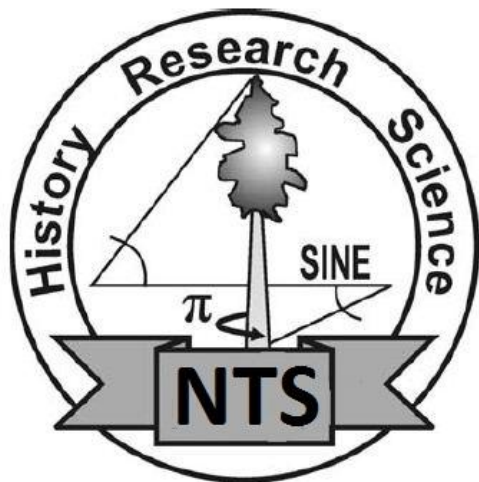


A photograph of a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark green jacket over a blue shirt and blue jeans, standing next to a large tree trunk in a forest. The tree trunk is covered in moss and has a rough, textured bark. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and some rocks. The man is smiling and has his hand on the tree trunk.

eNTS

The Magazine of the
Native Tree Society
Volume 2, Number 02,
February 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>

Volume 2, Number 02, February 2012

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: LeClair tuliptree, Trumbull, CT. Photo by Robert Leverett, 2012.

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Editor's Corner

By Edward Frank

Webmaster , BBS Administrator,
eNTS Magazine Editor-in-Chief
edfrank@nativetreesociety.org

Welcome to the February 2012 issue of the eNTS Magazine. There have been tons of things going on this month. The warm weather has precluded the usual mid-winter slow down exhibited by many of us in the northern climes. Robert Leverett continues to churn out trip report after trip report in a fairy tale land far, far away called Massachusetts. He reports on a new project at Look Park, MA and further work on the Extended Baseline Method. This month Ryan LeClair manage to lure him to the great state of Connecticut to examine some large tuliptrees. Elsewhere around the country we have reports from Ohio, New Jersey, North Carolina, West Virginia, Georgia, GSMNP, and South Carolina to mention a few.

Will Blozan reports on the tallest cove of forest in Tennessee. Robert Leverett describes some giant cottonwoods from the Lake Champlain area of New York. Jeroen Philippona provides some accounts of cottonwoods from Europe. Brian Beduhn reported on many sites across North Carolina an GSMNP. Chris Morris reported on El Dorado Mountains, NV. Dale Luthringer reports new big pines from Cook Forest State park PA. Larry Tucie reported on some new big Live Oaks measured as part of his Live Oak Project. Joe Zorzin submitted a video of Biomass Harvesting in Massachusetts.

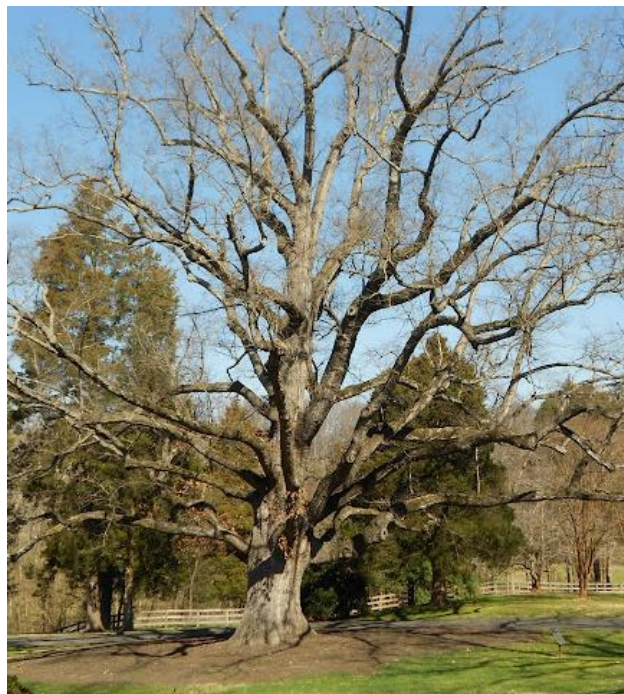
Not to be outdone there is a continued back and forth between Michael Taylor and Matt Smillie on 3D-mesh modeling of some giant redwood trees. Neil Pederson submitted a second report on his explorations in Bhutan. Bart Bouricius came to play with accounts of explorations in Costa Rica. Matt Smillie provides a Rucker Index for New Zealand. Michael Taylor reported that the tallest known sugar pine is growing in Oregon. And to blow my own horn, A 200 page report on the research being conducted by myself, Dale Luthringer, Carl Harting and Anthony Kelly on the middle Allegheny River was released this month.

Many Long time members contributed to this issue including: Rand Brown, Turner Sharp, Eli Dickerson, Don Bertollette, Jeff Knox, Steve Galehouse, Gaines McMartin. Kirk Johnson. Michael Davie, Barry Caselli, Larry Baum, Sam Goodwin, Jennifer Dudley, Gary Beluzo, Andre Joslin, Tom Howard, Patrick Brandt, M. D. Vaden, James Robert Smith, and Josh Kelly

New members have already started contributing. James Hagy wrote about supposed Daniel Boone carvings on an old beech tree, Ethan S. posted about Pacific Mandrones. Mark Rouw described several site located in Iowa, normally a hole in our coverage. Ashe County reports on Big Beech-Rendezvous Forest, NC. Doug Ham III reported in from Michigan ready to take down names and kick some tree measurements.

Everybody stay tuned for a bright future for the Native Tree Society. Great things are in the works.

Edward Frank



20.5" CBH oak Tanglewood Park, NC by Patrick Brandt

[The pretty, the ugly, and the pretty ugly, MTSF, MA](#)

by dbhguru » Thu Feb 02, 2012 9:50 am

NTS, Gary Beluzo and I were in Mohawk last week looking at more features to showcase in the upcoming nature guide. The old Cold River Road passes by a white pine that you could walk by hardly noticing it as any thing special. I call it the Mirror Pine. It only reveals its considerable height from up a nearby hill - all 156 feet. Let's first look at it from a distance. It is in the center of the image. Gary is close by on the left.



Now closer with me in it for scale.



Seen at a short distance with a large snag in the foreground right.



Though it is not conspicuous among all the surrounding trees, this fine white pine qualifies as pretty by my standards. However, the decaying form of an old sugar maple on the former property of John Wheeler qualifies as ugly when you don't think of it as a sugar maple - just a form.



What of the next form? Well, in my finest southern vernacular, I'd say it is pretty ding dang ugly. Holy smokes! I started with an image of the Mirror Pine, looking regal, and ended with the Squid Pine.



How about an NTS photo contest for the ugliest tree? I'm probably not supposed to think of any tree as ugly. My bad.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Number 118, MTSE, MA](#)

by dbhguru » Wed Feb 01, 2012 10:29 am

Larry, I doubt that Cook's or Mohawk's pines will reach 200 feet. More likely they will continue topping out at 170 to 180 feet. At 184.7 feet, the Longfellow Pine is the lone exception. Dr. Gordon Whiney, one of the best researchers around, states in his book "From Coastal Wilderness to Fruited Plain" that in times past the white pine occasionally reached 180 feet on very rare occasions 200. I think Gordon is dead on. There may have been a few 220-footers in PA and the southern Appalachians, but they would have been very rare. I consider the accounts of New Hampshire white pines reaching to 260 feet to be completely unreliable. Completely.

Larry, there's a Bob Leverett look alike running around the woods these days using Miracle Grow. He's the guilty one. I'm being falsely accused. Ain't fair. BTW, here are two more images from Mohawk featuring rocks instead of trees.





Robert T. Leverett

[Outstanding White Pine Stands of the Northeast](#)

by **dbhguru** » Wed Feb 01, 2012 12:21 pm

Eli, If you can make it up, we'll be happy to put you up. In terms of white pine forests worth visiting around New England and eastern NY, here is a list of most of the best.

PA

Cook Forest SP
Hearts Content
Anders Run
(Dale Luthringer could add to the list, but the above are the best)

MA

MTSF
Bryant woods
Ice Glen
MSF

NY

Elders Grove
Pack Forest
Numerous small stands scattered across the Adirondacks

NH

Claremont Pines (private)
Hemmenway SF
Bradford Pines
College Pines

VT

Fisher-Scott Memorial Pines
Cambridge Pines

ME

Ordway Pines
Bowdoin College Pines

CT

Gold Pines
Ballyhack
Cathedral Pines (what's left)

There are numerous smaller areas that feature fine stands of pines. Mount Tom SR in MA is an example. I'm incredibly fortunate to be close to some of the best of the best.

Robert T. Leverett

[Limits of Scientific Investigation](#)

by **Rand** » Wed Feb 01, 2012 7:53 pm

Wired magazine had a thought provoking article about the limits of scientific investigation when confronted by the complexity of biology. I wonder what some of the real scientists who hang out here thought of it.

<http://www.wired.co.uk/magazine/archive/2012/02/features/trials-and-errors?page=all>

Welcome to the U. S. Forest Service Planning Rule Revision

by **Josh Kelly** » Thu Feb 02, 2012 12:52 pm

U. S. Forest Service Planning Rule Revision

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule>

The Forest Service has released a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for land management planning for the National Forest System. USDA and Forest Service staff carefully considered nearly 300,000 comments received on the proposed rule and draft environmental impact statement to develop a preferred alternative, which is included in the PEIS. The Secretary will issue a record of decision selecting a final planning rule no less than 30 days after publication of the Notice of Availability of the PEIS in the Federal Register. (Continued)

The U.S. Forest Service Planning Rule is a big deal. The National Forest Management Act mandates that each forest draft a management plan every 10-15 years. These management plans determine which areas of the forest emphasize recreation, ecological restoration, logging, grazing, wilderness, special biological areas, etc. The Planning rule provides directives on how management plans are drafted, what information must be considered, what issues are important, how the public is consulted, and how much influence the public has over the process.

The Forest Service has needed a planning rule for quite a while. There are important issues to be considered today like climate change, invasive species, horizontal gas drilling, and more, that were not discussed or adequately considered in the 1982 Planning Regulations. The Bush Administration tried twice to create a new planning rule that lacked almost any standards for environmental protections and maintaining biodiversity, and severely limited the public's ability to challenge environmentally harmful federal decisions. The proposed planning rule is an improvement on those attempts and places an emphasis on maintaining and restoring the ecological integrity of national forests and grasslands. There are

common sense directives for considering the impacts of climate change, maintaining the connectivity of habitat, etc. Unfortunately, these plans still have fewer concrete objectives for maintaining wildlife populations, and also limit the the public's ability to object to projects on public land; less than the Bush Regs., but more than the Reagan (1982) Regs.

So, if you care about the fate of any particular place on Forest Service Property, you should care about the Planning Rule. Generally, the tone and substance of the new planning rule represent improvements in content over the 1982 regulations and are far better than the Bush era regulations that were shot down in federal court because they had few if any standards. I plan on submitting comments in the current comment period (ending Feb 26th, I think), in support of the focus on ecological integrity of each forest while asking for stronger protections for individual wildlife species, and the opportunities for public comment, objection, and appeal found in the 1982 regulations.

Josh Kelly

Yellow-cedar are dying in Alaska: scientists now know why

by **edfrank** » Fri Feb 03, 2012 3:36 pm

http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/research/climate-change/yellow-cedar/yellow-cedar_and_climate_change.pdf

http://www.aibs.org/bioscience/current_issue.html

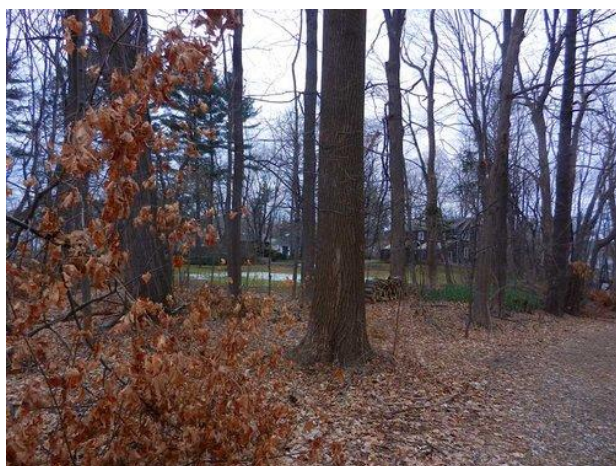
USDA Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Research Station

For tuliptree aficionados, Northampton, MA

by dbhguru » Thu Feb 02, 2012 1:11 pm

NTS, I just returned from a quick trip to the Fruit Street tuliptrees in Northampton. I wanted to remeasure two of the tallest members of the group. There are at least 5 TTs that exceed 130 feet.

The tree in the first image below has dimensions G=9.9 feet, height = 135.6 feet.



The next two images feature a gorgeous tulip. Its dimensions are G=12.5 feet and height = 134.1 feet. The second image looks into its crown and those of the surrounding tulips. The maze of limbs looked very artistic to me.



We now have 4 sites in Northampton with TTs that reach 130 feet or more with one over 140. But the 12.5 x 134.1-footer is my favorite. Gorgeous tree.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Arborists and Recreational Tree Climbers

by Don » Thu Feb 02, 2012 4:42 pm

NTS-ers all- Early on in the rise of ENTS, then Wnts, the need for data security was recognized. Myself, an advocate for a common database with controls for access, seemingly counter-intuitively also was an advocate for accurate, standardized GPS location. We should by all means establish a standard for access to GPS-ed locations/specific listings, limited to our active tree-measuring cadre, science-based researchers, and such.

It is my feeling that we should not be in the business of supplying opportunities for recreational access. As a retired National Park Service employee, I have seen the results of A public 'loving a park to death'. Time to draw a line...

Don Bertollette

Winslow Homer

by **jeffk** » Thu Feb 02, 2012 11:50 pm

A nice watercolor painted by Winslow Homer in 1892 titled "Old Settlers".

Homer spent quite a few summers in the Adirondacks hunting and fishing (and painting). Looking at his paintings of the Adirondacks one gets a feel for the heavy logging activity which must have been occurring at the time (some showing entire mountainsides clear-cut). Apparently he wanted to make a statement about the true settlers of this wilderness. (note no human beings are depicted!) The original is in the MFA in Boston.

<http://www.winslow-homer.com/Old-Settlers.html>

Jeff Knox

Gauley River National Recreational Area, WV

by **tsharp** » Thu Feb 02, 2012 11:55 pm



Location of Gauley River National Recreation Area in West Virginia

I had a chance this fall to measure some trees located on some sites within the purchase area boundaries of the Gauley River National Recreational Area. This unit of the National Park service was established in 1988. Land acquisition has been slow with maybe 5,000 acres purchased out of a proposed 11,000

acres. Purchases are from willing seller only. The recreational area will stretch 25 miles from the outflow of the Summersville Dam in Nicholas County, WV to the remnants of the unincorporated town of Swiss. It will also include 5 ½ miles of the Meadow River and maybe 2 miles of Peters Creek which are the two largest tributaries of the Gauley in this reach. This Unit is managed by the NPS New River Gorge National River office in Glen Jean, WV. It is a popular destination for whitewater boaters both private and commercial. Probably 50,000 boaters use the river during September and October recreational releases from the dam. This unit was established as a unit of the National Park Service after a long fight (10 years) over a proposed pumped storage project which would have required building another dam and have drowned most of canyon.

The elevation at the outflow of the dam is 1400 feet. At Swiss it is 760 feet.

The canyon cut by the river is rugged and in most areas near the river there is abrupt increase in elevation of 400 to 600' with some cliffs to 100 feet.

He river did have a history of Log drives. The railroad did not get built into the canyon until 1930 but has been abandoned along the Gauley and Meadow Rivers upstream of Peters Creek. Many small drainages dump into the river and I have identified 26 on river right 20 on river left along the Gauley, 15 along the Meadow and 2 along Peters creek. Many of them are not named on topo maps even though the locals tend to have a name for most. For anybody who likes to crawl in steep ground in Rhododendron while measuring trees it is heaven. There are a least three patches of Old growth I have visited but have not measured. There are no official trails in the area except at Carnifax Ferry State Park but in the less rugged portions there are now several roads recently constructed for access to the river.

The two drainages in which I measured were picked because their thin canopy allowed me to get decent height measurements before leaf fall. The canopy is thin because of fairly recent timber cutting. Both are on river right (descending) and are not named so I will label them consecutively from the dam as RR-#11 and RR -#14. Both sites were above the steeper sections that are closer to the river. They are about 14 river miles below the Summersville Dam. Trees measured were at an elevation of 1420' +/-60'

Gauley River NRA RR - #11

Tsuga canadensis	122.4,	6.5	no HWA
Fraxinus americana	121.3,	5.6	
Platanus occidentalis	119.8,	7.5	
Tilia americana var.			
heterophylla	113.8,	6.4	
Liriodendron tulipifera	112.6,	6.1	
Carya cordiformis	111.8,	5.8	
Quercus rubra	106.4,	6.9	
Fagus grandifolia	102.1,	4.4	
Acer rubrum	100.8,	4.4	
Juglans nigra	84.5,	4.2	

RHI 10 for RR - #11 = 109.6'

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1067/Details>

The above site looks like it had a diameter limit cut about 25 years ago. I noticed there was almost no residual stand damage but after walking upstream in the hollow realized the loggers had a ½ mile straight shot skidding right down the middle of the narrow stream bed to a log landing near level with Panther Mountain Road (CR 22).

Gauley River NRA RR - #14

Platanus occidentalis	105.9,	6.8	
Tsuga Canadensis	98.7,	6.1	no HWA
Liriodendron tulipifera	95.6,	6.0	
Quercus alba	93.2,	5.9	
Quercus rubra	92.8,	7.5	
Acer saccharum	92.6,	6.1	
Fagus grandifolia	83.1,	6.8	
Betula lenta	82.9,	3.4	
Amelanchier arborea	82.9,	2.5	
tentative ID to species			
Acer rubrum var.			
rubrum	82.4,	5.7	

RHI 10 for RR - #14 = 91.0'

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1063/Details>

This stand had a heavy timber cut about 15 years ago and part of it looks like cattle have access to the stream. It also contains the tallest serviceberry I have ever measured but not close to the state record of 101' in Upshur County.

For more information on the Gauley River Recreational Area see:

<http://www.nps.gov/gari/index.htm>

Turner Sharp

Outdoor Activity Center forest, Atlanta

by eliahd24 » Fri Jan 13, 2012 8:21 pm

I was able to go for a quick hike at a spot in SW Atlanta I've been trying to get to for years called the Outdoor Activity Center. It's a facility operated by the City of Atlanta Parks Dept. that was built in the 1970's and after much initial use, sat vacant from sometime in the 1990's through about 2006. It has a nature center and also has 26 acre mature hardwood forest with a seasonal stream and fairly extreme topographic features. I heard rumors of a "HUGE Beech tree" called the "Grandfather Beech" and thus that was one of my main goals- finding and measuring said tree.

The forest was typical of many around this part of the Piedmont- lots of beech, white oak, tuliptree, northern red oak, chalkbark maple and a few scattered sourwoods and loblolly pines all on the steep slope. In the low wet spots were some really nice Sweetgum and what's become one of my favorite trees- Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*).

I took measurements of quite a few Oaks, but none were all that impressive (a lot of competition in these parts). What really stole the show were 2 Winged Elm's that both topped 120'! I've only measured one taller anywhere else- that's a 126 footer in Fernbank Forest (and I believe stands as the 1st or 2nd tallest living individual of the species known). Also finding a Black Cherry over 100' tall is pretty rare around here--- finding one at all in a forest is pretty rare.

Turns out the Grandfather Beech was smaller than advertised and the height was not even worth measuring (in terms of standing up to other tall Beeches in the area), but still an important tree as it is located at one of the forest teaching stations. Overall I didn't find anything to eye-popping aside from the Winged Elms, but it was a great day to be in the woods. The daytime high was upper 30's and there were even snow flurries earlier in the day. It was nice to walk in the crisp air after 2 weeks of warm mugginess down here in the southland.

Measurements:

Carpinus caroliniana CBH: 2'10"

Fagus grandifolia "Grandfather Beech" CBH: 10'2.5"

Liquidambar styraciflua 129.9'

Liquidambar styraciflua 130.7'

Liquidambar styraciflua 9'4" x 134.5'

Liriodendron tulipifera 122.9' (def. taller ones around)

Pinus taeda 8'4" x 133.5'

Prunus serotina 4'1.5" x 102.5'

Quercus alba 132.2'

Quercus alba 13'4" x 121.1' (BIG forest grown White Oak!)

Quercus rubra 120.9'

Ulmus alata 5'10.5" x 123.3'

Ulmus alata 8'7.5" x 124.6'

I also did a rough ring count on a trail cut Green Ash and got 68 annual rings on a trunk circumference of only 24". Pretty tight growth in the last 30 years or so.

~Eli Dickerson

New finds - Cook Forest State Park, PA

by **djluthringer** » Thu Feb 02, 2012 8:08 pm

NTS, On 2/1/12 I decided to re-measure a tall pine beside my house on the Cook Estate. On 5/16/10 it came in at 8.4ft CBH x 153.5ft high. On Wednesday, two growing seasons later, it now stands at 8.6 x 154.7ft high. Not bad for a second growth pine.

After this, I decided to take a short walk back to the park boundary and check out some other second growth pines growing on the slope above the Indian Cabins. I was VERY surprised to find the following white pines:

CBH	Height	Comments
-----	--------	----------

9	149.5	tac 921, 41 20.069N x 79 12.450W
10.3	152.7	tac 920, 41 20.046N x 79 12.407W
8	160.2	tac 922, 41 20.086N x 79 12.439W

None of these pines I've measured before. I've measured 100's of pines in the park over the last ~10 years, but have yet to seriously get into our second growth pine stands, measuring our higher priority old growth stands first.

This pine is like a spike growing straight up into the air, about 1/2 up the slope of the, ~300 vertical feet up from the valley floor, growing near the bottom of slanting bowl depression on the side of the hill. The other two pines were very close by. All trees are virtually right on top of the Indian Trail. There are a handful of others that'll likely break the 140ft class, and I'm hoping there'll be another sleeper 150 footer or better in there as well.

As I systematically go through the stand, I break the area up into sections so I know where to start up again the next time I'm in. This section is on the uphill side of Indian Trail. I've got a few more trees in this zone to measure, then I'll likely go downhill from the trail working my towards the Indian Cabins. Most Nts who've visited the park over the years during the rendezvous know that's where we house our speakers during the events. Well, just uphill from there is where this last batch of dandies were hiding.

We've now catalogued the following living white pines for Cook Forest:

Height Class	# trees
150	78
160	30
170	3
180	<u>1</u>
	112

Dale Luthringer

[Re: Small Sugar Maple rich NJ forest patch](#)

by **Don** » Fri Feb 03, 2012 4:01 pm

Like Ed, I've been following the discussion here, and several things come to mind. The interest here, if there is no other, may not be sufficient to warrant further investigation. If there are signs of other interested parties, characterized by a wish to preserve these woods, I'd offer a first consideration. During a conversation with Peter Schoonmaker, visiting from Harvard Forest at the time, just before he went off to the far Northwest to work for Conservation International, his belief was that in developing a strategy for conservation/preservation for any given area/ecosystem, you had to look at the big picture.

This is to say, if the reason that the ecosystem is needing restoration is a larger force, like today's concerns about global warming, then the money set aside for restoration would be better spent fighting the global warming issue. Otherwise, you waste your restoration funding fighting a battle that won't be won.

Clearly the "Small Sugar Maple rich NJ forest patch" needs to be looked at in these kinds of terms, if efforts, energies, monies are to be expended.

A second comment, comes out of my understanding of the evolving discipline of Conservation Biology. Given a strategy of restoration and management is undertaken, then conceptualizing the core-buffer-corridor model should be considered. There is a certain size where this strategy works and doesn't work. If the total area in the Small Sugar Maple rich NJ forest patch is insufficient of its own, then viewing it as a satellite to a core-buffer nearby, might be an appropriate direction.

I am not suggesting I know the answers, but I suggest that these would be some questions worth asking...

-Don Bertollette

[Pequonnock Valley, CT Tuliptrees](#)

by **RyanLeClair** » Fri Feb 03, 2012 3:11 pm

I'm almost certain we have a 140+ TT in Connecticut. My dad and I just went to the Pequonnock Valley measured numerous trees over 46 yards tall. Granted, it was with straight-up shots, but the measurements can't be too far off...? One tree was 47.5 yards tall -- 142.5 ft., and 148.5 ft. with my height added. One TT was 4+ feet thick at breast height. All of the trees are growing by a river on a floodplain. The valley is in Trumbull, and its roughly parallel with Church Hill Road. If you look up Church Hill on Google Maps the Pequonnock River Valley State Park will be there.

It would definitely be worth NTS's time to check out the Pequonnock. Again, it's a floodplain habitat--it's not nearly so rocky as Devil's Den.

Ryan LeClair

[Savage Gulf State Park, TN Hemlock Preservation- 2011](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Sat Feb 04, 2012 4:16 pm

NTS, as promised, I will submit an update on the hemlock preservation project I am involved with at Savage Gulf State Park, TN. We ended treatments in mid-December which concluded our fourth week there. The first two weeks were fraught with personnel and logistical challenges. We quickly discovered how insanely tough this project would be. Even so, every day was met with enthusiasm to see what lurked around the next cove or turn. The park is so stunningly beautiful it truly is one of the most awesome places I have ever worked. Knowing we are helping to leave a legacy of healthy eastern hemlocks is an inspiration beyond words.



Trident Tsuga, Savage Creek

In contrast to the recent warm past month of weather here, we had a fair share of bitter cold, snow, and rain during our time there. Flooding was an issue as we were unable to access certain portions of the park due to high water, or were not able to cross even minor tributaries of major drainages. Thus we had to "step back and punt" on many occasions but we still managed to make good progress with respect to our expected schedule. We likely have 10 weeks left to complete the project. For those not familiar with the project here is an earlier post: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=124&t=3264>

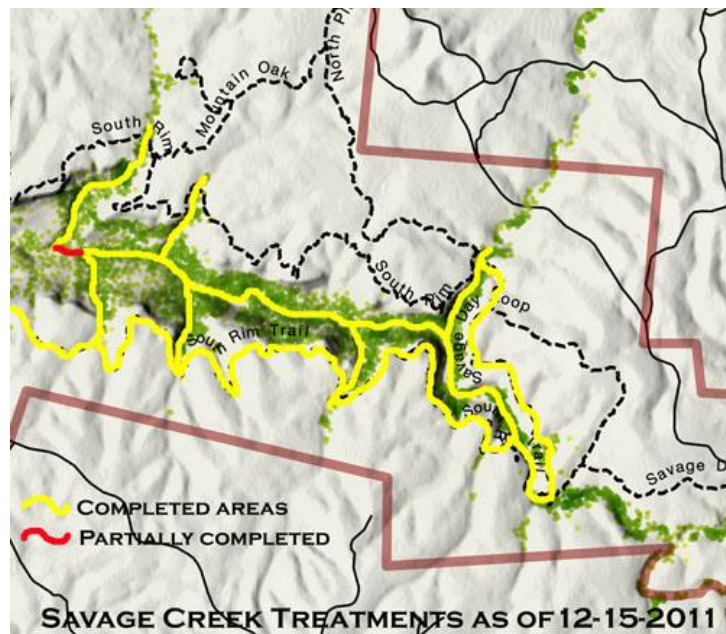
So far here are the stats:

2,696 <Total # trees

53,909 <Total # diameter inches

20.0" <Average size tree

10.1 miles completed



Excerpt of Savage Creek

Savage also ate one of my boots. I'll tell ya, Gorilla Tape is some good stuff!



Savage ate my boot!

Collins River was especially nice as we treated it in the snow. Heavy rains had it flowing like mad and the waterfalls were really impressive.



Boardtree Falls in flood, Big Creek



Greeter Falls in flood and snow, Big Creek



Bridge over Collins River with ice

One of the coolest places on Savage Creek was a small tributary called Jumping Waters Branch. We treated the branch from the bottom upward since we had treated an adjacent tributary from the top down and into the gorge. As we came up Jumping Waters Branch and saw the 106' falls (yes, I lasered it) we were unsure how to get up to the rim. Fortunately, a steep talus slope offered a route up to a crack in the rim through which we could "chimney" up and out.



Old-growth hemlock Jumping Waters Branch, Savage Creek



Old-growth hemlock



Jumping Waters Falls



Jason at base of falls

The north rim of Savage Creek has a loop trail enticingly called "Big Tree Spur". I did have some fine shortleaf pine, ancient white oaks and a medium tuliptree but was otherwise unimpressive.



Big Tree Spur

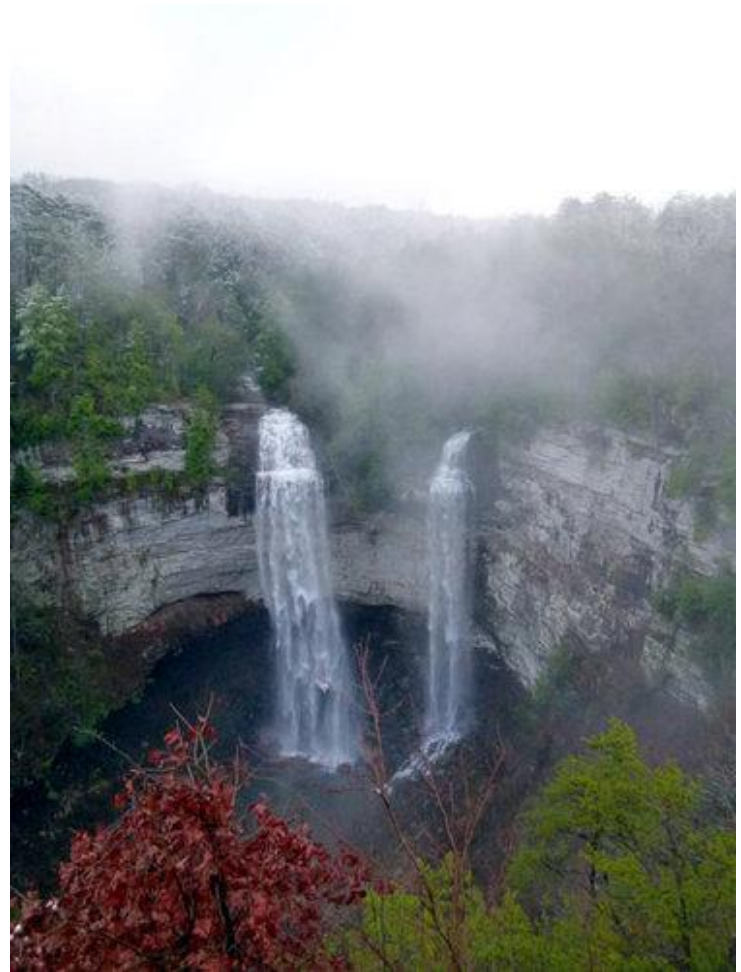


Lydia and old white oak



Jason Childs and ancient shortleaf pine

We stayed not too far from Fall Creek Falls so we had to take a look. It was snowing and the falls were full. The thunder of the waterfall was impressive.

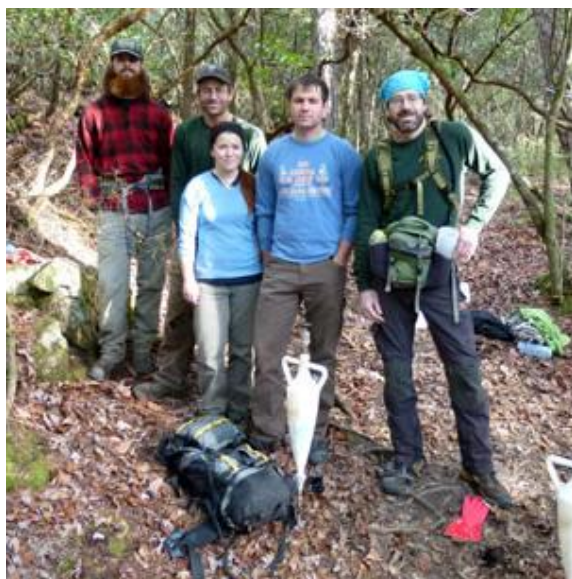


Fall Creek Falls at snow line



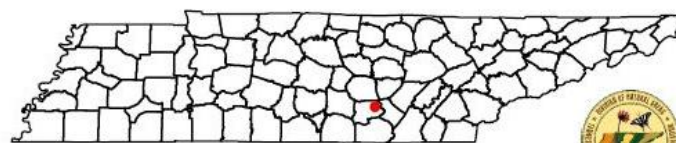
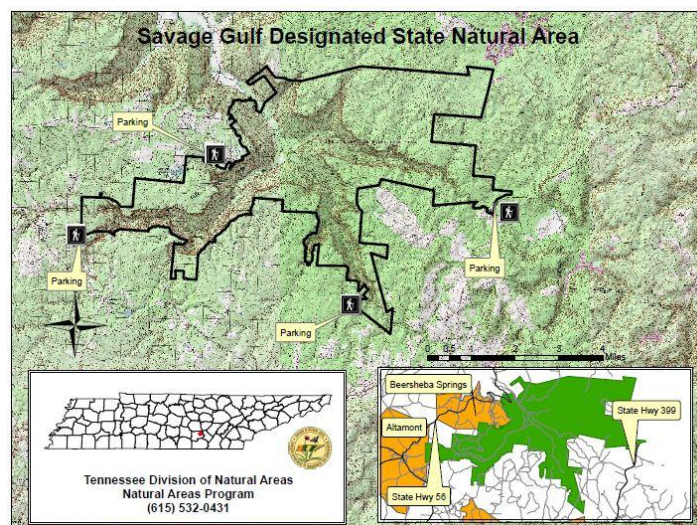
Snowy old-growth VA pine at Fall Creek Falls

On the last day of treatments for 2011 we took a group photo at the head of Jumping Waters Branch. Many thanks to the superlative treatment team!



The team: Nick Smith, Jason Childs, Lydia McClure, Aaron Reid, Will Blozan

Will Blozan



**Tennessee Division of Natural Areas
Natural Areas Program**

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/savage/savage.pdf>

Spring is here! (northern Ohio)

by **Steve Galehouse** » Sat Feb 04, 2012 12:25 am

The hybrid witch-hazel in my yard is now in full bloom---it started to show color the end of January. This is the earliest I have ever seen it flower, and now I can say something in my yard is in bloom every month of the year. Not bad for northern Ohio!



It's *Hamamelis x intermedia* "Arnold's Promise". It typically will stay in bloom for six weeks. Usually it blooms in late February or March. This bloom-time is really exceptional. *Galanthus* are also up and showing color.

Steve Galehouse

Rothkugel Plantation, WV

by **tsharp** » Sun Feb 05, 2012 3:01 pm

NTS: I had a chance to stop and measure some trees in this plantation the afternoon of 10-22-2011. Gaines McMartin has previously posted about this site. His comments and some good pictures can be found here: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=131&t=544>

I thought I would add a little more information about this site. It is located near Thornwood, Pocahontas County, WV along WV 28 not less than ½ mile from its intersection with US 250. Pictured below is a sign along the road marking the location of the entrance of

a trail (right of sign) that loops through the stand.



Photo by Turner Sharp on an earlier visit to the stand 6/20/2011

The elevation at this sign is 2,920'. The aspect is west to northwest. There is a small hollow with an intermittent stream to the right of this entry trail. I walked up this trail about 2/3 way to about 3120' measuring trees until I got good heights and CBHs for 5 dominant Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) and 5 European Larch (*Larix decidua*). The trail later loops to the right to the other side of the small hollow and comes back to WV 28. Instead of doing the loop one could continue up to the top of Smoke Camp Knob at 4200' elevation but would have left the plantation. This trail is marked as FS 324 on the official Forest Service map

My five tree height average for Norway Spruce was 120.8' and lower than Gaines 7 tree average of 122.7'. The tallest Norway Spruce I measured was at 135.5' and will be height record for West Virginia. The five tree average for the European Larch was 102.1 with the tallest at 104.9'. The complete listing of trees measured can be found in the Trees Database at:

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1033/Details>

Max Rothkugel was in the employ of George Craig and Son Lumber Company of Philadelphia, Pa when he established this 150 acre plantation in 1907. Site

preparation consisted of burning the slash left over from previous logging operations. Apparently Rothkugel had a failure on a 20 acre experimental tract in 1906 because of birds and squirrels getting most of his broadcast seeds. In 1907 instead of broadcasting seeds his workers spot planted groups of seeds about six feet apart. His goal was to plant about 60 % Spruce and 40 % Larch with occasional strips of Black Locust to discourage grazing by sheep and cattle. The Spruce and Larch seeds were obtained from Josef Janwein's Seed House in Tunsbruck, Tyrol. The Black Locust seeds from Willadaen Nursery in Warsaw, Ky.

Apparently several years after its establishment fire got into the stand and the young seedlings may have been reduced to 25% of their original coverage. The area burnt soon had blackberries and were much appreciated by the local population but was soon followed by native hardwoods. In the area I covered the crown canopy was at most 25 percent Spruce/Larch. I did not notice any Black locust or any reproduction of Spruce or Larch. The USFS acquired the stand in 1924. Driving along the highways near the little towns of Durbin, Frank, Bartow and Thornwood one cannot help but notice a number of Spruce and Larch trees about the same age decorating people's yards and fence rows which may have affected the survival rate in the plantation. I had the privilege of visiting Buckland State Forest in Massachusetts with some ENTS to see a Spruce/Larch plantation. My impression is that the Massachusetts site has better moisture conditions and a deeper, richer soil. If the Massachusetts site is a CCC plantation it means it had to be planted after 1933 which would make it at least 26 years younger than the Rothkugel Plantation. The spruce there are pushing 140 -150' with at least one measured slightly over 150'. The Rothkugel is pushing 125-135' range although I believe we may find a few 140' trees. The big difference between the stands was the vigor of the Larch at Buckland. I believe some of them are approaching 150'. I did not see any Larches in Rothkugel in a dominant crown position and most look sickly. I would be surprised to find one at 110'. It would be nice to get a confirmed age of the Buckland State Forest stand.

More information may be found in the Forest

Quarterly, Volume VI published by the New York State College of Forestry in 1908. It may be found at the following link:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=nqHQAAAAMA-AJ&pg=PA46&lpg=PA46&dq=rothkugel+plantation&source=bl&ots=Upo2vWu-Cr&sig=KvwQMjeHzGp2fPzCvMz9GqvN34g&hl=en&sa=X&ei=WP4tT8IQyfXSAcvK3eAK&ved=0CEMQ6AEwBTgo#v=onepage&q=rothkugel%20plantation&f=false>

On pages 40-46 is an article by Max Rothkugel titled Management of Spruce and Hemlock Land in West Virginia.

Additional information may be found in a publication titled 50 Year History of the Monongahela National Forest. Pertinent information is found in chapter 6, page 44. The rest of the publication makes interesting reading as it covers the early years of the National Forest. It may be found at the following link:

http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/10096/50_Yea_His_Mon_Nat_For.pdf?sequence=1

Turner Sharp

Re: Rothkugel Plantation, WV

by **gnmcmartin** » Thu Feb 09, 2012 9:55 pm

Turner: Thanks for going to the Rothkugel plantation and measuring some trees. I have wanted to get back there and take more time to measure, but I just haven't been able to find the time these days. The day I took my measurements, I was hurried and I have since had some doubts about whether I did a careful enough job.

I have a couple of things to add. First, when I collected seed there a number of years ago for Professor John Genys, I noticed abundant reproduction, but it had all been severely nibbled. Perhaps it has now been wiped out by rabbits, or whatever. But reproduction of Norway spruce on that site is natural.

Next, the site is not the best, and perhaps not nearly as good as the Buckland site. But the site seems to me to be moderately good, and my guess is that the soil is a fairly good class II forest soil. Based on that, I would have expected the spruce trees to be somewhat larger/taller. Norway spruce is extremely genetically variable. It grows in a very wide range in Europe, and some strains from some locations are much better adapted to different specific regions of the US than others. Of course, because Norway spruce has been planted in Europe for centuries, with seed from one area planted in another, geographic location is no guarantee that any tree growing in a specific area of Europe is a historically local strain.

There is a high probability that the seed for the Rothkugel is from somewhere in Germany, but there is a good chance it is not. I have been a careful observer of Norway spruce characteristics and their correlation with growth. To my eye, various characteristics of the trees there don't match what I see in the best growing strains I have seen elsewhere, and the cones are not like those I see from the best growing spruce in the Western MD/ WV area. I know my opinion here is completely unscientific, but I think the primary reason for the so-so performance of the Norway spruce at Rothkugel is that it is not a particularly good strain for that area. I know the WV tree nursery has used the Rothkugel as a seed source for Norway spruce--I think that is a mistake.

I wish the stand near Gladys, WV had not been cut--those trees were the best Norway spruce I have seen planted in the US. I have not seen the Buckland trees.

--Gaines

[Climber in my Norway maple](#)

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Sun Feb 05, 2012 3:48 pm

Here are a couple of pictures of an arborist in my Norway maple the other day. I hired him to take a number of the lowest limbs off the bole. They were

too high for me to reach with my pole pruner, and the tree is in a location that makes it impossible to reach with a bucket truck. He climbed the tree with ropes (he didn't use spikes on his boots or anything like that).



Kirk Johnson

Owl Art

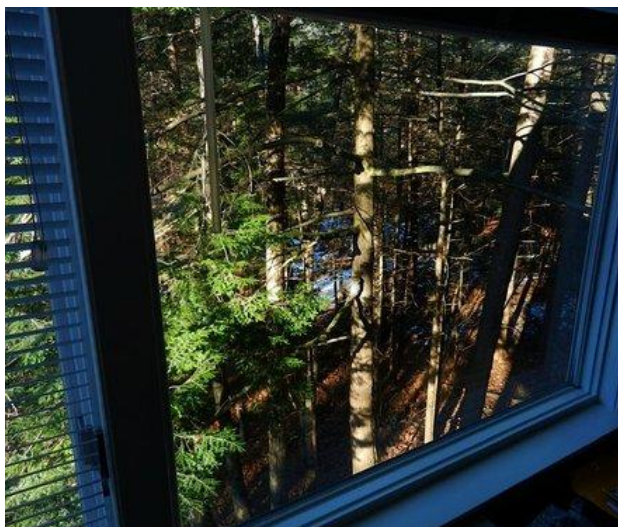
by **dbhguru** » Sun Feb 05, 2012 10:53 am

NTS, Fifteen minutes ago I happened to look up from my computer and out the window, and what did my wandering eyes behold? Yes, a bard owl on a hemlock just outside of Monica's music room perched on a limb o a hemlock that Will treated for adelgid years ago. I grabbed my camera, ran up stairs, got Monica, and we went into her music room. The rest of the story is told in pictures. Note the little from outside and at the bottom of the window.

Behold the Bard of Florence.



A little closer



You gorgeous creature

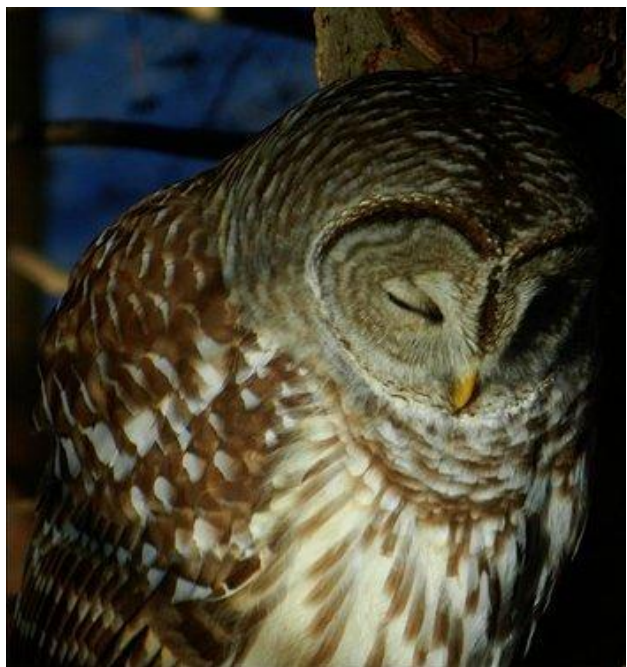


Keeping watch



Robert Leverett

Ah for a little snooze



One more image of the barred owl, which we have named Mr. Feathers, the Bard of Florence. He remains perched on the hemlock branch outside the music room window. Barred owls frequent our woods often. We feel blessed.



[Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland](#)

by **Steve Galehouse** » Sun Feb 05, 2012 8:07 pm

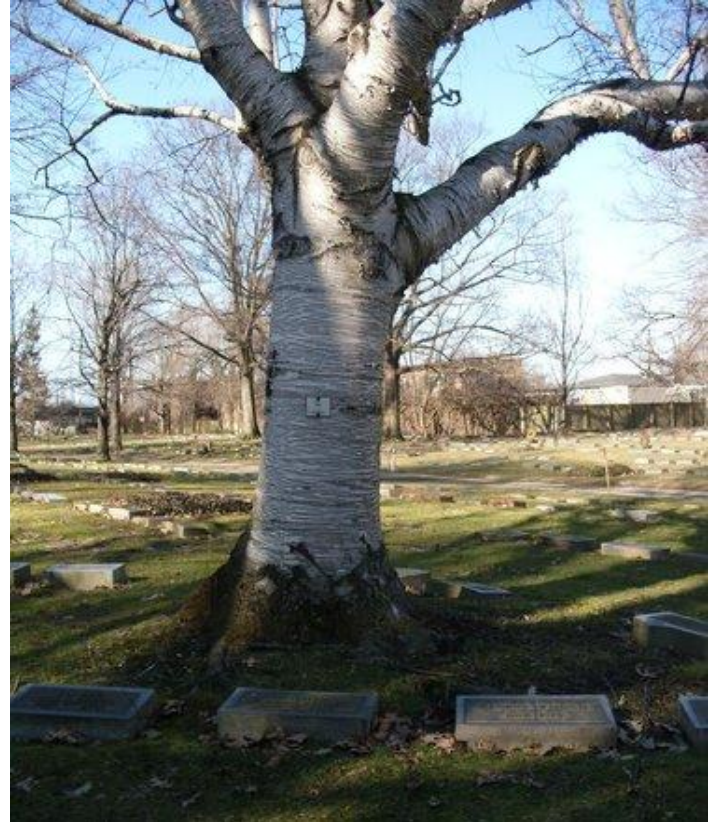
ENTS- Today My wife Diane, son Mitch, and I took a walk around Lake View Cemetery on Cleveland's East Side. This is the largest cemetery in the city but not the oldest, dating from 1869. It has a number of notable interments, including John D. Rockefeller, 20th President James A. Garfield, and Eliot Ness. There are many architecturally significant monuments in the park, with Wade Chapel (with a large Tiffany stained glass window) and the 180' Garfield Memorial being the most recognized. There are also a lot of big, old trees and extensive landscape plantings. We had not been there before, so we were mainly getting our bearings and sight-seeing, so I didn't measure many trees, but there are many old oaks and tuliptrees in the cemetery. Below are some photos of trees and monuments.

Tuliptree, 109.1' x 15' 8":





The biggest grey birch I've ever seen, at 6' 11" in girth and 36' tall:



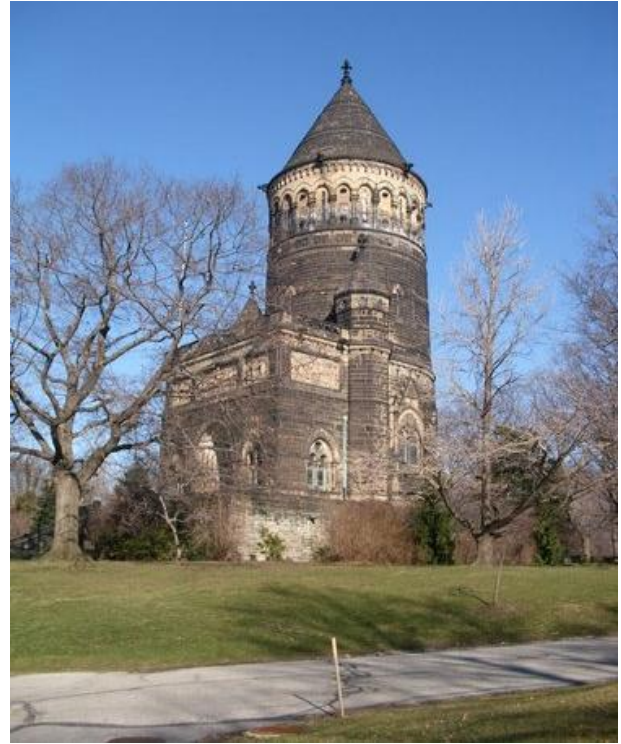
A gnarly old white oak:



The Wade Chapel:



The Garfield Memorial:



The Rockefeller Obelisk:

Steve Galehouse



"Super Cove" Sunday- Elkmont, TN TALLEST FOREST?

by **Will Blozan** » Sun Feb 05, 2012 9:58 pm

NTS, Just a quick report before bed. Today Michael Davie and I spent most of the day surveying a "super cove" discovered via recently obtained LiDAR data interpreted by Josh Kelly, Michael Davie and Jess Riddle. The site near the abandoned town of Elkmont was the north slope of Burnt Mountain which ironically is flanked on the north side by superlative forest and on the south and upper slopes by grape thickets. The site was very rich and more diverse than other "super coves". Josh was able to identify over 40 LiDAR "hits" over 170' and three over 180'- basically a continuous high canopy across the slope. Very few sites match this signature density so we were stoked.

The LiDAR was comparable to other ground-truthed areas- some trees over predicted and others under. The highest points were leaning trees on steep slopes but some of the lower points turned out to be the taller trees since they leaned upslope the high point was upslope of the base.

We were able to get an initial Rucker Index of 152.7 for the small area. I think this may be the tallest micro-site Rucker Index? More searching will bring it up a bit. I have photos but seriously, they look like every other similar young second-growth site in the southern Appalachians. I'll post them later.

This site was probably around 90 years old and unfortunately, eaten by earthworms.

Rucker 10 152.7

Tuliptree 180.3 (180.2' tree nearby)
Biltmore ash 162.2 (tallest recorded- also 154.7')
Bitternut 160.1 (tallest recorded)
Sycamore 154.7
White basswood 151.0 (third tallest in Smokies)
N. red oak 148.4
Black cherry 146.2 (tallest in Smokies)
Yellow buckeye 144.1 (mid-story tree)
Red maple 143.2
Cucumbertree 137.0 (token 'cause we needed another

tree for the RI...)

We also looked at a cove near Cucumber Gap and Mike hit a 184.9' tuliptree- tallest known tree in Tennessee!!! Many others in the high 170's.

We literally passed under probably 60-70 tuliptrees over 170' today. In fact, we did not really bother with trees less than 175'...

Will Blozan

Re: "Super Cove" Sunday- Elkmont, TN TALLEST FOREST?

by **Will Blozan** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 11:42 am

NTS, Here are some shots of Burnt Mountain and Cucumber Gap. I'll let Josh decide on posting some LiDAR images.



Burnt Mountain tulipography



Mossy 'lips



143.2 foot red maple



180 footer with downslope lean



Little River at base of Burnt Mountain



Super-dense Cucumber Gap tulips



184.9 foot tuliptree at Cucumber Gap

And the ghost resort town of Elkmont, TN. At least the hemlocks are being saved...



Ghost town of Elkmont



Ghost cottage 1



Ghost cottage 2



Ghost cottage 3



Inside ghost cottage



Ghost lodge- what a shame!

Why do these “young” secondary sites keep coming up as the tallest sites ? (Re: "Super Cove" Sunday-Elkmont, TN TALLEST FOREST?)

by mdavie » Wed Feb 08, 2012 9:21 pm

Chris wrote:

I am sure this has been discussed before and people smarter than I have thought about it, but does anyone know why these "young", secondary growth sites keep coming up as the tallest sites [I know Baxter Cr was cut early 20th century]?

It seems to have to do with a particular combination of factors (generally speaking). One thing is that tuliptree is one of those few species which can outcompete in early succession and also just keep on going, getting older and bigger. All of these tall fast-growing trees we're finding are in very productive soils with ample moisture and almost always have topographic protection; though even without the topography, they grow so evenly that they protect each other in dense stands very well. Most of these sites, while they were cut, were not farmed, which tends to degrade the soil structure more than just logging. Often it's only after a hundred years or more (barring a significant environmental event) that the crowns start getting more beaten up and jagged and there is finally some attrition. Crowns that have become slightly more emergent are less protected, and thus more likely to be damaged in storms. The overall canopy starts becoming textured and creates more wind eddies and changes in flow over the surface. Large weighted limbs may finally break, and can cause decay to extend back into the stem. Whole trees eventually uproot and create greater gaps and holes.

However. As we found on Deep Creek (and possibly will in a few other places) large old trees can still get tall. They just have to have the right combination of soil, water, protection, and luck to make it (or make it back). You asked if tuliptree dominance decreases with age, and I'd say generally, "kind of". The Fork Ridge tuliptree was in a tuliptree dominated grove. A number of the largest tuliptrees are in tuliptree dominated groves, though they usually aren't quite as

ridiculously dominant as they are in these younger forests.



This photo is from Burnt Mountain. Nearly all of the trees you can see here are tuliptrees. There's nothing to stop them from dominating, so they do. They may also have some allelopathic qualities that come into play, but I'm not sure.

Burnt Mountain may not stay on top for very long, by the way— but it's hard to say. There are still a lot of places to check out.

Michael Davie

UNCA Asheville, NC

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Feb 06, 2012 10:56 am

This area has been measured several times before but I was having car issues and wasn't able to get out and about very far. I hit a large area south of the campus which may not have been measured before in addition to the Botanical Gardens, just to get a better Rucker.

The area south of campus appears to have been a large estate at one time. There are stone walls remaining and English Ivy is very common over a fair portion of the site. The trees are younger around the walls, with the exception of white oaks. Mature white oaks abound on the property. They appear to have grown somewhat open when they were younger.

Sweetgum	91'	in Botan Garden
baldcypress	94.1'	in Botan Garden
Southern red oak	96'	
Shortleaf pine	98.6'	in Botan Garden
Pitch pine	98.9'	in Botan Garden
Black cherry	100.8'	
White oak	104.5'	10'6"cbh 84'spread
White pine	116.3'	in Botan Garden
Sycamore	122.8'	in Botan Garden
Tuliptree	125'	

Rucker 104.8' a bit disappointing

White pine 104.5' 11'1" cbh 55.5' spread
 whopper for the city
 southern red oak 11'1" cbh very large for
 a southern red

Will has measured the sycamore to 130+'. I spent time on it and couldn't break 123'.



Beastly white pine



Beastly white pine



Gnarly white oaks



White pine reconnecting with itself



Forest guardian



DogWood

Brian Beduhn

Coppiceville, USA (MA)

by dbhguru » Mon Feb 06, 2012 10:27 am

NTS, I recently received word from Allison Bell of a huge silver maple growing in the Connecticut River floodplain and more specifically along the old Mill River channel. Yesterday Monica and I went to look for it. What we encountered was a fascinating "city of coppice forms", mostly silver maple. There are cottonwoods, green ash, and hackberry, but most trunks are silver maple. I did find the big tree. It is a coppice, maybe more than one tree. But I'll give it the benefit of the doubt at this time and consider it a coppice with one root system. At the narrowest point between base and 4.5 feet, the big coppice measures 19.1 feet around. It is 90 feet tall. At 4.5 feet, it measures 21 feet around. Other silver maples in the vicinity are between 9 and 12 feet around with an occasional larger one. Here are some images of these fascinating forms. Ed has often stated that we need to give respect to legitimate natural coppices. The silver maple makes the case for respect and legitimacy more than any other species.

Cottonwoods near the start. There are plenty, but none to match the silvers



A old silver coppice. Note the hollow space. There were trunks in it in the past.



Love dem coppices



OMG!



Green ash coppice



Ain't I purty



Hi, I'm the big one



Behold my 19.1 x 90 feet. Please give me some respect. Coppices need love too.



I was a big one



Hey, it's the trees talking. I'm merely the humble translator.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Death Valley vs. Joshua Tree?

by **Jenny** » Mon Feb 06, 2012 1:10 pm

Thank you all for your input about Joshua Tree and the excellent photos. None of my photos begin to match. (I'll have to make a video.....uh-oh....)

I was blown away (not literally - although there was quite a breeze). The complexity of ecosystems/ecosystems (is that a word?) and the unbelievable landscape was so unexpected and beautiful. I only wish I had more time there. Only one afternoon. But that sun just really exhausts me - or I've become really lazy and out of shape. I drank plenty of water, but still....

I was also thrilled to see the line of the San Andreas fault from a vista at one edge of the park and also, another fascinating place I'd like to visit: The Salton Sea. I've been reading a book called "Salt Dreams" and it's a bit. Both devastation and vibrant life there...I can only add a pic of me at Joshua since "all of y'all's" pix were so great:



Jenny Dudley

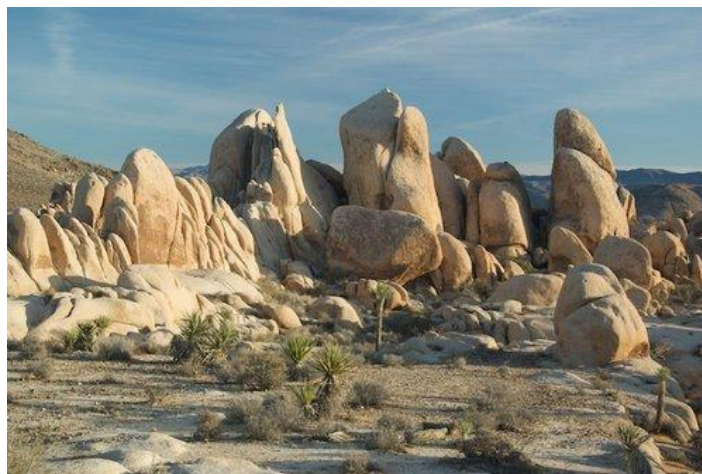


Photo by Doug Bidlack



A palm oasis. Photo by James Robert Smith



Cholla cactus garden. You don't want to tangle with these. Photo by James Robert Smith

[South Jersey's wild Bald Cypress](#)

by **Barry Caselli** » Mon Feb 06, 2012 10:25 pm

A couple weeks ago a Youtube friend of mine went on an expedition to find the only known Bald Cypress tree in New Jersey believed to have NOT been planted by man. I had given him instructions based on what I had read in two different books.

Here is his report, with many pictures:

<http://members6.boardhost.com/spanish2/msg/1327284428.html>

Meanwhile, today was forecast to be sunny with a perfect sky. When I got up in the morning, I found that to be true, so I headed out on a road trip, which was to include a search for the cypress. After arriving at the Beaver Swamp Wildlife Management area in Cape May County, I studied my map and the instructions I had gotten from my books, and then went into the woods. I found the tree in 10 minutes or so. Once I knew where it was, I could see it from almost everywhere, including where I parked my car. I did not measure it. At the time I was thinking that I had measured it in the past. But I'm not sure now. Witmer Stone's book from 1910 says it's 55 feet tall with a circumference of 7' 4 1/2". The other book I have is from the 1980s and says it's "about 60 feet tall and 5 feet in circumference". Of course the tree didn't get smaller over a 73 year period! I believe it's at least as big as the 1910 measurement.

The trees I saw at Beaver Swamp were Pitch Pine, Loblolly Pine, American Beech, White Oak, Black Oak, Spanish Oak, Willow Oak, American Holly, Sweetgum, Atlantic White Cedar, Eastern Red Cedar and Swamp (Red) Maple. I think there is also Sourgum, Virginia Pine and Scarlet Oak there, but I wasn't 100% sure if I saw any.

My Youtube account has 9 recently-uploaded slideshows of photos I took on recent hikes. Later tonight or tomorrow I will make a slideshow of my little hike in Beaver Swamp and upload that to Youtube. But right now it isn't there.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/MillerMeteor74>.

Barry Caselli

[Re: South Jersey's wild Bald Cypress](#)

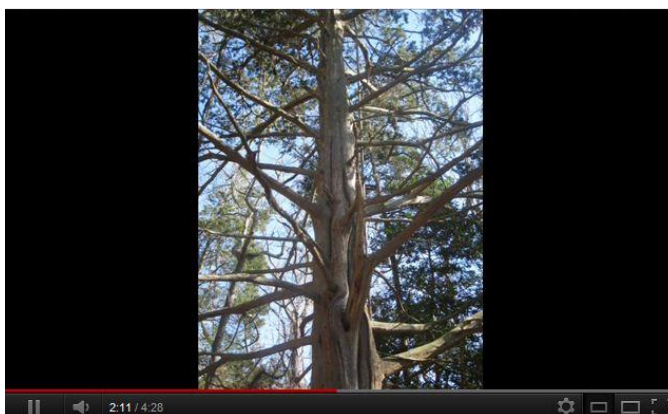
by **Barry Caselli** » Sat Feb 11, 2012 3:34 am

Beaver Swamp Wildlife Management Area 2/6/2012

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sqce6glPopw>



Uploaded by MillerMeteor74 on Feb 10, 2012



Connecticut's tallest tree - the LeClair Tulip Poplar

by dbhguru » Tue Feb 07, 2012 9:43 pm

NTS, today Bart Bouricius, Ryan LeClair and I looked at a stand of tuliptrees that Ryan had scouted out growing near his home in Trumbull. The site is on the Pequonnock River in a park that runs along the river. It took only seconds to realize that the site offers feast of tall tuliptree. The spot looks more like Virginia than Connecticut. I spent my time identifying the tallest trees in the stand and measuring and remeasuring them. No room for error. We put a push pin in each measured tree.

I'll get right to the numbers.

Tree #	Height	Girth
4	138.8	7.8
6	145.7	11.4
2	150.7	9.6
1	152.0	10.5
5	152.0	
3	155.0	8.9

Number 3 becomes the LeClair TT, and at this point, it is Connecticut's tallest accurately measured tree. Obviously this tree is named in honor of Ryan who found it and shared it with us. Thanks Ryan. Let's now have a look at Ryan's tree.



After leaving the area Bart and I found another grove of TTs on Route 108. There are several over 11 feet in girth. I measured one at 11.3 feet around and 121 feet in height. There may be a 130 or two. Still later we measured a big TT in Farmington. Its stats are girth 13.5 feet and height 118.5.

We saw many TTs. Most of the tall ones are between 120 and 130 feet. There are definitely lots more places to search, but much of the landscape is boulder strewn with very thin soils - lots of TTs, but none of real significance. Ryan really has a special spot on the Pequonnock. There may be another 150 there, but not more. There are probably a couple more 140s in the small stand. The TTs on the opposite side of the river drop dramatically in height. They're younger trees. The tallest is around 135 feet.

Bart and I stopped in Simsbury on our return trip to check on the great Pinchot sycamore. It took a big hit in the Oct snowstorm. But it will make it fine. It measures 28.0 feet in girth and the highest spot is 99.1 feet now. Its average crown spread has probably dropped to a little under 140 feet. Still a formidable tree.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Connecticut's tallest tree - the LeClair Tulip Poplar

by dbhguru » Wed Feb 08, 2012 9:51 am

NTS, here is another look at the tuliptree haven along the Pequonnock with Ryan and Bart. The LeClair TT is not in the image, but off to the left.

Bart left his clinometer with Ryan who already has a Nikon 440. I have a feeling that Ryan is going to be a big producer for us in CT and that the Nutmeg State finally has a true champion. We've just begun the search.



It really takes a local Ent to do the job. Now with Ryan has been unleashed in CT, the small, hidden spots that you can't discover from general drive-thrus will now be revealed.

Brian Beduhn wrote: 150s aren't that common south of the Mason-Dixon line outside of national parks and memorial forests. Nice find! Any chance Rhode island has a 150 footer? I doubt but who knows?

In years past, I did go to Rhode Island a number of times and did measure a few tuliptrees, but couldn't find anything exciting. Southwestern CT has the best of what New England offers. With Ryan unleashed, I think we'll eventually piece together the region's story. The lower Hudson River Valley has lots of potential, but the TT requires rich sites and places

that might otherwise provide favorable habitat of tall TTs often fail because of thin soils. Southern CT is awash in rocky soils. Some are amazingly boulder cluttered. I think it is a post glacial phenomena. So, while there is a lot of potential habitat to search in southern New England, the actual number of places that will support tall TTs is far more restricted.

Robert Leverett

Re: Pinchot Sycamore and Granby Oak, CT

by sam goodwin » Thu Feb 02, 2012 5:50 pm

After getting home from measuring the Pinchot Sycamore and East Granby black oak I started doing the math, "their way". Keep in mind I haven't tried doing it, "our" way yet and that will be another 2 hours! For the sycamore I came up with 494 points to their 475 points. For the black oak I got 453 points to their 448 points. I measured cbh 335" @ 99' for the sycamore to their cbh 334" @ 104'. I measured the oak at cbh 328' @ 78' and they have cbh 344" @ 79'. The oak has a large bump at 4.5' so I went a couple of inches higher, they may have measured over the bump and got the higher number. I have the other numbers if anyone is interested in checking my math.

Sam Goodwin

[Update 8:45 a.m. Nov. 8] Granby Oak Suffers Significant Damage in Snow Storm

Four-hundred-year-old town symbol had at least one massive limb torn from its trunk, and another sags precariously as a result of the heavy snow fall from last weekend.

<http://simsbury.patch.com/articles/granby-oak-suffers-significant-damage-in-snow-storm>

Re: 3D surface modeling of a giant redwood trunk

by **fooman** » Tue Feb 07, 2012 5:27 pm

A quick play with the Stratosphere Giant data. Still have not figured out textures that well.

The software has dedicated measurement tools (it is actually designed to measure the difference between a mesh and generated solid models, as a way of quantifying the accuracy of reverse engineering). The mesh as shown has a volume of $\sim 1.5 \text{ mm}^3$. It obviously reads the .ply data a certain way. Next stop, figure out the scaling required to get an accurate volume.



Stratosphere Giant mesh, with partial texture

Matt

Re: 3D surface modeling of a giant redwood trunk

by **fooman** » Thu Feb 09, 2012 6:41 pm

Hi Michael, Another quick play, to get volumetric data. Method as below:

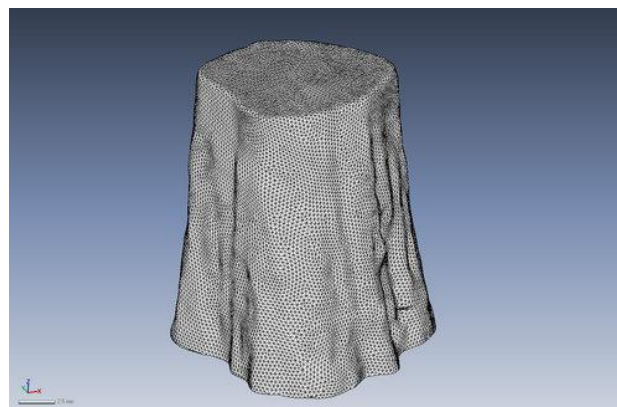
Slice of redwood creek giant, $0 < z < 20\text{ft}$.

Imported spreadsheet data containing vertex data with $0 < z < 20\text{ft}$ as .ply into Radidform. Automatically mesh. Filtering of extraneous data points, 80% sampling ratio. Automatically filling holes resulted in smoothed, interpolated surfaces at $z < 0\text{ft}$ and

$z > 20\text{ft}$. Trimmed resultant mesh back to $0 < z < 20\text{ft}$.

Global remeshing resulted in slight smoothing of edges. Volume calculated at $\sim 3076 \text{ ft}^3$, with face normals pointing inwards (calculation instantaneous).

Corrected normals to obtain "correct" model display, but unable to obtain a volume calculation. Mesh shown below:



Redwoods creek giant, mesh of slice from 0 to 20 ft.

Ran free form volume solver-RGC.xls with the following settings:

Range Filters	# of Points =	61627	127
= # of	Slice Points		
Xmin	-10.000	Xmax	11.000
Ymin	-10.000	Ymax	11.000
Zmin	-1.000	Zmax	30.000
Pole XYZ	0.000	0.00	0.000
Zcookie	0.000	Thickness	0.200

Ht Start Pt	0.000	Ht End Pt	20.000
Int	20.000		
Slice Thickness	1.000	Ray Inc°	1.00

Took about 10 minutes to get the result:

Total Volume 3163.027

The mesh volume is $\sim 97\%$ of the numerical intergration volume. The difference is likely to be in the filtering/smoothing/filling undertaken on the mesh plus the residuals inherent in the numerical integration method (e.g. as a function of ray angle/slice sizes). This seems to be a reasonably good result.

Matt

Re: 3D surface modeling of a giant redwood trunk

by **fooman** » Fri Feb 10, 2012 2:14 am

The 1.5 mm³ for the Stratosphere Giant was simply a case of GIGO. The data from the Redwood Creek Giant had been converted into feet by Michael for his spreadsheet. The 1.5 (unit)³ result is correct, for whatever the raw units in the scanner data is (also note, it was a different tree!). Without knowing the details of the scanner, I suspect it is some sort of self-scaling dimensionless value (depends on the size of the item being scanned). Some scanners are able to self-calibrate to obtain actual units in the dimensions.

You'll notice in the image of the RCG mesh, it still has the scale bar in mm. It doesn't really matter, because the data was imported in as 1 ft = 1 mm.

Don Bertollette wrote: Eventually, I suspect some of the details of volume will need to rise up to consideration, such as inside bark volume (while timber people might want to know this, but I'm thinking more towards mass, specific gravity, weight per unit volume, etc.). Any ideas how to, remotely?

Quite simply, 3d scanning is the same as putting a tape around a tree 10,000 times and recording the position every inch or so. To get other information would require different techniques. At my old university there was a research group my supervisor was involved in, looking at multi-scale modelling wood in an engineering sense, starting from the physical and mechanical properties of the various structures and sizes (one of the students has continued on in the field - he has a presentation here: http://www.ifb.ethz.ch/comphys/woodReliability_2009/talk8). I wasn't involved directly, but did help some of my fellow students. I have fond memories of undertaking some trial tests on measuring the elastic properties of individual cells from *Pinus Radiata* samples - half the size of a matchstick. Deformation was measured super accurately via a laser reflected off the cell and onto a wall.

Anyway, I digress. To get an idea of the properties, other than outside bark volume, would require extrapolation based on destructive testing such as

coring or population sampling to get the required properties, or other techniques such as low frequency ultrasonics or acoustic emission for density changes (bark/early wood/late wood), conductivities for water content etc. There are probably much more qualified people on this forum than myself to ask these questions.

Addendum:

I looked up some more of Jonathon's work and came across this:

<http://www.locuscor.net/silvilaser2011/papers/002Adams.pdf>. Some interesting work on ground-based 3d scanning of plantation trees to assess wood production.

Matt

Re: 3D surface modeling of a giant redwood trunk

by **M.W.Taylor** » Sat Feb 11, 2012 11:01 pm

Matt,

I greatly appreciate you checking my numbers from the Free Form volume solver for RCG. I just noticed a problem with my code where the extrapolation between missing points is very sloppy. I'll re-code the RCG volume solver with the better extrapolation algorithm and then re-post. I know where I went wrong. Let's see how the #'s compare after the change. Did your RCG shape table originally have only 65k points? That surface mesh looks fantastic with excellent curvature effects. The original scan I made of RCG has 197k points but I could only fit 65k on the spreadsheet.

Did you cut and paste the XYZ data from the RCG spreadsheet into a text file for Rapid Form?

I do not recall attaching the RCG ply file due to size restrictions. In the new RCG code I will put an outer surface area calculation solution as well.

How long did the Mesh layer take to create? Did

Rapid Form decimate the data after Meshing ? Is your Mesh created from the original 65k XYZ points from my RCG volume spreadsheet ? Does Rapid Form do a surface volume calculation ?
I would assume yes.

I need to speed up the VBA code in my spreadsheet if it is to solve for the volume of an entire tree. The volume solver as I coded it is trying to do too much at once including extrapolation of surface boundaries, noise filtering and volume calculations. One idea I had for speeding up my slow VBA code was to decimate the data prior to volume solving using another VBA macro to calculate surface boundary density characteristics per cross-section. The idea is to develop an average density for surface points per cross-section. With that parameter I can then determine (with reasonable confidence) all the surface boundaries per each cross-sectional analysis. And then automatically filter out parasite points and isolate discrete structures for volume solving like the trunk form. From there I should be able to code multiple volume solutions from each cross-section.. i.e. find total volume for trees that have negative taper, multiple trunk iterations and just about any type of complex forest structure with overhanging projections and cavities. Burned out snags ? I'll probably need to use C++ with compiler to make a version fast enough to be of practical use for solving the volume of a big redwood.

I should have a new and improved RCG volume solver for you to test soon if you feel like it. I hope to get within 1% of RapidForm. I am not satisfied with 3%. It should be better. We'll see how the coding goes. I am fairly certain the error is on my end.
Thanks again for your help,

Michael Taylor

Re: 3D surface modeling of a giant redwood trunk

by **fooman** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 4:34 am

M.W.Taylor wrote: Matt, Did your RCG shape table originally have only 65k points ? That surface mesh looks fantastic with excellent curvature effects. The original scan I made of RCG has 197k points but I could only fit 65k on the spreadsheet.

The number of vertices in the 20 ft slice I took from your spreadsheet was ~41k. Not so sure on the resolution of the final mesh. EDIT - just checked it - 17k vertices, 34k faces

Did you cut and paste the XYZ data from the RCG spreadsheet into a text file for Rapid Form ?

I had to add in 3 extra columns of data for the RGB values of the points (used 1,1,1). A bit of manipulation is required to remove tab-spaces if copying direct from Excel, but I just exported it as a space-delimited file (.prn) and copied the data from that.

How long did the Mesh layer take to create ?

Maybe 10 minutes of playing around with various options. Plus another 2 or three minutes to copy the data over. If I knew what I was doing, maybe a couple of minutes. The software is pretty good!

Did Rapid Form decimate the data after Meshing ?

The automated meshing process does reduce the number of vertices, to a user-specified amount. I selected to retain ~80% of the raw information. Then did a remesh, which applied a global resizing of the mesh, but still capturing the volumetric information.

Is your Mesh created from the original 65k XYZ points from my RCG volume spreadsheet ?

As above, it was created from a selection of ~41k of the XYZ points of the RCG spreadsheet.

*Does Rapid Form do a surface volume calculation ?
I would assume yes.*

It does - the surface area was ~1600 ft², but that would have included the top and bottom "cuts" on the slice. EDIT: Was actually 1268 ft², with the top face being ~122 ft², and the bottom face ~322 ft².

I hope to get within 1% of RapidForm. I am not satisfied with 3%. It should be better. We'll see how the coding goes. I am fairly certain the error is on my end. Thanks again for your help,

Just be aware that the mesh I created still has the possibility of user bias in some of the parameters I chose, and the tendency to "round off" sharp edges. E.g. scan and mesh a cube, and there will be rounding errors on the edges of the cube.

The software can actually generate a pointcloud from a mesh - so I can generate one for you to have a play with for your volume solver. Or maybe some generic volumes for your info. EDIT: See attached for the point cloud extracted from the remeshed data. This was just a straight export into a .ply format, and manually stripping out the polyface data points, leaving in the vertices. You may wish to delete the data at $z=0$ and $z=20$ as these will be the cut surfaces, and may play havoc with your volume solver.

Matt

 [rcg_mesh_points.ply](#) RCG remeshed point cloud (vertex data points)

[Re: 3D surface modeling of a giant redwood trunk](#)

 by **fooman** » Mon Feb 13, 2012 11:34 pm

Don, I can't really add much to what you have said other than to note a few points:


1. I got the impression that there was less sweep for decreasing spacing, i.e. there was less opportunity to grow anywhere but straight up, the closer the spacing. The more spacing you get, the greater the potential wood volume, but also the potential the the tree will move from a vertical axis to maximise photosynthesis (i.e. produce canopy skewed away from the vertical axis of the base of the trunk). But my expertise is in material sciences rather than forestry.

2. The paper noted that due to the sample size (5 trees?), it was proof of concept, rather than of a greater finding.

3. A lot of NZ's wood production goes into pulp and paper production, either domestically, or abroad (logs are shipped to Asia to processes there). Sweep may not be such as issue for said usage of the material.

Matt

[Re: 3D surface modeling of a giant redwood trunk](#)

 by **M.W.Taylor** » Tue Feb 14, 2012 11:51 pm

Matt,

I notice your Redwood Creek Giant mesh is a bit concave at the top ?

My volume solution for RCG is now about 1% from your RapidForm XOR now using a "best fit" strategy for the missing points (that always arrive in cloud maps). I used a conservative linear interpolation between closest surface edge points. In my experience I have found that spline interpolation over-estimates tree surfaces so that was not used here.

Here is my output for the latest code revision using your input numbers. I get 3108 cubic feet and 1212 square feet respectively. Darn close. I am satisfied with these results.

Also, you are measuring the volume and area of the mesh from RapidFormXOR, correct ? In that case, your surface area should be a little greater because your mesh has 1/2 the points of the cloud set I am processing which has triangular facets too but more of them. I'll run the RapidForm mesh cloud through my custom code and see what happens.

here are the latest results:

Range Filters # of Points = 6318 347
 = # of Slice Points
 Xmin -9.000 Xmax 9.000
 Ymin -10.000 Ymax 11.000
 Contol-V Control-C
 Zmin -1.000 Zmax 30.000 To
 Calculate To Extract
 Pole XYZ 0.000 0.00 0.000 Volume
 Cookie
 Zcookie 0.000 Thickness 1.000

 Ht Start Pt 0.000 Ht End Pt 20.000
 Current Height Int. 20.000
 Slice Thickness 1.000 Ray Inc° 1.00
 Typical Ranges = 1° - 2° - 3°
 Forest Form ID: Redwood Creek Giant

Polygon Area Upper 125.429 Slice Volume
 126.543 Total Weight 82682.435
 Polygon Area Lower 127.661 Total Volume
 3108.362 Surface Area 1212.572

Took an hour + to solve. I added weight too

The attached is the ForestForm1.6 volume and area calculator for RCG with 30k points in the default table. I truncated the last 35k points of this table to speed the program up a little, but it is still SLOW. The RCG cloud set also has a few parasitic outlier points as well which can add a little error to the volume solution if not removed. You may want to decimate it or transform into a Mesh again before playing with it. I just want to make sure we are comparing apple to apples here. I think the attached volume solver has a slightly different embedded RCG cloud set than the one you worked with last time.

At some point I should re-write this code in Visual C+ and compile into machine language.

How much does RapidForm XOR cost ? I get the feeling it's expensive.

Lastly, this "ForestForm1.6" Solver will work all the way up the trunk to nearly the top, unless the tree has a severe lean or multiple iterations. In that case, boundary issues will occur. To overcome this in the spreadsheet you would need to solve volumes in parts

and re-center the origin of the cloud set higher up before it touches a surface edge.

There is also another solution which would be for me to completely redo the existing code so that it can handle any multiple pair of surface boundaries that arrive when structures have severe leans, negative taper and/or side iterations and multiple trunks. The difficulty level to find these volumes is much greater than the current code I have written so far. I am writing this version now and it's slow going. I would prefer to invest my time writing a visual C+ version for commercial use. All ENTS members will get 50% discount on this software "Forest Form" if I should ever bring it to market. I am not sure if it is worth my time yet. We'll see.

Michael Taylor
 WNTS VP

<http://www.landmarktrees.net>



[forestform1.7.xls](#) forest form Redwood Creek Giant

[Daniel Boone Carving on Beech Tree, TN](#)

by **JamesHagy** » Tue Feb 07, 2012 11:59 am

Although I like trees, I am an historian and I am trying to solve an issue about a beech tree. There was a beech in East Tennessee that was supposed to have been carved by Daniel Boone in 1760. There are pictures of the tree which were taken about 1870-1880 with a man standing beside it. I think the carving is a fake as most Boone inscriptions are, but some leading biographers of Boone have accepted it as genuine. In doing that, they have dated other events in the area.

The inscription is usually quoted as "D. Boon cilled a bar on this tree in 1760." But I don't believe that the tree is old enough to have been carved in 1760 (how big would a tree have to be to have such a carving) and the bark, I believe, should have grown over the inscription in a hundred years. Furthermore, Boone never signed his name as Boon and a receipt by him shows he knew how to spell bear correctly.

Photos of the inscription have been touched up by the photographer. No one seems to know what happened to the inscription. There is a report that the tree fell about 1918-1920 but the section of the tree should have been cut out by someone. A person writing in 1884 said that the section had been cut out but disappeared during the Civil War. Some photographers had appeared in the area by that time, but the clothes of the man look like they are post Civil War. I would appreciate any help. I can send the photographs if anyone wants to see them.

James Hagy

[Re: Daniel Boone Carving on Beech Tree](#)

by **edfrank** » Tue Feb 07, 2012 4:08 pm

Here are some links related to the beech tree(s)

<http://www.exchangeplace.info/DanielBoone.shtml>

<http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/workshops/legends/DBlegends.html>

The tree below may be legitimate:

http://www.tufc.com/registries.html#p7HGMpc_3_5



<http://hauntedcomputer.com/scottst35.htm>

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Horticulture/kytreewebsite/commonnamefiles/text/fgrandifoliainfo.htm>

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1016/is_n9-10_v98/ai_13665296/

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1499&dat=19770912&id=TFMaAAAAIBAJ&sjid=eikEAAAAIBAJ&pg=4375,1825326>

http://www.ehow.com/facts_7235391_history-beech-tree.html



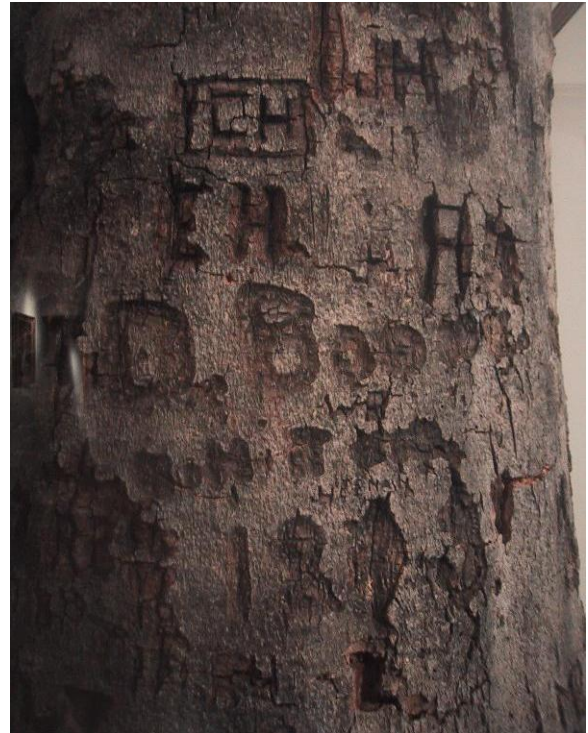
http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/dgkeysearch/detail.cfm?trg=1&strucID=131436&imageID=92315&total=46&num=0&parent_id=131053&word=&s=¬word=&d=&c=&f=&k=0&sScope=&sLevel=&sLabel=&lword=&lfield=&imgs=20&pos=7&snum=&e=w#_seemore

About Daniel Boone:

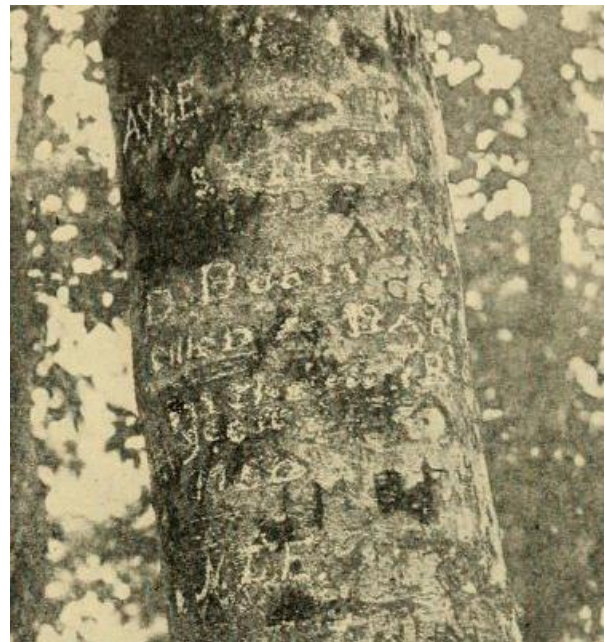
<http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ah-danielboone2.html>

Some stuff about arborglyphs: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=231&t=2206>

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/Places/America/United_States/Kentucky/Letcher/Kona/_Texts/Brief_History.html



http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=635af420-ce47-426e-8298-f5e2c19676aa



[http://www.archive.org/stream/danielboone00thwa#page/56/mode/2up%20%20\(from%201913%20book\)](http://www.archive.org/stream/danielboone00thwa#page/56/mode/2up%20%20(from%201913%20book))
<http://www.archive.org/details/danielboone00thwa>

Edward Frank

Florence Nature Preserve, Gerton, NC

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Feb 06, 2012 11:35 am

This is a new preserve near Chimney Rock and Rumbling Bald, bought by the Nature Conservancy.

I read about old growth and since it's in a gorge along the escarpment, I expected some fine trees.

The only old growth I saw were old hemlocks, which had already succumbed to the adelgid, and one large white oak. Black birch were ever present and were a canopy tree. It appears they are remnants of high grading of other hardwoods. The largest hemlocks were all dead but smaller, mature hemlocks are still going strong. Some had lost their lower needles but many were green all the way up into the 80-90' canopy. They are mostly along a lush stream. Aside from this stream the land is quite open in the understory.

This area should respond to adelgid treatments if it hasn't already been treated. I'm guessing that someone has treated it. I haven't seen such green hemlocks in the mountains in some time.

hemlock	94.5'	healthy
scarlet oak	95'	
black/scarlet hybrid	97'	I assume this id is correct.
Leaves and bark are between the two		
white ash	98'	
black birch	101'	likely a few feet taller. My
550 has trouble in the crown of	black birch	
white oak	104'	14'2" cbh
red hickory	107.6'	
red oak	108'	
black locust	121'	
tuliptree	123'	
white pine	124.3'	

Rucker 107.9'

I only made it through a third of the preserve but I don't expect the Rucker to climb significantly. I was disappointed with the heights, except for locust and birch. The black birch really asserted themselves.

Brian Beduhn

Re: Florence Nature Preserve, Gerton, NC

by **edfrank** » Fri Feb 10, 2012

<http://www.carolinamountain.org/florence>

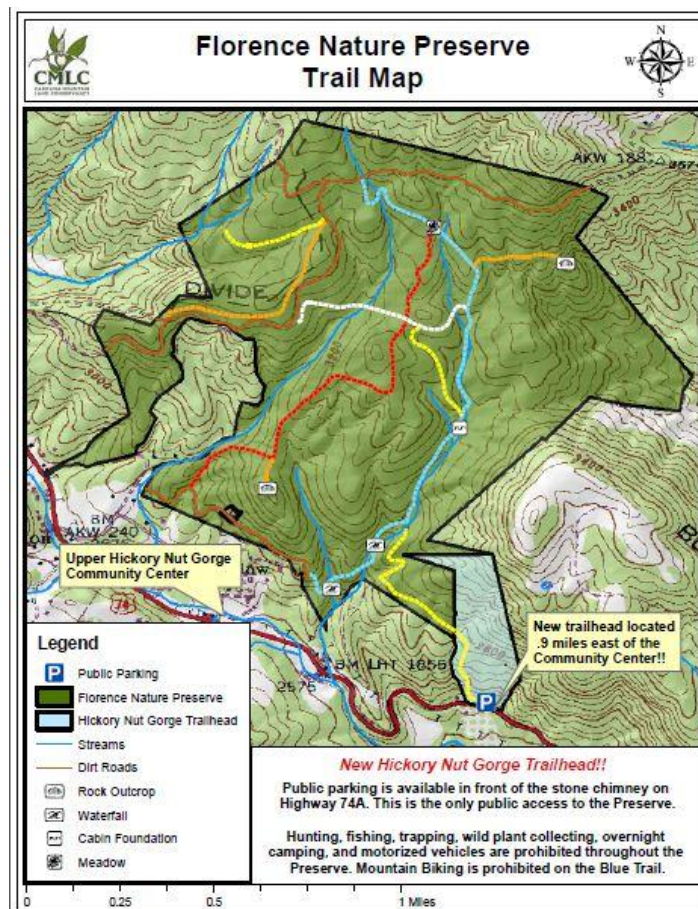
The Florence Nature Preserve, owned by CMLC and located in Gerton, is a special treasure in the upper Hickory Nut Gorge. The 600-acre property was donated to CMLC in two phases (1996 and 2001) by Dr. Tom and Glenna Florence. CMLC leads hikes here twice a year. Visitors are also welcome to visit the property on their own.

For a good history of this project, read this article:

http://www.carolinamountain.org/sites/default/files/projects/florence_article.pdf

For a map of the property showing hiking trails, click here:

<http://www.carolinamountain.org/sites/default/files/files/Land%20Protection/Florence%20Map%20for%20Public%20Use%2020110606.pdf>



**Re: Florence Nature Preserve,
Gerton, NC**

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Feb 13, 2012 11:48 pm



Large hemlock



Green hemlock!



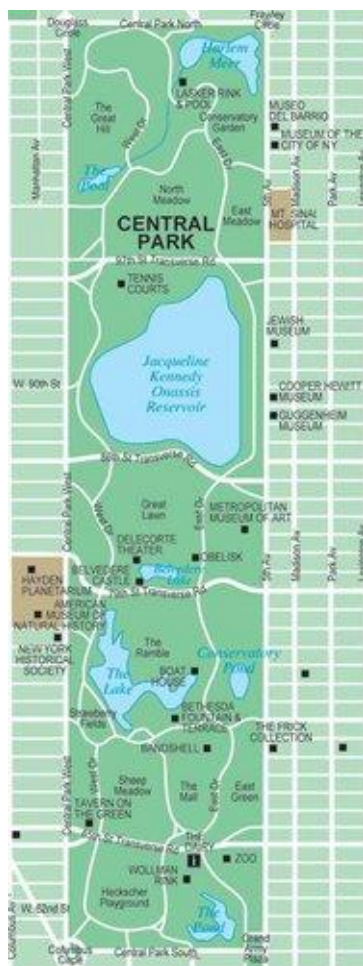
The largest double sourwood I've seen. ~2' diameter each

Goldfinch and Sweetgum

 by **Jenny** » Wed Feb 08, 2012 12:31 pm

I wish the pic was better but my arms were killing me from holding the camera up! But I think we get the point here....the goldfinches were all over a sweet gum in Central Park eating the seeds. Loved it.

This particular area is on the east side of a part of The Lake called the Lobe. There are usually a decent amount of birds here because not many people take the path. I'll try to put a pic of Central Park up. In this pic, The Lobe is directly to the right (east) of the words "Museum of Natural History"



The Ramble and then head to Belvedere Castle and Turtle Pond, I pass by a place not posted, Tanner Springs, and then up to The Reservoir, then on to The Pool, up the Great hill and wrap around the North woods and back down through an area also not mentioned to the right of the Pool called the Ravine (or The Loch). I exit on the street just above the Pool - 103rd where there is a subway. Fascinating????



Jenny Dudley

Only for those interested in my walks: I start at Strawberry Fields, take a quiet path alongside, follow the edge of the left side of The Lake and up and around the Lobe, then I wander in zig zags through