-75 years (close estimation). Cypress tree stumps as long as a century or more. There may be other species that remain depending on location.*

**Rand Brown** wrote: *I remember being rather taken aback the first time I saw pine stumps slowly sinking into the ground from the termites, leaving a ring of bark behind. Knock one over and it's basically hollow inside.*

**Don Bertollette** wrote: *My time in the Southwest supports the notion that ponderosa pines have remarkable decay resistance in part due to their extractives and in part due to the remarkably dry climate of the Southwest. I know there are papers out there on how long, but I can't recall them off the top*

*of my head. I can however provide some anecdotal information.*

*My first year as a GS-3 Forestry Aide with the BLM in eastern Oregon, I served on a survey crew doing Original Corner Restoration. Using K & E Mountain Transits like the original surveyors used in the 1880's, with declinations corrected to match them, we used the original survey notes to as close as possible duplicate their survey line...many times we found their original Bearing Trees, and with the notes were able to identify original corners, (scribed rocks, preferably tall, four-sided rocks, scribed on each of the edges to assign location). We occasionally found their intermediate chaining points (a branch lopped off at an angle at one end, stubbed off at the other, then hammered into the ground for distance measurement points) still intact. Most remarkable, we occasionally would find planks the surveyors had fashioned to practice scribing the numbers and letters on Bearing Trees (such as SEC 1, T3N, R8E).*

*That was 1967, some 80 years after the passage of the original surveyor. When they actually did survey the sections they were assigned. But that's another story...; > }*

*It was a wonderful job for a guy starting out his career in Forestry, first time away from home, staying in remote government cabins for a week at a time, all in John Day River country.*

**Chris Morris** wrote: *Perhaps Native American use of fire in eastern forests would have reduced the amount of woody debris on forest floors.*

*However, we certainly do know that there was tons of wood in various streams and rivers [a great interest of mine] The **160 mile** long wood debris raft on the Red River when Europeans arrived in early/mid 1800s in Louisianan is a great (although extreme) example. From what I recall, the research suggests some large pieces of wood could take a couple hundred years to decompose in streams [there are still large Chestnut logs in Appalachian streams], with a few last even longer [over 1300 years for a few in one study Pacific NW].*



**Don Bertollette** wrote: *Chris, Two different scenarios operating here, one of high relative humidities (Eastern forests) and low RHs (Western forests). In the case of rafts of river run (or lakes for that matter) timber destined to mills, not only did the lumber companies transport their product by water, they stored them in ponds, for as long as they remained underwater, they wouldn't rot (same thing happens with wood buried in peat bogs, mud slides, etc. (think 'anerobic'). Thinking of Byzantine boats recently discovered by Nat'l Geo, with much of their wooden hulls still intact, after thousands of years.*

### **Re: Tiny Beetles Take a Large Bite Out of the Forest, CO**

by **jamesrobertsmith** » Wed Aug 01, 2012 12:41 am

When I was in Yellowstone, there were vast areas with no trees at all due to pine beetle infestation. This was because so many plots of forest had contained only one or two species of tree. It was shocking to stand on some of the ridges and look out and not see any living trees at all. I assume it would be what we'd seen if we had forests made up merely of Eastern hemlock.



On my hike to the summit of Mount Washburn.

James Robert Smith

### **Re: Tiny Beetles Take a Large Bite Out of the Forest, CO**

by **Larry Tucei** » Thu Aug 02, 2012 10:35 am

NTS, A link with some good information on the Mountain Beetle infestations.  
<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05528.html/>

Larry Tucei

### **Re: Desolation Wilderness, CA**

by **Ranger Dan** » Fri Aug 03, 2012 4:49 pm

Western white pine, yep. Coincidental that the topic would come up. I just got back home from another vacation in the Sierra, visiting with a friend in Tahoe who really knows his Sierra trees. On our trip to Sequoia National Park we hiked though a long stretch of countless amazing and gorgeous specimens of *P. monticola* on the trail from Wolverton to Pear Lake, in spectacular subalpine parkland. (maybe I'll post some images some day.) There are many over six feet in diameter, with striking red bark in huge polygonal plates and sculpted, knobby bases (so very different from the ones in the Pacific Northwest).

There is also a fine grove of foxtail pines on the ridge above Emerald Lake, and the hike goes through the red fir zone where many individuals are over 5 feet in diameter. There aren't enough superlatives to go around for the amazing development of all the trees of the Sierra Nevada. Even lodgepole pines, boring little poles elsewhere in the mountainous West, grow into enormous and fascinating sculptures, each one with unique character. What is it about the Sierra that has created such a wonderland of superlative trees? And then there are the Sequoias, worthy of another category altogether for themselves other than "tree". But even if they were not there, the forest of the Sierra would still be the finest on Earth in my view, and on top of that, beset in such mountain majesty...paradise.

Dan Miles

## Canyons Rule, WY

by dbhguru » Fri Aug 03, 2012 11:31 pm

NTS, Monica and I left Pocatello, ID on Wednesday and drove up to Yellowstone. We took plenty of pictures at spots we don't usually visit. We then went east, driving through Shoshoni Canyon in the Absorakas. We found a spot to stay overnight. Lots to tell, but this Internet connection is too weak. I'll present two images now, with lots more to come when we get home. Shoshoni Canyon cuts through a volcanic deposit. ED probably understands the geology.



Robert T. Leverett

## Re: Canyons Rule, WY

by dbhguru » Sat Aug 04, 2012 9:46 am

Joe, Yes, I've been envious of your geological prowess. It seems to come natural to you. I strain to understand the complex processes that my eyes see, but my brain doesn't decode.

The lodge we stayed at in Shoshoni Canyon was originally built by the niece of one William F. Cody, alias Buffalo Bill. The current owner is a part Shoshoni Indian from the Wind River Indian Reservation. We had a marvelous time. He took a liking to Monica and me and shared many stories. He was a rancher on the Wind. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of the surrounding terrain. Plus, you wouldn't believe the wildlife that visits the lodge and cabins. It is grizzly, moose, elk, and mountain lion country. When the berries are ripe, the grizzlies come up from the river corridor. One does not venture far from his/her cabin. Here are 4 images from where we stayed. It was just about night. The light was failing. I apologize for the less than stellar photography.



The next image looks across ShoShoni Canyon to the lava cliffs.





The lava erodes into a myriad of intriguing shapes.



Looking down the canyon from the lodge.



Robert T. Leverett

## Medicine Bow, WY

by dbhguru » Sat Aug 04, 2012 10:06 pm

NTS, Today Monica and I climbed Medicine Bow Peak in the Medicine Bow Range of the Wyoming Rockies. The summit is 12,013 feet, and we felt every foot of it. But it was worth the pain. What a great place.

Here is a view from the trail looking south toward Old Main, the Diamond, etc. Old Main is 11,755 feet elevation. The Diamond is 11,720 feet. Please remember to double click to see the images in larger format.



Here are two shots of Monica on the trail. She did fabulously. There were lots of people climbing the peak, and all were in excellent shape.







The rocks near the summit are fascinating. We needed Ed for an interpretation. Lots of quartzite, but there were other types of rocks as well. Some are ancient. The peak on the horizon is Elk Mountain, a detached part of the Medicine Bow.



Here is a distant view of Medicine Bow Peak.



Sugar Loaf.



The flat summit in the distance is Browns Peak.





Libby Lake. Elevation 10,722 ft.





Fireweed



Lingering snow, high on Medicine Bow.



Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: Medicine Bow, WY](#)

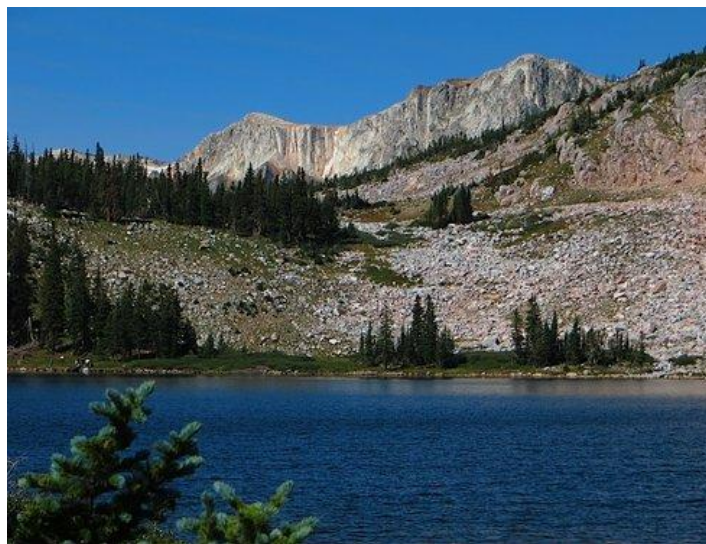
by **dbhguru** » Sun Aug 05, 2012 10:02 am

Joe, Ed, Ed, your explanation is correct with respect to the talus slopes. The overall topography is glacial, as to be expected. Lots of erratics. Joe, there are places where the rock is excellent for climbing, but nobody climbs the loose stuff.

Libby Lake



Looking toward Old Main, the Diamond, and School House Rock.



Well, it is eastward ho in about an hour.

Robert T. Leverett



## Humboldt Redwoods State Park

by **Mark Collins** » Sun Aug 05, 2012 3:22 pm

I spent the weekend exploring a small part of Humboldt Redwoods State Park. For the most part, it was more practice just wandering around the forest and developing an eye for trees and oddities in the

forest. The rivers and creeks in the area are low this time of year as we await the fall and winter storms to arrive.

Below is a picture of the wonderful Eel River, with a view towards the Founder's Grove in the distance. To the left are logged hillsides with second or third generation redwoods.



One of the coolest parts of this particular trip for me was waking up in the middle of the night to frogs croaking and a full moon shining into the forest. Some of the redwoods can take on a white appearance. In the full moon, the white redwoods were glowing. For a minute, it looked like someone had set up a spotlight in the forest and shined the light upwards towards the canopy.





Despite seeing many people hiking the trails this weekend, it's still exciting to personally see incredible trees for the first time.



The redwood above was one of the largest I saw all day, right along the trail.





The redwood sprouts growing at the base of the trees are bright green this time of year. It seems that they are taking advantage of the summer sun to get some grow time in. I wanted to check on an albino that is growing in the park to see how it is doing. It looked like it usually does, no major new growths that I could see.

Other than that, another great outing in the redwood forest!

Mark Collins





## [Nice American chestnut in Montreat, NC](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Sun Aug 05, 2012 4:38 pm

NTS,

One of my clients in Montreat, NC has a magnificent specimen of American chestnut that although infected with blight, has a perfect crown and tons of burs. Last year's burs are littering the ground- likely 200 or more- and some still have nuts. I plan to harvest some nuts this fall. The American Chestnut Foundation came up on Friday to see the tree and they plan to collect pollen from it next spring. I measured the diameter at 9.5" and it stands 47.4' tall.







Will Blozan

## [Re: Medicine Bow](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sun Aug 05, 2012 10:21 pm

Don, Reasonably prepared for the UV. Sun was intense. Here is the last batch of Medicine Bow images.

Lake Marie and 11,755-ft Old Main.



Monica contemplating the superlative scenery on her perch above Lake Marie.





Looking across Marie toward Sugar Loaf.



The 11,720-foot Diamond



SURPRISE!!



We were grateful to Medicine Bow for the gifts it bestowed on us.

Robert T. Leverett

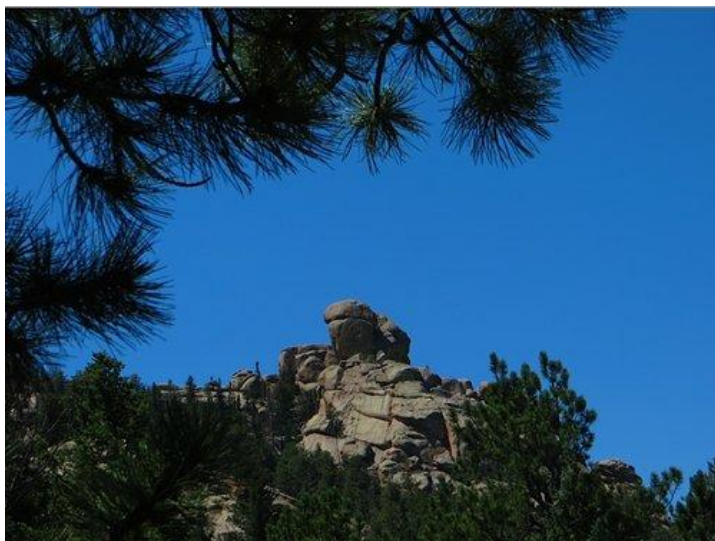
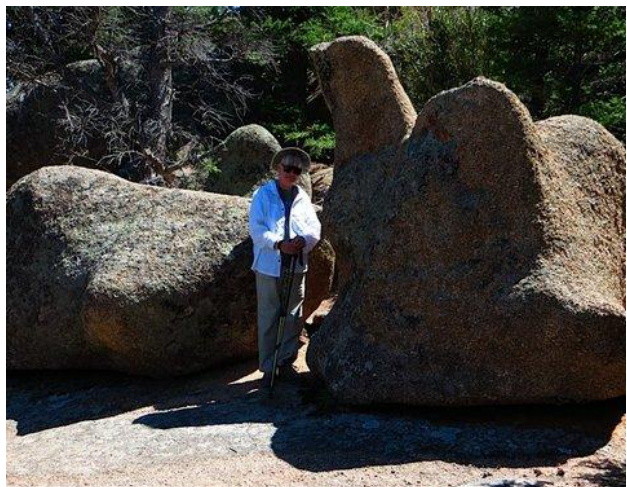
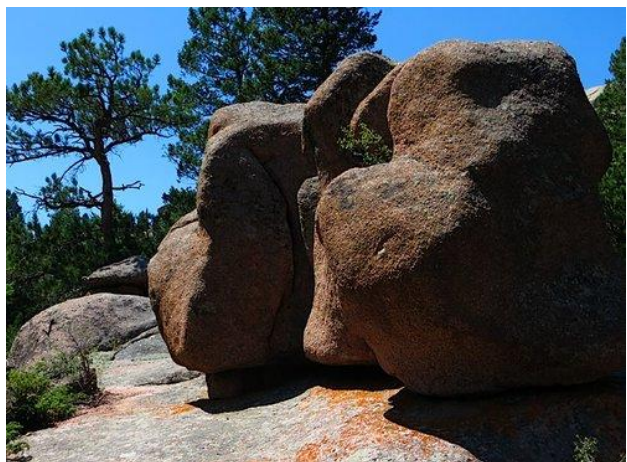


## [Vedauwoo, WY](#)

by **dbhguru** » Mon Aug 06, 2012 9:30 am

NTS, Yesterday, Monica and I said goodbye to the spacious Rocky Mountain West with a brief stop at Vedauwoo in the Laramie Range, 30 some miles west of Cheyenne, WY. The area excels in fantastic rock formations of pegmatite granite. Here re 5 images. Elevations are between 8,400 and 9,000 feet. I used the area a lot when I was stationed at F.E. Warren AFB in Cheyenne. It is a magical area. No big trees, but plenty of old ones. I doubt that the interpreters really appreciate how many old trees there are in Vedauwoo. It was a sacred site to the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians.

Robert T. Leverett





## Daphne Koller: What we're learning from online education

by **edfrank** » Sat Aug 04, 2012 2:58 pm

Daphne Koller: What we're learning from online education

[http://www.ted.com/talks/daphne\\_koller\\_what\\_we\\_re\\_learning\\_from\\_online\\_education.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/daphne_koller_what_we_re_learning_from_online_education.html)



Daphne Koller is enticing top universities to put their most intriguing courses online for free -- not just as a service, but as a way to research how people learn. Each keystroke, comprehension quiz, peer-to-peer forum discussion and self-graded assignment builds an unprecedented pool of data on how knowledge is processed and, most importantly, absorbed. Daphne Koller is bringing courses from top colleges online, free for anyone who wants to take them.

Coursera <https://www.coursera.org/> We are a social entrepreneurship company that partners with the top universities in the world to offer courses online for anyone to take, for free. We envision a future where the top universities are educating not only thousands of students, but millions. Our technology enables the best professors to teach tens or hundreds of thousands of students.

## Moodle Online Course Format

by **James Parton** » Mon Aug 06, 2012 12:00 pm

ENTS, Online education certainly has it's place. It's often cheaper than in-facility schooling and can often be done at the student's leisure. Courses can be very simple, taught by a single teacher or individual or from a large university with many resources. Online courses can be taken for a profession, job etc OR for a hobby, special interest or a spiritual need.

This brings me to the New Order of Druids. I have been taking an online course through them for two years. The main courses take most individuals three years to complete and then there are upgraded bonus courses beyond these. Once a grade of coursework is completed the student who has passed the course has a chance to go on and mentor it. Something I currently do. NOD uses two methods to present it's courses. The courses themselves can be purchased in book form for a very reasonable price or downloaded in pdf form from the NOD website. The upgraded courses are available for a reasonable cost as an upgraded member. There is also the free forums which require a final exam. The courses teach many things. Druidry is a spirituality based in Celtic culture and is not a dedicated religion in itself. Most there are pagans but any religion, including Christians can be there. Celtic Christianity has been a part of druidry for more than 1500 years. And yes, Trees are a part of what druidry is. Druids hold nature sacred and the courses reflect this in their exercises.

NOD uses the Moodle format to present it's courses to members and present it's grades to students. Moodle may be of use to ENTS as well. It would certainly be a good way of teaching measuring techniques. I could see Will Blozan , Bob Leverett and Ed Frank as NTS tree measuring Mentors!

<http://moodle.org/>

James E Parton



## Re: Measurement Certification

by **pattyjenkins1** » Mon Aug 06, 2012 2:30 pm

I'm thrilled to see this discussion. Especially since I hope to be able to recruit recreational tree climbers into the work of measuring trees, and they'll probably all be inexperienced. So I hope you guys will come up with a set of guidelines that will make it possible to validate data without having to jump through too many hoops. Also--I have pretty solid experience with Moodle, having spent a year putting up the TCI Online Basic Tree Climbing Course using that software. I'd be happy to help with an online certification course if you decide to move forward with that.

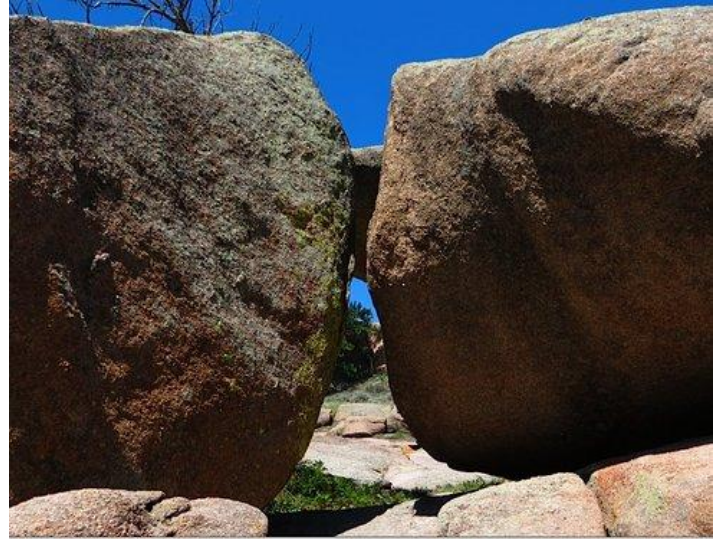
Patty Jenkins  
Executive Director  
Tree Climbers International, Inc.

## Re: Canyons Rule

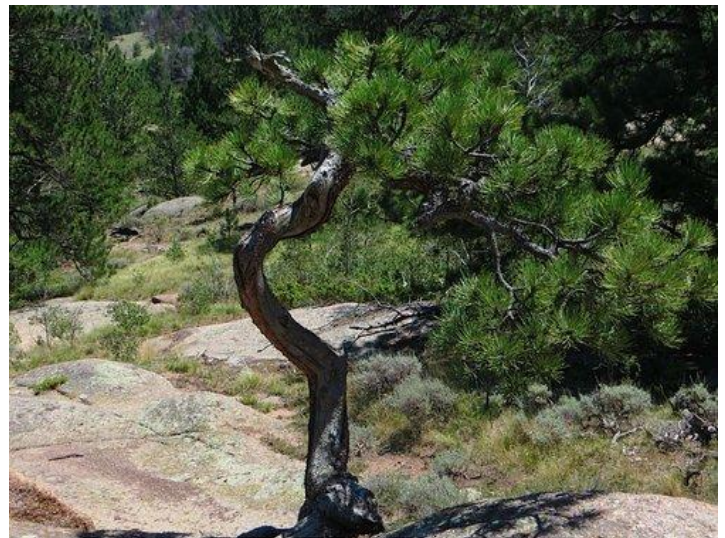
by **dbhguru** » Mon Aug 06, 2012 9:45 pm

James Parton wrote: *Enviably Bob strikes again! Great photography my friend.*

Thanks. But these places darn near photograph themselves. The contrasting colors and shapes and clear air make photography a snap. Here are two images from Vedauwoo. The first highlights typical scene involving large rocks.



The second shows a small ponderosa growing out of a small crack in the rock.



Many small pondies in Vedauwoo are quite old. Doug firs there are probably between 300 and 500 years old, and there are many.

Robert T. Leverett

## [More photos of Medicine Bow](#)

by **dbhguru** » Tue Aug 07, 2012 8:23 pm

NTS, This is a photo looking northward toward Medicine Bow Peak. My previous shots from the climb were from the side of Medicine Bow looking in the direction of this photo. Schools House Rock, the Diamond, and Old Main are seen in the image. Medicine Bow Peak is the slightly rounded summit in the distance.



Robert T. Leverett

## [Tallest known Bigleaf Maple \(s\) ??](#)

by **mdvaden** » Mon Aug 06, 2012 10:19 am

Anyone know what the tallest known height is for Bigleaf Maple? Not a point champion, but particularly the height. I found one reference online to one in Washington at 158' tall.

Would be interested to know by state too, like Oregon's, Washington's or California's, if available.

I was curious, because yesterday I spotted a tree I thought to be a bay laurel in a north California redwood grove, then noticed the leaves were maple, and it would almost have to be a Bigleaf maple. Got a

fast number on it of 155 feet for the first twig I could get a window too. Didn't really have time yesterday to get more accurate. It should be between 152 to 160 feet.

M. D. Vaden of Oregon

## [Re: Tallest known Bigleaf Maple \(s\) ??](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Mon Aug 06, 2012 4:34 pm

Mario, I think BVP had one close to 160' but I am not sure where it is. Here in the east any maple over 130' is great and there are a scattering of reds over 140' and one sugar known over 140'. I think the tallest is a red maple Jess Riddle and I measured at 143.6 (?) in GRSM ca. 2007. We had a 144' sugar but my last measurement was 142', also in GRSM.

Will Blozan

## [Re: Humboldt Redwoods State Park](#)

by **Mark Collins** » Mon Aug 06, 2012 11:41 pm

Thanks Ed and Bob, glad to share. Bob, sometimes I wish I had a prettier face than my own to put in the photos! Sometimes I'm all I've got, and you are right, without a person for scale, the trees can look rather ordinary in a regular photo.

Mario, it would have been a real treat to run into you at the park. I've been inspired by your photos and discoveries over the years.

James, from my understanding, the albinos receive nutrients from the parent tree. Sometimes they are just a few sprouts here and there, but other times I've seen them as tall as approximately 20 to 30 feet or so. Often the white sprouts are mixed with dead



branches. Here's one I found last week in a different park with a higher concentration of white branches.



Mark Collins

## [Re: Humboldt Redwoods State Park](#)

by **gnmcmartin** » Tue Aug 07, 2012 4:05 pm

James:

If you are visiting Yosemite, of course you can see the Mariposa Giant Sequoia grove, with the incredible Grizzly Giant tree, and the Fallen Monarch. But, Sequoia National Park is not very far away. I highly, highly recommend you visit, and take the Congress Trail Walk, and also take the walk to Tharp's Cabin--built in a hollow log--to see Crescent meadow, which is unbelievably beautiful.

Actually the Congress Grove trail connects with the Crescent Meadow trail, but it may be easier to make them separate walks from the two separate parking lots. You can look at the trail map and decide for yourself.

For me, the Congress Trail walk--a loop of 2 or three miles--sorry, I can't remember exactly--is as spectacular as any "tree walk" you can take anywhere. It culminates in what for me (yes, I know

tastes and impressions vary) is the most spectacular group of trees on God's Green Earth, the "House Group." There are much larger individual trees on the trail, including the "Senate Group," which is no more than a hundred yards away. But for a towering group of trees growing close together, the House Group" takes the prize! Yes, there are close growing redwoods about as large and even taller, but the visual impression made by the House Group for me stands alone! Those fluted reddish brown trunks rising up to their incredible crowns about 300 feet above are an image that will always be with me. I visited that place 15 or 20 times, and wish I could see it one more time.

Of course, the famous General Sherman tree is at the trailhead.

Mark:

I am sorry my monitor may not be the best, and I can't really see the details in your picture that includes the logged hillsides. But, I want to mention that in the park, the big redwoods are a bottomland forest. Many of the hillsides you see in the park were not logged--they are virgin growth. But the trees are much, much smaller. You should take one of the trails that goes up onto one of these hills, and you will observe a forest, which because it grows on the very well-drained hillsides, is completely different from that on the bottomlands.

But if you go to the end of the road that runs along Bull Creek, you will leave the uncut bottomland forest and enter an area that was logged. Most of the Bull Creek watershed WAS logged, including the hillsides above the creek as you pass out of the original land purchase funded by Rockefeller. The Save-the-Redwoods League worked for many years to purchase the whole of this watershed, and a number of years ago completed the purchase. I recommend you all join the League and support their on-going work.

Gaines McMartin

## Tallest Tree South Of SF Bay Confirmed

by **M.W.Taylor** » Tue Aug 07, 2012 7:18 pm

I finally measured the tall redwoods Zane Moore reported from Big Basin State Park a few months ago.

With the help of Zane, his father Steve and Big Basin park ranger Susan Blake, I came up with 327.39 (99.7m) feet for the tallest and 323.8 feet for the nearby 2nd tallest redwood which grows in the same grove. I measured to under the duff layer at the tree's base. Zane went to above the duff layer. The prism/pole with Impulse200LR "leap-frog" survey was used. The numbers were not added up until the very end. The window to the top was from way up on a nearby hill. Judging by the attached picture I hit the true top of the trees. I used the same window Zane found and used earlier where he got 326.8 for the tall one. This grove also has other trees over 300 feet. It was very dark and shady in there. Seemed to be rather dense forest for the southern range.

The tallest redwood or any tree of any species known to grow south of SF Bay (the region consider the southern range for the species) was Old Tree at 305 feet. Centurion, a eucalyptus regnans in Tasmania was 326.9 feet (99.6 meters) when last measured by Steve Sillett by direct tape drop a few years ago. Centurion could be taller by added growth since the 2007 measurement, but this is not yet confirmed.

As usual, Zane continues to shatter tree height records.

Zane's spot-on measurements for these two redwoods would indicate to me that his other tree height measurements are accurate too.

Michael Taylor  
WNTS VP  
American Forests California Big Trees Coordinator  
<http://www.landmarktrees.net>

Attachments



the two tallest known redwoods of Big Basin. Picture by Zane Moore

## Re: Moodle Online Course Format

by **James Parton** » Tue Aug 07, 2012 1:49 am

Moodle is pretty impressive but it is only as good as the coursework and grading system put into it. The New Order of Druids has a well structured course of study and a good set of Mentors/Council Members overseeing the students there. NTS certainly has the data and the knowledge to utilize Moodle but the question is " Does anyone have the time to design a course of study and then find mentors for it? ". We certainly have some very good tree measurers. Tree Climbing also could be a course written there too, but this one requires much more " hands on " than an online course alone could give.

Just some thoughts folks. I see Moodle in use a lot on NOD and mentor the Bardic Course there through it as well as submitting my own essays to my druid mentor there.

James E Parton



## [Re: Moodle Online Course Format](#)

by **pattyjenkins1** » Tue Aug 07, 2012 2:07 pm

Just a quick reply on the Moodle course: Our basic tree climbing course is designed so that people don't graduate from it until they 1) complete the coursework and quizzes online, 2) do several practice climbs after learning practical techniques from the DVD which goes with the course, and 3) pass a climbing skills test with a "Reviewer," an advanced climber approved by Tree Climbers International with rescue training, etc. I could imagine that NTS might be able to set up a similar system for "measurement certification."

As an aside--we're headed up to Portland for the ISA Convention, running the "Fun Climb" on Saturday Aug. 11th at Laurelhurst Park. If any of you are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello! Won't get back to the BBS for a couple of weeks.

Patty Jenkins

## [Re: Measurement Certification](#)

by **M.W.Taylor** » Tue Aug 07, 2012 7:38 pm

The ht-subroutines from both the Trupulse and Nikon can be used incorrectly and result in tremendous error.

The biggest folly is using the prism with the Ht-Subroutine.. A horrible way to measure a tree.

For example:

A recent survey by BLM contractors in Southern Oregon reported a 334' douglas fir. The contractors measured the tree with an Impulse200LR and prism, with the Impulse200LR in filter mode all the time and in the Ht-Subroutine.

The BLM surveyors pasted a reflector on the side of

the tree and walked 120 feet away. Then the surveyors performed the Ht-Sub routine, using the prism distance as the initial Hd and then angle to top, then angle to bottom. Their results were 45 feet too high. The reason is because they used the prism as the horizontal distance to top but they measured overhanging branches due to being so close (They should have been 500 feet back to actually see the true top).

Their vertical angle was inflated because they hit overhanging leaders from beneath the tree and also their base-line was inflated due to assuming the side of the trunk to be the perpendicular point directly under the top.

The correct way to use the Ht-Subroutine for Laser Tech forestry lasers is to take device out of "filter mode" during the Ht-Subroutine part of the survey. and then take the Hd(horizontal distance) to the same top as you are measuring the upper angle to. For the base angle use the side of the trunk around averaged ground level.

The most accurate way to measure a tree from the ground with Impulse200LR in my opinion is the following:

Impulse200LR with remote trigger. Tripod mounted. With Impulse in Vd mode (vertical distance mode) , filter off. Take a vertical distance to the top of the tree from as far away as possible. This is the distance from the top of the tree to the centroid of Impulse200LR. Then filter on and do a leap frog survey back and forth to a prism mount on a pole will allow you to carry survey to the base of the tall tree in order to calculate how much more height to add or subtract to the total for ground level adjustments.

Michael Taylor

## Re: Measurement Certification

by **dbhguru** » Tue Aug 07, 2012 9:29 pm

Michael,

As we all know, the kind of error committed by the BLM contractors gets repeated over and over and over. Some catch on when we explain what goes wrong, but others just don't get it, or choose not to get it, and continue doing the same thing.

I constantly scratch my head trying to understand what is so difficult to understand about the correct procedure. I have come to think it is the overpowering timber mindset that a tree is essentially a series of logs stacked on top of one another. The crown feeds the trunk, but is otherwise unimportant.

The simplified tangent method for measuring tree heights made sense when we didn't have lasers, but no longer makes sense as the primary height measuring technique. However, I've finally come to accept that most silvicultural professors will continue to teach the flawed tangent method as sufficient. I think prides and egos are involved more than commonsense. Human nature is human nature. Still, I hold out hope that progress will be made. It only takes a few to get the ball rolling. Fortunately, we have Dr. Don Bragg to present the sine method to colleagues. I trust him completely to know who to go after.

Robert T. Leverett

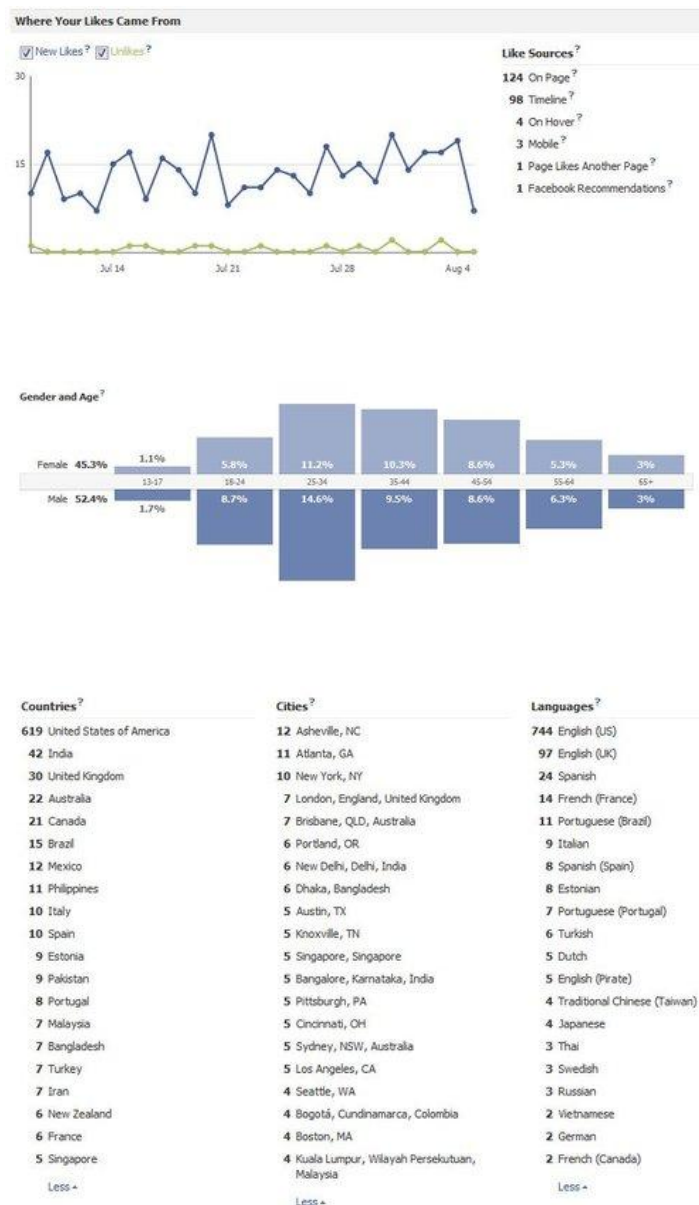
## We Have Reached 1000 Facebook Likes!

by **edfrank** » Tue Aug 07, 2012 9:50 pm

We have reached 1000 Likes on our Facebook Page.

That is pretty good and one of the largest of the various tree focused pages. The International Society of Arboriculture is larger with 6,268 likes, but both of these are a drop in the bucket when compared to

George Takei's Page with 2,420,067 likes. It is still a milestone for the NTS Facebook Page.



Edward Frank



## Re: Measurement Certification

by **KoutaR** » Wed Aug 08, 2012 12:51 pm

Ed, There are at least two methods to screw up heights with a rangefinder with built-in clinometer and with the 2-point method:

1. The equipment is rotated around its length axis when you push the button. -> The clinometer gives too big angle. (Though the equipment must be MARKEDLY rotated.)

2. The equipment is not still enough and you accept the first reading. If the clinometer was swinging to the wrong direction when you push the button, it gives too big angle. Make always at least a few shoots.

The new Nikon model with the 3-point routine seems to be Forestry Pro, without the number 550.

<http://www.nikon.com/products/sportopti.../index.htm>

Kouta Rasanen

## Conjoined or hugging? trees

by **Coll** » Sat Aug 04, 2012 5:45 pm

There is an article titled "Inosculation" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inosculation>) in Wikipedia. The phenomenon consists in two trees fusing their cambium, and growing together. According to this article, the trees thus joined are said to be "conjoined". At the end of the article, in the section "references" there is a link to Ed Frank article "Multitrunk and other tree forms" ([http://www.nativetreesociety.org/multi/index\\_multi.htm](http://www.nativetreesociety.org/multi/index_multi.htm)). The article describes "hugging trees (formerly conjoined)". Now my question: Is "hugging trees" a widely used term, in which case the Wikipedia should be corrected, or is it only a local

denomination? Are there other additional sources for reference? I will appreciate comments, particularly from Ed Frank.

Josep Collellmir

## Re: Conjoined or hugging? trees

by **edfrank** » Sat Aug 04, 2012 7:58 pm

Coll, I devised the term Conjoined when initially working on the Multitrunk and Other Forms document. I could not find any name for them at the time aside from the occasional use of the term "fused." I also had used the term fused in referring to one of the images above the description itself. I am not sure when the initial version of the webpage was first produced and published to our discussion list.

The original text of the Inosculation article was published to Wikipedia in 2004.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Inosculati&diff=500150667&oldid=3251579> In the original version there were the terms Grafting and Pleaching used, but not conjoined. It is interesting to see that some of the revisions were made by current NTS members, such as M. D. Vaden. I am not sure when the term conjoined first appeared in the Wikipedia article or who made the addition.

From my perspective, I wanted the term conjoined to just refer to those that had actually grew together, so I changed the term to hugging to also include those trees that were entwined and rubbing but either had not actually grown together or where it was unclear if they had done so.

In light of your question and considering the terms usage on Wikipedia, I have revised the description on our website to include both terms:

### *Category 5: Conjoined and Hugging Trees*

*Sometimes two trees may grow to large size adjacent to each other and grow together. These may be of the same species or even trees of two different genera or families. These consist of two*

*basic forms: a) Conjoined - two trees that have become grafted together. Generally this grafting is between two trees of the same or closely related species or genera. (see Inosculation: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inosculation> ) These are also sometime called Fused Trees; and b) Hugging - two trees that are not grafted together, but are physically touching, rubbing, intertwined, or entangled. These need to be considered on a case by case basis. In general the standard height, girth, and crown spread measurements can be made for each individual of the conjoined or hugging pair.*

As for other references - I really don't have any. The term was created as part of a framework to suggest how these different tree forms should be measured. Nobody else is doing or has done anything like that besides the Native Tree Society. It is likely that I made up the term, and because of us it was added to the Wikipedia article. I don't know what else to say.

Why did I want to use a term like conjoined instead of fused? The reason is that often you get multitrunk trees growing from the same root mass to form a large mass near the base of the tree. Essentially the trunks are all part of the same organism, even if we have chosen to define a tree as a single trunk for measurement purposes. The process whereby these merge is generally referred to as fusing. The clump of wood at the base before it splits into individual stems somewhere higher on the many trunks is called a fused mass.

I decided on the term conjoined to distinguish it from the common usage of fused used when referring to trunks of a multitrunk tree that have grown together at their base. It is meant to refer to two or more trees that have grown together that are distinct individuals, each having their own individual root system, or that may even be trees of different species. These are of two different things and therefore I choose to use two different terms.

Edward Frank

## **"Diseased Trees New Source of Climate Gas"**

by Joe » Wed Aug 08, 2012 5:42 am

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/08/120807151309.htm>

Diseased Trees New Source of Climate Gas

ScienceDaily (Aug. 7, 2012) — Diseased trees in forests may be a significant new source of methane that causes climate change, according to researchers at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies in Geophysical Research Letters.

Joe Zorzin

## **Re: "Diseased Trees New Source of Climate Gas"**

by Joe » Thu Aug 09, 2012 8:29 am

Another link to the same story in the Yale News is: <http://news.yale.edu/2012/08/08/diseased-trees-are-source-climate-changing-gas>

On that site they have a picture:

<http://news.yale.edu/sites/default/files/tree-flame.jpg?1344441616> "A flame fueled by methane shoots out of an oak tree being cored at Yale Myers Forest" which may be of some interest to you tree core folks.

Joe Zorzin



## Forest Reserve Science Advisory Committee

by dbhguru » Wed Aug 08, 2012 9:13 pm

NTS,

In Sept, we'll have the first official meeting of the Forest Reserve Science Advisory Committee set up by DCR to monitor and advise on the Mass Forest Reserves. I am a member of the committee representing the Native Tree Society. So, NTS will be represented in a major initiative to advise on protection and monitoring of the Reserves. I'm looking forward to participating on our behalf. TNC, TTOR, Mass Audubon, UMASS, Harvard Forest also have representation.

I'll keep everyone informed and seek advice from the rest of you as time goes on. MTSF and MSF are part of the system of reserves. It is a pretty visionary system. My friend Joe Zorzin was on the Steering Committee that advised on the design of the system of reserves, parks, and working forests. Although he represented consulting foresters, he was one of the most persistent and eloquent voices for the reserves. We owe Joe a lot. He had to literally battle other forestry voices to insure timber propaganda wasn't presented and accepted as fact.

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

## Amana, Iowa

by dbhguru » Wed Aug 08, 2012 8:55 pm

NTS, Monica and I passed through Amana, Iowa a couple days ago. Amana is the home of the famous Amana Colonies. We stopped by a wetland and I photographed the large area of American Lotus there. Here are several images of American Lotus. Native Americans used them as a food source. They are spectacular plants.





Tomorrow, we'll stop by Cook Forest, PA and then head to the New York Catskills. After that, we'll be home and I'll write up a series of trip reports.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: Humboldt Redwoods State Park](#)

by **mdvaden** » Thu Aug 09, 2012

*Mark Collins wrote: Thanks Ed and Bob, glad to share. Bob, sometimes I wish I had a prettier face than my own to put in the photos! Sometimes I'm all I've got, and you are right, without a person for scale, the trees can look rather ordinary in a regular photo.*

Mario, it would have been a real treat to run into you at the park. I've been inspired by your photos and discoveries over the years.

Mark ... **Could be a toss of the coin** on that this time around - lol

Visit #1 to the Grieg, French, Bell loop was solo, and the shot 2nd, below, was that day, along with a maple measuring. The top photo was the following day ...

**may or many not be your cup of tea.** A networking photoshoot thing with a Eureka model.

Actually, I got a hoard of photography done the past few days. I did a bunch of photos with the model below at Avenue of the Giants, plus at a huge log stack in Eureka.

Then an arborist and his wife, came from South Africa, and I took a bunch of photos of them at Jedediah Smith redwoods and Prairie Creek redwoods. Just general redwoods and forest photos stuff. The weather and lighting was pretty darn good during the visit. It will be a memorable week, and with new friends.







I've driven by the grove and loop several times, but never stopped there before. it's almost mesmerizing. Little rolling hills of redwoods and redwood sorrel that eventually meet some new growth. But an awesomely beautiful place. I think a few TV commercials for pharmaceuticals have been recorded here, and I can see why. The location in itself is virtually healing.

Here's one standing in a nice Redwood Sorrel area.

I'm beginning to like the Humboldt redwoods quite a bit more the past few visits, as I find more alternative spots for various kinds of weather.

This was only the second photo shoot where I've used flash on stands before. I prefer ambient light. Two Canon 430EX II flashes. Actually came out a bit better than I expected.



M. D. Vaden of Oregon

## Green Frogs

by **michael gatonska** » Thu Aug 09, 2012 6:40 pm

I captured this soundscape during the green frog breeding season in Litchfield, CT. Setting up my equipment near a pond where they had congregated to compete for call time and recognition, I was able to listen to and record some very vigorous calls. Males song an accented 'twang' sound, similar to the banjo, or in my opinion, more akin to the sanxian, which is a Chinese three-stringed fretless lute which is plucked.

Acoustic communication is essential for the frog's survival in both territorial defense and in localization and attraction of mates. Sounds from frogs travel through the air, through water, and through the substrate (the surface where a plant or animal grows on).

Unfortunately, for female frogs, increasing noise from nearby traffic, airplanes, construction and other human ambient noises have been shown to slow their abilities to listen for and locate male frogs that are calling for their services during the mating season. Unfortunately, many species of frogs have struggled to adapt their calls to the growing demands of increased environmental noise, which environmentalists say could lead to less reproduction and declining populations of these frogs.

Frogs produce a rich variety of sounds, calls, and songs during their courtship and mating rituals. The callers, usually males, make stereotyped sounds in order to advertise their location, their mating readiness and their willingness to defend their territory; listeners respond to the calls by return calling, by approach, and by going silent. These responses have been shown to be important for species recognition, mate assessment, and localization.

Females must recognize the male they choose by his call. By localizing where his call is coming from she can find him. An additional challenge is that she is localizing his call while listening to the many other frogs in the chorus, and to the noise of the stream and

insects. The breeding pond is a very noisy place, and females must distinguish a male's calls from the other noise. How they recognize the sound pattern of the male they are pursuing from the surrounding noise is similar to how intelligent hearing aids help people hear certain sounds and cancel out others.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ozsCvy9Pu0>

Michael Gatonska

## Re: Green Frogs

by **Andrew Joslin** » Fri Aug 17, 2012 10:13 pm

Not to get picky on you Ed but that green frog photo you posted is a bullfrog. The easy way to tell the difference is the green frog has a "seam" or ridge on each side of it's head that runs all the way back to its rear. The bullfrog's seam turns down just after its ear.





Today I was happy to see a Northern Leopard Frog, a Pickerel Frog and a Green Frog, all in one walk in the woods. Pickerel Frog has a really odd call, here's one calling with a background of Spring Peepers chorusing

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvamqQXtzO8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvamqQXtzO8)

Andrew Joslin

## Re: Humboldt Redwoods State Park

by **mdvaden** » Thu Aug 09, 2012 7:52 pm

*Mark Collins wrote: Mario, the only thing missing from your photo shoot is a tree measuring laser or two! :)*

Almost got some photos of us measuring Arco Giant up at Prairie Creek, but we only had like an hour to spare before leaving to get back home. So I took the couple to see a special valley and got the rest of photos in there since they may not return for a long time. The husband, an arborist, helped me measure Arco Giant. I did Founders Tree on my own a couple of days earlier.

So definitely had the laser out there.

One of my favorite laser photos is one of Atkin's Impulse 200 LR with redwood tree reflections, from a couple of years ago.



M. D. Vaden of Oregon

## Looking back over the journey just concluded

by **dbhguru** » Fri Aug 10, 2012 5:23 pm

NTS, Monica and I rolled into Florence, mid-afternoon, after a rain-drenched trip through the Catskills. It was a re-introduction to the green East. For me, the return is mixed. I prefer the West, but most of my tree mission is in the East, so there you go.

I plan to write a complete description of our trek in the coming weeks. Basically, it will be a better accounting to go with images that I've already sent. For example, Shoshone Canyon east of Yellowstone is a great place to visit. Monica and I stayed at a lodge (Elephant's Head Lodge) that was built by a niece of William F. Cody. The owner of the lodge is a part Shoshoni Indian with an incredible story to tell. The canyon, itself, is up to 3,000 feet deep and is cut by the Shoshone River going between Rattlesnake and Cedar Mountains. The volcanic Absaroka Range provides incredible rock scenery in every direction. I wish I had been able to spend more time in the canyon.

Here is a geological look at Shoshone Canyon from Bill Butler's Internet description of ancestral rivers of the West.

"The standard answer is that Shoshone Canyon is the result of the river being superimposed over the top of the mountain. Thus the sequence of events would be:

- 1) The Rattlesnake Range was uplifted during the Laramide period of mountain building (50 to 70 million years ago).
- 2) Subsequently the Rattlesnake range was buried by sediments "washed in from elsewhere", and the result was a level surface that buried the mountain range.
- 3) The Shoshone River developed eastward over the top of the buried mountain range.
- 4) Renewed regional uplift has led to recent erosion.
- 5) The softer sediments to the east and west of the range were eroded away, and except for erosion caused by the river, the mountain range has been exhumed. Rattlesnake Mountain is the remnant to the

north of the canyon and Cedar Mountain is the remnant to the south.

This process, if true, would be a classic example of superimposition.

While the above sequence has been accepted for years, it may not be what really happened. It appears that Shoshone Canyon may be an example of "Antecedence" instead of superimposition.

If in fact, Shoshone Canyon is actually an example of antecedence, then the following sequence would be true.

1) During the mid Tertiary, much of the area in the vicinity of Cody, WY was beveled down to Mesozoic layers. This includes two anticlines that had been uplifted in Laramide time just south of Cody. (The remnants of both of these anticlines are included in the visible portion of the upper right corner of the picture.) The Rattlesnake Range did not exist yet.

2) The Shoshone River established its course eastward over what would become Rattlesnake Mountain.

3) Then as the Rattlesnake Range was uplifted (most likely within the last 10 million years), the river cut the canyon.

The antecedence model appears to fit the observations better than the superimposition model. Thus Shoshone Canyon is presented here as an example of antecedence and not superimposition."

In the above explanation, the Rattlesnake Range is misnamed. It is actually the Absarokas. Here are two more images from within the canyon.



The light was failing when I took this image.



Robert T. Leverett



## Re: Looking back over the journey just concluded

by dbhguru » Sat Aug 11, 2012 8:56 am

Joe, Yes, I groove on geology. I just wish I was better at it. Soooo complicated. Monica and I visited the Dinosaur National Monument and they give a tour. You get to see fossils still in the rocks. Neat stuff. I recently got an email from a friend who quoted a political pundit bemoaning what has happened to his party. I'll let you guess as to which party. One of his staffers told him that dinosaur fossils were a hoax. Oops, somebody forgot to tell the dinosaurs that. Can you imagine? Well, actually, I can imagine. The moron element in this country has exploded. Gone through the roof. I imagine they'll think the new Mars rover is a hoax.

Regardless, of the fool element in the country, here are two more canyon images. Forest fires in Montana made photography more of a challenge, but these two made it. Location is Ten Sleep Canyon in the Bighorns.

First, an excerpt from Wikipedia on the canyon.

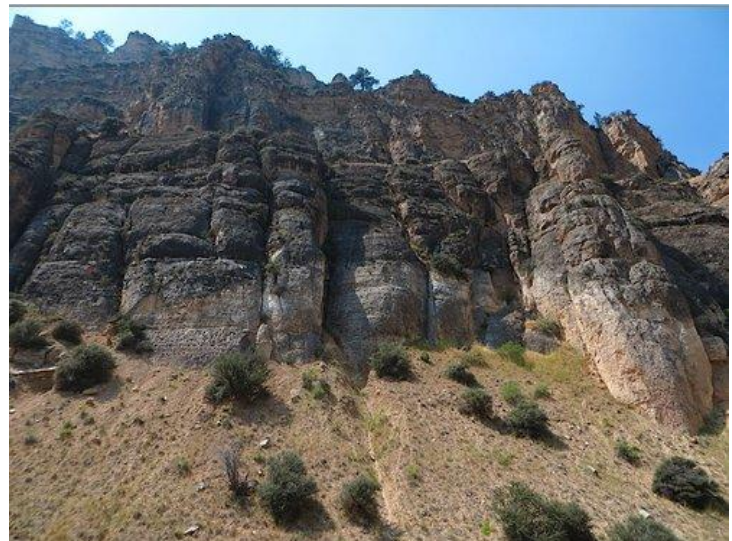
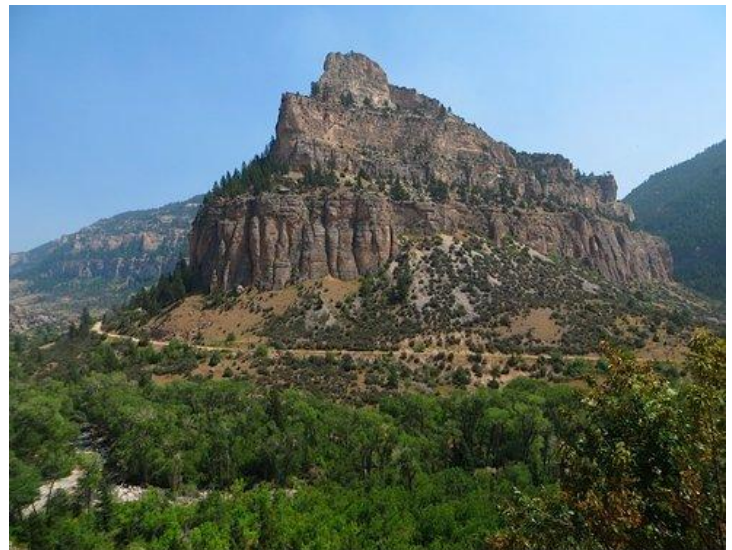
*Ten Sleep was an American Indian rest stop, so called because it was 10 days travel, or "10 sleeps," from Fort Laramie (southeast), Yellowstone National Park (west-northwest), and the Indian Agency on the Stillwater River in Montana (northwest). There are numerous archeological sites throughout the area, with frequent discoveries of artifacts such as arrowheads, pictographs and petroglyphs.*

*Ten Sleep was also the site of the Spring Creek Raid, one of the last feuds of the West's Sheep and Cattlemen's War. It was there in March, 1909 that cattlemen attacked sheep herders and their flock, killing three men and shooting hundreds of the sheep. Caught and convicted, this was the end of major conflict, although it was many years before the two livestock growers' groups resolved their differences.*

*The yellowish-gray to white sandstone which forms much of Ten Sleep Canyon is named the Tensleep formation (Pennsylvanian), and dominates much of the western slope of the Big Horn Mountains. The*

*prominent red sandstone, such as Signal cliff just west of Ten Sleep, as well as the dirt hills all along the west slope of the Big Horn Mountains are of the Chugwater formation (Triassic). Called the "Painted Desert" or "Colored Hills" by locals, the Cloverly formation is finely granulated sandstone, clay and "gumbo". The Cloverly formations contains bands of various mineral colors ranging from greens and grays to red and violets, and are closely associated with strata containing dinosaur fossils. Numerous signs along U.S. 16 from Buffalo, through Ten Sleep and west to Worland identify the various geologic formations and their millennia.*

And now, the images.



Ten Sleep Canyon isn't one of the deeper ones we visited, but it has a spacious feeling that I like. I recommend the trip through it if anyone is traveling on U.S. 16 going toward or from Buffalo, WY. You cross 9,666-foot Powder River Pass on the way. Rocks there are estimated to be 3 billion years old.

Robert T. Leverett

### **Re: Looking back over the journey just concluded.**

by **dbhguru** » Sat Aug 11, 2012 11:31 am

It has been pretty dry according to locals here in New England and the summer has been hot and muggy. I would imagine that the cool summers of New England past are going to be just that - past. Climate change is real! Actually, I already miss the high, dry of the West, and the cool nights, but alas, I have work to do here. So, I'll stop complaining and buckle down. But Monica and I are going to try to figure out a way to spend at least 3 months in the West next summer - maybe three and a half.

Right now, I still have the West on my mind. The opportunities to document trees and forest sites in Colorado are for all practical purposes, unlimited, and Wyoming has more possibilities that I had heretofore realized. Then, there is Don up in Alaska. He has the extreme challenges of geography (not to mention huge bears), but one can take it a site at a time.

I do believe that there is a worthy western mission despite what our tiny acknowledged WNTS membership can hope to accomplish in the near term. What is most exciting is that with Michael, Zane, and others on the West Coast cranking, the future is brighter than ever before. I also want to explore a little more of northern New Mexico. The Sangres north and east of Santa Fe are calling out. I hope you can join us next summer. One thing is certain. There is a wealth of ancient trees in the West to document independent of tree size. For example, the Colorado Plateau is vast and loaded with old pinyons and junipers. I see them all over the place. Endless

opportunities for photography and documentation. When you go into the gorges and canyons, Doug Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Colorado Blues, etc. present themselves in pristine form. The more rugged terrain tends to be overlooked because it isn't continuous forest and often not of commercial interest, but prime habitat for us. We march to the beat of our own drums.

Robert T. Leverett

### **This really bums me out (MA)**

by **Marc Depoto** » Fri Aug 10, 2012 11:25 pm

State's grandest white oak felled by arsonist  
NEW BRAINTREE'S GENTLE GIANT  
By Kim Ring TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF  
Wednesday, August 8, 2012  
<http://www.telegram.com/article/20120808/NEWS/108089940/0/FRONTPAGE>

### **Re: This really bums me out**

by **dbhguru** » Sat Aug 11, 2012 8:15 am

I knew the tree. It was a fine old oak and a great symbol. It wasn't as tall as indicated in the article, but who cares. It has been years since I visited it, but remember it well.

After my initial visit, I actually found a larger white oak called the Huguenot Oak, which still stands, but is gradually dying back. The Huguenot oak predates a middle of the 1700s Huguenot settlement. I don't know anything about the origin of the New Braintree Oak. In terms of accessibility, the New Braintree Oak was more accessible - too accessible.

As to degree of punishment of the offenders, I'll pass, but there certainly should be some. I am heartened at the number of people who related to the old tree.

Robert T. Leverett



## [Re: This really bums me out](#)

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Sat Aug 11, 2012 11:03 am

I don't remember all of the details anymore, but several years ago in Warren, PA a couple of idiots late one night set fire to a building on the immediate south end of the Hickory Street Bridge in order to create a diversion for first responders, while they broke into and robbed a drug store in town on the other side of the Allegheny River. Well, there was a very nice large stately old oak tree (red oak I think) on that property in close proximity to the structure that was set on fire. The fire damaged the oak tree terribly before it could be extinguished. The decision was made to cut down the old oak because it was so badly damaged. What a stupid way for such a nice old tree to go! I don't remember for sure but I bet you it was at least a 4' to 5' dbh tree. To my knowledge there was no problem with the tree prior to the fire in terms of being rotten in the middle or otherwise in decline.

Kirk Johnson

## [Video: Forests of the Allegheny River Islands](#)

by **edfrank** » Sat Aug 11, 2012 8:40 pm

Forests of the Allegheny River Islands: Interim Report



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQhDDttTwPc&list=UUkuPIpHbieag98UtgbtZbuA>

*Video of a talk describing the results of forest research on the islands in the Middle Allegheny River in Warren and Forest Counties, PA by Edward Frank, Dale Luthringer, Carl Harting, and Anthony Kelly of the Native Tree Society between 2003 through Dec 2011. About the report: "This report compiles the results as of December 2011 for the ongoing project of documenting forests and trees of the islands of the Allegheny River Island Wilderness and nearby islands in the middle Allegheny River in north central Pennsylvania. The islands included in this report are located in a stretch extending from the Buckaloons Recreation Area, seven miles downstream of Warren, Pennsylvania through Holeman Island, four miles downstream of Tionesta, Pennsylvania. This includes all of the islands in the Allegheny River Islands Wilderness, a number of forest service islands, and several private islands. Major islands investigated among others include, Crull's Island, Thompson's Island, Courson Island, Hemlock Island, King Island, Baker Island, and Holeman Island. At the present time some of the islands have been visited multiple times by groups of people, while others have seen only a quick scouting survey, or have not yet been visited." Talk was given by Edward Frank at Cook Forest State Park, PA on July 7, 2012.*

NTS, This is a video of a talk I gave on July 7, 2012 at Cook Forest State Park, PA. The latter part of the video has not been edited as I like, but unfortunately my laptop is not new enough to complete the editing without crashing repeatedly. The complete talk is still presented and is just over an hour in length.

“Trees and Forests of the Allegheny River Island Wilderness and Nearby Islands: Interim Report through December 2011” by Edward Frank, Dale Luthringer, Carl Harting, and Anthony Kelly

Native Tree Society Special Publication #10

[http://www.nativetreesociety.org/specialreports/ARI\\_W\\_Report\\_Dec2011.pdf](http://www.nativetreesociety.org/specialreports/ARI_W_Report_Dec2011.pdf) 15.8 MB

Edward Frank

## Romainia - Mountain Forests

by **hamadryad** » Sun Aug 12, 2012 2:49 pm

Just got back from Romania, a great trip all round visiting the last villages to still be working the trees and land the old ways, living in wooden thatched houses that are a unique style to the region. I was there to learn about rural Romania, pollarding, lime burning etc. Unfortunately I did not come across any pristine forest, but spoke to an archaeologist who assures me that pristine forest does exist in the Carpathia regions (mountain range) I hope to return sometime next year to that zone. However I did discover beech forest managed heavily by man managed for many many generations, a landscape entirely worked and worked hard by the peoples of the region (Alba county)

These mountain forests have been repeatedly felled and regenerated some through the coppiced stools of those felled. A remarkable area with the most rapid and healthy regrowth and re generation, which is undoubtedly due to the cycle of felling and harvesting sustaining a stage of succession in the fungal community that is of course mycorrhizae, with Ceps and Chanterelles being a huge by product supplying a massive export from the region in the main harvest. Collection points throughout the region buy the fruits of this very productive system off the local gatherers and many are shipped to Italy and other European countries, along with Bilberries and other fruits which are also abundant because of the mosaic forest/pasture habitat that is sustained by the communities activities.

The purpose of the trip in co-operation with Grampus ( <http://www.grampusheritage.co.uk/> ) was to learn about the old ways and skills of the region and design projects that will sustain the skills and knowledge of these communities for the long term. Sadly the younger generations are leaving the old villages to seek work across Europe and live a modern life, and who can blame them? and its most urgent we rescue these traditional skills, peoples heritage, culture and knowledge before its too late. it was evident that the decline has begun to show, it was sad to see such a wonderful way of life in decline. this way of life must

be preserved, we have so much to learn from it about truly sustainable ways of land management on a landscape scale, for they have made it an art for thousands of years here.



A local woman feeding her cow (milk for cheese etc) with ash "Shreddings" normally done when hay is exhausted over a long winter and supplementary fodder must be added to the diet. These cows and other livestock are kept in barns all winter and overnight (Wolves and Bears roam wild here) This Lady and her son very generously not only shared information about the ways but gave us this demonstration. A priceless and rare image.



The Carline thistle a prairie/pasture lime stone perennial