well, in lieu of finding the right numerical methodology, it's great that ENTS has some pretty good photographers and videographers - and that [Michael Gatonska] who records the sounds near trees.

Joe Zorzin

Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms

by **edfrank** » Sun Dec 09, 2012 4:56 pm

Joe, I quite agree with you assessment that numbers may not be adequate to convey the most important characteristics of these unusual trees. Maybe artistry is the way to go. But numbers can capture part of the characteristics and assuage the needs of the number obsessed. One of our missions is to get numbers, so I say give it a shot, even if the results do not fully capture the essence of what we are measuring.

Edward Frank

Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms

by **Bart Bouricius** » Sun Dec 09, 2012 5:25 pm

Height is no problem, well not impossible, and for volume, cut the tree thingy off at the base or bases or stems, roots, whatever, then pick it up with a helicopter and place it in a tank large enough to hold it. tie it to the bottom fill the tank with water, then remove it. Measure how much the water went down and you have your volume without all those fancy shmancy mathematical models involved. I am still puzzling over what we could call a circumference though. We do have to define it in order to measure it. Is this a start on your proposal Ed?

Bart Bouricius

Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms

by **mdvaden** » Sun Dec 09, 2012 7:25 pm

It would not get me to rethink champion tree measuring too much more than, say, clonal aspen groves. For the reason that both are not merely multiple stems, but also multiple roots. There's a bunch of extra roots sending water and nutrients to the complex of wood and leaves.

Still a pretty cool tree though. I'd be inclined to vote for having a second category. One for the champion with a single stem, and maybe another champion category for an organism of a species where extra trunks or adventitious root stems could be added.

M. D. Vaden

Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms

by **Larry Tucei** » Sun Dec 09, 2012 11:22 pm

Bob, Wow a really wicked cool tree. I have only seen photos of Banyans the root mass must be enormous on the larger trees. I was wondering how large are the crowns in this species? Must get wide with all those supports. I found this link about a large Banyan tree in Lahaina, Hawaii. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahaina_Banyan_Court_Park

Lahaina Banyan Tree

Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms

by **edfrank** » Sun Dec 09, 2012 11:33 pm

Larry, cool link. In the text in the article I found it describes the tree as follows: " by 2005 it had grown to a height of 49.2 feet (15.0 m), had 16 trunks,[32] and covered a circumference of 0.25 miles (0.40 km) within 0.66 acres (0.27 ha) of the park." These are some of the things I was thinking about for how to document these trees. They used covered circumference - which I guess is the length around the edge of the canopy. But it does include number of trunks, height, and area of the canopy.

Edward Frank

Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms

by **dbhguru** » Sun Dec 09, 2012 11:40 pm

Ed, when I get to Kauai tomorrow and settle down, I'll start looking for variant tree forms to photograph. Maybe if we collect a lot of images, we'll get more ideas. However, your categorization is making more and more sense.

Larry, you should have seen me negotiate that 30-foot wave surfing only on the souls of my feet. Hmm, wonder what's in this drink I'm having. Oooh, packs a punch.

Robert Leverett

Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms

by **edfrank** » Mon Dec 10, 2012 12:11 am

Bart, I don't think we should get caught up in the dilemma and false bravado of trying to say the measurements define the tree. The approach should be more along the idea that the mathematics and the measurements are being used as a vocabulary to discuss a particular tree and to discuss and compare one tree with another. We need to find and take those measurements that are most descriptive and form the best vocabulary for these physical one aspect of the tree's nature. There are the ideas of artistry as an aspect, and of presence as an aspect. These are equally valid concepts and need to be included in the discussions of the nature of these trees. The measurements are a part of the whole, not the entirety of what we should be considering. We need to develop a vocabulary suitable for these trees with unusual forms.

Edward Frank

Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms

by **dbhguru** » Mon Dec 10, 2012 2:27 am

Ed, you are spot on. Yes, we need a new vocabulary to use in describing the range of tree forms, and yes, the math should be a part of the vocabulary, but certainly not be the arbiter of truth. When I get to Kauai, I intend to turn my attention to photography and submit as many images of the range of forms as I can manage. I will make no judgments or draw no conclusions.

The view below looks up into a banyan.

Here is a common form for the coastal mahogany.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms

by **dbhguru** » Mon Dec 10, 2012 2:10 pm

Ed, et al, For many of the banyans, forget measuring the largest trunk. Even if you could identify it, you probably couldn't get to it.

The area within the perimeter of the vertical trunks/roots, the area shaded by the crown, and the height are logicals.

Trunk/root density should figure in to the determination, but I don't have an idea on how to make the measurement.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms

by **edfrank** » Mon Dec 10, 2012 10:30 am

Mario, the problems faced by measuring these banyan type trees and the clonal colonies are very analogous. For these types I am thinking that a key descriptor of the trees or colonies may be the area they occupy. I also like the idea of figuring out how many trunks or aerial roots they have where that determination is practical, the height, and again if practical the girth of the largest individual stem. If you look at my listing referenced in a precious post, I have a number of categories of unusual forms. I think all are justifiable distinctions. It is not reasonable to try to have a champion for each category as many of the forms are so unusual or unique to a particular tree or circumstance that in these cases calling one a champion and another not does not really make sense. I can see a champion list for single trunk trees, multitrunk trees based upon basically the same criteria with the addition of listing the number of stems in the mass, and for things like the clonal colonies and large figs maybe area is the way to go. That is how some of the large clonal colonies of box-huckleberry bushes are described also.

Edward Frank

Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms

by **edfrank** » Mon Dec 10, 2012 4:03 pm

Bob, the girth/size of the largest trunk should be measured where it can, and where it can't, it can't. Maybe a reticule could be used ins some cases with some interpolation. I am not sure that perimeter around the trunks/area occupied by the trunks/roots versus perimeter of the crown/shaded crown area would be much different in terms of providing a unique descriptor. I could see in smaller specimens a marked difference between the two, but as the mass grew larger in size, while the overall shaded area would always be larger, the area occupied by the trunks would be a a larger and larger proportion of the total. This area consideration is an important descriptor for these types of trees and I am leaning toward crown shade area as the more significant of the two....

We need to get a handle on what changes in the specimens as they grow from a smaller unit to a larger mass. What changes in terms of defined trunks, crown shape, etc. - how do the larger forms evolve over time and is that something we can breakdown into stages? What can we document, what can we describe, what can we photograph, and

what can we measure that better help us describe this growth process?

What variations are there between large specimens of a particular species or group of closely related species, and what is the cause of these variations? What differences are there between open grown specimens and those grown in a forested setting with other tall trees? How can we capture those differences?

Edward Frank

Re: No recognition for this old growth forest (patch) in NJ

by **greenent22** » Sun Dec 09, 2012 7:24 pm

Many of those look open grown and not like natural old-growth woods grown. But they sure are huge. Perhaps some of the very first settlers had cut the area over hard a few hundred years ago and then left a few trees to grow? Or an old Indian clearing?? Hard to tell, they look short and fat with evidence of large branches having started very low down. Maybe the steep slope or something else (storm, cliff erosion, repeated floods, etc.) did cause them to all grow like that naturally there though, some in the background look taller and more normal shaped too. The one in the first pic really looks like an older yard tree though. Nice trees whatever the story.

Re: No recognition for this old growth forest (patch) in NJ

by **JohnnyDJersey** » Mon Dec 10, 2012 5:48 am

I do know that this area was part of a farm as recently as 60 or so years ago until it was zoned commercial. The large white oak (the Clement Oak) has alot of history behind it. It was mentioned in a survey as early as 1678 and in 1793, hence why the location was selected as the landing point for the first hot air balloon flight in America in the same year by Jean-Pierre Blanchard. He carried with him a letter from George Washington to the property owner of whatever property he landed. It was also the first airmail delivery in the US. Anyhow, because of the oak alone, I believe the area surrounding it was left "mostly" undisturbed. The area is also on the edge of a "cliff" that borders a tidal marsh so its a thin strand that runs along the property, the rest of the property obviously having been cleared in the 16 or 1700's. In the last fifty years many buildings have been erected here including an RCA headquarters and now the Walmart. Everytime construction takes place there is always local public concern and pressure to maintain the safety of the tree.

Re: No recognition for this old growth forest (patch) in NJ

by **edfrank** » Mon Dec 10, 2012 10:10 am

John, I think it is great to know some of the history of the region and forest. In my site descriptions I try to find out as much about the human history of the area as possible also. This provides some perspective on what we are seeing at a site. It helps with the interpretation of what we are seeing as well - is it an undisturbed small patch or something grown up from an old field? (Sometimes it doesn't help, but is neat anyway.)

Edward Frank

Re: No recognition for this old growth forest (patch) in NJ

by **JohnnyDJersey** » Mon Dec 10, 2012 1:18 pm

Haha, analogy understood Ed. It amazes me that on the west coast you can find old growth in the woods. Here if you find an old growth tree in the forest its

because it once stood alone in a field and someone let it be and the forest grew up around it. Thats what these few trees I posted about probably are. There are only 3 or 4 TRUE old growth forest in New Jersey. Thoes are, Saddlers Woods in Haddon Twp, Tillman in north Jersey, Bear Swamp in Cumerland County, and Hutchenson Memorial Forest in central Jersey area. To the common person on the west coast who has spent time in Redwood forest or mixed conifers, old growth or second growth, even an east coast old growth forest would seem small and drab. But hey thats all we know out here. :)

Just a side note, tricked my fiance into grocery shopping at the walmart today so I could go out back into the woods, found 2 more southern red oaks, 15'1" CBH and 14'2" CBH as well.

John Harvey

Considerations of old growth

by **edfrank** » Sun Dec 09, 2012 10:10 pm

Larry, I am torn by the many definitions of what constitutes old growth. One one end is the concept of pristine or untouched forest. I don't think there is much of that left in the east anymore. If you look at indirect effects of human life there isn't anyplace anywhere that has not been affected. Say these are remnants of field trees around an old homestead clearing, or a native clearing. Since that time the rest of the forest has grown up around it. It has lived as such for a hundred ore more years. What is the difference between this origin of the forest than if it had been a natural burned opening or wind blown opening? Can something become old growth again? I would say something can become old growth again after a time. If it has some old trees that survived from the last event, whether natural or man made, that only enhances the character of the new old growth forest. I think in setting like this we need a more flexible definition of what is old growth that accounts for the long term impacts and effects of coexisting with a human population and considers the features of a particular forest patch within the context of other patches of forest in the area. If this patch has old trees, even if scattered remnants in an abandoned farmstead, it is more of an old growth forest than a patch without these trees. This may be fairly called old growth for the area. I guess I am just rambling at this point.

Edward Frank

Re:Considerations of old growth

by **Don** » Mon Dec 10, 2012 1:49 am

Ed- I think we often find ourselves at different ends of the old-growth continuum that ranges between minimal disturbance to significant disturbance. I suppose I've not moved much there, but I have found that broadening one's perspective from considering old-growth "trees" to considering old-growth "ecosystems" helps. Having one giant "old-growth" species tree all of its own is only part of what makes old-growth forests apart from second-growth forests. It's the diversity between and within species present that lends resiliency, provides the ecosystem with the "funds" it needs to draw from in times of disturbance.

The minimum size constraints of an old-growth ecosystem I'd suggest varies, and is as big as it has to be to retain sufficient resiliency to for the normal range of variation of its disturbances...probably more than one.

Can an old-growth tree/forest become old-growth again [after a disturbance]? Only the "purest" of old-growth definitions would deny such a restoration, and then only until a subsequent generation had persisted. Just my thoughts...

Don Bertolette

Re: Considerations of old growth

by **edfrank** » Mon Dec 10, 2012 10:10 am

Don, the idea of an old-growth ecosystem is fine and I don't necessarily disagree with you theoretically. The problem is that again we are looking at a spectrum of the degree of disturbance involved. I still think that has to be considered in the context of the surrounding forests. The idea of sustainability doesn't really help, because no matter how altered from pristine the ecosystem from virgin mythological forest to recently cut woodlot have some degree of resiliency. If left alone there will be some ecosystem established. It may not be the idealized forest, but it will form a self sustainable ecosystem of some sort. None of this seems to help improve our definition of what is old growth.

Edward Frank

Re: Considerations of old growth

by **edfrank** » Mon Dec 10, 2012 11:33 am

Don, you are living in the west where there are many forests that have only been minimally impacted by people. I know you have been in the east as well, but perspectives change with time and proximity. A fair analogy might be a rich man and a poor man. A rich guy with a bag full of money does not value a dollar bill very much as he is interested in the big picture. A used toaster isn't worth much consideration. To a poor man down to his last few dollars, every quarter is precious and needs to be spent well. Here in much of the east we are down to our last dollar in terms of forests and a working toaster purchased from Goodwill seems like a great deal.

Edward Frank

Re: "The President" giant sequioa, SNP, CA

by **edfrank** » Tue Dec 11, 2012 4:33 pm

Save the Redwoods League

National Geographic Features League Research California's enormous giant sequoia is the world's most massive tree.
http://www.savetheredwoods.org/redwoods/National-Geographic-giant-sequoias.php

National Geographic Magazine's December cover story includes the remarkable findings of League scientists who are studying how redwoods can survive sweeping environmental changes. The feature includes incredible photos, such as a portrait of "the President," a 3,200-year-old giant sequoia, and the interactive gallery, Tree of Life. Research team members of the League's Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative helped National Geographic photographer Michael Nichols and Deputy Director of Photography Ken Geiger to capture these images. Geiger told us about the experience.

Learn more about these amazing trees by checking out our Giant Sequoias facts page. You can also listen to the California Report's interview with Stephen Sillett, one of the Redwoods and Climate Change researchers, about studying and climbing these massive giants.

An MP3 version of the clip can be downloaded from the link below.
http://www.kqed.org/.stream/anon/radio/tcr/2012/12/2012-12-06b-tcr.mp3

Edward Frank

The spectacular Christmas Bell Lily

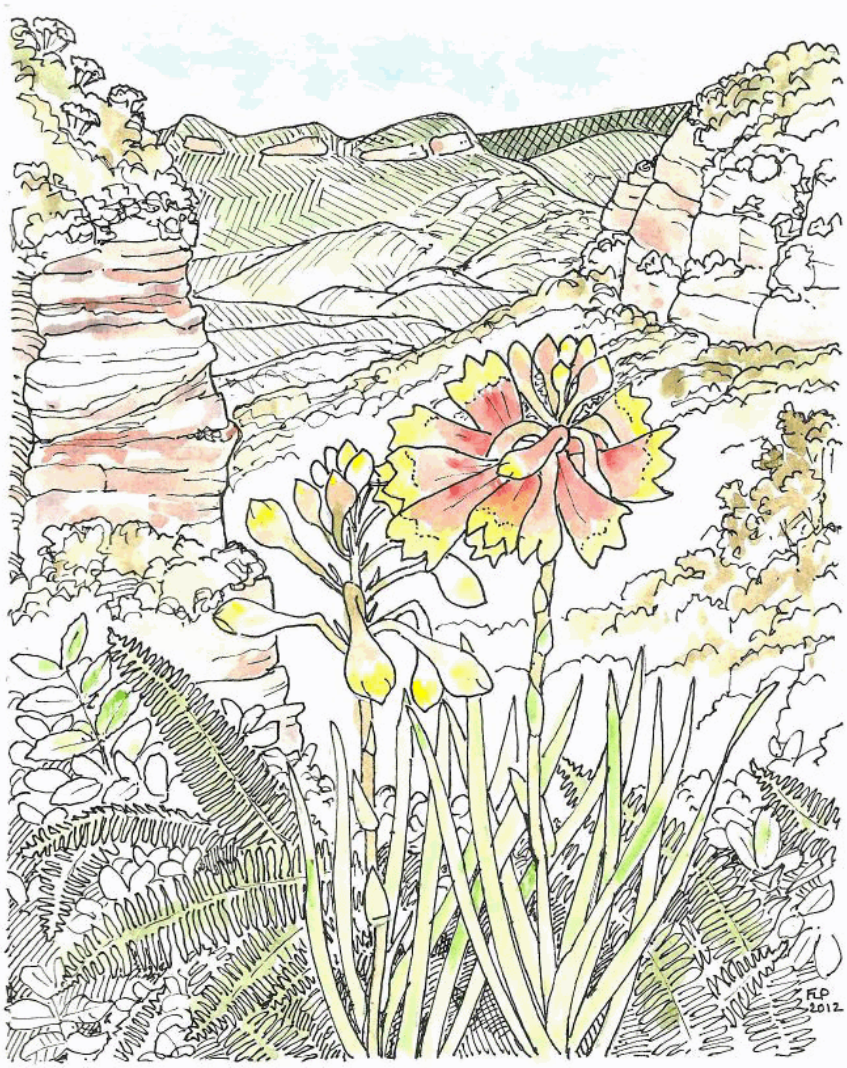
The spectacular Christmas Bell Lily *(Blandfordia grandiflora)* From a field sketch made Christmas day, 2011 along Lyretail Dell Trail, Blue Mountains National Park, New South Wales

Merry Christmas

Best wishes for the New Year

from Ann and Fred Paillet

Christmas Lily 2012.pdf



The spectacular Christmas Bell Lily (*Blandfordia grandiflora*)
From a field sketch made Christmas day, 2011 along Lyretail Dell Trail, Blue Mountains National Park, New South Wales

Merry Christmas

More Scenes, HI

by **dbhguru** » Sun Dec 09, 2012 9:09 pm

Hi Everybody, this morning I attempted to capture some of the ocean moods. It was overcast. That creates silhouette opportunities. This first image frames the ocean.

A little farther along the ocean front, A large lava flow created this opportunity.

anyone?

This big brute measured just under 31 feet in girth, but is only 114 feet tall. Its crown has been broken many times. Anyone care to guess the particular species of eucalypt?

Robert T. Leverett

Still More Scenes, HI

by **dbhguru** » Sun Dec 09, 2012 11:09 pm

NTS, While this Internet connection is working, I'll post a few more scenes. The first shows coastal mahogany as it is locally called. These trees spread out.

(above) Here is the largest one in the grove. (below) A prostrate coastal mahogany.

Back to the ocean

Native Hala Trees

Now, images of Eucalyptus robusta

I've measured them up to 163 feet in height on this trip, with several over 150. In some places they struggle to make 80 feet.

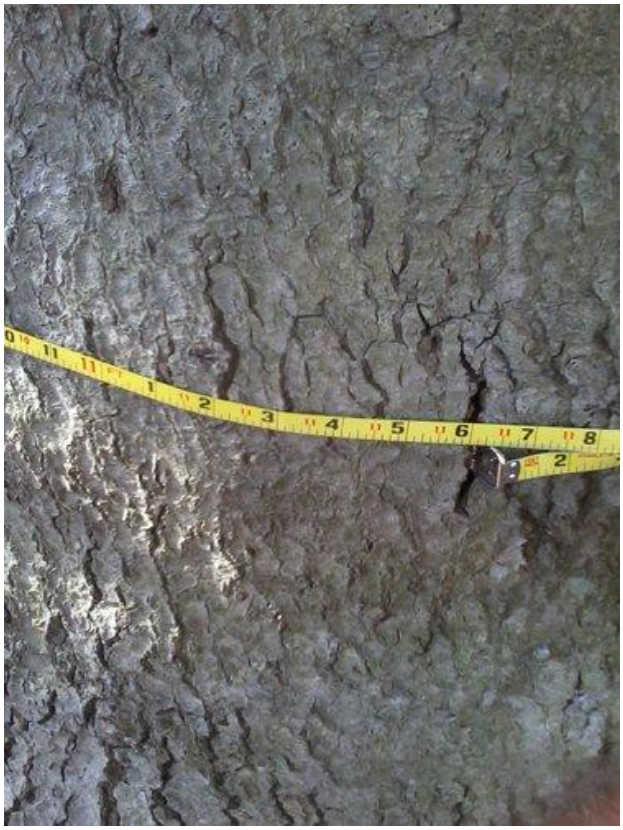
Better stop while my luck is holding out.

Robert T. Leverett

How old are these huge American Beech trees, NJ?

by **JohnnyDJersey** » Mon Dec 10, 2012 10:40 pm

Anyone out there know alot about Beech trees? I know that in my hunting I rarely find "Large ones". Thier not known to reach a great circumference and are slower growers. Below I have a photo of a Beech that is 14'7" CBH and well over 100' tall. This is by far the largest Ive come across. Any idea on the age of the tree? I also found a couple that are over 11' CBH and very tall.



Tape for second tree

Second tree

the tape for first tree

From a distance 14'7"

up close

The smaller tree is in a city park in Mullica Hill NJ. The larger tree is actualy on the outskirts of an old growth forest (Saddlers Woods), here in Jersey.

John Harvey

A HAUNTED TULIP POPLAR! Scary stuff here, NJ

by **JohnnyDJersey** » Tue Dec 11, 2012 10:16 pm

I snaped this photos a few months ago of a multi trunked tulip tree, about 17'CBH 120' tall. I never looked at it again until last night and what I saw FREAKED ME OUT! Literaly. There is some kind of face looking back at me from inside the tree. Yes this picture was taken in Jersey but this doent look like the Jersey Devil to me, more like a small ghost or hobbit of some sort. Tree is located in a small woods in Clementon NJ.

The first picture is from a distance, you can see it in the middle, the second picture is a close up of the "object". What could this be? I was thinking maybe a log or something sitting in the center being hit by direct sunlight from the back?

John D Harvey

From afar

Zoom in

Re: Travelogue Part 7 - the final installment.

by **dbhguru** » Sun Dec 09, 2012 1:54 pm

Michael, I echo what Will said. Your trip account presented through an obvious talent for writing reminds us that big tree hunting has many facets, one being culture, often rich. I have also gained a valuable lesson from your trip and that is that because we don't read much about an area of the world, it doesn't mean that there isn't plenty there to interest those of us looking for old growth forests and big trees.

As a case in point, my current mission in Hawaii has strong cultural overtones. The ohia and koa trees have long been used by the Polynesians for many purposes. However, the ohia is steeped in mythology. Did you all come across any mythological stories linking trees to present or past culture?

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Travelogue Part 7 - the final installment.

by **Michael J Spraggon** » Sun Dec 09, 2012 8:22 pm

Well I read that fairies called Rusalke who were young women and wives of Serbian soldiers killed in the battle of Kosovo appear in the forest at Vidovdan and light a fire around which they dance naked. If a young Serb meets these fairies during this ritual, they give him red wine to turn him into a dragon, so that he can avenge the death of Prince Lazar and his knights and free the Sun God, Vido.

Individual trees in England have stories associated with them. Many stories are historical, like the ones Ivo told us about the Trsteno planes.

I look forward to hearing about Hawaii. I would like to go there and see the geology (e.g. lava tubes) as much as anything else. I don't expect an 18,000 word travelogue though - they take ages to write!

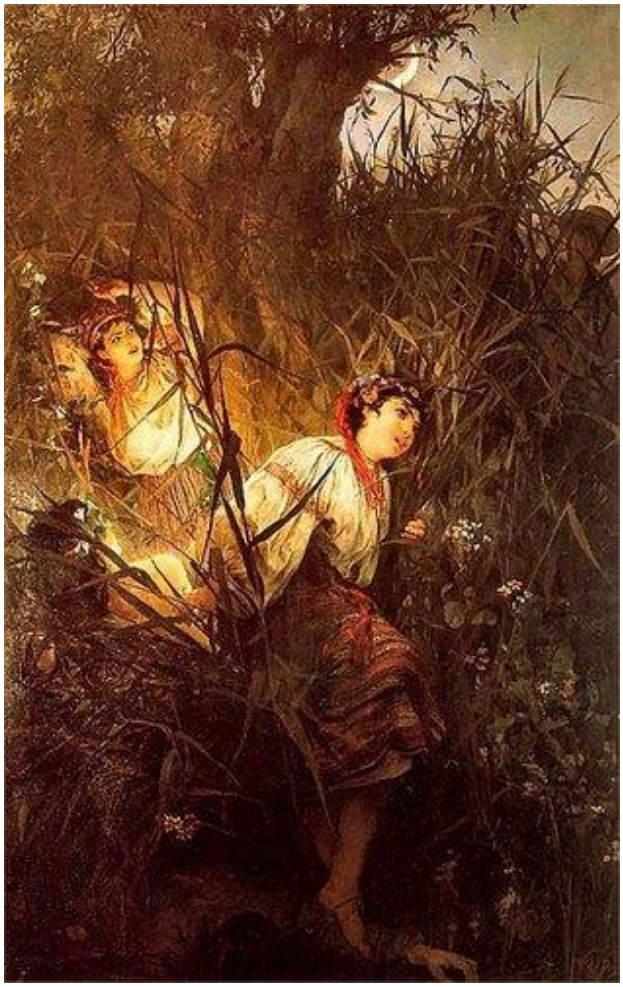
Michael

Re: Travelogue Part 7 - the final installment.

by **edfrank** » Wed Dec 12, 2012 12:54 am

Michael, I have been looking at Serbian legends regarding the Rusalke and Prince Lazar. There is quite a bit on the internet. One account: http://realhousewifeofbelgrade.com/2011 ... n-history/ pretty much repeats your account.

Lazar of Serbia has a nice Wikipedia article: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lazar_of_Serbia other links: http://www.srpska-mreza.com/bookstore/kosovo/kosovo10.htm



Rusałki, oil on canvas, 250 x 161 cm, National Museum, Cracow by Witold Pruszkowski 1877

as does the Rusalke:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rusalka

There also was this list of supernatural beings in Slavic folklore
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavic_fairies:

Supernatural beings in Slavic folklore come in several forms and their names are spelled differently based on the specific language.

khovanets (as domovoi),
dolia (fate), polyovyk or polevoi (field spirit),
perelesnyk (spirit of seduction),
lesovyk or leshyi (woodland spirit),
blud (wanderer),
mara (specter, spirit of confusion),
chuhaister (forest giant),
mavka or niavka (forest nymphs),
potoplenytsia (drowned maiden, wife of vodianyk),
vodianyk or vodyanoy (water spirit, aka potoplenyk),
bolotianyk (swamp spirit),
bisytsia (she-devil),
potercha (spirit of dead, unbaptized child),
nichnytsia (night spirit),
mamuna (demoness),
nechysta syla (evil power),
scheznyk (vanisher),
didko, antypko, antsybolot, aridnyk (other names for evil spirits),

and many, many others. These spirits or fairies are mostly out of the Ukrainian mythology which derived out of the general Slavic folklore.

I personally would like to see more exploration of some of this folklore surrounding forests. Others are more into measurement only. Thanks for the start.

Edward Frank

Rusalka by Ivan Bilibin, 1934

Re: Travelogue Part 7 - the final installment.

by **Bart Bouricius** » Wed Dec 12, 2012 7:29 pm

Maybe not populated by the same variety, but just off the top of my head, I think of the Dwende that the Mayans I knew in Belize talked of. The Dwende has something in common with the Peruvian Chullachaki which maintains a garden in the forest, and like the Dwende will get people lost if displeased with them. The Pink Dolphins are said to shape shift into a human form and live in underwater villages where they may keep boys or girls that they have kidnapped. The Mapiquari is another creature said to look like a giant sloth except for having a biting mouth in its belly. The Yacaruna also lives beneath the river water though I have a carved mask of one, I don't remember the details of his characteristics only, rather scaly,he seems to have been the model for the creature from the black lagoon in the movie. There are many more, but I would have to do a bit more research to get the details on them.

Bart Bouricius

Mystery of the Cathedral Pines Wisconsin Photograph

Last month we included a photo provided by Don C. Bragg of what were believed to be an old photo circa 1900 of the Cathedral Pines. There is much more to the story. Things are not what they seem. Read on…

by **Will Blozan** » Sat Dec 01, 2012 6:57 pm

RE: the old photo: Bark looks weird in some trees in background. One could be incense cedar and ponderosa or Jeffery pine? Of course, could be red pine but the back right sinuous tree does not ring eastern at all. Could this be a stand of P. lambertiana?

Just always suspicious of old photos claiming trees of dimensions no longer found...

Re: Cathedral Pines Wisconsin

by **DonCBragg** » Wed Dec 12, 2012 2:26 pm

Interesting thought, Will...I hadn't looked too closely at some of the trees in the way back. The one looked like a red pine to me, but I can't really tell what the other one is... I got this picture from a print that my parents had hanging in their house (and now hanging in my house) that they purchased from the Marathon County Historical Museum. They were willing to part with their copy because they were able to buy a new print from the same group. The Marathon County Historical Museum, at least as of a few years ago, had been using that image to promote the historic forest condition of the area. I have not personally seen the original, nor heard details of the "back story", so I was largely taking their word for it... As big as these pines are, they are within the realm of possibility for eastern white pine in Wisconsin. Note there was no claim as to any dimensions on these trees...I think the ones in the foreground look especially large because they are especially close. I will continue to look into this picture to see if there is any other information I can dig up on it to validate or invalidate its claims...

Re: Cathedral Pines Wisconsin

by **edfrank** » Wed Dec 12, 2012 3:36 pm

Don, Will, I loaded the image into Google Images:
http://images.google.com/imghp?hl=en
and it matched the photo to this one:

Original Old Growth Forest: The original southwestern Washington State temperate rainforest. What seems most remarkable is the density of these giant fir trees. (Photo probably from the very early 1900s, by Vibert Jeffers)
http://www.wildthymefarm.com/forestoldgrowth.html

The story does not end there. I contacted someone who is selling prints of negatives made by Jeffers. Here is the scoop on the photo from Susan Parish of

Shadow Catchers and The Susan Parish Collection of Photography:

*Hello Ed, Yes, I am very familiar with this photograph. It is one of my most popular selling images. * I sell prints from negative collections I own. The cropped photo was one I sold to 'someone' and they must have put it online.*

However, the photographer was not Vibert Jeffers but his father, Joe Jeffers; both photographers from Olympia, WA who owned/operated Jeffers Studio. The photo's date is about 1910 and it was taken in Mason County, Washington State; which is in the rain shadow region of the great Olympic Peninsula. This area is well known for its tall timber forests. The trees are Douglas Fir. Your friend was correct that it is not a pine forest.

I hope this helps clarify the photograph. Let me know if you need anything further. You probably should tell the Museum about the improper details on the photo they have been selling. I looked online at their site but couldn't find the photo there.

Regards,
Susan Parish

Shadow Catchers and
The Susan Parish Collection of Photography
Historical, Modern and Contemporary Photographs
Décor and Licensing since 1978
http://www.shadowcatchers.net

So the mystery of the photograph has been resolved. Google Image is a useful tool for that purpose. I have used it to look for some of the images posted to Facebook. If there isn't an exact match the program uses pattern recognition and color to find photos that are similar to that the uploaded image. I uploaded an image of female friend from her page for fun. There wasn't a match, but the first close match was a similarly colored image of Dirk Nowitzki. Hardly a flattering match, but the color tones of both images were virtually identical as were all the other possible matches in the selection.

Edward Frank

Hawaii - some summary numbers

by **dbhguru** » Wed Dec 12, 2012 3:54 pm

Hi Folks,

Monica and I are on Kauai, a very different place from the Big Island. Lots of mainlanders prefer Kauai. I think it is because Kauai is "whiter" than the Big Island. Sad observation, but true, I strongly suspect.

Trees wise, I haven't been as lucky as I was on the Big Island, but I have located a stand of Auracaris columnar is or Cook pines that tower. Also there is some species of feathery foliage evergreen that is locally called ironwood, which means absolutely nothing, because many species are called ironwood. A large one near a beach, about 10 minutes walk, measures 24 feet around and 91.5 feet tall. I saw many of the "ironwoods" on the Big Island, and they can get fairly tall and quite large.

So far, the tallest tree that I've measured is a blue gum eucalyptus at slightly over 190 feet. Find stands of taller ones requires contacts that take time to develop. The largest organisms I've seen are the Indian banyans. One has a perimeter around the dense cluster of trunks/roots of around 100 feet. Heights are from 65 to about 85 feet. I still haven't gotten my mind wrapped around the variables. You need to see them to appreciate the variations.

The native ohia and koa are my favorite species. I may have a height record at 115.9 feet, but have no way of knowing. I have zero confidence in any numbers that would come out of the forestry department or the University of Hawaii on their maximum height. Both species are often challenging to measure.

The largest single-stem tree I've measure is a blue gum at right around 31 feet in girth - a hulking monster, but short at 114 feet. Their are Ceibas and countless numbers of other non-native species of every size and shape. I keep seeing trees with huge leaves and wondering what I'm seeing.

Despite the pretty pictures, in most of the accessible areas, the original Hawaii has been utterly destroyed. There are feral cattle, pigs, mongoose, chickens, alien frogs, etc. Makes you sick. Then there are the god-awful resorts, manicured, chemlawned, with swimming pools, tennis courts, golf courses, etc. A haven for the worthless wealthy. In the more earthy places, one sees a combination of vagabonds, athletic types, and hippies - infinitely more interesting than the resort goers. Still, they exhibit a kind of self indulgence, and tune out their collective impact.

Here in Kauai, there is one road that hugs the shore and it is very congested. Beautiful scenery is close by, but inaccessible. Ranches, farms, and rich people have occupied the land up on the lower slopes. Visitors must be satisfied with views from afar. Still, there is much to see.

Well, it is time to go search for some big trees.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Hawaii - some summary numbers

by **dbhguru** » Wed Dec 12, 2012 9:55 pm

NTS

Is it a tree or a tree structure? It is an Australian Pine or ironwood (Casuarina equisetifolia). One of the tree- tree structures is 102 feet and about 18 feet in girth. It is anything but circular. More about the species later.

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

~~Norfolk Island~~ Cook Pines, HI

by **dbhguru** » Wed Dec 12, 2012 11:56 pm

Hi NTS, Here are images of two ~~Norfolk Island~~ Cook pines I took earlier.

The pine in the first image is 116.5 feet tall, my best so far. The second was 104.0 feet. They are gorgeous trees.

Here is another ~~Norfolk Island~~ Cook pine. This one was about 105 feet tall. It looks more in the image.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: ~~Norfolk Island~~ Cook Pines, HI

by **fooman** » Thu Dec 13, 2012 2:43 am

Both trees look more like Cook's Pine (Araucaria columnaris) rather than Norfolk Island Pine (A. heterophylla). Cook's pine is apparently very common in Hawaii, Norfolk Island pine less so.

The vertical branch spacing and length is much more typical of Cook's Pine than Norfolk Island Pine.

See viewtopic.php?f=44&t=4645&start=10#p19858 for a recent post of mine with links comparing the two species

Cheers,
Matt Smillie

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Still More Scenes, HI

by **dbhguru** » Thu Dec 13, 2012 2:24 pm

Folks, here are some traditional scenes shows manicured or cultivated and in the foreground and wild Hawaii in the distance.

Re: Hawaii - some summary numbers

by **dbhguru** » Thu Dec 13, 2012 2:07 pm

Rand Brown wrote: A propose a new tree form classification: The tree pig-pile.

Evidently, this species sends up many sprouts from adventitious root buds, so that bizarre forms are the norm. New shoots emerge and are partially swallowed by existing trunks. None of the old rules for measuring this form apply. We really do need to get a handle on these tropical forms.

There are plenty of species that conform well enough to the classic tree model to allow comparison by the standard formula, so I'm not proposing to discard the standard, but to add more methods of comparison. However, the more unruly the form, the greater the challenge to find sensible methods of comparison. We need to think outside of the proverbial box.

So far, I've identified four species that require special attention: Indian banyan, Australian ironwood, hala, and coastal mahogany - to use common names. However, There are others. I just haven't seen enough of the mature trees.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Hawaii - some summary numbers

by **Larry Tucei** » Thu Dec 13, 2012 5:39 pm

Bob, Way cool stuff you are measuring and photographing. I found a cool link for you that has Hawaii species. Native and non. For example I found -Eucalyptus robusta (Swamp Mahogany), Swietenia macrophyllla (Bigleaf Mahogany) or (Brazilian Mahogany), Swietenia mahagoni (Mahogany), and Swietenia humilius (Honduras Mahogany). http://www.starrenvironmental.com/images/?o=plants

Larry Tucei

Re: ~~Norfolk Island~~ Cook Pines, HI

by **dbhguru** » Thu Dec 13, 2012 1:53 pm

Matt, I'm sure you are correct. I had been told trees looking like those in the photos were Cook pines while still on the Big Island. Then I discovered tree-species.blogspot.com/2007/12/norfolk-island-pine-vs-cook-pine.html. The bark images there exactly matched heterophylla. So I switched the ID. Now I'll go back to columnaris. I wonder if the creator of the blogspot reversed the titles of two of those images. What is your take on that? Regardless, a strange and captivating form. I am so enjoying all these different species, even if they have been introduced. BTW, I hit 110 feet on an Austrailian ironwood yesterday evening - my personal best. The one in the image below is 101.5 feet on grows at the edge of a beach.

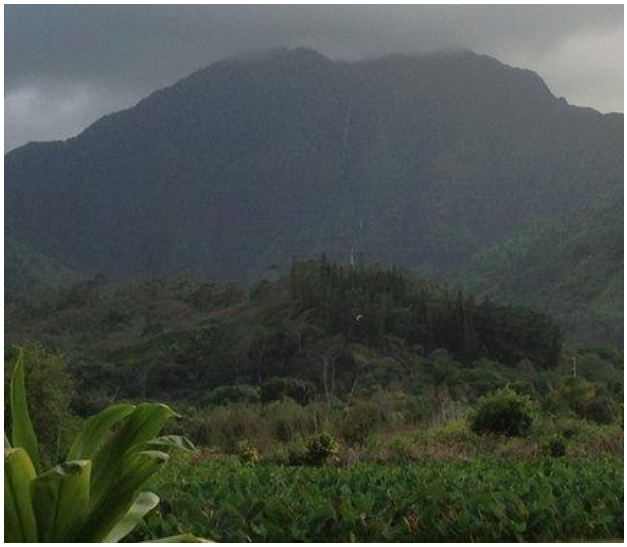
Today, I measured a Cook Pine to 144.5 feet, by far my best. I've spotted one that may even be taller. Can't get to it easily, but I will eventually measure it.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Hawaii - some summary numbers

by **dbhguru** » Thu Dec 13, 2012 10:29 pm

Larry, Thanks. I am seeing so many new trees over here. But it goes far beyond trees. Check out the following.



Notice the thin white line going down the center of the steep peak in the image? That's a freakin waterfall that is around 1,500 feet in height - at least. If we take all drops, it pushes 2,500 feet! That, my friend, is something special. Lots more to come. Be sure to double click on the image to expand it. You can trace the drop easier. I haven't yet found the name of the water fall. You'd think there would be signed pointing to it, but I haven't seen any so far.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Still More Scenes, HI

by **dbhguru** » Thu Dec 13, 2012 11:06 pm

Folks, a scene of the Na Pali coast.

Robert T. Leverett

Cook Pines, HI

by **dbhguru** » Sat Dec 15, 2012 12:07 am

Folks,

Well, all the trees I've been measuring as either Norfolk Island pines or Cook Pines are Cook Pines. They were first planted on Kauai in 1882. Up until a couple of days ago, the tallest I had gotten was in Hanalei and is 116.5 feet. Then yesterday, Monica, Marjorie, and I went to Hanea. I measured one to 144.5 feet. Today, Monica and I traveled to Hanei to a small cottage we've rented where we will spend the rest of our time in Hawaii. I walked up the road to the area with the 144.5-footer. Well, here is the list of all measured trees in the grove.

Tree #.	Height
1.	141.0
2.	144.5
3.	145.0
4.	148.0
5.	157.0
6.	158.0
7.	168.0

I measured several others Cook Pine in the 120s and 130s. I have no idea what this species does, but I've come to respect it. I have to wait for a Wifi Internet connection to post pictures. I'm presently working through a Verizon connection.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Cook Pines, HI

by **dbhguru** » Sat Dec 15, 2012 6:23 pm

Here is the whole list for the Cook Pine in the area of tall trees.

Tree #.	Height
#1.	124.0
#2.	132.0
#3.	141.0
#4.	144.0
#5.	144.5
#6.	145.0
#7.	145.5
#8.	147.0
#9.	148.0
#10.	150.0
#11.	153.0
#12.	155.0
#13.	157.0
#14.	158.0
#15.	168.0

The last tree ia probably 168.5, but no more. I did measure around 10 other Auracarias with a couple between 140 and 143, but didn't get them recorded. The largest girth is around 13.5 feet. That tree is on posted property.

So let's see. In terms of my best by species:

Species.	Tallest Measured
Eucalyptus (blue gum)	190.0
Eucalyptus robusta.	168.0
Cook Pine.	168.0
Acacia.	159.0
Ironwood.	123.0
Ohia.	115.8
Koa.	114.0
Indian banyan.	85.0

The largest single-trunk tree so far has been a eucalyptus at 31 feet around. I've measured coconut palms to around 90 feet and many palms of several species to between 70 and 80.

Robert T. Leverett

Ironwood Champ, HI

by **dbhguru** » Sat Dec 15, 2012 10:04 pm

Folks, I just measured the largest ironwood (Casuarina equisetifolia) that I've seen. In the following image, my notebook's diagonal is just shy of one foot. Note its width relative to the trunk. As best I could determine, the circumference at 5.2 feet above the base is 25.4 feet. At 4.5 feet, a little too much root flare is encountered on the uphill side.

The height is 126.5 feet, a record for me. The spread is around 75 feet. Total big tree points are perhaps 450. I'll return to the tree tomorrow and refine the measurements.

Here is a beach scene just a few yards from the ironwood.

Surrounding mountains.

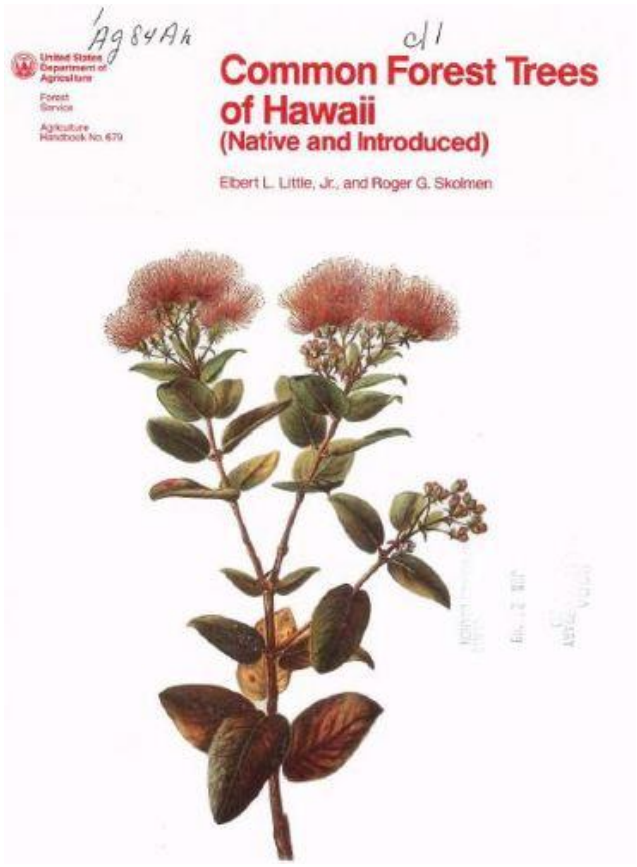
Robert T. Leverett

Common forest trees of Hawaii

by **edfrank** » Sun Dec 16, 2012 12:29 am

I found this Forest Service document about the Forest trees of Hawaii It seems t have a nice overview of both the native and introduced trees:

Common forest trees of Hawaii (native and introduced)
http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/33502



Author: Little, Elbert L.; Skolmen, Roger G.

Date: 1989. Source: Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Agricultural Handbook No. 679. 321 p

View and Print this Publication (31.59 MB)
http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/misc/ah679.pdf

The Rising Tide of Noise

by **michael gatonska** » Thu Dec 13, 2012 12:32 pm

I just came across this article in the NY Times on the rising levels of human noise in the oceans. As the ocean depths are now being filled with noise, I suppose that the magnitude of the problem is similar (if not worse) on land; this I have experienced while trying to capture sounds of trees and other natural things, albeit my activity has been focused primarily in the New England part of the world.

The article:

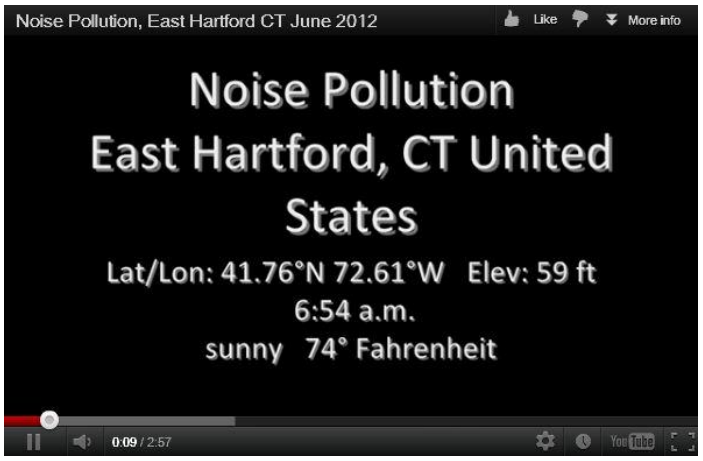
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/11/science/project-seeks-to-map-and-reduce-ocean-noise-pollution.html

According to the article, peak decibel levels underwater can be incredibly loud, and it states that an oil tanker produces 200 decibels. To put this into perspective, the threshold of pain for us humans is around 130 dBA's -- I cannot imagine what that level of oil tanker noise must do to a whale, an animal equipped with such complex resonant chambers.

Here is a link to the affects that shipping has on ocean sound levels:
http://www.dosits.org/science/soundsinthesea/shippingaffectoceansound/
Here is a link to listen to the sounds of ships (Anthropogenic sounds):
http://www.dosits.org/audio/anthropogenicsounds/ship/

In relation to high levels of noise, this a recording that I had made this past summer at 6:54 in the morning from my window sill; the heavy construction sounds were so intense, that at the 2:15 mark, a glass fell from the drying rack in my kitchen and broke on the floor. You can imagine, that being a composer, these noise levels outside of my studio for an entire summer were an extremely frustrating disruption to my creative process -- not to mention the invasion of my privacy. The mayor did not hear my complaints, however.

This is my 2'56"' soundscape of extreme noise levels. The source was heavy construction; from a distance of approximately 60 ft., I estimate the noise level to be circa 110 dBA. I captured the recording at 6:54 a.m. from my window in East Hartford, CT. The noise levels were consistent until 11:00 a.m. Taken from the info found below:



Location: East Hartford
Date: June 19, 2012
Time: 6:54 a.m.
State: CT
Description: extreme noise levels - early morning soundscape recording of heavy construction
Habitat: urban/along Connecticut River/ deciduous along river
VoxType: early morning
Category: soundscape of extreme noise levels
Sample rate: 48k 24 bit
Microphone pattern: Double MS stereo-2 channel; 150 °
Take# 1
Anthrophony: heavy construction machinery
Geophony:
Biophony:
Weather: sunny
Temp: 74 fahrenheit
Wind: 3-5 mph
GPS: Lat/Lon: 41.76°N 72.61°W Elevation: 59 ft
Recordist: Michael Gatonska
Notes: homemade Mic suspension with windjammer in window sill/monitored with headphones

Michael Gatonska

Re: Travelogue Part 7 - the final installment.

by **tomhoward** » Sat Dec 15, 2012 6:08 pm

Michael, NTS,

I too was enchanted by an old forest near where I grew up. The Big Oaks near my house were ancient, magical, with the wind through their branches whispering of times long before our own; I used to make up mythical stories about this place of enchantment, tales of fairies, wizards, of centuries-old beings that could talk to me. This place still exists, and I spent 2 beautiful hours today in sunny mild weather. The place is now known as the North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove.

Tom Howard

Adam's Beech, NY

by **adam.rosen** » Thu Dec 13, 2012 5:34 pm

There is an American Beech in the yard of a house my parents own. The house dates to 1880 so I assume the Beech is that age as well. It is one of the largest trees in the city of Rochester, NY. I have measured the circumference at breast height to 218 inches. On the flat pavement of the city, I was able to use the "stick method" to get a height of 100 feet. That makes sense as it towers above the neighborhood. City grown tree, reached that size in 130 years. That's consistent with red oaks and a silver maple in this erie canal neighborhood. Nothing is older than 1860, but several trees have circumferences approaching 20 feet. Impossible to date a beech tree. Under the right conditions they grow so fast!

Adam Rosen

Re: Adam's Beech, NY

by **tsharp** » Fri Dec 14, 2012 12:30 am

adam.rosen wrote:There is an American Beech in the yard of a house my parents own..... I have measured the circumfrance at breast height to 218 inches.

Adam: I believe this may be the largest circumference American Beech that any ENT has posted about. Congratulations. You should document the location.

TSharp

Re: Adam's Beech, NY

by **tomhoward** » Sat Dec 15, 2012 6:19 pm

Adam, NTS,

That is a huge Beech tree! It really is hard to tell how old Beech trees are without counting the rings. The Beech trees in the old growth Liverpool, NY Maple Grove are much smaller, but remarkably old. In Apr. 2012 I counted 283 rings on the cross-section of a log of a fallen Beech tree.

Tom Howard

Re: Cook Pines, HI

by **KoutaR** » Sun Dec 16, 2012 7:38 am

Bob, Impressive photos and heights! Do you know which species is the *Acacia*? I think 159 ft is quite remarkable for an *Acacia* sp.

dbhguru wrote:*On New Caldonia they must be something.*

Ecology of the Southern Conifers (1995) ed. by Enright & Hill (p. 171-2): "Individuals of *A. columnaris* more than 60 m high have been recorded in the Loyalty Islands and on the Isle of Pines [of New Caledonia]."

Kouta Rasanen

Re: 9 hours of Sleep Relaxation Sounds of Allegheny Forest N

by **Bart Bouricius** » Fri Dec 14, 2012 10:13 am

I find that in the United States it is hard to get away from sounds of distant traffic. Possibly in Alaska and a few places in the West it may be possible, however there is an awful lot of air traffic in Alaska. In the Peruvian Amazon I used to be able to get far enough away from the river so that I would not hear the occasional motor boat at all, the stars were incredible with no air pollution, and even no air traffic. Unfortunately they changed the air route from somewhere in Brazil to Lima and now we do get 2 or 3 flights a day over the area where I work. Trying to get away from electronic beeping, and traffic noise for any length of time is quite difficult except in the most remote places. I wonder if you listen to this sound scape if they have edited out the occasional air traffic sounds. It sounds like it at some points.

Bart Bouricius

Re: 9 hours of Sleep Relaxation Sounds of Allegheny Forest N

by **michael gatonska** » Sun Dec 16, 2012 1:19 pm

Bart, unfortunately, so true. Even in Alaska, the tourist industry is having an increasingly heavy impact on the natural sounds of its wilderness areas. Here is the article from the NYTimes titled "Whisper of the Wild" which bemoans the decaying natural acoustic:
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/18/magazine/is-silence-going-extinct.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Where I am in CT, just south of Bradlee International Airport and caught in between two major highways that criss-cross the state (I84 and I91), I would rate the acoustic health of the area of where I currently live as being very poor -- not to mention the continuous air quality alerts from the National Weather Service.

I read recently that in the lower 48 states, there is no place more than 35 kilometers from the nearest road, which makes it nearly impossible to tune out the noises of human activity, even in places designated as wilderness.

Stan Temple, a wildlife ecologist who was quoted in the same article that I had read in Science News about Aldo Leopold and his forward looking study of the role of sound in the natural world said "It is increasingly difficult to study natural soundscapes that represent normality," noting that its not just mechanical human noise that's encroaching. The rain forests of Hawaii, for example, no longer sound like the rain forests of Hawaii. "They sound more like the rain forests of Puerto Rico because the calls of an introduced, invasive tree frog are becoming pervasive."Preserving the natural sounds of a place, avers Temple, may be just as challenging as conserving the mosaic of plants and animals that help keep an ecosystem intact. Like smell and sight, "sound can be what you associate with a particular landscape," something Leopold appreciated and wrote about in several of his well known essays.

Disappointing to hear that even in the Peruvian Amazon, the natural sound world is slowly being encroached upon by air traffic.

Michael Gatonska

Re: 9 hours of Sleep Relaxation Sounds of Allegheny Forest N

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Wed Dec 19, 2012 12:30 am

Yes that video is edited, but evidently it was all recorded in one night of camping out somewhere near Tidioute (Warren County). If you go through the comments section for that video on YouTube, you'll see the video's creator talks about the various edits he made to clean up extraneous noises from the audio. (So he wasn't trying to pull the wool over anyone's eyes or something like that.)

Even in the Allegheny National Forest it's going to be pretty much impossible to find a place that will be completely devoid of the sounds of civilization. I've camped out in the middle of the 8,600-acre Hickory Creek Wilderness, and the 9,700-acre Tracy Ridge roadless area and still heard things like a truck's jake brakes off in the distance and of course air traffic overhead.

American Chestnut historical dimensions

by **edfrank** » Sun Dec 16, 2012 3:24 pm

NTS,

There has been an interesting back and forth concerning the size reached by American chestnuts prior to their decimation by the blight in the mid 1900's on our Facebook page. The discussion started with this post:

Volunteers aim to revive ‘redwood of the East,’ the American chestnut tree
http://www.journal-news.net/page/content.detail/id/588083/Volunteers-aim-to-revive--redwood-of-the-East---the-American-chestnut-tree.html?nav=5004

"My mother's family never stopped grieving for the (American) chestnuts," the 51-year-old software engineer and father of two said as a stiff breeze rustled through the 110 or so surviving trees, many already bearing angry, orange-black cankers around the inoculation sites.

"Her generation viewed chestnuts as paradise lost." Hurst hopes the trees on his hillside farm - part of a vast experiment in forest plots where this "linchpin" species thrived before the onslaught of an imported parasite - might hold the key to regaining that Eden.

James Robert Smith:

I've never heard anyone call the American chestnut the "redwood of the east". I have heard that term for the Eastern hemlock. The American chestnut was a unique tree. You can't really compare its niche in the Appalachian ecosystem to any tree anywhere else.

Eric Morgan:

From what I've read the term Redwood of the East was made up by a founding member of TACF as a PR campaign. There is merit to that name: few trees,

if any, can get larger than a mature chestnut in the eastern US.

Edward Frank:

They got really fat, but none of the historical accounts I have read ever indicated that they grew very tall.

Eric Morgan:

From what I've read an American Chestnut could get to be about 800 points. Are there any other trees in the eastern US in that range? Cottonwoods maybe?

Edward Frank:

I don't think they ever reached 800 points. The AF formula is height (feet) + girth (inches) + 0.25 spread (feet). Say it was 15 feet in diameter = 565 points + spread 240 feet = 60 points. These are fatter than any tree now existing in the east, fatter than the largest live oak, fatter than the biggest bald cypress and much bigger than the biggest spread known, the tree would still need to be 175 feet tall to reach those point totals. I see photos labeled 20 foot diameter chestnut. Maybe at ground level they might be bigger than 15, but unless the people in the photos are 12 feet tall at 4.5 feet they aren't much more than 10 feet in girth. Could they have been bigger? Yes, but I have been searching historical records for accounts of big trees and have not found any contemporaneous numbers indicating they ever reach greater than 10 feet in diameter and 120 feet or so in height. Some of these exceptional diameters may be from transposing girth as diameter. I don't believe hey ever reached 800 points. I would be surprised if they reached more than 600 or 650 at the outside. The most comparable species would be live oaks at max 11 foot girth, 180 foot spread, and maybe 100 feet tall. (they are taller in forest settings, but do not get as fat or have as great of a spread in forest settings).

Historical photo of a large American Chestnut from the Great Smokey Mountains of TN and NC. It is often labeled as a 20 foot diameter chestnut, but unless the people in the photo are 12 feet tall the tree is just slightly over 10 feet in diameter at 4.5 feet and that is being generous with the pixels. (Bark would add girth and a little to the diameter, but in fairness my best estimate of the diameter of the barkless tree as it is show is 7.5 feet. So 10 feet at most is being really really generous.)

Eric Morgan:

Interesting. I have read one account (not the primary source which is listed as Detwiler 1915) of the largest recorded American Chestnut, said to be 17 ft in diameter. That would put it at 650 points nominally without ht and spread. Probably not a common occurrence though. However, people didn't measure trees back then either.

Eric Morgan:

The best picture I could find was this one. Any thoughts on its legitimacy?
http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/chestnut/images/chestnut/historical/AncientChestnut_800px.jpg

Edward Frank:

There is a reprint of the Detwiler article here: http://www.chattoogariver.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/02-01_Winter.pdf on page 7. It does say 17 feet, but I am not sure if the diameter was taken at ground level or at breast height, or if the tree was a multitrunk specimen. I will look for a photo of the tree, but it is my guess the diameter was at ground level which was common then. If it is legitimate, then you are right. I am looking to see if the actual original article is online somewhere, or if there is a photo of that particular tree.

Edward Frank:

Thoughts about the photo. I really don't think it is an American Chestnut. The chestnut had almost like large diamond patterns to its bark. I really think this is a redwood photo that was mislabeled and passed around as chestnut. Compare the image above to an image of a redwood found here:

http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2012/09/05/article-0-14D600AA000005DC-582_964x762.jpg
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2198481/Magical-photos-lumberjacks-California-redwoods.html

Edward Frank:

At the bottom of this page is a photo of a large chestnut from Joyce Kilmer: http://masschestnut.org/beforeBlight.php This shows the bark pattern. There is someone in the photo, but they are standing well behind the tree in the foreground in front of another tree, so the tree appears larger than it really is:

Forest Habit: Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, 1910, Forest History Society
Before the blight: Historic American chestnut images - Massachusetts Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation

Edward Frank

Re: American Chestnut historical dimensions

by **Will Blozan** » Sun Dec 16, 2012 7:24 pm

Ed, Here we go again debating the dimensions of a tree we will never know... And yes, the photo is a redwood. As for redwood of the east that is a weird comparison in that they have no similarities at all other than big. Eastern hemlock would rightfully claim that description being a conifer and evergreen...

Baldcypress and tuliptree would have been much larger than chestnut based on what we know from forensic evidence (as would live oak). Wm Ashe took photos of chestnuts that were exceptional and they are indeed impressive but not larger than any other eastern tree as far as superlatives go. Tuliptree, with its cylindrical trunk and extreme height would have smoked chestnut whenever given the chance. Stem form of extant rampics and fallen specimens, and photos of chestnuts pre-blight do not indicate a cylindrical bole or much of a departure from a neloid form. This does not bode well for claims to the biggest tree in the east. By sheer trunk diameter at a given height, sure, but wood volume no- at least in my opinion. Tuliptree, live oak and bald cypress would top the list, with sycamore and perhaps northern red oak even topping chestnut.

Of course my opionion is based on skant evidence so it is what it is. But for deciduous, non-conifer trees- tuliptree gets my vote as all-time largest eastern tree. Try as they might- with bogus photos even- a neloid or conic trunk will never, ever match a cylinder. Simple math people.

Will Blozan

Re: American Chestnut historical dimensions

by **lucager1483** » Sun Dec 16, 2012 7:50 pm

Will Blozan wrote:Of course my opionion is based on skant evidence so it is what it is. But for deciduous, non-conifer trees- tuliptree gets my vote as all-time largest eastern tree. Try as they might- with bogus photos even- a neloid or conic trunk will never, ever match a cylinder. Simple math people.

Amen and amen.

Will, just curious: With all the work you've done on and around hemlocks, do you think you've witnessed that species's maximum dimensions, or would you guess that they grew larger in the past? You've probably discussed this before, but I'm generally lazy tonight and don't intend to look it up.

Elijah Whitcomb

Re: American Chestnut historical dimensions

by **Will Blozan** » Sun Dec 16, 2012 9:21 pm

Elijah, Great question. Based on the work Jess Riddle and I did in the Tsuga Search Project, I think we have come very, very close to establishing the maxima of Tsuga canadensis. The TDI scores of the four biggest trees for girth, height, and volume are over 91% of known maxima. The largest tree scored 96% so it was as close to the largest obtainable as we could determine. As for the largest tree- it was never climbed... Here is a shot of Carl Harting taken with the tree in 2008 in the Cataloochee Valley of GRSM. I was not able to return to the tree to document it but based on the dimensions I could take-no known hemlock had greater trunk dimensions than this tree... period. It is now a crumbling mass of debris due to HWA. Probably surpassed 1,700 cubic feet; trunk only.

McKee Branch Monster

Carl at base 16'10" @ 8' with NO TAPER!!!

Will Blozan

Re: American Chestnut historical dimensions

by **edfrank** » Sun Dec 16, 2012 10:19 pm

Will Blozan wrote: Ed,Here we go again debating the dimensions of a tree we will never know... And yes, the photo is a redwood. As for redwood of the east that is a weird comparison in that they have no similarities at all other than big. Eastern hemlock would rightfully claim that description being a conifer and evergreen...

Sometimes it is worth rehashing some of these older debates to see if there is anything new to add, and to bring it to the attention of newer members who missed any previous discussions on the issue. Eric Morgan was a case in point. Not only did he have a photo from the USFS archive incorrectly listing the tree depicted as a chestnut, he had a specific reference to a tree larger in diameter than I mentioned in my original reply with an author and date for the reference. So he did some homework before posting. This post also gives us a new chance to summarize the information that has been posted here and there int a more cohesive and focused thread. Thanks for the confirmation of redwood. That is certainly what jumped out at me when I looked at the image. The redwood analogy was according to Eric: "Redwood of the East was made up by a founding member of TACF as a PR campaign." which seems a reasonable explanation.

Most of the references to "Redwood of the East" I found relate to what likely was a press release touting the efforts in the first post. The actual oldest I have been able to find is: "The Redwood of the East" By David W. Wooddell, ver. 2 - Mon, Feb 11, 2008
http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/geopedia/The_American_Chestnut#The%20Redwood%20of%20the%20East
"Many 18th- and 19th-century log cabins were made of old-growth chestnut logs and still stand today as a testament to the durability of the wood. The chestnut was so useful that some people called it the redwood of the East."

Edward Frank

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Dec 17, 2012 2:59 pm

Larry,
I've scoured those reports and pics multiple times. I wish I'd been involved with ENTS back then.

Ed,
I will have some photos. They're still in the camera yet but will follow.

It's hardwood season so I started inventorying the forest by the entrance. For the first time, I was asked for credentials as I sautered off into the woods. Some very fine trees reside right next to the parking lot. I started up the left side of a small ravine, then did cherry hill up top and came down the right side. I'll call this section the entrance grove.

Picea abies Norway spruce 96.9' 104.5' 107.6'
Tsuga canadiensis hemlock 121.8' 9'7" cbh
Fagus grandifolia beech 111.9' 109.3' 101.9' 108.4' 103.1' 112.8'
Fraxinus americana white ash 112.9' 113.5' 115.4' 123.1' 125.4' 128.7'
Quercus alba white oak 102.7' 111.5' 112.8' 117.7'
Quercus velotina black oak 108.7' some balding on trunk
Quercus rubra red oak 110.6'
Quercus coccinea scarlet oak 110.2'
Pinus strobus white pine 132.6' 133.4'
liriodendron tulipfera tuliptree 129.3'
Platinus occidentalis sycamore 114.3'
Prunus serotina black cherry 101.4' 103.6'
Oxydendrum arboreum sourwood 95.7' find of the day
Juglans nigra black walnut 107.7'
Carya glabra pignut hickory 105.1'
Carya cordiformis bitternut hick 99.8' 103.8'
Carya ovalis red hickory 110.3'
Carya alba or tomentosa mock. hick. 97.1' 106.0'
Acer rubra red maple 113.1'

Grove R10 = 119.2'

Just some random numbers from the Diana grove, near the main house. I'll get all of the trees there soon. The hemlock grove is at the top of a hill. They're surprisingly tall for such a location.

tuliptree 132.0' 134.8' 128.9' 143.4' 139.7'
red oak 130.8'
quercus montana chestnut oak 107.4' 111.6'
hemlock 112.8' 109.5' 100.3' 112.4' 106.3'

Bass Pond Trail

scarlet oak 103.5' 105.3' 117.2'
white oak 112.0'

Dawn redwood grove by a private residence on the estate, by the bass pond. These were very difficult to get without trespassing, so they're approximations.

Metasequois glyptostroboides ~86.0' ~67.9' ~67.7' ~77.6' ~101.0'
~98.4' ~92.8' ~74.7' ~92.1'

Bass pond dam
I had a clean shot of the base of the baldcypress. I previously had it at 126.7'.
Taxodium distichum 132.4'

Current Rucker index: 139.25' Note: the sycamore is in Biltmore Village, about 40 yards from the actual estate property. The highest I've found on the estate proper is 128.3', but that recently died and was removed. There's still much more to explore. I haven't crosschecked with the figures from the ENTS gathering from last decade.
pinus strobus 158.1'
Tsuga canadiensis 144.2'
Platinus Occident. 145.5'
Lirio. tulip. 143.4'
Larix decidua (?) 136.9'
Junglans nigra 137.5'
Picea abies 133.6'
taxodium distichum 132.4'
Quercus rubra 130.8'
Metasequoia glypto. 130.1'

Edit: I updated a few heights. I put the wrong figure in for white pine (just .2 off) and remeasured the larix and the platinus. The larix dropped slightly. The

previous measure involved adding measurements from completely different angles.
Brian


Sourwood


95.7' sourwood

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Wed Dec 26, 2012 1:09 pm

This covers the area along the entrance road from the first private drive to the ticket center and a large area away from the road back to a private residence. The tulips are frustrating. I haven't come close to a 150' yet. I was pleased to find a stellar sugar maple grove.

beech fagus grandi. 99.2' 102.2' 100.5' 101.4' 105.8' 111.4'
tulip lirio. tulip. 123.5' 128.0' 133.8'
sugar maple acer sach. 96.9' 104.7' 107.7' 108.0' 109.2' 109.2' 109.3' 112.3'
cherry prunus sero. 113.0'
blk. oak quercus velo. 109.9' 113.5'
red oak quercus rubra 107.7' 112.4'
scarlet oak quercus cocc. 102.6' 107.3' 107.4' 112.6'
sycamore plat. occ. 107.1' 109.4' 118.9' remeasure of the big daddy in Biltmore Village 145.5'
wych elm ulmus glabra 97.1' 107.1' fairly certain of the species
Am. basswood tilia amer. 120.0' remeasure-old 119.3'
laurel oak quercus lauri. 107.9'
shellb. hick carya lacin. 117.6'
car. hem. tsuga car. 98.2'
hemlock tsuga canad. 112.1' 124.4'
shortleaf pine pinus echin. 94.6' 100.7' 104.4'
Euro. larch larix decidua 115.1' 136.9' remeasure. Old was 137.8' but involved adding calculations from very different perspectives.
norway spruce picea abies 112.1' 113.1' 114.7' 120.6' 122.0'

The Norway grove was absolutely gorgeous! Much more measuring needs to be done in it. I brought my camera but it didn't have the memory chip so no pics yet.

Brian Beduhn

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Brian Beduhn

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Wed Dec 26, 2012 1:27 pm

Arbor Trace Trail

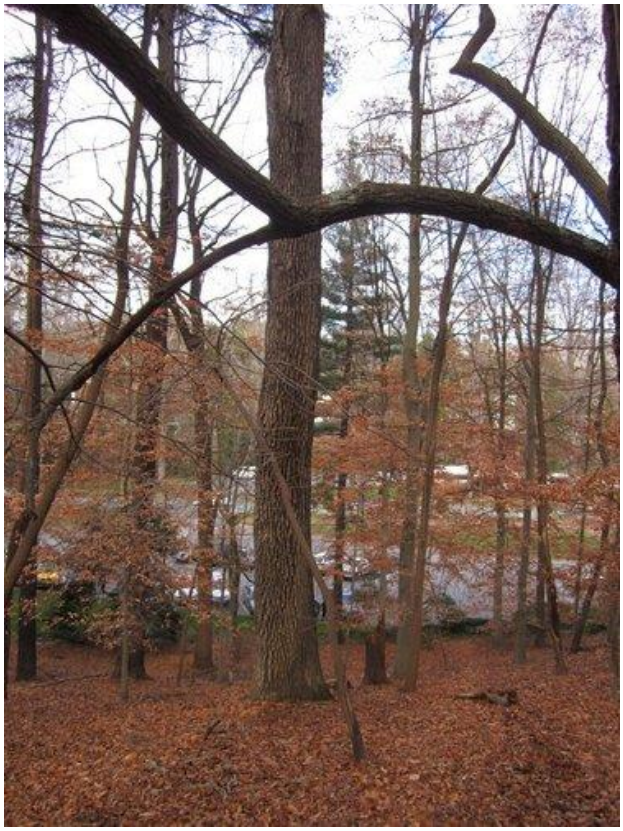
This trail runs through a young white pine forest, some hardwoods, afield and then into an enormous Norway spruce grove bordered by an enormous sugar maple grove. These groves are almost completely pure stands. It's like traveling from eastern Europe to New England in the span of 30 yards. The white pines appear to be a native strain. Many of the white pines on the estate came from Maine by way of Germany. I'd guess these are in the 45-55 yr. range. The sugars (numbering around 100) and Norways are likely in the 55-75 yr. range. There was one huge surprise. This tree is supposedly not native but there it was and it was enormous--a 12' cbh shellbark hickory. The nuts matched. There is a planted one by the ticket center but this one is much older than the estate. Yes, I did get pictures but no, they're not in the computer yet. Much of the trail is adjacent to Interstate 40, including the large shellbark.

white oak 103.3'
sweetgum 106.5'
sugar maple 96.9' 106.4'
tuliptree 120.3' 122.2' 134.1'
Norway spruce 100.9' 104.8' 112.0' 112.5' 117.5' 117.9' 124.4'
white pine 135.4' 137.7' 141.5' 142.0' 145.2'
shellbark hickory 119.6' ~12' cbh

Brian

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Fri Dec 28, 2012 4:29 pm



white oak

white ash

white oak crown 117.7'

hemlock 9'7" cbh 121'

Shellbark hickory crown 119.6' ~12' cbh

Shellbark hickory ~12' cbh

Shellbark hickory ~12' cbh

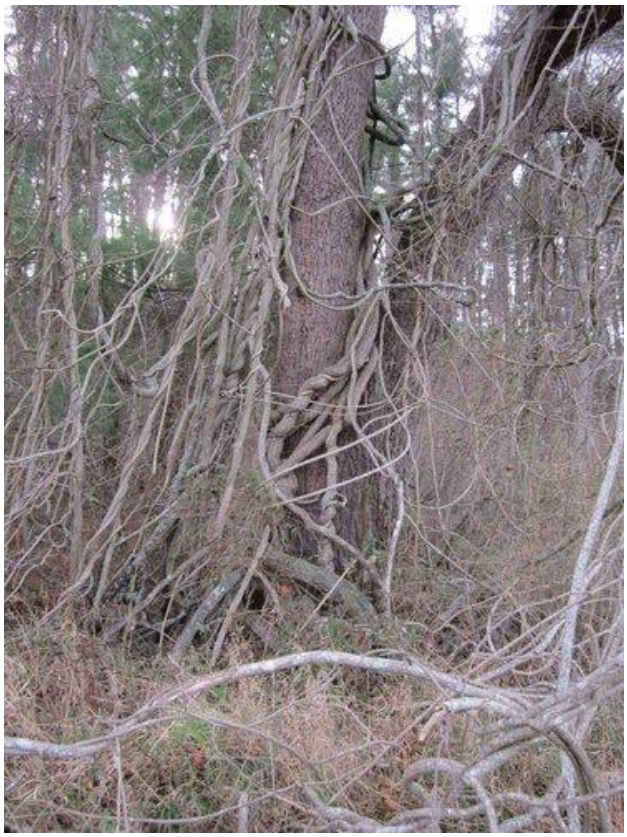
Shellbark hickory nuts

sugar maples

sugar maples

Norway spruce

Norway spruce



Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **dbhguru** » Sun Dec 30, 2012 12:42 pm

Brian, your accomplishments are awesome to behold. Thanks to your efforts, we now know more about Biltmore Estate than ever before. Between you, Will, and a few others, this remarkable property can finally be appreciated for what it is.

We know that the estates of the rich and famous are often great places to hunt for big and/or tall trees. I'm unsure where all the estates we've covered fit in, but I think Biltmore currently leads the pack in terms of variety and quality. More generally, Biltmore, Longwood Gardens, Winterthur, Vanderbilt Estate, Marsh-Billings-Rockerfeller NHP, Morristown NHP, Montpelier, Monticello, and Poplar Forest come to mind when I connect people of fame to landscaped gardens and national historical parks. If city parks are included, we have the city of Philadelphia to turn to for an example of an outstanding urban forest.

Interestingly, most of the parks with big trees are not well known to the public as tree parks. NTS can provide a valuable service to the public by presenting these tree havens in some kind of formal order. The Internet and television are chopped full of programs and lists heralding the top ten of this or that. Maybe we should throw our hats into the ring and come up with various lists of superlative tree parks; i.e. the best of this and that spread over many categories. Just a thought. Anyway, thanks for the extraordinary effort that you are devoting to measuring the trees of Biltmore.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Dec 31, 2012 11:19 am

Turner and Will,
I thought carya alba at first but crawled through the tick underbrush to get some nuts. They are slightly over 2" in diameter and the interior nuts are significantly larger than carya alba. The bark certainly isn't typical shellbark. It is very pale in color. The tree is on a streambank and I found only five or seven leaves per twig on the ground. It's possible some leaves just fell off on the few I examines. Leaf size tends toward carya alba. I figured on an old shellbark, the leaves may simply be smaller than usual. Shellbark does not show as a native species in the mountains on the maps I've seen. We can take a closer look at it to be certain. I usually put a question mark by the species if I'm not certain and will do that in the future.
Brian

Edit: I was able to find incidence of 2" diameter mockernut fruit. My guides said 1.25-1.5". Mockernut makes more sense with the bark but I'm not certain as of yet.

Brian Beduhn

Re: Metasequoia Glyptostroboides (Dawn Redwood)

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Dec 17, 2012 4:41 pm

Biltmore Bass Pond Grove, approximations as they were a long distance away.
~86.0 ~67.9' ~67.7' ~77.6' ~101.0' ~98.4'
~92.8' ~74.7' ~92.1'

New Stock/I-26 Two trees dominate this spot. One other is being outcompeted and a new one has sprouted from the original three. The first two have been reported already.
114.8' 108.4' ~72.6' ~23.2'

Kenilworth
Warwick Rd. 91.7' 82.9'
Park 50.8'

Old Armory ~50.2' ~40.7'

Lexington/240 grove--this is on the edge of downtown right next to a highway bridge
57.3' 45.0' 49.1' 47.1' 52.3' 45.2' 49.6' 46.8'

Skate park #3--like the New Stock, the third one is being outcompeted. #s 1 and 2 previously reported.
74.1' 73.1' 52.0'

Farmers' Market 40.0'

Barkley Toyota 63.5' 59.2'

The outcompeted redwoods are impossible to measure with leaves on.

Brian Beduhn

Rainforest excursion

by **dbhguru** » Mon Dec 17, 2012 1:58 am

NTS, Today Monica and I went into the rainforest here in Kauai, climbing up to a lookout about 1,200 feet above the Pacific Ocean. We saw Eucalyptus, Hala, Guava, Kona, Acacia, Cook Pine, and a couple of others we failed to identify. The trail was steep, muddy, and very slick. But it was worth the effort. Here are some views from the lookout.

The next view looks down into an Acacia forest.

Baby Cook Pine, anyone?

A downed Eucalyptus robusta

Guavas

Back down to the Pacific

I'm having trouble with my Internet connection, so I'll call it quits here.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Rainforest excursion

by **dbhguru** » Mon Dec 17, 2012 9:38 pm

Days are in the mid to high 70s. Nights are in the mid to high 60s. Humidity is high. It has rained at some time during every day that we've been here. Lots of mist. Everything is lush. Hanalei, Kauai averages 82 inches of precipitation per year, but no more than a couple miles to the west in the mountains, the amounts become prodigious. Mount Waialeale isn't that far, and depending on which source you use, precipitation averages somewhere between 388 and 460 inches per year.

Here is an image taken in Hanalei an hour ago looking into the soaring peaks just to the west. King Kong lives up there somewhere. Waterfalls from the mists. It is surreal.

Oh yes, I remeasured that humongous ironwood in Haena and got it up to 127.0 feet. Its girth is 25.4 feet. It may be the champion of its species, but the champion tree people in Hawaii don't track non-native species any more. That doesn't leave them with much. I have mixed feelings about their decision. If it influenced people here to go with native species, I'd be for it, but it has little, if any impact.

On other tidbit. On the hike yesterday, we saw lots of Ti plants. They were used to make an illegal alcoholic beverage during a period of Kauai history.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: NPS Survey of High Allegheny National Park, WV

by **tsharp** » Fri Apr 27, 2012 11:06 pm

James, NTS: Our "beloved" Senator Manchin has apparently called a halt to the NPS study for a High Allegheny National Park. It is almost impossible to get legislation passed unless the state senators are on board. This has not received a lot of coverage in WV. Read this article at:
http://www.statejournal.com/story/17190167/plan-to-establish-national-park-in-wvs-allegheny-highlands-comes-to-end

Turner Sharp

Maximum Dimensions List - WV - 2012

by **tsharp** » Mon Dec 17, 2012 9:16 pm

ENTS/NTS: Attached is a maximum dimension list for West Virginia updated through 5/6/12. The list contains only trees/shrubs that are native to West Virginia. Many of the changes have been previously noted on various postings on the NTS BBS board. The ones that have not been noted in the postings are as follows.

Two new species added:
Fringetree(Chioanthus virginicus) 1.0' x 19.4'
Southern Red Oak (Quercus falcata) 15.0' x 78.9"
Girth and Height Record :
Mountain Silverbell (Halesia tertraptera) 3.7' x 63.4'
Girth only:
Red Maple (Acer rubrum) 15.1'
Sugar Maple (Acer sacacharum) 16.6'
Table Mountain Pine (Pinus pungens) 6.2'
Black Cherry (Prunus serotina) 15.8'
White Oak (Quercus alba) 20.3'
Pin Oak (Quercus palustrus) 15.5'
Height only:
Persimmon (Diospyros virginiana) 104.9'
Eastern Redcedar (Juniperus virginiana) 71.7'
Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides) 75.9'
Pin Oak (Quercus palustrus) 103.1'
Post Oak (Quercus stellata) 78.5'
The biggest girth White Pine (Pinus strobus) 15.8' x 135.6' was removed from the list. It fell in the spring of 2012.

It should be noted that this list was compiled before the Derecho of June 29, 2012 and Super Storm Sandy which dumped heavy snow before leaf fall in central West Virginia in late October. Both weather events took a heavy toll on trees. Any comments and questions are appreciated.

Turner Sharp

Update of Max List.docx

Gorges State Park, NC

by **bbeduhn** » Tue Dec 18, 2012 1:14 pm

I do an annual race on the Foothills Trail, in the Lake Jocassee area, and had noticed some stellar pine groves along the the rivers and the lake.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gorges_State_Park
This area is promising for more tall trees but currently trails are few. Waterfalls abound in the park and in the coming years it will be much easier to get around. I expect to find scattered old growth near the waterfalls but most of the land was likely harvested.

Will joined me for the lengthy hike into the remote groves. He has photos and coordinates for the new state champs. Some of my numbers from the trek:

Canebrake Trail
Va Pine 114.0'
beech 127.0'
hemlock 123.6' 123.7'
white pine 130.3'

Foothills Grove #1
hemlock 121.3'
white pine 145.7'
blk locust 135' 131'
tuliptree 169' Will spotted this from the many, many steps on heartbreak ridge
pitch pine 108.8' 112.4' 126.2' NC co-champ
shortleaf pine 113.7' 118.8' 126.7'
Va pine 108.1' 110.2' 111.9' 112.1' 118.6' 119.2' 120.5' NC co-champ

Foothills Grove #2
pitch pine 116.0' 7'7" cbh
Va pine 110.3'
mockernut hickory 127.1'

Will has more numbers, including two co-champs and another state champ in height. The Rucker index is trending toward the mid 130's but we've just scratched the surface.

Brian Beduhn

Kenilworth Pinetum, Asheville, NC

by **bbeduhn** » Tue Dec 18, 2012 11:46 am

Having just measured a dawn redwood a few houses away, I noticed what looked like an incense cedar sticking out on a wooded lot. I stopped and took a look. The property abounded with exotics. I couldn't even tell what most of them were. Hearing voices I walked up and introduced myself. The owners had owned the property for about a year and weren't certain of what they had. It turns out the property was owned by a forest service entomologist, Charles Speers, for roughly 50 years, who also ran Land of the Sky Nurseries. The current owners are building a guest house on the top of the property but insisted on relocating a few trees rather than simply removing them. They genuinely care about continuing the pinetum despite not knowing all that much about the trees.

I had some trouble IDing quite a few but came to conclusions on all but a handful. There are several very old white oaks and an old tuliptree but it appears that all conifers were planted by Mr. Speers.

Pinus strobus white pine 128' several others in the 110'-120' range
Cedrus deodara deodar cedar 68.3' several others
Taxodium distichum baldcypress 80.3'
Metasequoia glypto. dawn redwood 92.5'
Calocedrus decurrens incense cedar 89.8' tough shot, likely a bit taller
Cunninghamia lanceolata china-fir 81.9' dozens of these on the property
Cryptomeria japonica japanese cedar 71.7' 59.3'
Larch (likely European, larix decidua) 81.4'
Abies alba Euro silver fir 67.8' grove of 40'-50'
Abies fraseri fraser fir several

??????
very narrow spruce 67.4' 60.6'
fir #1 74.2'
fir #2 65.5'

This pinetum was visited in 2004 by Will Blozan and B.Van Pelt. Apparently, the question mark trees are quite rare.

Re: Asheville Trees, NC

by **bbeduhn** » Tue Dec 18, 2012 12:37 pm

Some random measurements over the last two months:

Fraser firs Abies fraseri
Mundy Cove 54.3' 49.6'
Ox Creek 44.9' 59.0'

Incense cedar Calocedrus decurrens
Ox Creek 65.1' 85.2'
Webb Cove/Lynn Cove 98.3'
Mimosa, W. Ash. 58.0'

Northern whitecedar Thuja occidentalis
Spooks Branch 72.1'

Japanese cedar Cryptomeria japonica
West Asheville 75.2'

Taxodium distichum baldcypress
Malvern Hills, W. Ash. 71.1'
Wilshire Park, W. Ash. 68.3'

Chameacyparis pisifera suwara-cypress
Laurel Loop, W.Ash. 82.0'

Pinus echinata shortleaf pine
Laurel Loop, W.Ash. 116.2'

Abies amabilis pacific silver fir
School Rd., Malvern Hills, W.Ash 95.6'

Re: 9 hours of Sleep Relaxation Sounds of Allegheny Forest N

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Wed Dec 19, 2012 12:30 am

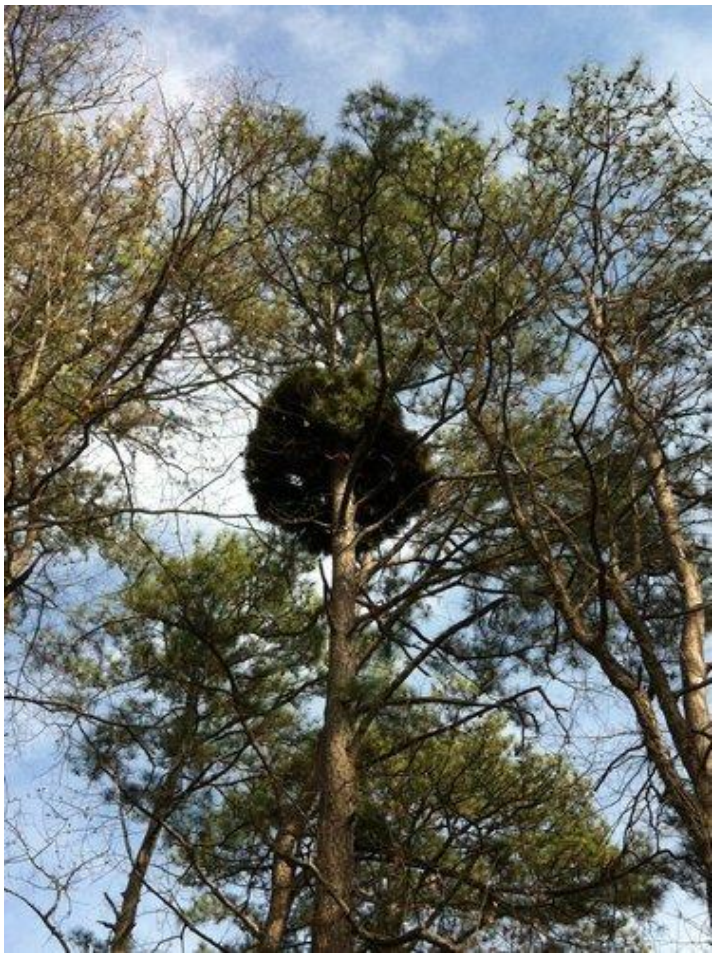
Yes that video is edited, but evidently it was all recorded in one night of camping out somewhere near Tidioute (Warren County). If you go through the comments section for that video on YouTube, you'll see the video's creator talks about the various edits he made to clean up extraneous noises from the audio. (So he wasn't trying to pull the wool over anyone's eyes or something like that.)

Even in the Allegheny National Forest it's going to be pretty much impossible to find a place that will be completely devoid of the sounds of civilization. I've camped out in the middle of the 8,600-acre Hickory Creek Wilderness, and the 9,700-acre Tracy Ridge roadless area and still heard things like a truck's jake brakes off in the distance and of course air traffic overhead.

Weird Loblolly Pine growth- any explanation?

by **eliahd24** » Thu Dec 20, 2012 12:11 pm

I noticed a very interesting blob of needle growth near the top of a loblolly pine in an urban forest in Atlanta, GA, yesterday. Any ideas what would cause this sort of symmetrical and dense growth? I haven't a clue myself.



loblolly blob

Eli Dickerson

Re: Weird Loblolly Pine growth- any explanation?

by **Larry Tucei** » Thu Dec 20, 2012 5:56 pm

Eli, It is called a witch's broom. I've seen some on trees before but not that large. Ed and others have posted on these before.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witch's_broom

Larry Tucei

New Tallest Bay Laurel

by **yofoghorn** » Wed Dec 19, 2012 11:31 pm

Within two days of coming back to California after my first semester of college, I found a bay laurel *(Umbellularia californica)* in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park that is the new world record in height for the species.

The tree was in a part of the park near the third tallest bay laurel, which was found the same day. The tallest bay laurel is 169.42 feet tall. This makes it the second tallest native hardwood in the state. The tallest native hardwood in California is the 178.2 ft. California sycamore.

Zane J. Moore

Tallest California Bay Laurel

Zane J. Moore

Re: New Tallest Bay Laurel

by **yofoghorn** » Sat Dec 29, 2012 5:52 pm

Here's a picture of the base of the tallest California bay laurel!

Did a metal spike kill my old growth Tulip tree? (NJ)

by **JohnnyDJersey** » Thu Dec 20, 2012 9:54 pm

Ok so this August my favorite tree fell down in a storm, it was the tree that got me into big tree hunting and an icon from my childhood. (19'7" CBH, 117' tall, 80' spread) It was an unknown tree, except by the locals and was obviously in its place long before the forest grew up around it near Daretown Lake in NJ, Salem Co. Anyhow when it fell and I looked inside the hollow trunk, I found a very old metal spike inside of it that was used to anchor barbed wire. It was on the edge of a field used for cattle. Could this have caused it to hollow out or was it age alone that hollowed and weakened it? Pics Below.

Me and the tree 2008

Evil spike

After the fall

Me and tree 2005

John Harvey

Re: Did a metal spike kill my old growth Tulip tree?

by **edfrank** » Fri Dec 21, 2012 4:15 am

John, it is a very impressive tree. It is too bad it fell. I really don't know if the spike had anything to do with the failure of the trunk or not. Many, if not most, of the big old trees like this tend to get hollow with age. When they do fall it looks pretty much like this one spike or not. Could the spike have introduced a pathogen or encouraged decay at this point and weakened the tree? Sure. It certainly didn't help the tree, but the tree might have broken during the storm from the wind with or without the presence of the spike. I can't really tell where the failure began. The initial split could simply have propagated up and down the tree and through the area where the spike was located. It would be my guess, and it is just a guess, that the failure itself is unrelated to the spike, but that perhaps the path through this portion of the trunk was influenced by damage related to the spike. I am hoping some of our arborist members with more experience will comment. Good question and thanks for posting,

Edward Frank

Re: Did a metal spike kill my old growth Tulip tree?

by **Bart Bouricius** » Fri Dec 21, 2012 11:05 am

Nice big old Tulip, too bad, but my guess is that there are a few factors that contributed to this trees demise. I do notice that there are a couple of large stubs where branches were improperly pruned. This often leads to poor healing and rot which tends to help create hollow space in the tree. I also notice girdling wires wrapped around the base of the tree and I wonder if other wires not visible may be more deeply embedded in the tree from the past. Depending on how it was installed, the cable and bolt in the tree could also have contributed to the problem as Tulip trees in particular seem to be especially sensitive to injury to the cambium in my experience. I hope this is helpful.

Bart Bouricius