EBLM Testing continues

by **dbhguru** » Wed Feb 08, 2012 7:00 pm

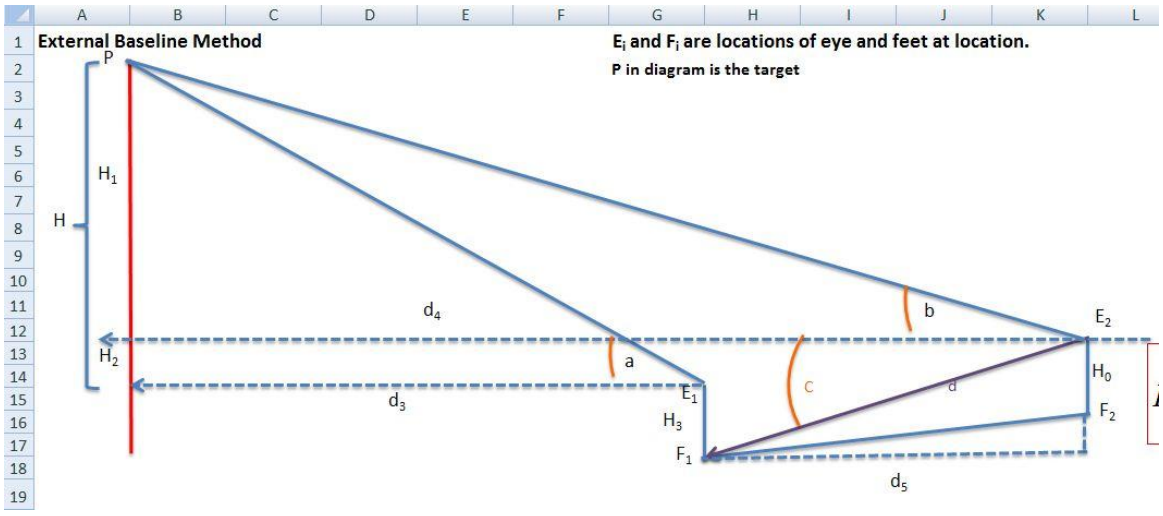
NTS, the attached spreadsheet shows my latest test of the EBLM. Actually, it is a modified version as shown by the diagram. The results continue to show that EBLM has a place in the repertoire. It is not a replacement for sin top-sin bottom, but when you can't get bounces of the target, it can serve us well, and it does not suffer from the regular tangent method. For distant targets, you need to get the most accurate angles possible.

I plan to present this method to LTI as a possibility for a future upgrade to the TP 200 and/or TP 360. The built-in tangent height routine is a blueprint for making measurement errors. But where the top of the crown is too obscured by intervening clutter to successively employ the VD mode, enter EBLM.

For best results, a tripod needs to be used. However, it can be extended or shrank at the baseline ends to allow visibility to the crown point. I show half of the measuring puzzle in the diagram. However, the method applies to points below eye level as well as above. The baseline can be slanted either positively or negatively from E2 to F1. It is a pretty flexible method.

EBLMTesting.xlsm

Robert T. Leverett



Notes:

1. H is the distance to be measured (height of P above E_1 in the diagram)
2. Points E_1, F_1, E_2, F_2, and P lie in the same vertical plane
3. Points F_1 and F_2 are first located and marked. They are positions on the ground. The E_i values are eye positions.
4. With eye at E_2, distance d and angle c to F_1 are measured, along with angle b to P.
5. With eye at E_1, angle a to P is measured.
6. $H_0 = E_2\text{-}F_2$. Centroid of instrument to ground distance. $E_1\text{-}F_1$
7. Height of P above E_1 is determined with the formula below for H.
8. Angles above eye level are positive, and below are negative.
9. For best results $E_2 >= E_1$, but formula applies to $E_2 < E_1$.
10. The formula does not change if c > 0 or P is below eye level.

$$H = \frac{\tan(a)\left[d\cos(c)\left[\tan(b)-\tan(c)\right]-\left|H_3\right|\right]}{\tan(a)-\tan(b)}$$

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Nov 28, 2011 3:41 pm

I did some measuring at Biltmore recently. The Dawn Redwood came out at 115.7'. A white pine I thought was mid 150s came out at 149', surrounded by a 144' and a 141'.

by **bbeduhn** » Fri Feb 10, 2012 1:20 am

Katsura

Japanese Maple

Bigleaf Magnolia 25" leaf

European Beech-Purple Leaf

White oak beer gut

Dawn Redwood 13'1" 115.7' I'll recheck the height as it was measured @ 118.8' in 2004.

Brian Beduhn

Pacific Madrone

by **ESH** » Thu Feb 09, 2012 10:56 pm

Hi there, I'm a new member based in Oregon with a major passion for trees, and am really enjoying wading through some of these older posts to bring myself up to speed on the community & its explorations. Among my favorite species out here--along with the wonderful conifers, of course, as well as Oregon Ash, Black Cottonwood, Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany, etc. etc.--is the Pacific Madrone, and I wondered whether anyone here has accounts of particularly impressive specimens in the Beaver State. I know Arno's *Northwest Trees* lists a champion Madrone in Portland, and I know of a noble & venerable one atop one of the basalt benches over the Willamette River in Oregon City (it seems definitely in its waning years, with a canopy mostly leafless; I want to take some measurements, but I'll have to brave the whipsnake tangles of Poison-oak coiled around the lower trunk). But naturally Southwest Oregon seems to excel in large, old, and otherwise notable Madrones, which are such an important forest tree in the low- to mid-elevations of the Klamaths.

Anyhow, any thoughts? Obviously these trees do not rank highly in the size department compared with the Northwest's true giants, but they're invariably rich in character, and add such exotic flavor to our west-side savannas & woods. Plus, they are apparently relatively long-lived; I certainly like to think my Willamette River tree has stood for several centuries.

Cheers,
Ethan S.

Live Oak about 300 - 400 years old

by **edfrank** » Tue Feb 14, 2012 11:53 pm

Live Oak about 300 - 400 years old

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ib8TiEAuuI&feature=email

These trees once covered Southern Georgia and Northern Florida wer along the NC and SC coast. They were "harvested" in the 1500-1700 to build boats

(The video above was posted in response to the Middleton Oak Video below. I suggested the tree was likely no that old, but a worthwhile subject anyway.)

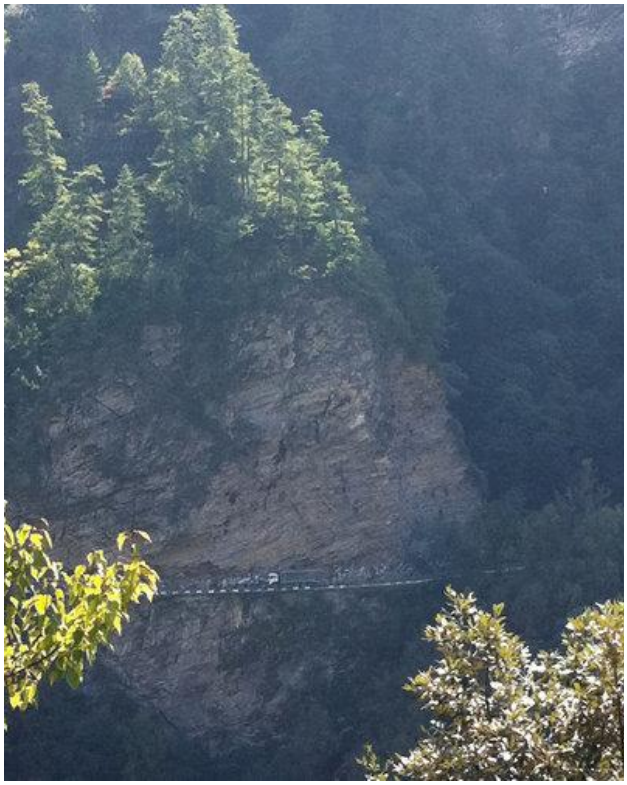
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmWGOnuIHuU&feature=watch_response_rev

Re: Bhutan

by **Neil** » Fri Feb 10, 2012 8:49 am

on to Chhukha!

Hi again. I am picking up my travels through Bhutan with a short stop in the Chhukha area. We were traveling from Thimphu to Gedu to begin a few days of field work in the cool temperate broadleaf forests of southern Bhutan - http://g.co/maps/7mdgd The travel took a long time - several hours. Google underestimates travel time. But, we hit a traffic jam at one pinch point. The road was being re-surfaced in a narrow area and was shut down for about two hours. Luckily, we arrived about 1 hour into the stoppage.



The main road on the opposite side of the valley from the pinch-point traffic jam. Do you see the tractor trailer?

Traffic jam!

We stopped for lunch north of Chhukha and soon after started noticing older looking forest with a rough canopy surface. It was time to get out of the car and see what was shaking in these Bhutanese forests!

Emergent trees and a rough canopy surface.

I needed to stay close my hosts for this portion of the trip. The combination of the diversity of the forest, similarity in leaves and bark, and my general unfamiliarity of the species made the forest look quite homogeneous at first. Differences between the leaves and bark were so subtle. After a few minutes

and having some memories of Sichuan forests come back, I could start to pick out individual species. What was most impressive in this portion of the forest were the large *Castanopsis*. Most of what I saw were *Castanopsis hystrix*.

a large *Castanopsis* with Drs. Purna and Kinley for scale.

I became more fascinated by the *Lithocarpus* because their ring structure is more promising for tree ring purposes. So, during this short visit, I apparently mostly took pictures of these trees.

Lithocarpus leaves

Lithocarpus bark

close up of old-growth forest - gap dynamics!

looking up into a *Lithocarpus* canopy

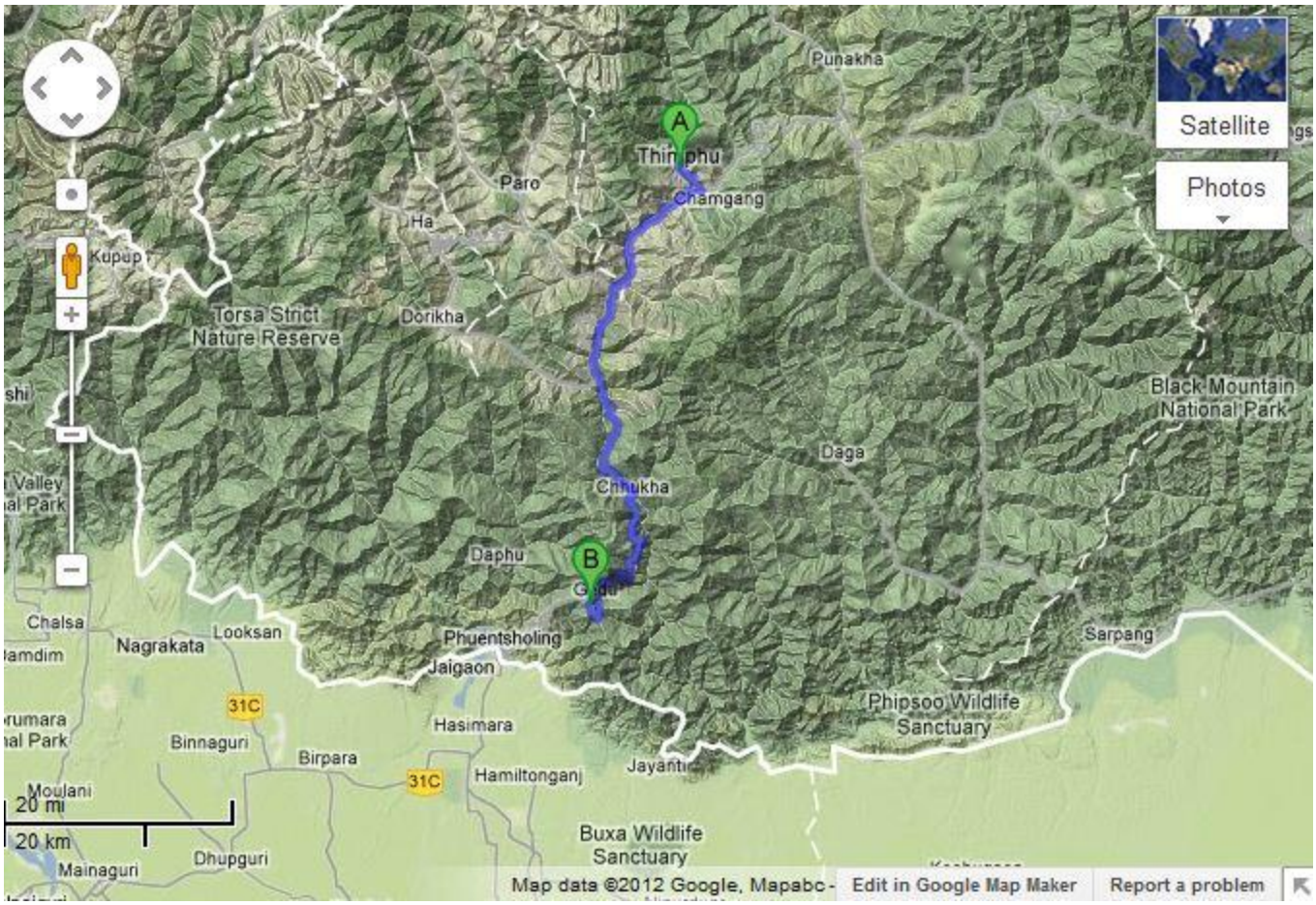
To leave this forest, we exited through the road worker's village. It gave us the first hand reality of the lives of people making the twisty and treacherous roads of Bhutan as it continues to develop.

exiting the road worker's village.

While there was an isolated village across the valley from this forest, the opposing side of the valley was pure, relatively untouched forest. My hosts repeatedly called it old-growth. I repeatedly wished I could simply fly over the valley to explore that forest. It looked to be in a rather unbroken state with all kinds of wildness. This thought was partially supported a few weeks ago when it was announced that a sighting of a giant panda was made in this area http://www.kuenselonline.com/2011/?p=25866 This wasn't the rarest animal whose track I might have crossed. But, that will have to wait for another post. For now, pictures of the unbroken forest with a village carved out of one piece of it.

'Unbroken' Valley Village

the forest above the Valley Village



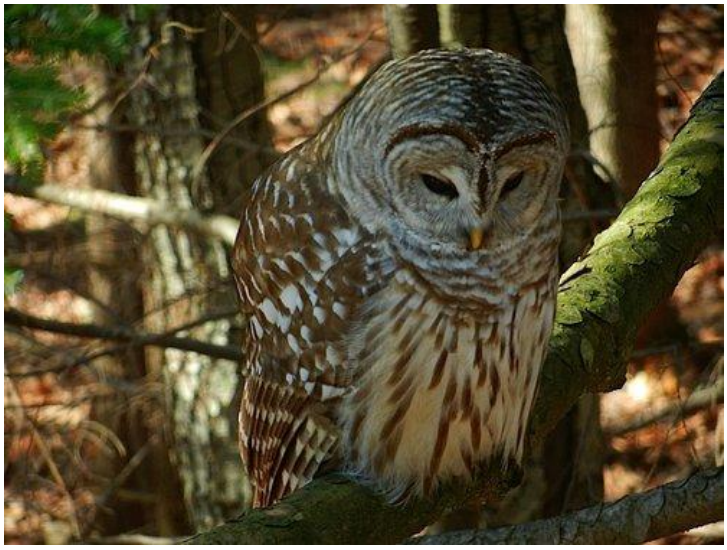
The broad, complex, unbroken old-growth forest across the valley.

Neil Pederson

Re: Owl Art

by **dbhguru** » Fri Feb 10, 2012 3:41 pm

Mr. Feathers returned today. Got some more portrait shots.



Robert T. Leverett

New project in Look Park, MA

by **dbhguru** » Sat Feb 11, 2012 10:02 am

A couple of days ago I was in Northampton's Look Park doing (what else?) some tree measuring. I'm working on a very disciplined protocol for using the TruPulse 360 for several types of tree measurement. I had the TruPulse 360 on a tripod. A short distance away a maintenance worker was loading some logs as part of a continued cleanup post the October snowstorm. In due course the fellow became curious as to what I was seeing through the device on the tripod and wandered over in my direction. I explained who I was and what I was doing. It turns out that the worker was actually the director of grounds maintenance for the Park and also an independent arborist. I had wanted to meet the big boss for a long time to share with him information I had collected on the trees of Look Park, and there I was doing it.

Well, I've taken it a step farther. I'm going to update the big and/or tall tree list for the Park. I began the project yesterday. Over time, this may earn us some good publicity. Anyway, I re-measured a white pine growing near the Park's totem pole

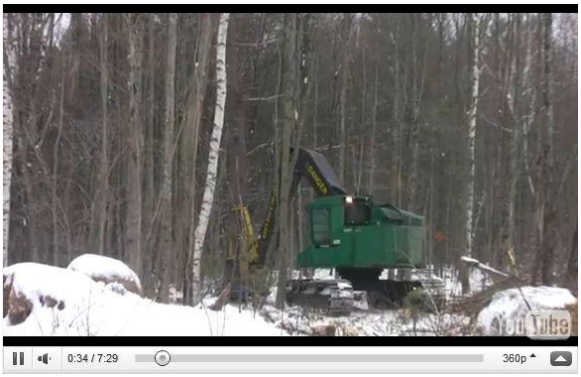
This stately pine measures 137.5 feet in height and is 9.9 feet around. It is on its way to 140 feet, though that event won't happen for 3 or 4 years. Other tall pines in the area make it into the range 125 to 132 feet. The next tallest species in the Park is the sycamore. I have one tree at 119.0 feet with a girth of 12.5 feet. The numbers won't be overpowering for Look Park, but they won't be shabby either. I think the Rucker will be between 105 and 108.

Robert T. Leverett

Video of biomass harvest, Orange, MA

by **Joe** » Sat Feb 11, 2012 11:14 am

Video of biomass harvest in Orange, MA



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDSSBNyIRbE&context=C39b6d5aADOEgsToPDskLPabtNn_ERxSLDlqMZwfHH

I sent that link to a lot of people and got some nice resplies including the following from David Foster, chief honcho at Harvard Forest in Petersham.

Joe,

This is a superb video. Photography is great and high resolution and the information on the equipment, harvesting and objectives are presented very nicely. Commentary is just right – even understated.

With the complete support of the university the Harvard Forest is about to begin construction on a new biomass heating plant and as we start to implement our long-term management plans on about a third of our property (where we expect to get 100% of our biomass) this kind of operation is exactly what we envision. One other aspect of our effort will be to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the carbon and energy dynamics – from harvesting, transportation, and burning to forest ecosystem dynamics.

In the future you can expect to see some complementary movies on our new web page.

http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/

David Foster
Director Harvard Forest
Harvard University

Joe Zorzin

Re: video of biomass harvest

by **Don** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 12:38 am

Re: What do they do with "harvested biomass"?

Joe's post above speaks to a new biomass heating plant, that could utilized 'harvested biomass' for heating of campuses, for that matter businesses, etc.

In the Southwest, specifically in northern Arizona but increasingly elsewhere as we speak, the unnaturally dense, unthinned, fire protected ponderosa pine forests are undergoing similar soft on the land treatments much like Joe's...industries are starting up to utilize the 'harvested biomass'.
The big winners? The public. I lived in Flagstaff from 1996 through 2006, and too many times had wildfires rage through our forests, threatening our community. As a stakeholding member of the Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership, we worked collaboratively with environmental organizations, city/county/state/federal agencies, private inholders, Northern Arizona University and others to gain consensus, perform research for effective treatments, and and congressional support. This resulted in what became nationally as the Flagstaff Plan, and is taking place now, as we speak.

The basic premise is that we needed to return the forest to presettlement fire regimes, where densities and age structures where characterized by large yellow-barked ponderosas, and grassy openings. This condition was established and maintained by frequent, low-intensity fires, usually ignited by lightning (northern Arizona has one of the highest lightning downstrike density counts of anywhere in the US). It was the right hearted but wrong-thinking fire suppression policies that gained wide US

acceptance (read Smokey the Bear campaign) in the early 1900's).

I've rambled when all you asked was a simple question...sorry, I ended up providing you with a context for 'harvested biomass'...

Don Bertolette

Re: What qualifies as an Autopoietic Forest

by **Gary Beluzo** » Wed Feb 08, 2012 11:40 pm

The word "Nature" and "Natural" by definition does not include humans. After doing an exhaustive literature search on "nature" and "natural" I realize that the early philosophers created the word(s) specifically to distinguish what humans do and make ("artificial", "artifact" and "art") from all else ("nature"). However over the last 20-30 years people have used the words "nature" and "natural" to mean very different things in order to lull consumers into buying products with the designation. Therefore I think we need to use a word which is unambiguous when it comes to forests (and other ecosystems). I prefer the word "autopoietic" because although not in widespread use yet, it clearly defines what is meant by "nature" and "natural" without getting caught up in the ambiguity of those overused words. In its most basic sense an Autopoietic Forest is one that is highly adaptive through natural selection, the result of the collective genome interacting with the environment. If a forest is being managed, in any way directed through artificial selection to follow a prescribed trajectory, then it is not autopoietic (ie natural). Whereas an Old Growth forest can arguably be created through silviculture, an Autopoietic Forest by definition cannot. Also, an Autopoietic Forest is an ongoing autogenic process whereas a MAN-aged forest is a product through intent.

Gary Beluzo

Re: What qualifies as an Autopoietic Forest

by **Don** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 1:19 am

Gary- First, I want to thank you for presenting your slide, as heretofore, what an autopoietic forest was, was an enigma to me! Perhaps it still is to an extent... Second, I agree with Joe, you've thrown in some button-pushing, shows-your-bias phrasing in the 3rd and 4th rows under 'Artificial Forest'. But that isn't the thrust of my post.

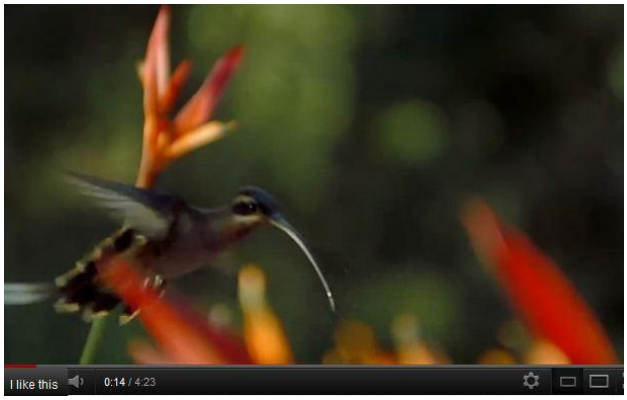
I agree with the rest of the slide, and "I'll see you, and raise you one"! For my 'money', the autopoietic forest is the perfect 'core' in the schema presented in one of the basic tenets of Conservation Biology. The idea of an autopoietic forest as an undisturbed core of a forest community/ecosystem, surrounded by a protective 'buffer' where disturbed forests (natural or unnatural for the most part, for me) become MANaged, for old-growth research, where humans are allowed (we should discuss what level of HUMANity is or isn't natural) permitted though not allowed to trammel (essentially the MANagement a 'wilderness' gets), with as much connectivity between core/buffer areas as can be negotiated, permitting the natural transmission of plant and animal 'energies'. All the remaining areas without sufficient 'resilience' to return an original pre-settlement state, are excellent candidates to see what the timber industry can do when all they get is what they leave themselves. Before it was co-opted, that was called Sustained Yield...
That's my bias showing...: >)-

Don Bertolette

The beauty of pollination

by **edfrank** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 1:36 am

Louis Schwartzberg: The beauty of pollination
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHkq1edcbk4



Uploaded by mdemirst on May 7, 2011

We are all dependent to each other. Taken from TEDTalks

Louie Schwartzberg: The hidden beauty of pollination
http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/louie_schwartzberg_the_hidden_beauty_of_pollination.html

Louie Schwartzberg is an award-winning cinematographer, director and producer who captures breathtaking images that celebrate life -- revealing connections, universal rhythms, patterns and beauty.

Pollination: it's vital to life on Earth, but largely unseen by the human eye. Filmmaker Louie Schwartzberg shows us the intricate world of pollen and pollinators with gorgeous high-speed images from his film "Wings of Life," inspired by the vanishing of one of nature's primary pollinators, the honeybee.

Nature. Beauty. Gratitude

by **edfrank** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 1:51 am

Louie Schwartzberg: Nature. Beauty. Gratitude.
http://www.ted.com/talks/louie_schwartzberg_nature_beauty_gratitude.html

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXDMoiEkyuQ

Nature's beauty can be easily missed -- but not through Louie Schwartzberg's lens. His stunning time-lapse photography, accompanied by powerful words from Benedictine monk Brother David Steindl-Rast, serves as a meditation on being grateful for every day.

Forest Hero Award

by **Chris** » Mon Feb 13, 2012 9:06 pm

were http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/forests-for-people/awards-and-contests/forest-heroes-programme-and-award/.

The thing that caught my eye where the winners from the US, two girl scouts! http://grist.org/sustainable-food/scouts-honor-the-push-for-sustainable-cookies-isnt-over-yet/ Grist has a nice write-up.

Tallest three eastern sites compared

by **Will Blozan** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 4:03 pm

NTS, I know I have other things to do but in the course of entering new data I had some thoughts about Rucker indices and the Tree Dimension Index (TDI) system. These ideas are not new but the numbers below are up-to-date so we have some real numbers to look at. Jess Riddle also proposed looking at the number of record trees per site which I have also done. This is inherently reflected in the TDI scale but just raw numbers tell a clear story.

Most of my work with NTS has coincidentally been in the super-tree sites of Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM- NC&TN), Congaree National Park (CONG-SC), and Savage Gulf State Park (SVGF-TN). Thus, I was interested in looking at the current Rucker 10 and Rucker 5 indices as well as TDI height indices for all three sites.

I know, some will instantly respond with the disparity of the sizes of the parks in question. GRSM is vastly larger than SVGF with CONG similar to SVGF. This is not reflected in the numbers below but there are still vastly smaller areas of GRSM that totally smoke the entire park RI for both CONG and SVGF. This can be explored in more detail later.

Also, the numbers used below are maximum current and historical heights as obtained by laser only. The Boogerman Pine's original tape-drag is not included and some trees in both GRSM and CONG are now dead. These are compared to max known to NTS. A value of 1.00 in the TDI scale means it is the tallest specimen known of the species.

With this in mind here are the current Rucker Index and TDI series for all three parks. There is a comparison of the top 10 and top 5 trees in each park, # height records (HTR) in the top 10 and 5, and concludes with a percentage of the eastern max Rucker 10 index which is 171.45. Taking it out to the R20 would be interesting; GRSM is still 158.9!

Comparison of top three tall eastern tree sites

Comparison of top three tall eastern tree sites

	R10	R5	TDI10	TDI5	HTR 10	HTR 5	Percent of east R10
GRSM	169.42	178.54	0.988	1.00	9	5	98.82%
SVGF	154.88	161.14	0.953	0.953	2	2	90.34%
CONG	151.46	160.36	0.980	0.989	8	4	88.34%

For what it is worth, here is something to chew on. I would think that the TDI10 may be a good way to compare widely different sites in a more equatable way. It eliminates the height variance over latitude and if compared using regional maxima this wouuld further reveal the superlative sites relative to others in completely different geographic regions. Mohawk Trail would likely compare on par with the Smokies.

Is there a way we can scale these ratios into a superlative index?

Will Blozan

Re: Savage Gulf State Park Hemlock Preservation update 2012

by **Will Blozan** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 7:04 pm

Here is my first attempt at a movie...

Savage whirlpool at sink.wmv [3.43 MiB]

Savage Creek disappears!.wmv [9.24 MiB]

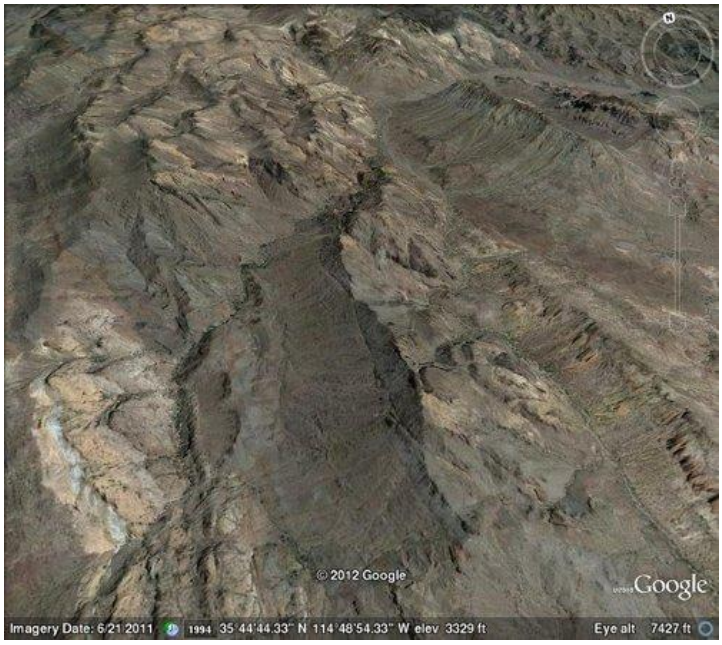
Will Blozan

Eldorado Mountains, NV

by **Chris** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 7:20 pm

I have been meaning to write some posts about the desert SW where I am currently living. Yes there are trees! I have a couple about gallery floodplain Cottonwood - Willow forest half way written.

The Eldorado Mountains are located in extreme southern Nevada, just to the west of the Colorado River, and are welded volanic tuff on older precambiran metamorphic core.The mountains got their name for the 150 year history of gold and silver mining. Slopes are steep have thin gravelly "soils" on bedrock. Canyon bottoms alternate large boulders and sand/gravel wash deposits. The area probably gets <5" of precipitation a year. Surface water is completely absent except after rare heavy rain events, when flash floods cause streams flow in canyon bottoms. I examined three canyons [Oak Creek, Lonesome, Unamed Canyons]. Local relief is nearly 2000 ft.



Google earth view of Lonesome and Oak Creek Canyon. Notice small green areas in canyon bottoms.

Because of the low precipitation, vegetation is mostly Mojave desert shrubs. But, "trees" do occur in canyon bottoms where shade reduces evapo-transpiration and those occasional rain events result in more moisture.

I use quotations around trees, because they are the shorter than the 150 ft guys that we tend to like or focus on in this group. This raise the question where shrub ends and trees start. I found three "tree" species growing. I didn't measure any trees, but just estimated given the tallest probably 25 ft. Also, there is nothing special about this site that isn't replicated in any number of other similar sites.

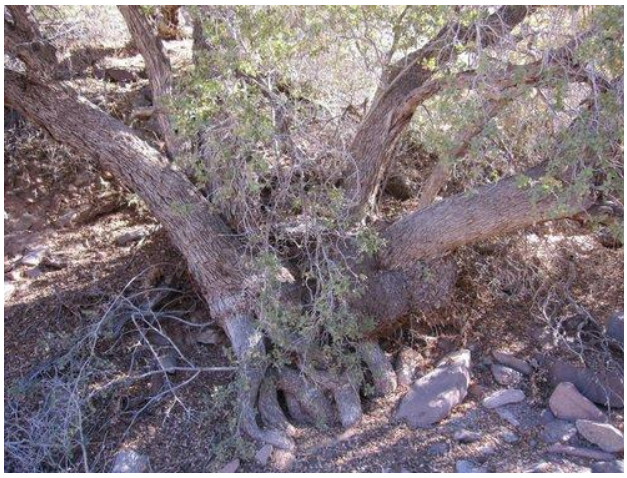
Catclaw Acacia [*Acacia greggii var. greggii*] is generally a shrub or small tree, with branches covered with sharped, curved spines, that can draw blood. Like the more famous mesquite, it can have very deep roots that seek water. It is found in dry stream beds [washes], river floodplains, and rocky slopes. Most I saw were <15 ft tall and multi-stemmed.

Catclaw with large parasitic evergreen Mesquite Mistletoe [Phoradendron californicum]

Desert Willow [*Chilopsis linearis ssp. arcuata*] is generally a shrub or small tree, with narrow, willow like leaves. It is related to Catalpa and also has attractive spring flowers. It is often used as a native landscape plant and for bank stabilization. Most were <15 ft tall and multi-stemmed.

15 ft Desert Willow. Last year's leaves on ground.

The most important tree is Shrub Live Oak [*Quercus turbinella var. turbinella*]. Further to the southeast in Arizona and Mexico it is a major component of oak chaparral, while in Nevada it is restricted to canyons and north facing mountain slopes because of the smaller influence of the summer monsoon. It is evergreen, with bristle tipped leaves. Generally it is a shrub, but can become tree size [in fact American Forests lists the largest some 50 miles west as 51 ft tall]. Most I saw were <15 ft, but a sizable number reached 20-30 ft. Diameters would be tricky to measure, as they are nearly always multi-stem [3-5 seems most common]. Individual steams mostly < 1 ft diameter.

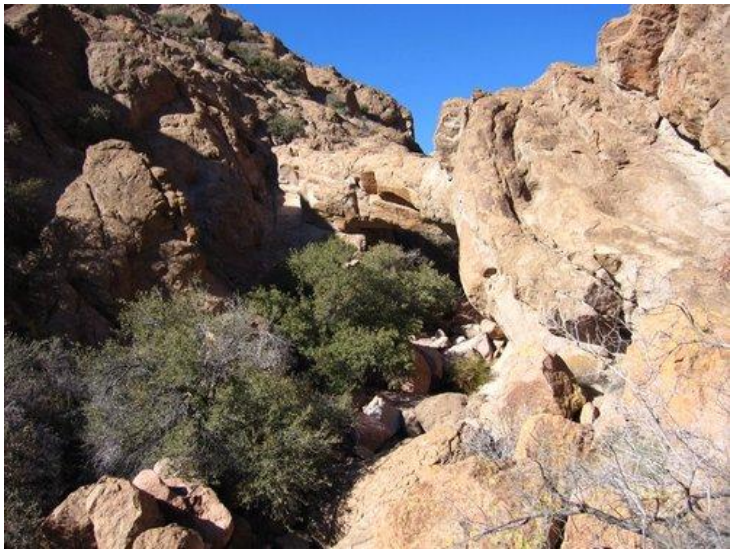


Multi-stem oak... I will start measuring where?

Like the other two species listed, they have long root systems that sprout, forming colonies. Its acorns can be an important wildlife food and provide shade that provide habitat for various other species.

Oak Creek Canyon, with Scrub Live Oak forming dense thicket in canyon bottom

"Big" Shrub Live Oak, ~25 ft tall, 1 ft diameter of largest stem



Shrub Live Oak thicket downstream of natural arch in unnamed canyon. Notice smaller canyon on north facing slope in upper left, Catclaw in lower right

Merrit Forest State Preserve

by **Iowa Big Tree Guy** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 4:30 pm

Last month I took advantage of the unusually warm weather and went to northeast Iowa to look for and measure big trees. Saturday January 8th I met District Forester Bruce Blair and we spent the day in White Pine Hollow, a state preserve in Dubuque County Iowa. I will give a report on what we found there in another post. Sunday I went to Merrit Forest State Preserve, which is another great place to see tall old trees.

Merrit Forest is a twenty acre tract of virgin forest which is located only about three miles from the Mississippi River in Clayton County, Iowa. Clayton County is also where I found the national champion calliber black ash. I had only visited Merrit Forest once before in April of 2011. At that time Bruce Blair and I covered most of merrit but we only had time to measure a couple of trees. We measured what appeared to be the biggest red oak and the biggest bitternut hickory. The red oak had these dimensions, circ. 12'8.5', height 115.6', spread 82.5' for 289 total points. We determined the bitternut had these dimensions, circ. 6'6", height 113', spread 61' for 210 total points. The red oak was impressive and it surpassed the previously tallest known red oak in Iowa by 1.6'. The bitternut though was in a class by its self. There are plenty of open grown trees with larger trunks but this one was 22' taller than anything else I had ever measured in Iowa!

On January 8th, I had enough time to do a more thorough inventory of Merrit. The tree species in Merrit are much like you would find in other forests in this part of the country. There are numerous sugar maples (possibly black maples) red oaks, basswoods and white oaks with lesser numbers of walnuts, red elms and hophornbeam. I'm sure I'm omitting some species since I was concentrating on the tallest trees. One species that I remember being scarce was white ash. I only remember seeing two white ash and both were dead. One of the dead white ash was worth noting. It had blown down but it was mostly intact so I was able to stand by the ends of what would have been the top most twigs and with my range finder shoot to the base. I was getting a reading of 37/38 yards, which coverts to between 112' and 113'. Even if the actual height was somewhat less it would have been a new height record for Iowa.

Here is a list of the trees I was able to measure on January 8th 2012:

Species	Circumference	Height	Spread	Total points
Sugar Maple	11'	94.5'	71'	243.3
Sugar Maple	10'5"	103'	55'	243.5
Basswood	9'8"	101.1'	62'	232.6
white oak	9'9.5"	108'	64.5'	241.6
Bitternut Hickory	6'6"	117'	61'	214
Red Elm	8'2.5"	113'	55.5'	225.4

I measured the height of the tall bitternut hickory again, but from a different side and I was able to get a clean look at the obvious highest twig. I remeasured this tree because I was afraid I had made a mistake. I could hardly believe there was a bitternut hickory in Iowa with a height of 113'. Instead of reducing the height it turned out to be 4' taller! That makes it 26' taller than the former tallest bitternut hickory in Iowa!

If you ever visit Merrit Forest please make sure there is no mud on your boots that could introduce garlic mustard to this pristine site.

Merritt is located on high ground with little protection from storms. It can't even benefit from the protection of surrounding timber since it is bordered by crop land on at least two sides. It does have a shallow valley running through the middle of the preserve which does offer the trees in the interior some protection. Sadly, this twenty acre site is considered the best example of a virgin forest in Iowa. I'm glad we have this place but I wish we had larger tracts of virgin forest here.

Mark Rouw (Iowa Big Tree Guy)

White Pines of Clermont, IA

by **Iowa Big Tree Guy** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 11:57 pm

The white pines at Clermont are planted but impressive none the less. There are actually two seperate groves of exceptional white pines in the vicinity of Clermont, Iowa, located in Fayette County in northeast Iowa. I had known about both groves since 1986 but I only measured trees at one of the sites until fairly recently.

On December 6th 1986, I was out hunting for big trees in eastern Iowa. I was working my way north along the Mississippi River, checking out cemeteries and old towns along the way. It was getting late so I started looking for a motel. It wasn't the best timing on my part because the next day was the opening day of the deer hunting season. Every motel where I stopped to inqure about a room gave me the same answer, we're all filled up. It was cold and I had no place to spend the night!

I continued north along the river and finally decided to park on the street in Bellview, Iowa, to spend the night in my Volkswagon Dasher. At least I did have some blankets and a sleeping bag. The Dasher was a hatch back and with the back seats down there was almost room for me to lie with my feet in one corner and my head at the opposite corner. I'm one of those people who are always cold unless it is above 70 degres F. Even then I would be cold without a heavy sweatshirt. With that in mind you can sympathize with the situation I was facing. After a very long cold night I was sure it must have been morning but it was still dark. When I finally tried to push up the hatch above my head it seemed very heavy. After opening the hatch several inches it became clear why it was so dark and why the hatch was so heavy. It had snowed several inches of heavy wet snow over night. When I was opening the hatch there was a person walking by who was undoubtedly very surprised by what he was seeing.

I left Bellview and continued north looking for big trees. Eventually I found myself in Clermont. As a big tree hunter one of the first places I check is the cemeteries. At the east edge of town I found a wonderful place called Saint Peter's Catholic Cemetery. Some might not consider this a grove of white pines but it is a fairly large cemetery and much of the perimeter is lined by big white pines. These were the biggest white pines I had ever seen and they were covered with a layer of fresh snow. There were so many big white pines I didn't know where to start but I did get what I believed to be the biggest ones measured. My excitement from the beauty and great size of the trees helped to keep my mind off of my very cold fingers.

I measured perhaps five of the pines before it was time to head for home. The largest one had these dimensions:
circ. 11' 5", height 95', spread 55'. I have been been back to update the dimensions of some of the pines a couple of times over the the years and a few of the biggest ones have been lost in storms. Here are the dimensions of three of the largest remaining pines in Saint Peter's Catholic cemetery.

Date	Circumference	Height	Spread	Total Points	Remarks
12-07-1986	11'5"	95'	55'	246	These first two measurements are of the same tree.
4-10-2009	13'3"	118'	60.5'	293	This is an increase of 47 points over 21 growing seasons.
3-25-2011	11'3"	100'	65.5'	251	
3-25-2011	10'4"	105'	51'	242	

The largest white pine in Saint Peter's Cemetery is now the state champion! The second white pine is the 14th largest and the third largest tree ranks as the 29th largest white pine in Iowa.

Now for the second grove of white pines at Clermont. Just one mile northeast of town is a place called Montauk. This area is owned by the State Historical Society of Iowa. On the site is a mansion that the twelfth govenor of Iowa had built in 1874. The mansion is impressive and is the main attraction for

most of the tourists that come to Montauk. For me the attraction is the extensive conifer planting that appears to be as old as the mansion. Most of the trees are white pines, but there are some other species including Norway spruce, and arborvitae. There used to be several rows of large old red pines but they must have died because they are now gone.

The white pines you first notice stand on high ground north of the mansion. They are fairly impressive but because they grow on an exposed site they have contorted tops and they were not able to reach their height potential. I'm sure some are probably over 90' tall but they aren't priority trees.

On a visit May 2nd, 2010, I decided to explore more of the grounds. The pine planting continues to the west and the ground slopes downhill. I wandered through the planting with anticipation because the further downhill I went the taller the pines became. I took some rough measurements of some of the trees and it looked like some were over 110'. I continued to the far west edge of the grove and some trees appeared to be reaching heights in the neighborhood of 120'. From there I headed north along a valley at the west edge of the planting. The trunks weren't too impressive with most of them under 8' in circumference but there were lots of tall pines. At the northwest corner of the planting there was another valley running east and west. I followed the the north edge of the grove uphill to the east. Even though I was gaining elevation the trees here were not only somewhat protected from south winds they also had some protection from southwest winds. I studied every pine that looked tall and then I saw one that stood out from the rest.

At this time I was just learning how to use the ENTS method of measuring tree heights. I came up with a height of 140'! I could hardly believe this height. If this was correct this would be the tallest known tree in Iowa! A short distance uphill to the east was a 134' pine that had suffered a severe lightning strike. This was a painful reminder of what could happen at any time to the tallest tree. I was reluctant to report this find because I was concerned that I may have made a mistake and I didn't wan't to overstate the height.
On March 25th, 2011, I returned to Montauk with more ENTS tree measuring experience under my belt. Because of the sloping ground, combined with a slight difference in the distance away from the tree on the two measurements, I was off slightly on my first attempt. This time I took the variables into account and found the height to be 144.6'! So much for my concerns about overstating the height. Here are the dimensions of the two white pines at Montauk for which I have complete measerments:

Circumference	Height	Spread	Total Points
8'11"	134'	35.5'	250
8'	144.6'	36.5'	250

Mark Rouw
Iowa Big Tree Guy

Re: Daniel Boone Carving on Beech Tree, TN

by **JamesHagy** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 5:27 pm

I found a letter from the 1880s which gives the dimensions of the tree
circumference 7 feet at the butt
circumference 6 feet at the inscription
height of inscription from the butt 6 feet
height of the tree about 50 feet but it looks taller to me in the photos

Would that be consistent with the age of the tree?

I have also discovered another photo of the tree made by G N. Wertz of Abingdon in Draper MS 17C 18. There is only a picture of the picture on the microfilm and it is very difficult to see. I have ordered a copy of the actual picture which will take some time. The one on microfilm is not very clear but the carving looks very indistinct.

Other factors: (1) Boone always spelled his name Boone, not Boon. I have a picture of his signature (2) he made a entry in a record book where he

spelled bear correctly (2) no one knows where he was in 1760 but they date other things based on this tree (4) no one knows what happening to the carving.

James Hagy

Re: Greensboro Watershed and Adjoining Parks

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Feb 13, 2012 10:42 am

I didn't make it to the arboretum but did get to check out a couple of sites in Greensboro over the weekend.

Price Park is a small park on the north side but it has a woodland trail so I figured it might have a nice collection of trees. I was not disappointed. A 1.3 mile loop runs through the woodlands. A small portion has been cut in the last 20 years and there's a power line cut running through it but it is primarily mature forest.

Tuliptree 120.5' 120.6' 122.3' 125.6' 127.3' 127.8' 131.5'
Black oak 107.3' 107.5' 110.0' 115.1'
White oak 101' 101.3' 110.5' 118.9'
Red oak 104.3' 110.5' 117.9'
White ash 108.5'
Sweetgum 113.5'
Pignut hickory 117.9'
mock hickory 97'
Persimmon 82.5'
Beech 98' 114'
Red maple 92'
Hornbeam 31'
Sycamore 103.5' 107.4' 128.6'
Shortleaf pine 92.1' 93.7' 106.5'
Loblolly pine 92' 98.4'
Virginia pine 87.8' 91.0' 95.9'

Rucker 10--117.8'
Rucker 5--124.1'

I also visited Guilford Courthouse Military Historic site. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guilford_C ... itary_Park
This Revolutionary War site figured to have some very old growth trees. Unfortunately, the push for a park began in 1886 and it was established in 1917, during the Great War. There exist some old growth trees but no true old growth forest. The tulips have some age as do the white oaks.

Tuliptree 124.6' 13' cbh
125.5' 13' cbh
126.5' 128.3' 131.4' 132' 132.1'
Sycamore 115.6'
shagbark hick 92'
White ash 96'
sweetgum 98.8'
white oak 107'
redcedar 66.2'
longleaf pine 59.5'
so. magnolia 63.7'
shortleaf pine 94.1'
virginia pine 95' 96' 102.4' 102.5'

No Rucker for this site. I didn't get enough oaks or loblollys. Stands of Virginia pines towered overhead. They dominated a good sized piece of forest. I'll keep an eye on them in the future. Pics should follow tonight.


One of two ~4' diameter tulips

Craggy tulip crown-only 2' diameter but deeply furrowed bark

Interesting bark feature. ID?

the tree is located next to a stream

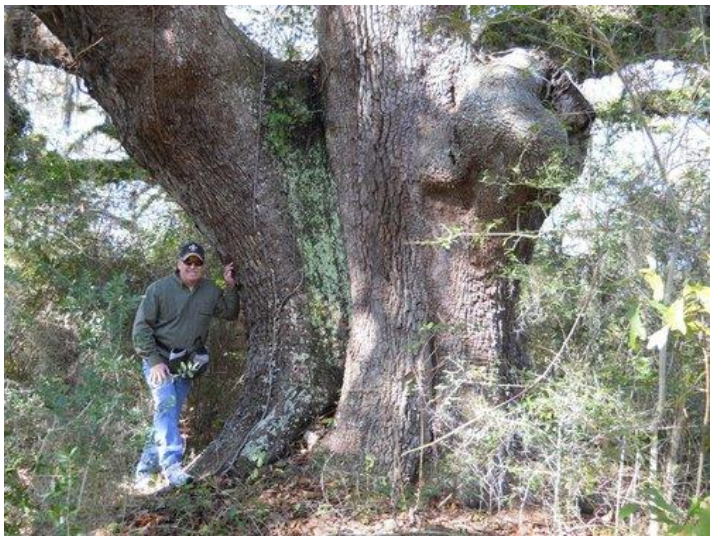
Lacombe Louisiana Live Oaks

by **Larry Tucei** » Mon Feb 13, 2012 10:55 pm

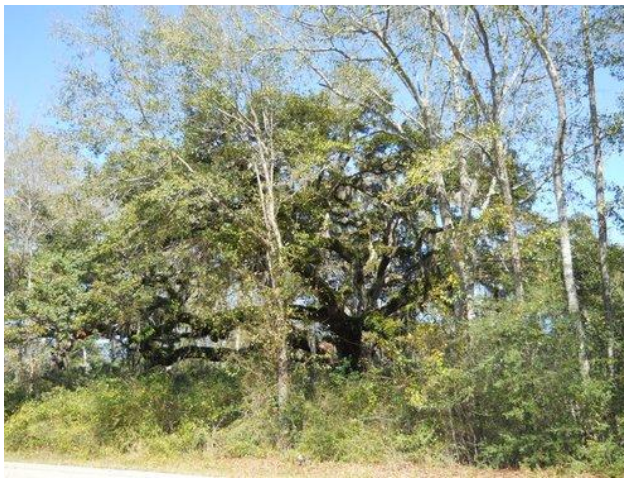
NTS, The small town of Lacombe is located in south central Louisiana in St. Tammany Parrish. I passed through this area last year on my way to Fountainebleau State Park and noticed several big trees growing here. Lacombe has many Live Oaks these are four of the largest. The first tree is located on Davis Ave., called Shady Lady Oak. This tree had some massive limbs and was difficult to measure due to the undergrowth on the property. The measurements were CBH-22' 5", Height-54' and Spread-126' x 123'. The next three Oaks I measured all grow on Main St. two grow in the center of the road and one at a private residence. The first tree you encounter as you drive down Main is the Agnus Dei Oak, CBH-22' 2", Height-57' and Spread- 117' x 102'. This Oak really catches your eye as you enter the road but doesn't have an overpowering dominance. As you continue east you drive alongside the Pax Domini Oak, another beautiful tree. The measurements were CBH-21' 5", Height-66' and Spread-126' 105'. The final tree at the private residence across the road maybe 50 yards to the north of Pax is the Grand Oak. It measured CBH-23' 2", Height-66' and Spread-138' x 114'. It was the most massive of all four trees and had some really huge limbs.All four trees are registered with the Louisiana Live Oak Society- Shady Lady #2572, Agnus Dei #2419, Pax Domini #2420 and Grand Oak #1033. In adding these four trees to the Listing I have now reached 200 trees with only 6 just under 20' CBH. One is 19', one 19' 5", two 19' 6", two 19' 9" all the rest are 20-34'+. The 40' CBH National Champ Seven Sisters is a clump of 7 trunks and should be the multi champ. The double trunk tree E. O. Hunt would be next at 34' 3". The single trunk champ would be the Ms Champion Walkaih Bluff Oak at 33' 1" followed by the Middleton Oak at 32' 8".There are still some 30+ Live Oaks out there I just haven't made it to them yet. This has been a very enjoyable undertaking and I've learned much about the Live Oak since 2006. In the future I could possibly make it to 300 trees over 20+ and maybe 400 at the most. I'll compile a list by State and post on it later. Larry

Copy_of_Copy_of_Live_Oak_Project_20070524.xlsx *Listing*

Live_Oak_Project.xlsx *Listing*

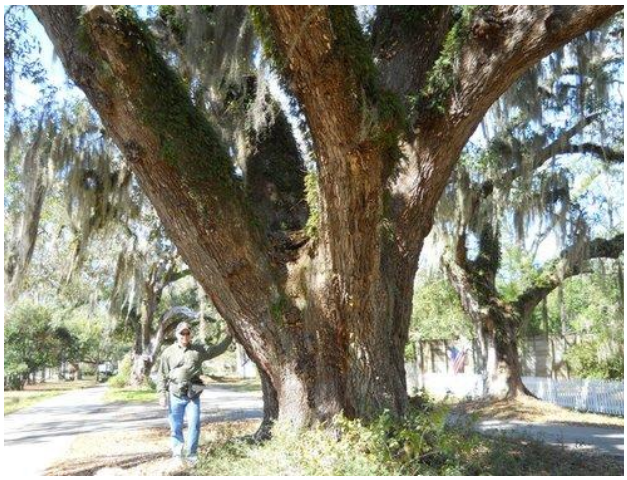


Shady Lady

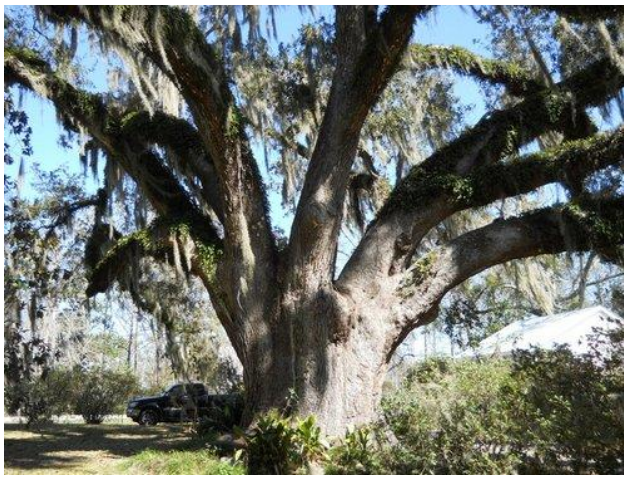


Agnus Dei

Grand Oak



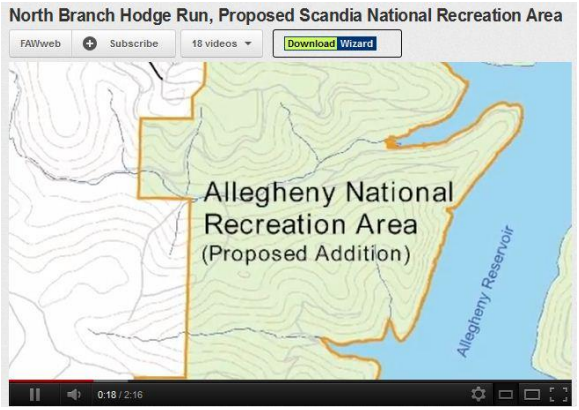
Pax Domini



North Branch Hodge Run, Proposed Scandia National Recreation Area

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Tue Feb 14, 2012 3:17 pm

A brief view of the North Branch Hodge Run within the proposed Scandia National Recreation Area in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Pennsylvania.

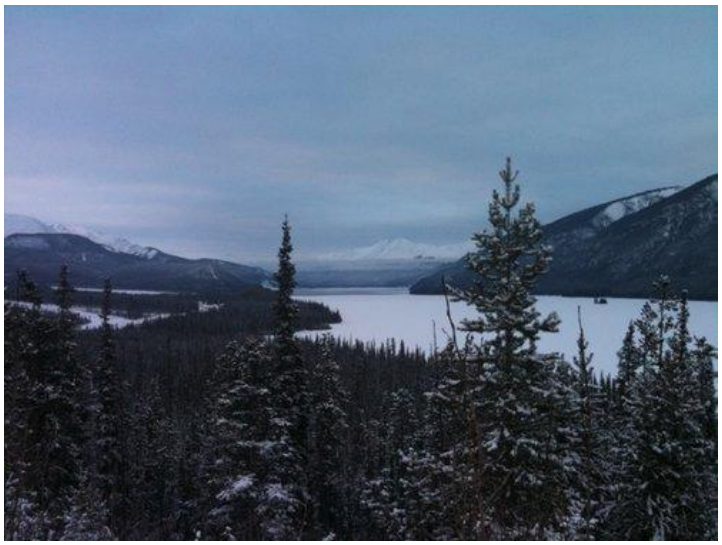


Re: Local Vegetative Degradation of the Canadian Shield

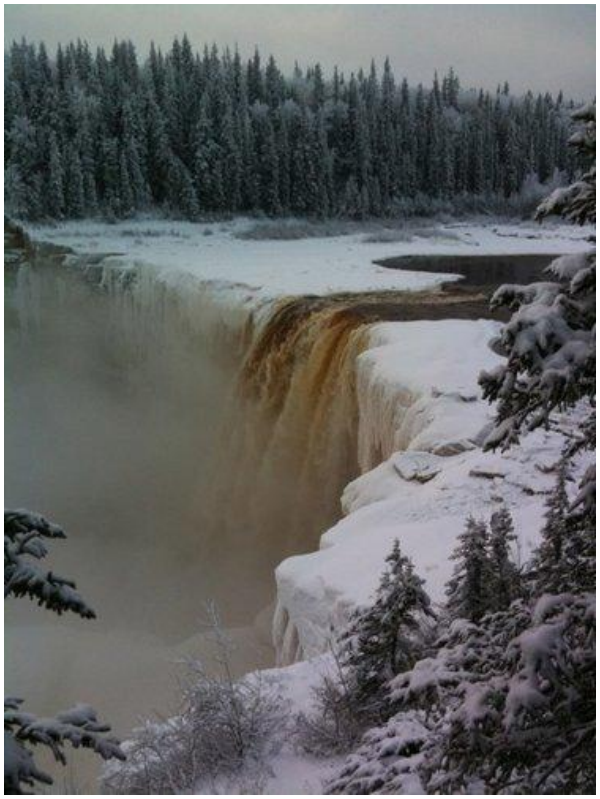
by **Don** » Tue Feb 14, 2012 5:12 am

I have some more Yellowknife to Alaska travel photos easily at hand, that follow. Will put another narration of vegetation degradation ; > } later in the week:

We lived at edge of town, with this edge of lake nearby...

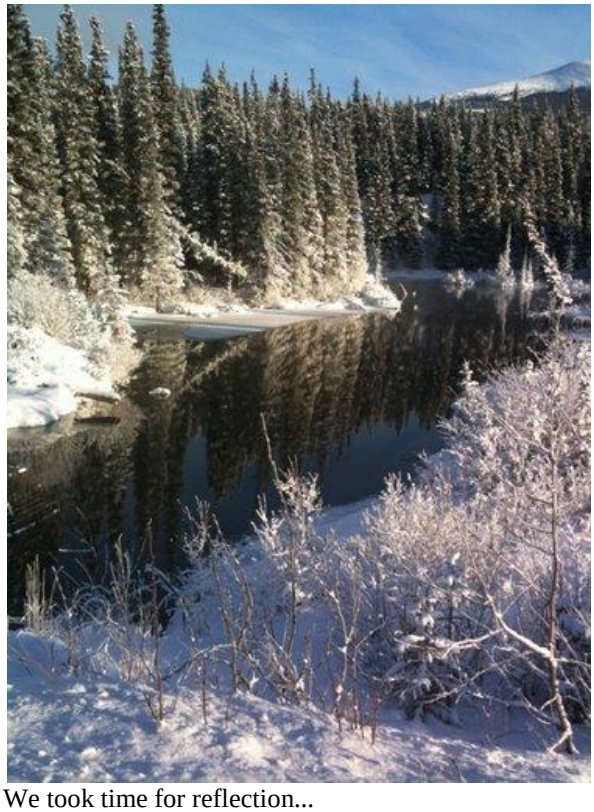


In the middle of Muncho Lake, a British Columbian Provincial Park

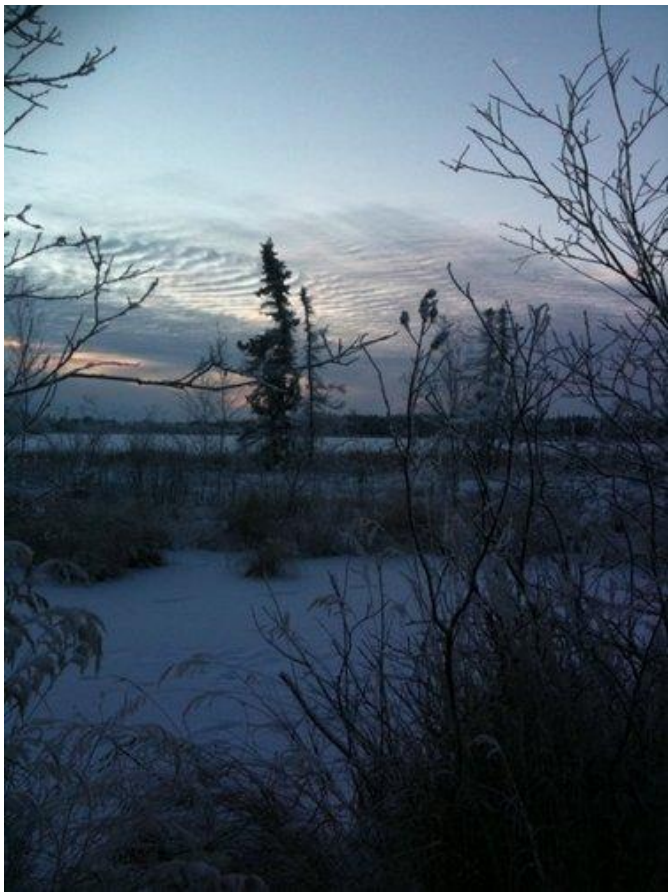


Heading south from Great Slave Lake, one of many waterfalls enroute

A treat for the weary traveler, temps ranging from 88 to 112 degrees Fahrenheit ~ Liard Hot Springs



We took time for reflection...



View of skyline, lake shore, local shoreline vegetation

Tall trees in Chile and Argentina?

by **AndrewJoslin** » Tue Feb 14, 2012 7:22 pm

After looking over some of these site descriptions wondering how well potential tall tree sites in Chile and Argentina have been explored and accurately measured with an eye towards the tallest...

http://www.ancientforests.org/chile.htm

And in particular the species Fitzroya cupressoides, aka Patagonia Cypress or Lahuan (indigenous name), reportedly 60 meter trees in Chile and 70 meters in Argentina.

Photos of Fitzroya cupressoides

Looking at some of the photos they appear to be occupying a niche similar to Giant Sequoia in the Sierra Nevada.

-AJ

Re: Tall trees in Chile and Argentina?

by **fooman** » Tue Feb 14, 2012 8:28 pm

Conifers.org has some info on the Alerce (http://www.conifers.org/cu/Fitzroya.php)

Tallest offcially measured is 57 m, 2.2 m dbh in Los Alerces National Park, Argentina - (Do a google image search for "El Abuelo Alerce"). Supposedly higher trees elsewhere in the park.

Largest known is "Alerce Milenario", 4.26 m dbh in Alerce Costero Natural Monument, Chile (photo of it here: http://rachelsussman.com/portfolios/OLTW/alerce_2.html). It is supposed to be 60 m tall, but that measurement does not appear to be well supported.

I've always thought the 12 m diameter measurement by Darwin was a typo. More likely to be a circumference.

http://www.wondermondo.com/Countries/SA/Chile/LosRios/AlerceCostero.htm has a discussion on the tree, including the Darwin measurement of 12 m diameter, versus his captain's (Fitzroy) of 12 m circumference.

Matt

Re: Tall trees in Chile and Argentina?

by **fooman** » Wed Feb 15, 2012 12:14 am

More information about a Alerce measuring expedition here: http://www.g-eos.org/2010/03/explorers-club-flag-24-alerce-field.html

Of note is quote from Fitzroy's journal:

The largest alerse tree that has been found by any Calbucano during the last forty years measured thirty feet in girth (circ of 9.15 meters), at five feet from the ground; and more than seventy six feet to the first branches. The two largest trees seen by Mr. Douglas, in his excursions for me, measured one twenty four (7.31 meters) and the other twenty-two feet round (6.7meters), at five feet from the from the ground: but these were dead trees, hollow in the centre. He saw none above ten feet in circumference (3 meters), that were quite sound. Report however says, that in the Cordillera, out of the reach of the Calbuco woodsmen, there are enormous trees, from thirty (9 meters) to forty (12.2 meters) in girth"- Robert Fitz-Roy, 1839 (Fitz-Roy R. , 1839)

Matt

New Zealand Rucker Index

by **fooman** » Wed Feb 15, 2012 5:43 pm

Due to some free time recently (recovering from a nasty head cold), and inspired by Michael Taylor's recent update on New Zealand's tallest tree, I thought I would assemble an initial Rucker Index for New Zealand.

Notes:
1. Sources are BVP: Bob van Pelt; SS: Steven Stillett; MWT: Michael Taylor; NZNTT: New Zealand Notable Trees Trust register; Burstall: S.W. (Bob) Burstall, legendary NZ forestry mensuration expert; Dawson & Lucas: Recent textbook on NZ trees.
2. All but those from Dawson & Lucas are actual tree measurements. I had to revert to the general heights from Dawson & Lucas to include some of NZ's taller tree species for which there are no known highest specimens (e.g. the common canopy hardwoods such as tawa and the southern beechs) to get an R10 for the native tree species.
3. BVP/SS/NZNTT measurements are mostly laser based and reasonably contemporary. Burstall's measurements are more traditional (e.g. clinometer) and date from the 1960s to the early 1980s.
Therefore his measurements are likely to be superseeded by more recent measurements, e.g. Michael Taylor's post mentioning that that Sillett and van Pelt measured Douglas Fir in NZ "close to" the height of the tallest mountain ash in NZ (80 m/264ft).
4. The list does not include tree species that were measured to be taller than the more recent measurements, but have known to have broken off or fallen, e.g. a 64 m Eucalyptus globulus that was measured at that height in 1961 but found to be living, but partially fallen against a hill 20 years later.

The Lists:

New Zealand's tallest native tree species:

Native Trees	Height, m	Height, ft	Source
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides	56.4	185.0	BVP at conifers.org
Dacrydium cupressinum	53.7	176.2	BVP at conifers.org
Agathis australis	51.6	169.3	BVP, at NZNTT
Podocarpus totara	51	167.3	BVP at conifers.org
Metrosideros robusta	43.1	141.4	Burstall
Beilschmiedia tawa	35	114.8	Dawson & Lucas
Laurelia novae-zelandiae	35	114.8	Dawson & Lucas
Prumnopitys taxifolia	32.6	107.0	BVP at conifers.org
Nothofagus fusca	30	98.4	Dawson & Lucas
Nothofagus truncata	30	98.4	Dawson & Lucas
R5	51.2	167.8	
R10	41.8	137.3	

Nz's tallest native trees

New Zealand's tallest trees, introduced and native:

All Trees	Height, m	Height, ft	Source
Eucalyptus regans	80.2	263.1	BVP/SS via MWT
Sequoia sempervirens	67	219.8	SS
Pinus radiata	64.2	210.6	Burstall
Pseudotsuga menziesii	57.2	187.7	Burstall
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides	56.4	185.0	BVP at conifers.org
Pinus ponderosa	55.6	182.4	Burstall
Dacrydium cupressinum	53.7	176.2	BVP at conifers.org
Agathis australis	51.6	169.3	BVP, at NZNTT
Araucuria heterophylla	51	167.3	Tauranga CC
Podocarpus totara	51	167.3	BVP at conifers.org
Cupressus macrocarpa	50.9	167.0	BVP at NZNTT
Eucalyptus saligna	50.7	166.3	Burstall
Sequoiadendron giganteum	50.6	166.0	NZNTT
Populus nigra var italica	47.8	156.8	Burstall
Eucalyptus viminalis	46.5	152.6	NZNTT
Cedrus deodara	46	150.9	NZNTT
Abies nordmanniana	45.3	148.6	NZNTT
Pinus canariensis	44	144.4	NZNTT
Metrosideros robusta	43.1	141.4	Burstall
Pinus torreyana var. torreyana	43	141.1	BVP at conifers.org
Populus deltoides subsp. monilifera	42.1	138.1	NZNTT
Beilschmiedia tawa	35	114.8	Dawson & Lucas
Laurelia novae-zelandiae	35	114.8	Dawson & Lucas
Prumnopitys taxifolia	32.6	107.0	BVP at conifers.org
Nothofagus fusca	30	98.4	Dawson & Lucas
Nothofagus truncata	30	98.4	Dawson & Lucas
Knightia excelsa	27.4	89.9	Burstall
Rhopalostylis sapida	26	85.3	Dawson & Lucas
R5	65.0	213.3	
R10	58.8	192.9	
R20	52.8	173.2	

NZ's tallest trees, introduced and native.

I am pretty sure there may be some taller exotic species (from Burstall) that may get into the R20 for all trees, boosting that a bit.

I did try to do everything as a BBCode table, but that option does not seem to work here, so sorry for the small text in the images.

Matt

nz rucker.xls *Spreadsheet including data*

Big Beech-Rendevous State Forest, Wilkes County, NC

by **Ashe County** » Sun Feb 12, 2012 8:22 pm

Has anyone been to the Rendezvous forest? The area near the fire tower is said to be old growth- some good size poplar and chestnut oak I saw there but not of the size of trees found in an old growth cove forest. The ranger also said a hurricane had blown down "most" of the bigger trees. There is a pleasant short walk called the talking trees trail which has a good sized stand.

Anyway I just joined this group and wanted to ask about big beech trees and their locations. There is a ridgeline hike there thru mostly some fairly recently logged areas. About half way across the route is the drainage of Purlear Creek, with a nice cascades about a mile down. And also two whoppers of beech that must have been bypassed during the logging days. One is a marked boundary tree so maybe that's why it was left. I'll try to get a circumference when I go back but they look to be about five feet in diameter. Is that big for a beech in North Carolina?

Re: Big Beech-Rendevous State Forest, Wilkes County

by **Ashe County** » Mon Feb 13, 2012 2:25 pm

The biggest one might only be five feet if I "cheat" a little and measure it from the downhill side at chest height. It grows at the edge of the old logging road where I held my hiking pole up to it to get an estimate. There is a 2-3 footer visible up on the hill across the creek from that location I didn't even mention. Lack of a good straight bole might be why they were not taken. The elevation here is less than 2000 feet and the fire tower is at 2500. Does Annette live near me? I've only been here just over a year. I am from Knoxville originally and spent the last 20 years in Arizona.

Missing my old growth hikes in the Smokies I started looking at the available data (Messick, Davis) to try and find some big woods closer to home. Wilson Creek area has some possibilities, none accessible by trail- it seems the trails around here generally follow old logging routes. Scrambling down steep drainages alone sounds risky so if anyone has any trips planned let me know. What a shame some of the trails, even those constructed by the CCC have been abandoned. The Forest Service will be holding public meetings on a trail plan this year, but none announced near me so far. It appears they are in need of more citizen volunteers. My first ventures in Wilson Creek have shown problems with missing signs and blazes, and even trails marked on their map I couldn't find. I didn't realize that trail maintenance was no longer a national priority. My impression is that the situation is better nearer Asheville due to Carolina Mt. Club and other volunteers. I'll skip the political commentary....

Re: Big Beech-Rendevous State Forest, Wilkes County, NC

by **Ashe County** » Thu Feb 16, 2012 3:17 pm

Yes I read that the Forest Service had excluded 40 acres of old growth from the timber sale off the Globe Road- seems to be a pattern here: propose a sale, see who is against it (in this case the Blowing Rock town council, and Wautauga County) and scale back the project after the Southern Environmental Law Center gets involved. Why not just have a policly of no old growth logging to begin with?

There is a considerably larger old growth patch in the upper elevations of Lost Cove Creek that interests me. Access is probably challenging as seems to be the case with most of what's left. There is a "trail" up Lost Cove thru the second growth (wading the creek a lot apparently) but scrambling down from the Lost Cove Cliffs Overlook off the Blue Ridge Parkway might put one in the heart of the area rather quickly. Getting back out, not so quickly...

I went back and measured the big beeches- only 122 inches in circumference on the larger one, but chest height on the upper side is about 10 feet above the base of the tree on the lower, where it flares considerably...

Re: Big Beech-Rendevous State Forest, Wilkes County

by **Ashe County** » Mon Feb 20, 2012 9:07 pm

Middlebrook Park, Trumbull, CT

by **RyanLeClair** » Mon Feb 20, 2012 6:32 pm

Here are some tulip trees from the Middlebrook School Park in Trumbull, CT. The Park is covers roughly 13.5 acres. Most of it is very hilly. However, there is a floodplain area within as well.

I focused on a cluster of five TT's growing on the floodplain.

1) 10'2" CBH
139.2' tall
(Very majestic, a perfect specimen. Maybe the most voluminous tree in the whole park)

2) 5'1" CBH
143.3' tall
(I call this one the "Pencil Tree." Tiny 1.6 ft DBH. It's probably not quite as tall as I have it--it is difficult to measure because it leans greatly)

3) 9'1"

4) 7'6"

5) 9'2"

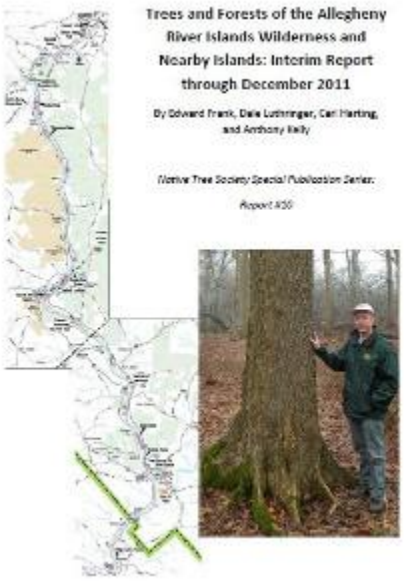
By the end of this week I'll have all of the heights

I know this isn't much, but I'm going to keep measuring more and more trees at this site. The five TT's in the cluster are the tallest trees in the forest--the surrounding canopy is in the 90s and 100s.

Allegheny River Islands: Interim Report through Dec. 2011

by **edfrank** » Thu Feb 16, 2012 11:05 pm

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



http://www.nativetreesociety.org/specialreports/ARIW_Report_Dec2011.pdf 15.8 MB

This report compiles the results as of December 2011 for the ongoing project of documenting forests and trees of the islands of the Allegheny River Island Wilderness and nearby islands in the middle Allegheny River in north central Pennsylvania. The islands included in this report are located in a stretch extending from the Buckaloons Recreation Area, seven miles downstream of Warren, Pennsylvania through Holeman Island, four miles downstream of Tionesta, Pennsylvania. This includes all of the islands in the Allegheny River Islands Wilderness, a number of forest service islands, and several private islands. Major islands investigated among others include, Crull's Island, Thompson's Island, Courson Island, Hemlock Island, King Island, Baker Island, and Holeman Island. At the present time some of the islands have been visited multiple times by groups of people, while others have seen only a quick scouting survey, or have not yet been visited.

The initial explorations were made by Dale Luthringer in 2003 (Luthringer 2003a). Edward Frank, Carl Harting, and Anthony Kelly joined the project in 2007 (Luthringer 2007b). This report includes photographs and general descriptions of each island visited during the field surveys. The tree and woody shrub species found on each island are listed. Tree height profiles, Rucker Height Indices, ad Rucker Girth Indices are presented for each island where sufficient measurement data was able to be collected. Background information on the geological, hydrological, archaeological, and historical settings of the individual islands and the study area in general is also included. Future plans include broadening the investigations to include other islands both upstream and downstream along the length of the Allegheny River and conducting more detailed investigations of the under sampled islands within this area.

An overview of the characteristics of the surrounding upland forest is presented as Appendix I. A preliminary scouting of Hoge Island located downstream on the Allegheny River in Franklin, Pennsylvania is presented as Appendix II. A listing of the individual trips made as part of this investigation is presented as Appendix III.

The document in three parts:

Part A:
http://www.nativetreesociety.org/specialreports/ARIW_Report_Dec2011_01.pdf
Part B:
http://www.nativetreesociety.org/specialreports/ARIW_Report_Dec2011_02.pdf
Part C:
http://www.nativetreesociety.org/specialreports/ARIW_Report_Dec2011_03.pdf

More Pequonnock Trees

by **RyanLeClair** » Fri Feb 17, 2012 6:05 pm

My dad and I just got back from the Pequonnock valley. While we didn't find anything extraordinary, we did manage to locate a few trees with potential.

This time we started from the Parlor Rock entrance. Initially the trees were about 1-2 feet in diameter and not too tall. Then the trees thinned out greatly, as the areas by the river were getting very swampy, too swampy for big trees. The specimens in this area were mostly ash (can't tell which), sycamore, and some oak. We were passing this lowland area when we decided to measure a trails-side tree our family has known about for awhile. It's a turnip-shaped sycamore with a huge, hollow base and a relatively unsubstantial crown. We got a circumference of 15'10"; we measured at the lowest practical point, as the tree is on an extreme slope. The bole is very flattened (the pictures show the widest diameter of the trunk), so using pi to get a diameter results in a distorted figure. 5.0 ft. It measured 117.5 ft in height. This tree was not on the river side of the tree, but rather on the hilly side. We did not find any more notable trees on that side.

The next tree was another sycamore. It measured 11'10" in circumference, for a DBH of 3.8 feet. The height was 123 ft. This specimen was to be found on the west side of the river, the same side on which the 155' tulip was found (although, of course, that was miles down the river).

The last tree we measured was another one on the west side. It was a Liriodendron, and an impressive one at that: 135.7 ft. tall, 3.2 DBH. It might not be a record-breaker, but it might be an omen of good things to come. My dad and I might find some tall ones when we push farther.

It seems clear that the big Pequonnock trees are going to be on the west side. From what we could see the east side was dominated by smallish hemlock (which are very healthy--maybe the HWA hasn't gotten here yet?). The west side went from being super-saturated to hospitable, but the conditions are still not as perfect as those in which the 155' tree grows. The "shelf" along the river was only 20' deep, compared to 100+ ft. The terrain is rockier as well. However, there's a chance that the shelf gets wider farther down the river, and if so, maybe there will be some 140+'s.

And a caveat: I'm really new to the Suunto clinometer (and again, Bart--thank you so much for letting me borrow it!), so these measurements might be a little off. However, I am confident they are pretty close.

--Ryan LeClair

The 135.7' tulip (left leader)

123' sycamore (in background)

123' Sycamore

Closeup of the turnip base

My dad at the base of the turnip sycamore

Lake Champlain Valley and whopper cottonwoods

by **dbhguru** » Tue Feb 14, 2012 8:14 pm

NTS. Monica and I visited my son Rob on Sunday and Monday. He currently lives in Keeseville, NY, but spends lots of time in Plattsburgh. He had been trying to get me to visit for a look at some big cottonwwoods he'd found. First a look at Lake Champlain. It is about 13 miles across that this point.

Champlain is a real lake, and it exerts a major influence on the surrounding vegetation. One species it influences plus the glacial history of the region is the eastern cottonwood. We went to old Plattsburgh AFB and toured what was once a SAC base of great importance. I once had a military connection to Plattsburgh, but on this trip it was about cottonwoods. The first cottonwood we stopped at is a very old one. Let's first take a look.

The tree in the above image measures 18.0 feet in girth and 81.0 feet in height. It appears to date back to at least the period of the War of 1812. I was impressed. We were off to a good start. This cottonwood was the biggest I had measured to date in Champlain Valley.

Then we went to a second cottonwood. Let's take a look at the second tree. I present two images of it.

The second tree is substantially larger than the first. It measures a whopping 22.1 feet around and is 109.0 feet tall. Very impressive tree.

There were other sizable cottonwoods in the vicinity, a number that exceed 12 feet of girth, but none as large as the above two. So, satisfied, we left the area an went to an estate in Plattsburgh to see a third cottonwood. I'll present three images of the tree and then give its statistics. Get ready. It is a monster.

Folks, this is one stupendous cottonwood. Its stats are girth = 26.9 feet, height = 128.5 feet, and average spread = 112 feet. That computes to 479 big tree points. It is truly the OMG Cottonwood. The 479 point total is my personal highest for a tree in the Northeast. And the OMG Cottonwood is in fine shape. I believe it to be one of the greatest trees in the Northeast. I'm going to try to get in contact with the owner of the estate and get permission to spend much more time at the tree. I believe I can nurse the tree's point total up a little. I may not have hit the highest spot, but was certainly close. The approximate coordinates of this great tree are lat 44.70 N, and long 73.45 W.

The listed NY champion cottonwood has the dimensions G=28.9 feet, H = 99 ft, Spread = 92 feet. Total points = 469.

The eastern cottonwood is THE big tree of the Lake Champlain area. There are many large ones around, but none that I've seen like the OMG Tree.

The region is one of my favorites. History, scenery, big trees. Here is another image of Lake Champlain. The Green Mountains of Vermont are in the distance.

We threaded our way back via the Adirondacks. Here is a roadside image - one of many I could have taken. Endless scenery.

This is the 6th cottonwood I've measured over 15 feet in circumference in Champlain Valley, and that isn't even the tip of the iceberg. The cottonwood is at home in the rich soils of the valley and somehow manages to handle the climate, which is anything but gentle.

On our return trip through the Dacks, we stopped and walked a trail that was loaded with white pines. Nothing outstanding. Trees top out at under 120, with a couple of exceptions. Some are fairly old, but most are young second growth. One pine perched on a steep slope caught my eye. Meet Mr. Roots.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Lake Champlain Valley and whopper cottonwoods

by **fooman** » Tue Feb 14, 2012 9:46 pm

Hi All, just as a point of interest, this is the largest (eastern?) cottonwood (Populus deltoides ssp. monilifera) that I know of: http://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/210 . It is an old ornamental growing in the city of Hastings in New Zealand. It is often referred to as the largest deciduous tree in the country (I think there is only 1 (small) native tree species considered deciduous)

Height: 138 ft
dbh: 128 inches - actually diameter at head height (1.9 m/75 inches) to get above some buttressing
circumference: 33.5 ft, spread: 111.5 ft
points: 568

It is nearing the end of it's life, but there are a few similar sized trees scattered around New Zealand. These were all planted in the late 19th century, as ornamentals, all originating as cuttings (or seeds?) from a tree brought in from England in 1852.

Another sibling of this tree was planted in the city of Tauranga in the 1860's. Known, rather erronously as "The Aspen", it was removed early last year (The tree in 1976: http://www.panoramio.com/photo/21383971 and being removed:http://econtent.tauranga.govt.nz/data/parks/images/aspentree_removal_digger_july2011.jpg). It was about the same size, not quite as high as the Hastings tree.

Matt

Re: Lake Champlain Valley and whopper cottonwoods

by **tomhoward** » Wed Feb 15, 2012 8:54 pm

Bob, those Cottonwoods are incredible! That biggest one simply is phenomenal! How old do you think it is?

Plattsburgh has a personal connection for me as my mom was born there in 1915 (she passed away in 2009) and grew up there. I used to go there a lot but it has been many years since I've been there.

The Army planted many Cottonwoods at forts and other military installations in the 19th and early 20th centuries, probably because they are attractive trees and grow fast. The brick buildings at what used to be Plattsburgh AFB (known 100 years ago as Plattsburgh Barracks) look like they were built about 1900. Buildings of similar style were built at Madison Barracks in Sackets Harbor and at Fort Ontario about the same time. The largest tree at Sackets Harbor is a giant Cottonwood in Madison Barracks, 76" dbh, 110 ft. tall, that is possibly about 150 years old. Many Cottonwoods were planted at Fort Ontario where I used to work in Oswego. Robert Henry and I surveyed these trees in June 2010 and measured Cottonwoods in 2 rows south of the fort to 107 ft. tall, 55.5" dbh. Unfortunately, these historic trees have been deemed to be hazardous, and some had been cut down by the last time I was in Oswego in Aug. 2011. Incidentally, all the Cottonwoods in these 2 rows are male. These Cottonwoods were planted from 1884-1915 according to stump ring counts.

Another grouo of even larger Cottonwoods is at Fort Ontario Cemetery. These trees were planted about 1904, when the Cemetery was established in its present site. Despite their immense size, these trees aren't older than that as the site was a quarry before then. The largest of these trees is a Cottonwood 53.9" dbh, and 118 ft. tall. It is an open grown tree and the height was measured repeatedly with Robert Henry's Nikon Forestry 550 Laser Rangefinder - it is obviously taller than the other trees around it. It's amazing how tall some open-grown Cottonwoods can get! This 118 ft. tree is the tallest tree I know of on the entire Lake Ontario shore in both USA and Canada! It is also the tallest tree I know of in Oswego County.

It's also incredible that there are such huge Cottonwoods in New Zealand.

The largest Cottonwood (and largest Eastern tree) is a tree on a farm near Marcellus in Onondaga County.

This tree was featured in the Syracuse Post-Standard Apr. 25, 1997. It was (hopefully it's still standing) open-grown, with a trunk over 7 ft. dbh, with a vast spread - it looked like a whole grove of trees. The woman who owned the site said that the tree was there when the house was built in the 1800s.

When I was a child here in North Syracuse, there were some huge Carolina Poplars in the village. They were huge, even faster growing than most Cottonwoods, less than 50 years old, but with trunks up to 5 ft. dbh, and over 120 ft. tall! There used to be a large wooded area behind my house, mostly young 2nd growth, but the wooded area also included the old growth North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove, which then (as now - the oaks have grown little since then) were up to 110 ft. tall. From a vantage point deep in the woods I could see the Cemetery Oak Grove and beyond that 3 Carolina Poplars that towered above the oaks. Unfortunately, those wonderful poplars were cut down long ago.

Tom Howard

Re: Lake Champlain Valley and whopper cottonwoods

by **dbhguru** » Thu Feb 16, 2012 10:26 am

The Champlain Valley has long been recognized as a kind of refugia for more southerly species, but for the most part the tree species are not exceptional in size - except the cottonwood. There is a lot of documentation to do to do justice to the story of the Champlain Valley cottonwoods. It is very much a story worth telling. However, the country as a whole is scenically compelling. With the Green Mountains of Vermont to the east and the Adirondacks to the west, one is treated to an endless stream of visual feasts. Here is another image of the lake looking eastward across Champlain into the Greens.

Champlain is 125 miles long and up to 14 miles wide. It covers 490 square miles and reaches a depth of 400 feet. Standing on its shores, it presents itself as an impressive body of water.

Robert Leverett

Re: Lake Champlain Valley and whopper cottonwoods

by **dbhguru** » Fri Feb 17, 2012 9:56 am

To classify the cottonwood as a "junk species" is to reveal not only a profound ignorance, and probably indifference, about the role of each species in the ecosystem, but to also tip one's hand about one's true belief system, i.e. if a species isn't economically valuable in the short term, it is junk. Pathetic. The eastern cottonwood has always been one of my favorite species.

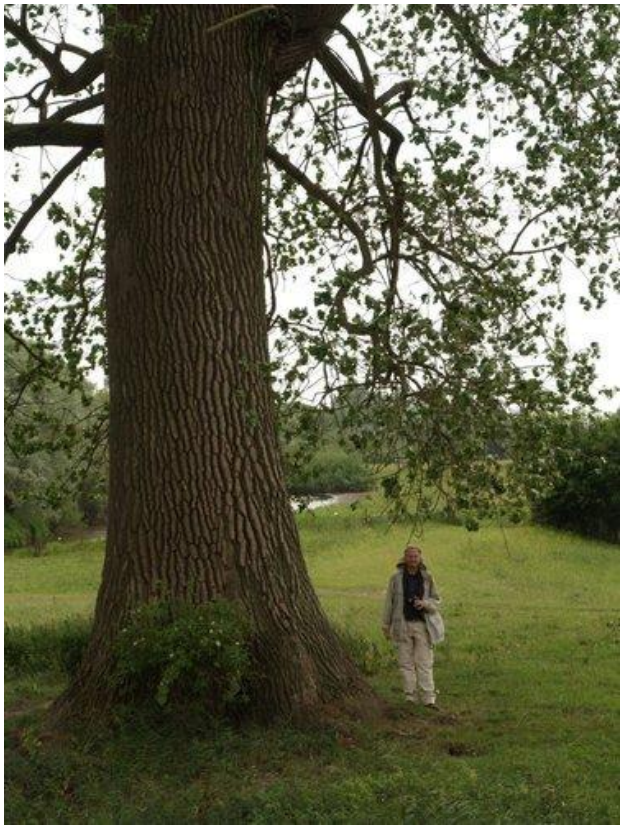
This morning Rob called me all excited. He has found a strip of large, tall cottonwoods where the Saranac River flows into Lake Champlain. He estimates one is close to 17 feet around and equally tall to the giant. There is a story waiting to be told about the cottonwood giants of Champlain Valley. It will have to unfold in separate chapters as Monica and I and others visit the region over the next couple of years. We need a tree measuring Ent who is located in that region. There's a lot of territory to cover and the Vermont side has just as much to offer as the New York side.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Lake Champlain Valley and whopper cottonwoods

by **Jeroen Philippona** » Sat Feb 18, 2012

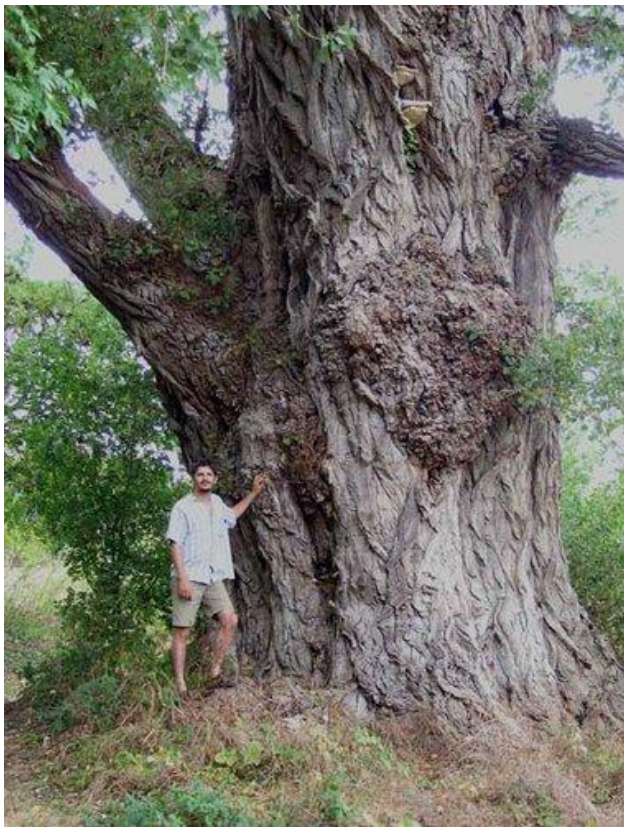
Beautiful and great trees, those cottonwoods! Those specimens seem to be planted. Is Populus deltoides much to be seen as a wild tree or more often planted? In Europe the related wild Populus nigra (we call it black poplar), became rare the last few centuries. Its native habitat are the banks of the larger rivers. While these often were regulated the natural habitat, the riverine forests, was destroyed in many parts of Europe. Also, Populus nigra was not much planted, while replaced by hybrid cottonwoods: P. nigra x P. deltoides, called P. x canadensis. Those hybrids grow faster and straighter, so here also the economic value was decisive.



So in my country the largest Populus trees are hybrids.
Here the biggest P. x canadensis of the Netherlands, cbh 7.78 m - 25.5 ft, height 35.2 m - 115.5 ft. It was probably planted around 1900, so now ± 112 years old.

In other countries there still are really huge old native black poplars, some over 30 feet in girth. In Hungary these still grow in natural habitats along the river Danube.
Here a very large, hollow and probably over 200 year old P.nigra in southern France, cbh 33 ft:

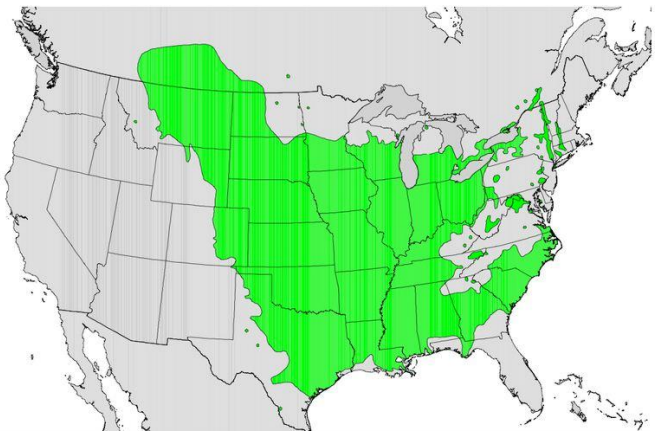
And a second one with cbh 31 ft. I don't know the heights of both trees.



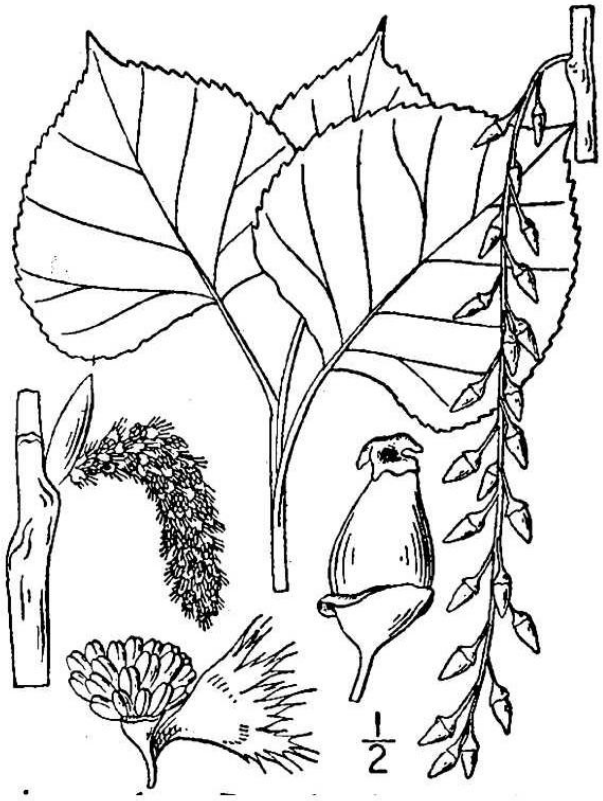
Another one of over 30 ft cbh is reported to be 41 m (134.5 ft) tall, but it was not laser measured and I doubt this was right), see: http://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/fra/m ... ueducanal/

In Poland one of 27 ft cbh (but a double) was laser measured 38,10 m - 125 ft: see http://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/pol/m ... isla/4784/, wich is the tallest laser measured wild P. nigra till now. P. x canadensis laser measured height record is 41.7 m - 136.8 ft, but very few have been measured outside the Netherlands.

Jeroen



Range map of Populus deltoids (Eastern Cottonwood). *Digital representation of "Atlas of United States Trees" by Elbert L. Little, Jr. (1999)* PD-USGOV-INTERIOR-USGS.



Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. 3 vols.* Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 1: 590. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society. Scanned by Omnitek Inc. Usage Requirements.

Road decommissioning in the Allegheny N.F., Pennsylvania

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Tue Feb 14, 2012 3:14 pm

Here's a video showing work the U.S. Forest Service did to decommission a segment of Forest Road 139 in Warren County in the Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania. Culverts and bridges were removed, the road was backfilled, native trees and grasses were planted, and there was placement of coarse woody debris and boulders as well in order to further naturalize it.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jWG7Sr4M8s

Kirk Johnson

Re: New video of Chestnut Ridge, Allegheny N.F.

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Mon Feb 20, 2012 1:42 pm

Here is kind of a cool shot from our hike in North Branch Hodge Run last weekend. Looks like this yellow birch and hemlock tree have "gotten to know each other" over the years:

How to calculate tree age?

by **stsimonsga** » Sat Feb 18, 2012 12:16 pm

Hello All, new here, and just a novice trying to determine the age a Live Oak i have in my backyard. I live in SE Georgia on the coast, and we have lots of large trees. The particular one in my back yard is perhaps one of the largest on this part of the island measuring 235 inches in circumference, or about 6 ft in diameter. A calculation Ii found, puts the tree at around 546 yrs old! Is anyone knowledgeable about the process of determining the age of trees?

Thanks! - Brian

Re: How to calculate tree age?

by **edfrank** » Sat Feb 18, 2012 11:16 pm

Brian, the only way to tell how old a tree is is to count its rings under the microscope, even then there can be false rings or missing rings that throw off the date. You would need a really long, and really VERY VERY expensive tree corer to get a sample of the tree. Live Oak wood is really hard and it is almost guaranteed that the corer would break or become inextricably stuck. Little work has been done with Live Oaks because of that. Most of the age extrapolations based upon trunk size from other trees or partial cores are worse than worthless. A tree of that diameter could be 150 years old or 500 years old. Growth rates vary dramatically throughout the history of a tree, and these variations are site specific depending on the history of tree cover for the site and specific growing conditions. You can't reliably extrapolate from trees that have grown elsewhere, and can't extrapolate based on a partial core from even the same tree. Why these extrapolations are worse than guessing is because these extrapolations give a false sense of legitimacy to estimates that are not any way more reliable than pure guesswork.

Ed Frank

Re: How to calculate tree age?

by **Larry Tucei** » Sun Feb 19, 2012 10:44 am

Brian, I've learned over the years from visiting many places with old Live Oaks, Plantations, old Homesteads, Cemeteries, and Parks etc. that growth rates can vary greatly from .125 "radial to .75" per year, with the average rate at .375" radial per year. I have seen many stumps in the 3-4' dia. range with these growth rates along the Ms coast which has about the same type of soil in your region. Plantations in Louisiana have trees anywhere from 7' dia. -10' dia. and most are in the 150-280 year old range. While these trees have not been cored most were planted at the time the Homes were constructed with a few places that already had trees planted. Most of the estimates on Live Oak growth rates are not correct they are a fast growing tree. However in poor soils they tend to have slower rates and when competing in a Forest setting they would also have slower rates. Soil, moisture, sunlight, location and genetics are a key factor for the tree to reach its maximum rate. One example Oak Alley has 18 Live Oaks in two rows from the Home to the River, the largest tree is 30+ CBH and the smallest is near 18', a big difference. These trees were all planted somewhere around 1720 and at the same time. They are huge and not yet 300 years old. I sent Neil Pederson an NTS member who is a Dendrochronologist in Kentucky a 4'2" Live Oak downed from Hurricane Katrina cut back in 06. He aged the cut to 134 years that example grew less than 200 yards from the Gulf of Mexico in some very sandy soil similar to your location. I hope this helps with your question.

Larry Tucei

Re: How to calculate tree age?

by **Neil** » Sun Feb 19, 2012 12:55 pm

Thanks Larry for the additional info. hi Brian - here is the discussion we had on live oaks a few years ago: http://www.nativetreesociety.org/fieldtrips/mississippi/liveoak_ages/live_oak_ages.htm

they are much faster growing, in general, than one might expect. i suspect their large crowns, equally large root system [if not larger spatially], and evergreen'ness sustains fast growth. i discuss some of that relationship for trees in general here [i think]: http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/~adk/pubs/CharacteristicsOldTreesNAJ_2010pederson.pdf

Neil Pederson

Cabin 5 ain't no dive (MTSF, MA)

by **dbhguru** » Tue Feb 21, 2012 10:36 am

On Sunday and Monday, Monica and I were at MTSF working on the trail guide series we're doing for the Mohawk Trail Park and State Forest. We usually stay at Cabin 6 when we remain overnight, but this time, #6 was taken. So, we opted for Cabin 5, up a steep hill from #6. Cabin Five is small compared to #6, so most people choose #6 or #7. However, it turned out that we actually like #5 better than #6. Five is the most out of the way all all the Mohawk cabins, and has the added advantage for me of looking down into both the Tuscarora and Pocumtuck Pines from a greater elevation. This allows me to take new measurements from a more distant and more commanding perch. The new found capability gave me a view of the Cabin Pine that I had not previously had.

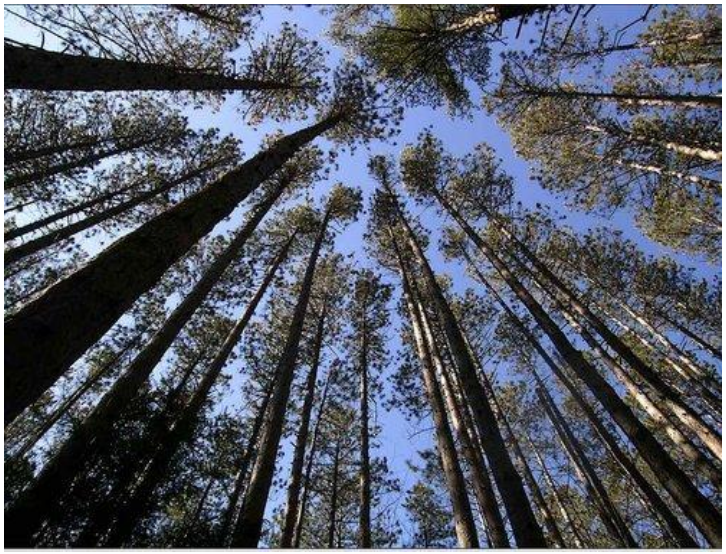
The Cabin Pine has been featured in numerous postings. I had it listed as 158.9 feet based on continuous measurements taken from behind Cabin 6 at a lower elevation. Going up the hill to get a more commanding view is problematic because cabin occupants aren't likely to want a stranger camped in from of their cabin peering off into the canopy. In addition, in summer, there is no view. Way too much intervening clutter. But this time it was different. I found a peephole where the top and bottom of the Cabin Pine were just visible. So set up my tripod with the TruPulse 360 on it. I shot the angles repeatedly with a consistency of 19.8 to the top and -9.8 to the bottom. These were long shots. I then shot the distances repeatedly with the Nikon Prostaff 440. There was consistency in the distances. I found the change-over point to top and bottom. It was a tedious measuring session, but well worth it. I can claim with confidence that the Cabin Pine is 160.0 feet in height, making it #14 within that height class for MTSF. The image below shows Cain #6 from near where I set up my tripod in from of #5.

Monica wanted to see the impact of Irene on the Cold River and the lower campground. We walked down to the campground and while Monica surveyed the damage, I used the opportunity to check on the lone 150-footer in Campground, and also a large 12.2-foot girth, 140-foot tall pine. Well, the 12.2-footer is now 12.3. There is also a large double white pine that measures 14.6 feet around. It is definitely a double, and as a consequence, I failed to give it respect. I measured it 3 years ago and it was almost 149 feet then. Well, not any more. It now measures 150.8 and becomes #119 to reach the 150 foot threshold. Here is a photo of it with Monica in for scale.

When we walk through the upper meadow, Monica always likes to stop and reflect on her old growth white pine growing up on the side of Todd Mountain. Here is a look at Monica's pine.

For the trail guide, we plan to include discussion of planted black locusts in the upper meadow. Here is a view of some.

There is a 1930s CCC plantation of red pines at the north end of the lower meadow. The pines are the subject of frequent photos. It is a handsome stand. They have grown to heights of 100 to 110 feet in one cluster and 110 to 116 feet in a second. An isolated pine is now 121 feet. Because of the slender trunks, narrow crowns, and the regular spacing, the geometry of the stand is widely appealing. Here is a view from within the stand.



So a new 150 and a new 160 (#14) made this trip a success. Several years ago, I took on the responsibility of inventorying the Mohawk pines. It was a self-appointed mission, so I have no right to feel put off if others don't clap for me. However, I am pleased to report that perseverance is paying off. DCR and many others recognize the special nature of Mohawk, not as a convenient camping spot, or for access to the Deerfield River, but for the pines.

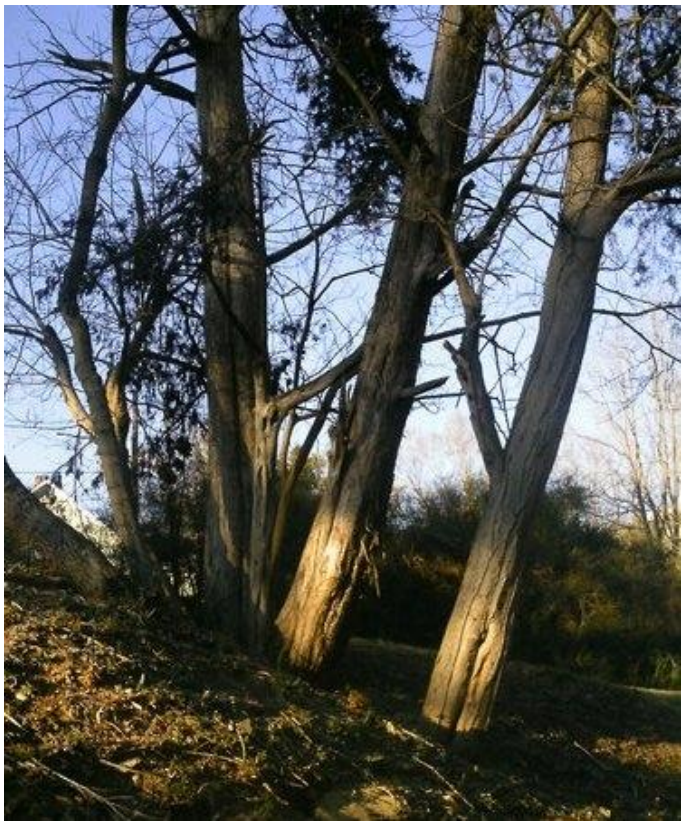
Robert T. Leverett

Main Street Park, Weaverville, NC

by **bbeduhn** » Tue Feb 21, 2012 11:12 am

This is a very small park in the center of town. It's comprised of 5-7 acres with some open grassland. I didn't get a Rucker. Enough species exist but the index would come out in the low 90s. Despite its size, it does hold some surprises. I'd been there several times, admiring a large white oak. I just discovered the second large white oak since the leaves came down. I'd passed near it several times and hadn't noticed its ridiculous number of branches as it is hidden behind undergrowth up on a small incline. The first white oak has a small opening at its base but looks to be sound. The oak of 25 spires looks fantastic from one side but shows a fair amount of rot from the other. It does have a couple of cables securing a several branches. English ivy and a bevy of other invasives surround the tree.

American elm 12' cbh multitrunk



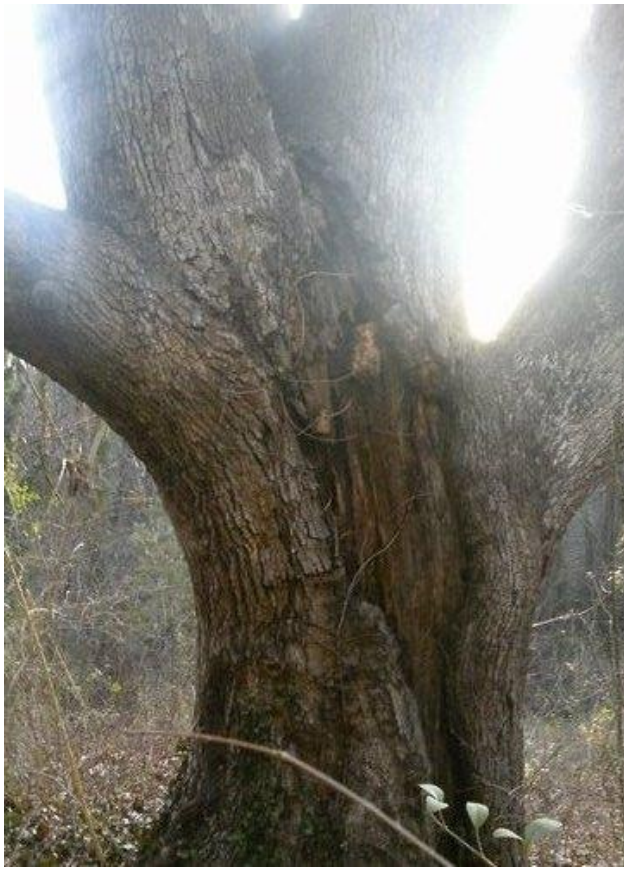
redcedars 57.1'

white oak 13'7"

~14' cbh white oak

25+ 8" diameter branches

white oak 15'8" cbh



white oak 2a

Brian Beduhn

Re: Main Street Park, Weaverville, NC

by **mdavie** » Tue Feb 21, 2012 6:11 pm

I actually worked on both of those trees, and we put the cable in the oak with the old scar. We took out the most dangerous deadwood, but actually left some large dead limbs to keep it natural; we put ropes over any we left and hauled on them to either break loose ends off or make sure they were sturdy enough to leave. Since there was no real trail or traffic beneath, it seemed a better plan than making a bunch of cuts in a big old wolf tree like that.

That's actually a Siberian elm by the parking lot, though. That's a sweet little park, isn't it? They did a ton of invasive plant removal in there, I'm curious if they've kept on it at all...

Michael Davie

Re: Main Street Park, Weaverville, NC

by **bbeduhn** » Wed Feb 22, 2012 10:04 am

I know only a handful of invasives. The oak with cables is surrounded by English ivy and many prickly species. I haven't seen Japanese honeysuckle or multiflora rose. You did fine work on the oak. It does look very natural.

If that's a Siberian elm, then my guess is most of the elms I see around Asheville are also Siberian elms. Six Carolina hemlocks surround the parking lot and are in good health. Two hollies are thriving in the middle of the lot. A small pond was put in just below the entrance stairs.

I didn't spend much time on the height of the Medusa oak but roughed it at 85' with a 97' average spread.

Brian Beduhn

Re: Small Sugar Maple rich NJ forest patch

by **greenent22** » Wed Feb 22, 2012 2:24 am

For now, at least, most of the specific little area I've mostly been talking about above actually appears to be safe. There doesn't appear to be any legal way to develop the little patch or the adjacent wood patches either (of course such things have been said before where there are now stumps) other than the 1/4 acre extension between two houses might potentially get chopped down if the house on the tied on property well to ever get torn down and some builder decided to level the woods and expand a new house over there. I suppose they could be logged but it's not been the sort of area where there has ever been any people eager to log their backyards out or for the lake community to suddenly start logging their lands. It's just not that sort of area at all. And there is no legal way to get an access road to place any homes, etc.

Some of the other older patches in the woods across the power lines are already part of wildlife management protected lands (although that ridiculous NJ logging bill, which I hope didn't end up passing, I haven't been able to find anything on it recently, might be a serious threat to it and tons more).

Another chunk is owned by a lake community and not slated for anything.

And that covers most of the older patches I know of.

Another chunk is owned by a hunting/rifle range club, lots of there part is much younger forest but a few bits might be the 100-170 year old range.

Another chunk is owned by a mining company, at times their part had been slated for everything from garbage dump, to 3000 houses, to pumped hydro storage facility, to a natural park, to a biofuel plant, to an incinerator plant, luckily it escaped the 3000 home development by a mistaken survey entry invalidating something or other and a local government who wasn't willing to approve the new application, hopefully the new NJ Highlands rules have it safe at this point (although I'm not sure I quite trust those laws since it seems all you ever read about is exemption this and exemption that). I'm not sure but maybe the red oak/hemlock 250 year old forest is on their part, not quite sure, I need to find out where that section really is. I didn't see anything that looked like that on the few bits of that part of the woods I've been too, but there must be a good 400 acres of that part I've never seen so perhaps it could be in there somewhere.

The 500 acres at the base of the mountain mostly got trashed 10-20 years ago (none of the much older stuff was in that section though, it was probably mostly 50-85 year old forest in that chunk, not bad, but not particularly remarkably old or large, other than part of a swap that they couldn't build in which had a few older trees in it, it was sad to see it go though, since the view from up top is uglier now, although the terrain thankfully hides the destruction a lot better than you'd think and it did seem to kill off the areas barred owls which was sad and the pileated woodpeckers became a bit reduced in number, although the last couple of years they appear to be in larger numbers again). There is one chunk left down there though and there is talk of some new development being squeezed in right to the lower edges and getting near the nicer, older woods, probably not cutting any of them I don't think, but getting close to some, which would be sad and it would just bring the fragmented edges even a little deeper in). The Town is trying to fight it with all their power, but I fear the new sewer capacity exemption law just passed and pushed by Gov. Christie may now make it impossible to defeat. Some say that law might violate Federal regulations though, so maybe, maybe it will get over turned, especially if GOP doesn't regain control of the WH.)

Anyway for the little bit I was specifically referring to above there is no immediate threat and not much foreseen.

EDIT: although one thing that does have me a little worried is the talk about putting in gigantic mega-height power lines, some fear that they might chop who knows what down cutting in access roads and making staging areas for the new giant poles and wires, it's all very unclear how they will go about

that, and people across the entire region are worried about all sorts of little details about it

And as for the area I referred to here: "Farther along the top, along reservoir, a few miles back, in a rocky, bumpy area there have been vague talks of an old-growth patch, descriptions are not clear at all, at the very least there is a single remnant old-growth red oak, some description imply it might be a small parcel of OG and not just a lone tree. And a couple miles east of there was where I saw a 160 year old log pulled out from." . It's quite strongly preserved, it's all reservoir or county park lands and no threats at all (unless in some distant future there are decisions to sell off all parks for development or something super radical like that).

Really my main point was that I think it (and even more so when you also look at Neil's sample in his post above from NJ highlands) suggests that there may be quite a few patches in the Northeast that have been quickly written off as being only 60-100 year old that may actually be 140-180 years old and that some of the forests/trees thought to be likely only 125-170 years old might actually be more like 180-250 years old and that there may be some ancient 250-350 year old patches mistaken as being only 170-225 years old, etc. I think judging everything by open grown/exceptional site grown trees in the Northeast may lead to an underestimation of the ages for at least a few trees/forests in the region.

Larry Baum

Re: Byron's Oak, Great Britain

by **Ryan LeClair** » Thu Feb 23, 2012 1:52 pm

Jill and Ted's tree-mendous adventure
Byron's Oak – did Byron's poem come true?
http://ancienttree.wordpress.com/2011/09/08/byrons-oak-did-byrons-poem-come-true/

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Kz6a6nb6Vp8

"My days are in the yellow leaf;
The flowers and fruits of love are gone;
The worm, the canker, and the grief,
Are mine alone!"

Byron was an ENT at heart.

Re: Byron's Oak, Great Britain

Title: To an Oak at Newstead
Author: Lord Byron [More Titles by Byron]
http://www.readbookonline.net/readOnLine/3424/

There is no heading to the original MS., but on the blank leaf at the end of the poem is written,

"To an oak in the garden of Newstead Abbey, planted by the author in the 9th year of [his] age; this tree at his last visit was in a state of decay, though perhaps not irrecoverable."

On arriving at Newstead, in 1798, Byron, then in his eleventh year, planted an oak, and cherished the fancy, that as the tree flourished so should he. On revisiting the abbey, he found the oak choked up by weeds and almost destroyed;--hence these lines. Shortly after Colonel Wildman took possession, he said to a servant,

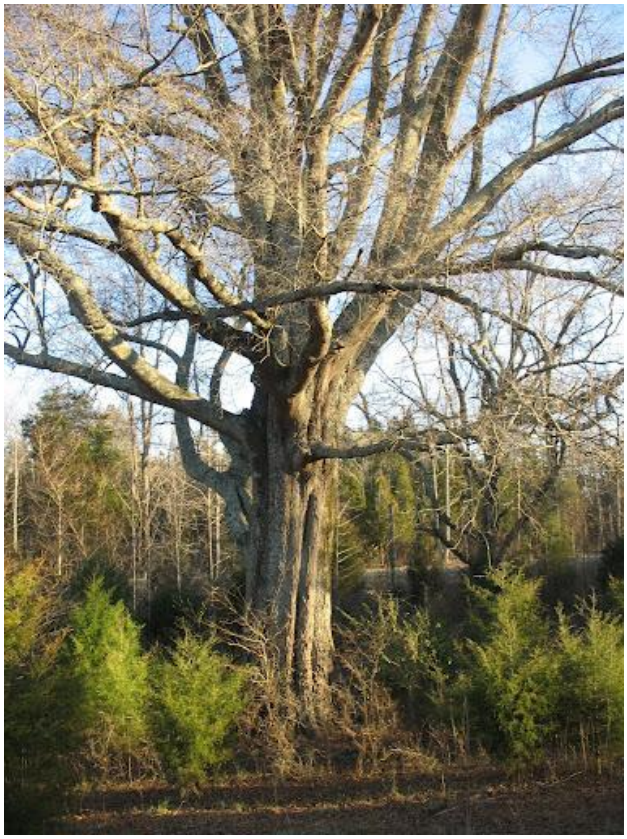
"Here is a fine young oak; but it must be cut down, as it grows in an improper place."

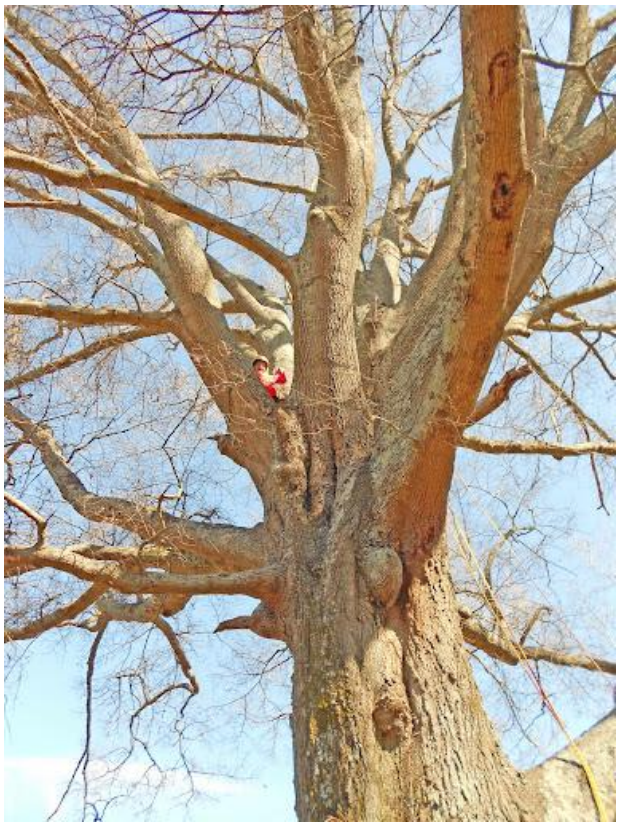
"I hope not, sir, "replied the man, "for it's the one that my lord was so fond of, because he set it himself."

Willow Oaks in Efland, NC

by **pdbrandt** » Wed Feb 22, 2012 12:31 pm

Brian, I love the pictures of the "Medussa Oak". It reminds me of one of my favorite willow oaks in Efland. Here are a few pictures. I have yet to climb up and get a height measurement (I don't have a rangefinder/clinometer), but the average crown spread is 88 feet.





I'll submit a full writeup with more pics once I have the height measurement.

Patrick Brandt