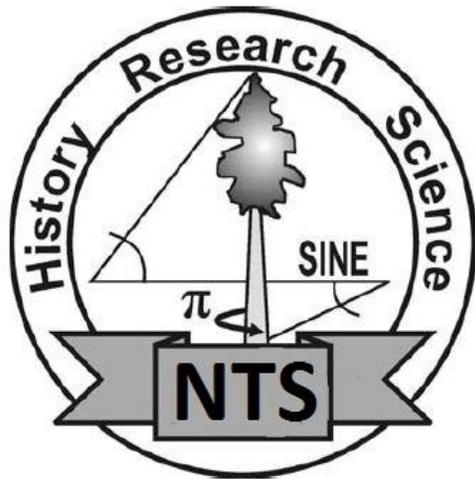


*e*NTS

The Magazine of the
Native Tree Society
Volume 2, Number 7,
July 2012



eNTS: The Magazine of the Native Tree Society

The Native Tree Society and the
Eastern Native Tree Society
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Mission Statement:

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

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COVER: Tall Blue Spruce (153.4 feet), Goulding Creek, CO. Photo by Robert Leverett, 2012.

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

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Guest Editorial - Are We There Yet?

by **Robert Leverett** » Mon Jul 30, 2012 7:53 pm

NTS, Before Monica and I hit the road on Wednesday morning; I want to share my latest take on NTS-ENTS-WNTS. Are we there yet, i.e. are we accomplishing our missions? What are our missions? In a recent email to Ed Frank, I listed 5 missions that I consider to be the heart and soul of NTS. I'll list them again.

(1) We serve as a Internet interest group for all who like forests and trees and who want to socialize on the topic. There are no expectations in the socializing, just participation. This will be a continuing mission of NTS. People can join our group with no fear of having to meet goals or objectives. So, in this mission, I say we are succeeding thanks in no small part to the herculean efforts of Ed Frank.

(2) We collect forest and tree data for scientific usage with no particular groups, individuals, or specific purposes in mind - just data of a type that nobody else reliably collects - at least that we know of. This mission implies such things as databases, collaboration with others. etc. How are we doing? We've made small inroads, but we're not there yet. But in this mission, it will always be niches that we fill. Success will be hard to define.

(3) We develop site descriptions that provide information (usually tree data) that can be found nowhere else and serves to better inform specific groups and individuals and the general public about the sites. We do a lot in this area, and I suppose we can claim victory, but our efforts come in fits and spurts. I wish we were more systematic. Each site description is important. It usually adds information that is available nowhere else. Maybe we can eventually produce an NTS book of sites.

(4) We explore forests and trees in the context of art, music, photography, etc. This connection exists thanks to the likes of Michael Gatonska, Andrew Joslin, Jennifer Dudley, Monica Jakuc Leverett and others. It is an important part of NTS and one I hope

continues to grow. Thanks to those mentioned and others, this is a growth area. We may not be there completely, but we're making a splash.

(5) We develop and put into practice and educate on methods for measuring tree dimensions to an ever higher level of accuracy. This implies adding truth to the numbers where that truth currently doesn't exist. This mission also implies helping other groups struggling to make individual tree measuring a serious endeavor. With respect to this mission, we are there, but oh, there is so much left to do. We have arrived at the front door and stepped inside, but there is no back door, just endless opportunity. We have arrived, but we haven't made anywhere near a large enough splash.

I suppose we could add to the list, but if we go much beyond the above, we're kidding ourselves on what we can actually accomplish. We don't want to become a mile wide and an inch deep.

Other groups could serve the first mission. So for us, its the freebie we offer. Mission two is always going to be limited because what we can supply is niche data and so far there hasn't been much demand for it. We can strive to make it more accessible, but basically the scientific community has to express the need first. Three is a bread and butter mission. There can't be too much of this mission. We need more - much more. Number four is in the hands of the artistic. It is an exciting area with lots of potential outlets. It is NTS at the highest level. Five is a mission that we truly own. We're better at it than any other group of which I am aware. But we've been very scattered in our execution of this mission. Our numbers are everywhere, and consequently, it is hard to make the most hay with this mission until we develop some tools to keep our accomplishments up in front of everyone. I can't emphasize this enough. Suppose we were to dig through all our postings to identify accomplishments of significance. What could we post? We can certainly claim lots of species height records, but could also show growth patterns that provide better understandings of the maximum growth potential of many species.

Here is a little thought exercise. Imagine that we were to go to an author of a tree book, say a field

guide, and ask him/her where a particular species achieves specified dimensions, what is exceptional, what is average, and where, and if he/she provides that information is it from some level of experience or just quoting other sources. What would the author's response likely be? I doubt that we would find many, if any authors, who could provide that kind of information from personal experience or from group participation unless that author was a member of NTS. If we think about it, that has profound implications with respect to public awareness. It robs the public of understanding what is special versus ordinary, and in the ensuing ignorance, what is worth saving.

We in NTS are in a position to play an almost unique role in the restructuring of species dimensional data. For example, what can we expect out of Rocky Mountain Doug Fir in say Wyoming versus Colorado versus New Mexico. What would a lot of data points show. I have an incomplete picture now, but I'll wager dollars to donuts that none of the so-called tree or forest experts can match what I now know from my just admittedly incomplete picture. How can that be? We could discuss the reasons, but it wouldn't change the reality.

I should point out that with respect to mission #5, it is not about maintaining champion tree lists, state or national. We readily see that their methods and data can't fulfill mission #5. But for us, we can pat ourselves on the back on what we know and what we contribute with a caveat. IMHO we still haven't gotten there yet. We have to find ways of presenting what we individually and collectively know so that others will take notice. That achievement still eludes us. Because of the overwhelming amount of bad numbers floating around with a life of their own, we struggle against long odds. So, in summary, relative to mission #5, are we there yet? No, not yet.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Parallax method revisited

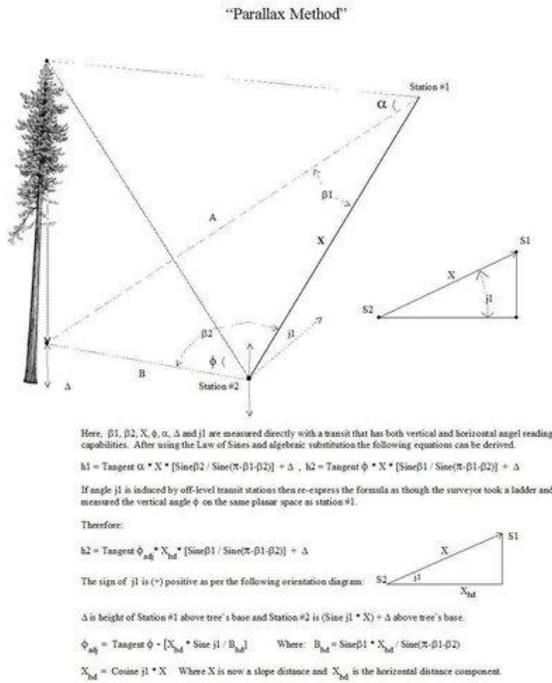
by **M.W.Taylor** » Sun Jul 01, 2012 3:54 am

Bob, That is my older version of the Parallax Formula. It does not work very well for off-level terrain. I have a newer version that works for off-level ground. I did a write-up on this here:

<http://www.landmarktrees.net/parallax%20method.html>

<http://www.landmarktrees.net/newmeasure.html>

New proposed name is Parallax 3D. Ground level changes can throw a wrench into the original formula. I like this method in that both heights must agree. If they do not the surveyor either hit different tops at the two views or took one of the angles or distances incorrectly. The two heights being in agreement is a way of self checking your #'s.



Screen Capture Of Parallax 3D

Michael Taylor

WNTS VP

<http://www.landmarktrees.net>

Re: Parallax method revisited

by **dbhguru** » Sun Jul 01, 2012 1:40 pm

Michael,

Yes, this adjustment for a slanting baseline is critical, and the cross-check for the two determinations is key. Given some time, I plan to go through an analysis of error magnitude on the method for errors of up to +/- 0.5 degrees and distances of +/- 0.5 feet. I use differentials so really large errors aren't appropriate to this form of analysis as I realize you know.

Right now, I'm taking a little vacation from the math and absorbing the sights and sounds of the western expanses. Hope you are doing well and I look forward to more big tree confirmations from you and others out there in California and Oregon.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Goulding Creek, CO

□ by **dbhguru** » Sun Jul 01, 2012 1:49 pm

Robert, Oh, I understand what I should do, but I still imagine myself to be as fully acclimated as I was when I lived in the West and I invariably tackle more than my body is ready for on these limited summer trips. However, Monica and I will be ready for a longer trek next week. Our eventual goal is to climb high on Engineer Mountain - maybe up to a little over 12,000 feet. There are dangerous spots on the last summit pitch that Monica is not up to, but we'll see all we need to see. There are outstanding stands of Englemann spruce up to 11,000 on Engineer, and the views are everywhere magnificent. The San Juans are so vast that once away from the highway corridors, you can be as alone as you want to be.

Yesterday's trip up Goulding Creek reinforced just how many places have significant old growth potential in southwestern Colorado. For all practical purposes, the possibilities are limitless. I'd like to have more time out here to search the more accessible places for exceptional trees and plot their locations on a map. Basically, the Forest Service has little knowledge on where exceptional trees can be found or how exceptional they are based on various criteria that could be proposed, e.g. maximums stratified by elevation, landform, etc. Laura Stransky was their most knowledgeable person on old growth, but Laura has now retired. While she was active, she tried hard to pass her knowledge on to the cadre of management foresters in the San Juan NF and BLM, but sadly, with little luck. On the positive side, WNTS discoveries could eventually open doors if we could keep the information flowing.

Robert T. Leverett

SINE method training for tree climbers

□ by **eliahd24** » Mon Jul 02, 2012 1:19 pm

Hello NTS, FYI- This weekend I was invited by Patty and Peter Jenkins of Tree Climbers International to lead a short workshop on tree measuring with a class of about a dozen tree climbers. I thought this was BBS worthy since they actually came to me thanks to my own reputation (and the reputation of NTS) in the local "tree community" and the validity of the data I have collected and the work I've done with tall trees and champion trees.

The workshop took place Saturday, June 30th, 2012 at Blackburn Park on the northern edge of Atlanta, GA. Over the course of 2 hours I explained how it got into trees, why I (and we) measure trees, what tools to use, and how/when to measure trees. I got a chance to show off and teach the NTS SINE method. The students provided great feedback and they plan to use the knowledge they gained as a jumping off point for further learning and integrating citizen science (research) into their own tree climbing endeavors. As always, I let them know about NTS and heavily persuaded them to become members and post on the BBS.

Thanks again for accepting me into the NTS community and I hope we can add more to our tribe soon. Let's all keep up the good work. Cheers,

Eli Dickerson

Photos from forest reserve near Taman Negara, Malaysia

▣ by Shorea » Tue Jul 03, 2012 12:40 am

Recently, I was on a 2 day volunteer trip to assist the local wildlife department along with a group of other volunteers in the adjacent forest reserves bordering Taman Negara, Malaysia's premier national park which sprawls 434,000 ha. More photos and details on Taman Negara in my blog

<http://www.junglediary.com/taman-negara-sungai-relau/> and <http://www.junglediary.com/bukit-seraya-lookout-point/>

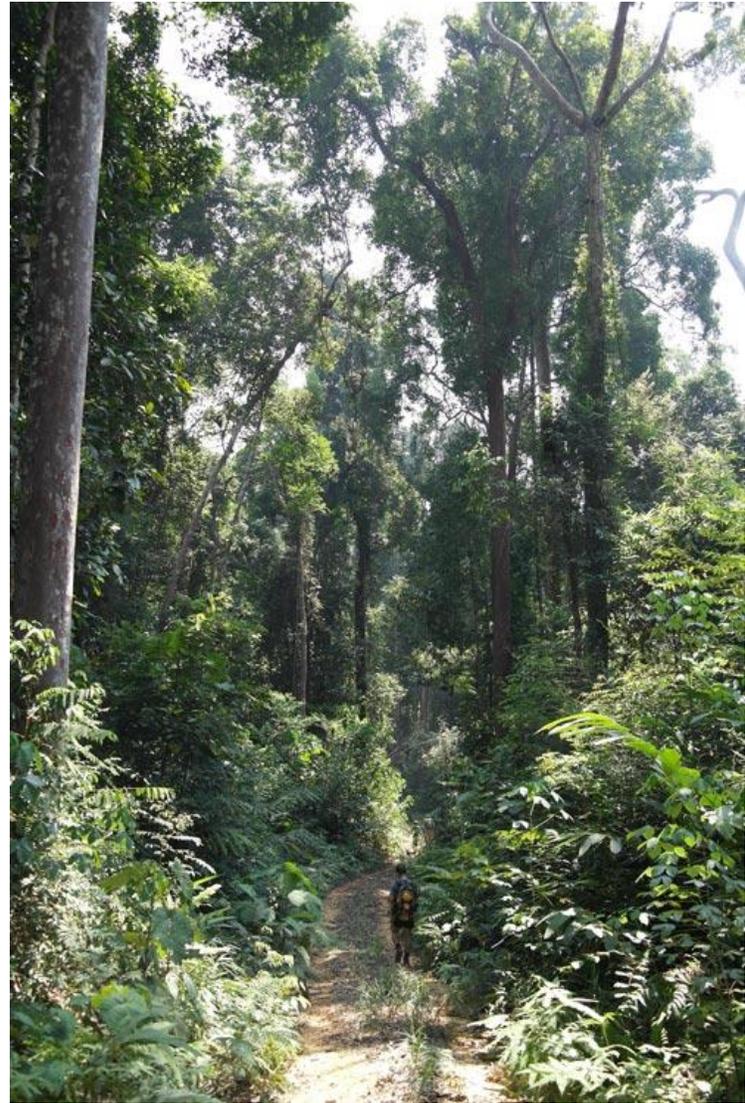
The adjacent forest reserves are still in ok condition and they are currently a designated wildlife corridor, but apparently logged in the past.

Even so, many of the remaining trees are tall and big with many exceeding 40 m in height, and you can only imagine the forest before any logging took place. Of course, I took the opportunity to take some photos, and here are some of them.



I am certain in its unlogged state, the old growth would have trees with diameters exceeding 2 m and heights exceeding 50 m.

Wildlife is still abundant here, and there are many signs of them on the logging track, like footprints and dung. Elephant dung was very common in places and if you're unlucky or lucky, you might come face to face with a herd. I say "unlucky" because elephants can be very dangerous! :)





[Re: Elwha River Dam Removals begins](#)

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Tue Jul 03, 2012 4:54 pm

[Elwha River Restoration](#)

Here's a look at yesterday's controlled blast at the Glines Canyon Dam. The May-June fish window is over, giving contractors the month of July to lower the dam and reservoir levels before the next fish window begins August 1. Thanks to URS Corps for the video footage.

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=413425055377021>

[Jones Creek, La Platas, CO](#)

by **dbhguru** » Tue Jul 03, 2012 3:46 pm

NTS, Yesterday Monica and I braved the heat and went on a hike up Jones Creek in the eastern La Plata Mountains. The trail head is at 7,680 feet and we climbed to only 8,325 before turning around. The threat of a thunder storm and no rain gear with us turned us into chickens. The round trip distance was 3.5 miles, so not a lot, but the trek was worth every step. The trail passes through an old growth ponderosa pine forest with large, very old trees. The pondies don't reach the sizes that they do along Hermosa Creek, but they are large enough to make a visual impact, and oh, so fragrant. Pine heights are commonly 95 to 115 feet along this trail. A few pondies and at least one Doug fir goes over 120. I confirmed two pondies to over 130. I maxed out at 136.5 feet. I didn't really care about tree height or girth though because all the old growth specimens were all drop dead gorgeous. I emailed a few images to Will Blozan, who volunteered to attach them (after reducing their sizes) to this post. So images will follow. Without a full computer to work with, I can't force Monica's iPad via a 3G connection to do what is needed. So, I must improvise. Thanks Will. Just

attach the images and let them speak for themselves.

What has become ever more obvious to me is that the La Platas are real old growth gems and they deserve a lot of attention. Because they don't have in fourteeners, or centennial thirteeners (13,800 or more), the mainstream mountaineering community largely bypasses them. But they do have 6 thirteeners and many peaks over 12,000 feet. If Monica and I lived in Durango, I would concentrate on the La Platas for big trees.

What is so cool about where Monica and I are house sitting is that we're outside Durango on Florida Mesa looking across the Animas River Valley into the La Platas. One peak stands out and I wanted to know its name, but nobody knew. So, I got the topo out and lined it up, and presto, Lewis Mountain popped up. I then identified adjacent summits. Lewis is named for Lt. Col William Lewis who was killed in a battle with the Southern Cheyenne in Kansas. Fort Lewis was established at Pagosa Springs around 1878 to deal with Indian uprisings. The Indians had the audacity to rise up and defend their lands from encroaching white settlements. Imagine? The fort was eventually relocated to the community of Hesperus and eventually deactivated. Fort Lewis College is named in honor of Lt. Col. Lewis.

Monica and I have been thinking about how we can spend more time out here and I can establish more of a WNTS presence to pursue big tree documentation in the San Juans. It is a logistical challenge for us and also a tough tree mission, i.e. a tough sell. I need to do some old fashion marketing type analysis. What groups would be most interested in the kinds of data that WNTS would gather? There are a few in the Forest Service and their support would be highly valuable. There are probably Sierra Club members who would be interested. But one high energy group that I had previously not thought about is the fraternity of authors who write guide books to the natural features of Colorado. They are an energetic and accomplished bunch. It is a safe bet that they aren't going to be out there measuring trees themselves, but would like information on the species to include in their guides. Where are they going to get good data? Well, big tree numbers are what we specialize in, so a natural partnership could develop.

I'd first need to convince them that conventional sources of information just don't hack it - a bit risky, but necessary. Then take some of them out on a demonstration walk. Thereafter, I think the process would speed up. Well, a lot has to happen before that has a chance of being a reality. For now, I plan to just enjoy the western landscape.

Robert T. Leverett

[More Goulding Creek, CO](#)

by **dbhguru** » Wed Jul 04, 2012 8:21 pm

NTS,

Today Monica and I tackled in earnest Goulding Creek in the eastern La Platas. We began at an altitude of 7,900 feet and stopped at a meadow at an elevation of 9,433 feet. The climb was fairly steep, but worth the effort. Old growth ponderosas and Doug firs line the path. The ravine formed by Goulding Creek has some tall Doug firs and Colorado blue spruces. I managed to get a Doug fir to 132 feet. I had no chance of getting to the tree to measure its girth, but I expect it is around 9 feet.



On the trail

As we approached the head of the creek, we came to a stand of Colorado blue spruces. One stood out in particular. While Monica sat under another spruce in the center of the meadow, I went to work. When I included the offset at the base, the number came out to be 153.4 feet. It doesn't surpass the 156-footer on Hermosa Creek, but it is close. I wasn't expecting a height like that. However, I've been saying that the La Platas have endless possibilities. So, to date, I have confirmed three Colorado blues in the La Platas to heights of 150 feet or more. Bob Van Pelt measured a Colorado blue elsewhere in the San Juans to 153 feet if I recall correctly. Blues topping 120 feet are fairly common. Maximum girths tend to be between 9 and 12 feet.



Tall blue spruce on Goulding Creek

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: More Goulding Creek, CO](#)

by **dbhguru** » Thu Jul 05, 2012 3:54 pm

Monica and I plan one more foray up Goulding Creek, hopefully making it to a 10,000-foot summit and through a summer elk range. I'll also carry bear spray next time. We saw plenty of signs and a young couple who went past us turned back because of a mother and cubs. They got spooked. So did the bears.

A mission for yours truly out here is to document the Colorado blues along the various trails - what is common in terms of ages and dimensions and what is exceptional. That mission logically extends to other species, but as of now, I'm tuned into the blues. They are a popular species for landscaping and virtually everyone is acquainted with them.

Back to the trail. I was alerted to the possibility of big trees by Paul Pixler and John Peel in their "Hiking Trails Of Southwestern Colorado". They spoke of big timber and they were right. Between the extremely old Doug firs and ponderosas and the very tall blues, the Guilding Creek trail is moving up the list of fine big tree-tall-tree-old tree hikes. If I had more time, I'd attempt to establish connections with the authors of the mentioned hiking guide plus authors of other popular hiking books. I'm finding that these authors are extremely knowledgeable and strive to be accurate. I believe they would relish a source of reliable tree statistics that could enhance their guides.

It should come as no surprise that these authors have no authoritative source to turn to now for reliable information on where the biggest, tallest, and oldest trees can be seen via the vast network of hiking trails with accompanying statistics. I expect that they believe the local governmental agencies here would have the logical source. So, we'd have to get over that hurdle first.

Producing trail-based tree data is a natural for WNTS, but it can't happen without lots of boots on the ground. With Don Bertolette located in far off Alaska, Michael Taylor in California, and me in Massachusetts, the job is presently out of our reach. Winning converts and real supporters isn't going to happen from these distant perches. There has to be a steady drumbeat and feeding of interest from a local source. Couple these obstacles with the sheer amount of territory to cover, and we're hamstrung without a local Ent on the scene. But what of the agencies that manage the public forests? You'd think that within the Colorado and federal agencies, we could build support. To that goal, I haven't given up totally on the three governmental agencies that absolutely should have some interest in the kind of information we

could supply them. I have made one new contact in the Forest Service relative to old growth, but she, like retired Laura Stransky, is having an uphill battle just doing her job inventorying the old growth. She has her hands full.

Four summers ago, I started what I thought would be a partnership between then ENTS and the government agencies in the Durango area. The creation of WNTS grew out of that effort, but without a local representative literally driven to document the tree treasures of the area and to gain support for their recognition, the effort was doomed to limp along. However, there may be some daylight head.

Michael Taylor informed me that Zane from San Francisco will be going to Colorado State and that could give us a needed boost. Zane's track record is already stellar, and can only get better. He owns an Impulse Laser 200LR. That is the good news. The bad news is that Colorado State is at Fort Collins, CO, which is on the eastern slopes of the Rockies. Fort Collins is a long way from the San Juans, the big tree region of Colorado. I hope Zane has good transportation and can find the time. The heavy action is in southwestern Colorado.

My time here in southwestern Colorado is refocusing me on what ENTS and WNTS must be, beyond an Internet interest group bound loosely by a common interest in trees. In my humble opinion, our highest forest-tree mission is to discover and document special forest sites and individual trees, and to celebrate trees by all appropriate methods, which includes projects such as the one by Michael Gatonska. I think Michael's calling is of the highest order. It is not just about tree measuring or niche science.

When Monica and I leave Durango, we'll wind our way northward to Idaho, and then over into Wyoming. I'll reconnect with the Bighorn Mountains and the Black Hills. Hopefully wildfires won't prevent the reunions. One of my original WNTS objectives was to cover the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: More Goulding Creek, CO](#)

by **dbhguru** » Thu Jul 05, 2012 7:41 pm

Monica and I went through Aguliar last year. So many small places with old structures chronicling earlier times. The sagebrush, juniper, and pinyons surrounding the places fit so well. I love'um. Ghost towns of the West are sometimes lonesome places to visit, but always intriguing.

Monica and I just returned from the Ute Indian Museum at Ignacio. Wow! It is tops. They have a modest casino there and more power to them. They have a strong program of teaching their children the Ute language and Ute culture. I'm always thrilled to support them in whatever ways I can. I highly recommend the museum to anyone passing through southwestern Colorado.

Of the three house-sitting assignments Monica and I have had out here, this is the best. There's a cattle ranch across the road and a short distance father, there is a small prairie dog town. Here, we get up every morning and feed the chickens, fish, cats, and birds. There is always fresh eggs for breakfast. Mule deer wander into the back lot every day. For both of us, this is a dream assignment. And I particularly like the general area around us. The neighbors are spread thinly, and are largely self-sufficient people. There are none of the energy-gulping, heavily landscaped homes around. Kip and Laura really are in the country.

Our first assignment was in a housing development - fairly upscale. The second was in town within walking distance of mainstreet. Both were enjoyable assignments, but this is where we belong. We are in agreement on that point. We live with the sounds of birds and the wind. The view across the Animas River valley is inspiring, and there's always a great sunset.

Our friends in town that we house sat are important on the local scene. Dick White is presently on the City Council and will be mayor in two years. It is a rotating position. So, we have good connections. I expect that we'll return next year to house sit

somewhere. If someone offered us the opportunity to up and move from Massachusetts to Durango, it would be a hard decision for Monica because of her musical career. I'd miss friends back East, and there is the work at MTSF and other important forest properties, but there would be no decision to make. I'm a westerner at heart.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: European beech forests](#)

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Thu Jul 05, 2012 9:44 am

Ten or 20 years ago I could have gone out and taken some photos of a fantastic example of a hemlock-beech old-growth forest at the Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas in the Allegheny National Forest to contribute to this thread, but recently most of the beech trees in that tract have been killed by the beech bark disease:

<http://www.invasive.org/symposium/houston.html>

From the 2007 Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan):

Beech Bark Disease Complex

The introduced BBD complex results in significant beech mortality, with an understory response of increased beech root sprouting, and an increase in the amount of susceptible beech stems in affected areas, potentially leading to a second BBD complex outbreak of more serious impact than the first (Otrofsky and McCormack 1986). In order to retain a component of American beech that is resistant to the BBD complex, efforts will be made to identify and retain beech trees that are immune or resistant to the disease complex as suggested by Burns and Houston (1987) and Mielke et al. (1986). At the same time, beech that are susceptible to the complex will be removed to provide growing space for either resistant beech or other tree species. Following a period of time for beech root sprouts to develop, foliar glyphosate treatments are applied to reduce the abundance of beech sprouts. This creates growing space for diverse tree seedling regeneration, including resistant beech sprouts and seedlings that

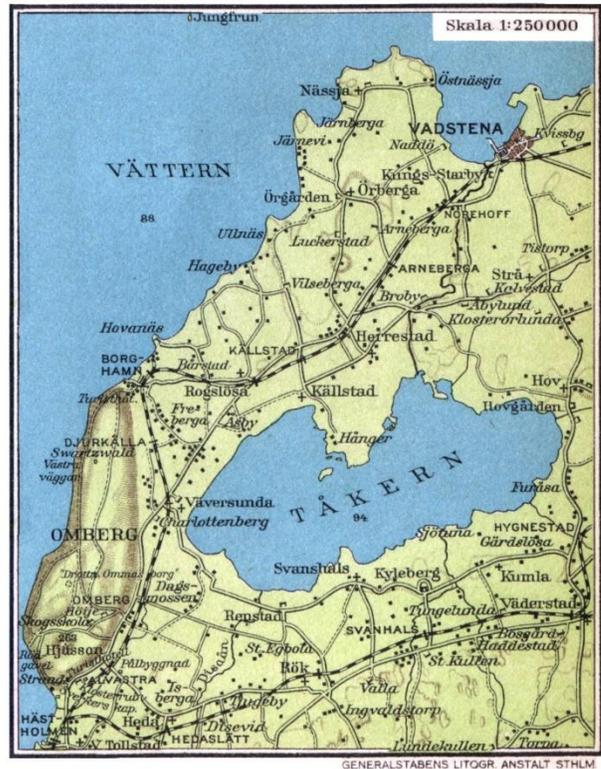
will develop around resistant beech trees retained in harvest treatment areas. These resistant beech seedlings and sprouts can then develop with little competition from stems of susceptible beech trees. Long term studies in New Hampshire have found that management directed toward removing poor beech trees over a period of decades can produce areas where stand level health is significantly improved, the effects of the BBD complex are reduced, and the basal area of beech trees resistant to the disease complex is increased (Leak 2006). ANF foresters will continue to cooperate with researchers from the Northern Research Station to study methods of regenerating a beech component that is resistant to the BBD complex.

Kirk Johnson

Re: European beech forests

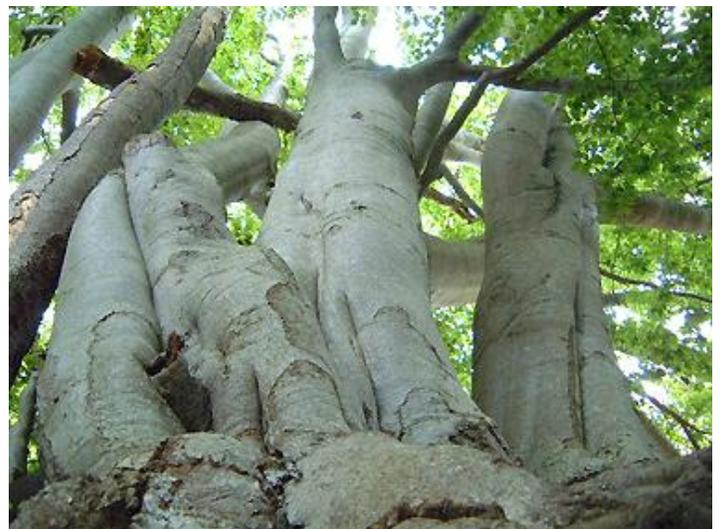
by PAwildernessadvocate » Thu Jul 05, 2012 12:32 pm

I don't think this European site has been mentioned yet: the Omberg forest reserve along the east shore of Lake Vättern in Sweden. It is on my short list of places to see in my lifetime (it's the oblong-shaped tract on the left side of this map):

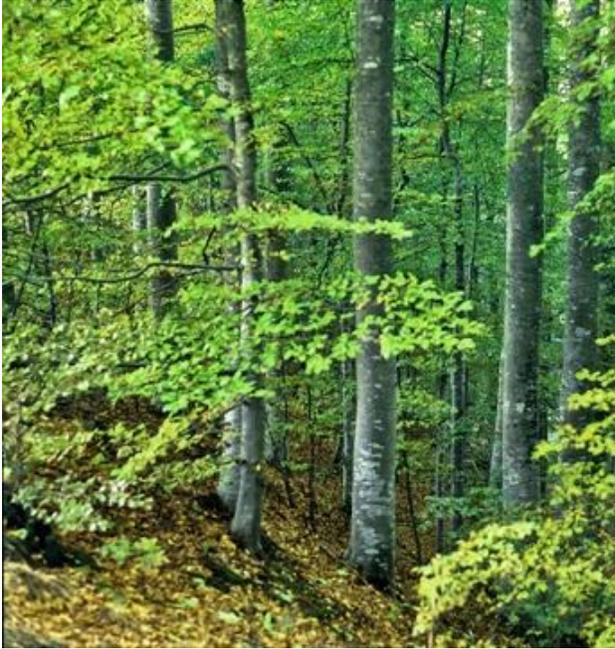


http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/af/Cohrs_Takern_1928.jpg

My understanding is that the Omberg forest is mostly pine and spruce, but that pockets of beech are also present.



<http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/ostergotlan...index.aspx>



[http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/ostergotlan ...
mberg.aspx](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/ostergotlan...mberg.aspx)



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgtGDh6al-k>



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

Omberg forest understory scenes begin at about the 1:00 mark in this video:

[Re: SINE method training for tree climbers](#)

by **edfrank** » Mon Jul 02, 2012 10:27 pm

Eli, This is an excellent project on the part of you and Patty. I would really like to see this put up as an example of working together between NTS and tree climbers when get the various Group Pages created for the website - Do you or Patty have photos you could add or additional materials to expand upon the post? Even if you do not, I am pleased to see this happen.

Edward Frank

[Re: SINE method training for tree climbers](#)

by **pattyjenkins1** » Tue Jul 03, 2012 8:24 am

Over dinner that night, four of the attendees commented that Eli did a great job, and that though they were challenged by the calculations, they were inspired to study and learn more. THANKS Eli! Now all we have to do is find a time when he can learn to climb!

And yes, Will, it was up to 106 on Saturday. Let's all hope that's not how the summer goes...

Patty Jenkins
Executive Director
Tree Climbers International, Inc.

[Re: SINE method training for tree climbers](#)

by **AndrewJoslin** » Tue Jul 03, 2012 11:36 am

Great stuff! Interesting to note that for tree climbers, knowing how to do a sine/angle measurement can be very helpful even when doing a tape drop. Will reported on this technique in one of his measuring climb reports. For example when the very top limb/branch is too angled and too precarious to climb out on, the climber can do a "sine/top" measurement with the assistance of an extension pole and a clinometer. Once climbers understand the basic measuring technique they'll have that in their mental toolkit to deal with unexpected manual measuring problems when they're up in trees.

Andrew Joslin

[Re: SINE method training for tree climbers](#)

by **AndrewJoslin** » Tue Jul 03, 2012 5:06 pm

The tree climber bias is to think we have to climb to measure and the only way we can achieve an accurate height measurement is by climbing the tree and doing a tape drop. The beauty of NTS vetted accurate ground-based measuring techniques is that a climber can collect meaningful data on any tree they climb (or don't climb) within minutes of arriving at a tree without including the fairly involved task of doing a tape drop. This means a large increase in data collection vs. how the task is currently perceived by many climbers.

Andrew Joslin

[Re: SINE method training for tree climbers](#)

by **dbhguru** » Tue Jul 03, 2012 9:03 pm

Andrew, Yes, I can see where you are coming from. It is exciting to think about a strong contingent of recreational climbers coming from many backgrounds, some highly technical. This bodes well for us. Thanks mainly to you, a new powerful arm of NTS membership may be growing.

There's another point to explore here. Recreational climbers may be predisposed to establish records, and authentic ones at that. Main line sports do very precise timings and measurement. The idea of just being in the ball park is anathema to real athletes.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: SINE method training for tree climbers](#)

by **eliahd24** » Tue Jul 03, 2012 9:51 pm

Thanks for the kudos guys. It was a lot of fun to nerd out on trees for a couple of hours. This was a diverse audience, yet they all seemed very receptive and genuinely interested. I hope they can take inspiration from my enthusiasm. Even if they don't become active (data-collecting) NTS members right away, rest assured that we are on their radar and they know that we can be a ready and waiting resource for them.

Eli Dickerson

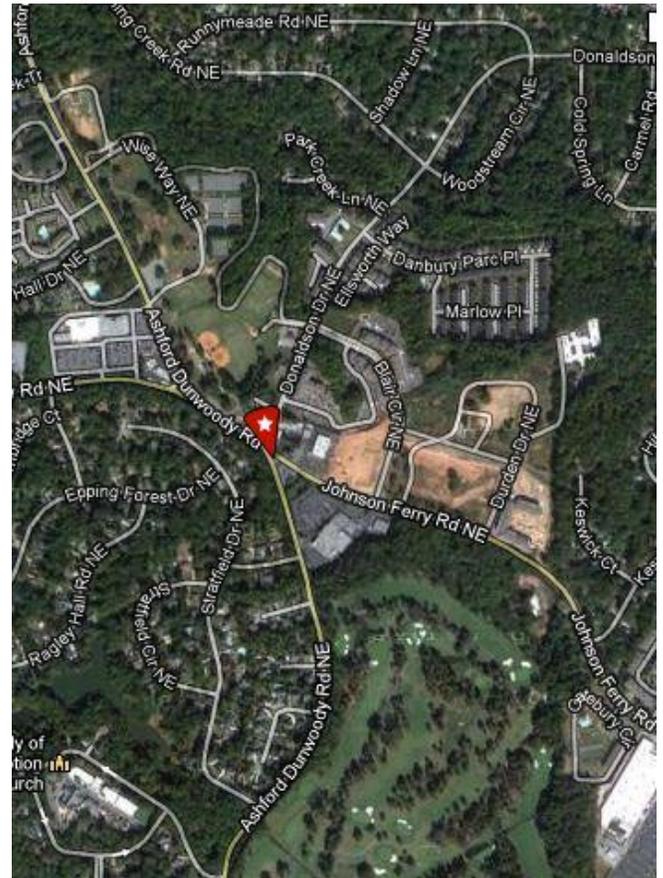
[Re: SINE method training for tree climbers](#)

by **pattyjenkins1** » Wed Jul 04, 2012 8:52 am

What a shame that we didn't think to film Eli's presentation. Does anybody have -- or could someone create -- a "How to Measure Trees from the Ground" video or article that I could put up on the TCI website? I can add a brief description of the NTS with a call to contribute to NTS work. This would be a great way to open up TCI's turn to "Citizen Science" on our site. Other ideas?

Certainly when we begin to publicize the 2013 Annual Tree Climbers Gathering, we will excite many climbers with the possibility of listening to and learning from the likes of Bob, Will, and other NTSers.

Patty Jenkins



Mystical marks in virgin forest explained

June 27, 2012 by: Nina Kristiansen

<http://sciencenordic.com/mystical-marks-virgin-forest-explained> NTS topic: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=144&t=4258>

Re: Mystical marks in virgin forest explained, Norway

▣ by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Thu Jul 05, 2012

Chris wrote: *Cool. I assume there is nothing special about that particular species (Scots Pine?). I wonder if any other people did anything similar? Does any brave member want to try to make some :D*

In my opinion that Science Nordic article sort of leaves the reader with the impression that it was the Sami people who pioneered the idea of bark bread, which I don't think is necessarily true. It probably also should not characterize these old tree wounds as "mystical" or mysterious. Making bark bread appears to have been a ubiquitous practice throughout Scandinavia during hard times. Below is a pertinent passage from chapter two of famed Swedish writer/journalist Vilhelm Moberg's *A History of the Swedish People* (Volume Two).

It is my belief that it was originally the animals who showed humans which food in the forest is edible, and who taught them to flay the trunks of young trees.

For bark bread, only the membrane immediately under the rough bark -- the layer which nourishes a tree's growth and forms the annual ring -- was used. This inside layer would be scaled off with an iron scraper and collected, after which, before it could be baked, there came a long process of preparing the bark. First it was hung up to dry in the open air until friable; then beaten with a flail or crushed in some other way; then ground into a flour. The bark membrane is very thin, and many trees had to give up their skins before the kneading-trough was filled with dough. Time and patience were needed to collect and produce all this wood-flour; but these people who were seeking nourishment in the forest had time on their hands. Probably whole families, adults and

children, went out with their scraping irons and flayed the trees.

Leksand Museum, in Dalarna, contains a remarkable flail, with sharp iron tags to it, once used for preparing bark flour. It is a monument to ancient Dalarna, a part of the country where bark bread was common fare. [Dalarna is south of Sami territory.]

The bark was collected in summer, before the end of July and the August mists. Thereafter the trees would be damaged by the scraping irons, and might dry up and wither away. Certain types of tree were chosen for bread, notably the pine which, found in every forest, was also the most plentifully available. Long before the spruce, which was another though lesser source of bread, the pine had spread over Sweden. Among deciduous trees, too, there were three species which yielded bark flour: elm, asp and silver birch. The elm was the greatest favourite of all. Besides being regarded as the most nutritious, its bark was also the easiest to prepare.

Moberg, Vilhelm. 1971. *A History of the Swedish People, Volume Two: From Renaissance to Revolution*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Here's a recipe!

http://www.nordicwellbeing.com/Julies_K..._ad-is-back

Ingrid's Bark Bread

100 g or 3.5 oz yeast
1 liter or 1 quart lukewarm water
1 liter or 1 quart rye flour
1.5 liters or 1.5 quarts white flour
2 dl or 1/2 cup bark flour (Ingrid uses bark from her own pine forest)

Blend the ingredients and knead the dough. Allow to rise for one hour. Roll out into smaller rounds. Baking time varies according to the size of the bread. (I suggest for medium rounds which are the size of pita breads 10 minutes at 225 C or 437 F – sprinkle water over before baking)

Kirk Johnson

[Re: Mystical marks in virgin forest explained, Norway](#)

by **Don** » Fri Jul 06, 2012 4:18 am

While I was living in Flagstaff, working for Grand Canyon National Park, and attending Northern Arizona University, one of the author's that I discovered and came to like enough to follow through subsequent books by him, was William DuBuys. He writes of the land and the customs of the peoples of New Mexico, with a bent towards natural history and how humans fit in.

The first book of his I read was *River of Traps*, a very biographical but perceptive book of his relationship with friends, fauna, the land, the people and his efforts to fit in to a natural lifestyle, taking place in the mid-seventies.

Some 30 years later he wrote another book, called *The Walk*. He writes of the same land, and expresses a much deeper sense of the Land.

How does this tie into Bark Bread you might ask?

DuBuys records a journal of *The Walk* taken, sometimes daily, over those thirty years but it took another set of eyes to notice a systematic scarring on large old ponderoas pines. DuBuys had befriended this old retired forester named Fred Swetnam, doing research for an earlier book, and had kept in contact.

While riding around parts of New Mexico with him, DuBuys was asked by Fred if he was familiar with peeled trees. He wasn't, and Fred mentioned that his son Tom was an up and coming dendrochronologist and had studied the 'peeled ponderosa pines'. Over an area known to be occupied by the Jicarilla Apaches, Tom determined that the peeled trees were all on large old ponderosas (some as old to have been around in the 1500's when the earliest Spanish explorers were about), and that those trees were peeled between 1776 and 1877.

Piecing together various accounts in what would be today called determining reference conditions, the Swetnams and DuBuys recorded accounts of the dried sap being scraped from a 'peel' with the pointed edge of an oak or mountain mahogany branch and

consumed directly (apparently after being leached and dried, as well as in other accounts where the scraped dry resins were ground by a metate into flour that could be amended with other flour sources to make a palatable meal.

Casting an eye to the historical times, the arrival of settlers, miners, the military and such would have made for conflict between the Apaches and other tribes, with less and less resources. It's not hard to imagine the dire straits of the indigenous peoples, and the desperation they experienced.

Today, we have dendrochronologists among the NTS who I suspect are quite familiar with Tom Swetnam, or at the very least, his name and reputation in the field. Small world, huh?!

Don Bertollette

[The Lost Coast, CA](#)

by **Mark Collins** » Wed Jul 04, 2012 7:47 pm

I hiked the Lost Coast Trail over the weekend with a couple of friends, and was really excited to see what the status of the forest was in this mysterious region. I was saddened to discover and hear from one of the locals that much of the area had already been logged long ago. While driving in, I saw a few gigantic redwoods here and there, and some enormous Douglas Fir, like this beauty along Usal Road (below).



Debris from the Fukushima tsunami is also beginning to appear on the beaches, much of it covered with an assortment of marine life.



Otherwise, an excellent and stunningly beautiful trail. Does anyone know more about the logging history here? I noticed a lot of grass covered hills where I expected to see trees especially with the amount of

rainfall this region receives.



Mark Collins

[Re: The Lost Coast](#)

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Thu Jul 05, 2012 10:19 am

Mark,

The King Range Wilderness was designated in 2006 and protects in perpetuity more than 42,000 acres of the Lost Coast from logging and other human activities inconsistent with the preservation of wilderness values.

<http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&ec=wildView&WID=687&tab=General>

If you get a chance to see the one-hour documentary *Forever Wild*, you will probably want to make sure to watch it. It includes a nice profile, maybe 10 or 15

minutes long, about the long-term efforts of the California Wilderness Coalition to protect portions of the Lost Coast by designating the King Range Wilderness and other wilderness areas in the vicinity. It also talks about some of the logging, grazing, and motorized rec that took place in the vicinity over the years.



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

The DVDs of *Forever Wild* are out there, and sometimes shown by conservation groups at various events. Here's an example:

<http://www.pawild.org/pdfs/ForeverWildFlyer61612.pdf>

Also, I've seen this program broadcast on PBS stations from time to time, so you can keep your eyes peeled for those broadcasts.

[Re: The Lost Coast](#)

by **Don** » Fri Jul 06, 2012 4:34 am

I had occasion in the mid-seventies to be working with the BLM in Ukiah, and spent perhaps a week in the King's Range...a gorgeous tract of land well worth protecting, rising directly up from the sea to over 5000' as I recall. As a graduate of Humboldt State University, I "wasted" many hours learning the countryside, exploring the redwoods, the series of lagoons running north from Arcata, Fern Canyon,

Prairie Creek old herds, all the Wildernesses then designated. As a Humboldt-er, we always thought of ourselves as behind the redwood curtain...interesting that two of the breweries in Humboldt County are called the Lost Coast Brewery and the Redwood Curtain Brewery. While the county is host to 6 breweries at last count (March 2012), there were none back in the 60's and 70's.

Putting my focus on grasslands, a couple in the Humboldt area came to mind...going east out of Orick you'll enter some pretty rugged terrain that eventually takes you up along a ridge that runs by Bald Prairie...you're right on the edge of the Hoopa Reservation, where one should remain circumspect about one's behavior, unless times have changed. Another grassland coming to mind I associate with Dry Lagoon, one of a series of wonderful lagoon ecosystems (Fresh, Stone, Dry, and more I think). Wonderful beaches along Stagecoach Road out of Trinidad running towards Patrick's Point State Park, and so many fine places that boggle my mind when I reflect back on them...

Enjoy yourself, you're in god's country!
Attaching an image captured in Prairie Creek Redwood State Park, north of Orick on an old section of 101...don't have any grasslands handy



Image captured March, 2012

Don Bertolette

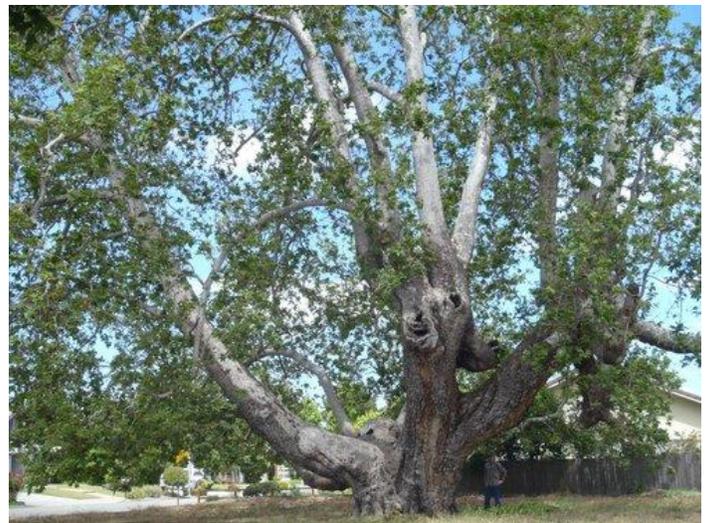
[Re: Zane Moore Reports Tallest Known Tree South of Golden Gate](#)

by **M.W.Taylor** » Sat Jul 07, 2012 6:43 pm

The attached pictures is from another giant california Sycamore in the foothills of Fremont California. This specimen is almost 9' dbh with HUGE branches. The base is more or less a single bole but may have originally been multiple branches that fused a long time ago. You would need to cut the tree down to prove it.



giant fremont sycamore on Higuera Street



giant Fremont sycamore

Michael Taylor

[Re: Zane Moore Reports Tallest Known Tree South of Golden Gate](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sat Jul 07, 2012 7:05 pm

Michael, The shape of this huge sycamore speaks volumes to me. I'm reminded of the great Pinchot sycamore in Simsbury, CT. The size and shape of the California tree conveys the challenges we face in taking measurements that can be meaningfully compared to measurements taken for other trees. The kinds of measurements that capture the essence of this tree are what I'm looking for to tell its story.

Beyond what we presently do, a measurement that makes sense to me is the projected area of the crown taken around the drip line. What are your thoughts? Another measurement might be the area of the basal footprint. Volume measurements make lots of sense, but are labor and technology intensive. Here I'm thinking of measurements that less-driven folks might be willing to do if given the tools and a clear set of instructions.

Robert T. Leverett

[Old-growth ponderosa and Jeffrey pines and the Paiute](#)

by **Don** » Sat Jul 07, 2012 7:29 pm

In responding to a recent post in General Discussions about Mystical Marks on trees, I was reminded of an account by an archeologist friend of mine. Working on the Inyo National Forest out of Bishop, California ponderosa and jeffrey pines were commonly seen forest ecosystems, overlapping and hybridizing across elevational gradients. Down around Bishop, ponderosa pines were prevalent, and higher up, jeffrey pines dominated, with hybrids in between.

My archeologist friend, Tony, said that both were important to native american indians of the area, known as Paiutes. Old ponderosa and Jeffrey pines

served as hosts to the Pandora moths metamorphosing caterpillars and pupae. From a Crater Lake Nature Notes article found at:

<http://www.craterlakeinstitute.com/natural-history/nature-notes-frank-lang/pandora-moths.htm>

it seems that the pupae metamorphose and eventually fall out of the bark crevices and land at the base of the tree. Paiutes, certain to be aware of the cyclical nature of life, found the pupae to be a source of nutrition, waiting to be harvested. Their solution was to dig out an inverted cone in the sandy soils often found with ponderosa and Jeffrey pines, at such an angle that the sand kept them down at where the sand met the tree base where they could be harvested.

In areas where no logging has occurred these inverted cones can still be found...I have personally seen them, as well as makeshift shelters (or perhaps storage sites for the pupae?) near such areas, made from branches and limbs laid over a depression they might have scraped away or found.

Another nutritional source for the Paiutes was found a little north along the shores of Mono Lake. Brine shrimp were seasonally abundant, and highly sought after.

Don Bertoletto

[June 29,2012 derecho, WV](#)

by **tsharp** » Fri Jul 06, 2012 6:16 am

NTS:

I finally got back on the grid after the last Friday's (6/29) derecho. I was studying the sky looking at the mamalus clouds developing and thinking this might be a serious thunderstorm. Within minutes a wall of dust, leaves, trash cans, lawn chairs and misc debris were flying through the air. This cloud of debris lasted for about 3 minutes before a heavy rain hit clearing the air but leaving a mess in the neighbor hood. The city of Parkersburg, WV of and surrounding area had an almost complete loss of power, cable service and limited phone service. I later learned the extent of the damage after the governor declared 53 of 55 counties disaster areas and found out the same line of storms hit central Maryland about 3 hours later. On Thursday I had the opportunity to make a trip to Bluefield, WV on I-77 and returned via Rainelle and Gauley Bridge on US 60. I made a couple of tree observations after this 300 mile trip. About ninety percent of the tree damage was to older trees snapping the main bole or a major limb. The low percent of trees uprooting can probably be attributed to the dry ground conditions the area has experienced over the last 60 days. Most of the tree damage occurred to "edge" trees along right of ways, urban areas, cemeteries, etc. I saw no large scale tree blow down in an intact forest area. I ran across several out of state power line crews and had to laugh at an Alabama crew complaining about the heat and humidity. The two local power providers both said it was the largest outage they have ever experienced in this service area including snow storms and tropical storms. The latest estimate is to have service restored by Sunday (7/8).

Turner Sharp

[Re: June 29,2012 derecho, WV](#)

by **Rand** » Fri Jul 06, 2012 9:56 am

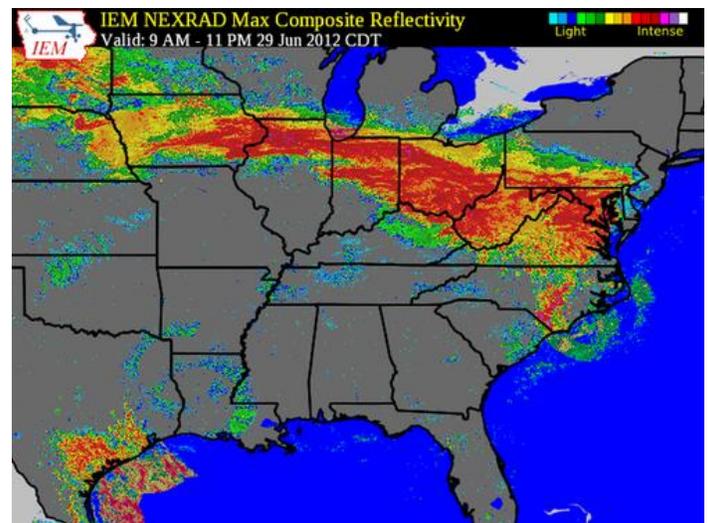
My condolences. My neighborhood in columbus must have been in a 'thin' spot or something. Or at

any rate, not many mature trees as my power didn't even flinch. I watched the shelf cloud come through and though 'Jeez, I've never seen one move that fast' shortly there-after the dust started to fly, and the trees across the parking lot started to bend alarmingly...then a minute or so later it diminished to an above average thunderstorm. Got some decent rain and a scattering of pea sized hail with a few marbles thrown in.

Here's a picture of a shelf cloud of a storm the next day, but the derecho looked similar:



Found a radar loop of the nasty thing for everyone's viewing pleasure.



<http://vielmetti.typepad.com/vacuum/2012/06/derecho-of-june-29-2012.html>

Rand Brown

Food for thought

by **dbhguru** » Fri Jul 06, 2012 5:55 pm

NTS, The tall Colorado blue spruce I measured 2 days ago on Guiding Creek has set me to thinking again about what we do best in NTS. The 153-foot Colorado blue is the third 150-footer I've measured for the species in southwestern Colorado. I've hit 140 feet or more in two other locations and lots of places have confirmed 130s. I think it is fair to conclude that countless places have 120s. As a maximum, one hundred feet is greatly understated. So, that being the case, what do other sources say about the maximum height achievement for the species? I went to the Internet to take a current sample from the many sources dealing the the blue spruce.

Greatly understated height range of 50 - 75 feet is listed by a few sources. More commonly we see 70 to 100. The USDA Plant Profile gives 100. The popular Virginia Tech source gives "up to 80". Wikipedia lists 151 as exceptional. USDA Silvics lists an AF national champion at 126. I could go on, but you get the predictable picture - junk. Basically, none of these presumably authoritative sources have a freakin clue. Point me out one organization/agency other than NTS that is doing a good job of straightening out the mess. There is a tiny, tiny cadre of non-NTS people out there probably doing a good job of tree measuring, but who knows of their work?

So, from my perch on the stump, er, uh, soapbox, I calmly and deliberately point out that from an organizational perspective, getting the numbers right is uniquely the job of NTS. But we haven't reached anywhere near our potential. To do a truly good job, we need a highly visible list. It needs to be front and center, and we need to advertise and spotlight it. It should not be comingled with other lists or lost in a sea of posts. It needs a unique residence visible to all.

And we have to agree to place value on the list and keep it up. Our efforts won't correct the sloppy work of other organizations and individuals, but it will be a significant step forward, and in time may make a difference. The perpetually scattered nature of our efforts (I certainly include myself) greatly diminishes

their effectiveness. Measuring tree dimensions to a high level of accuracy is what we do best. The numbers we generate will serve the cause best by presenting them in list form for comparison purposes. Isolated numbers floating around cyberspace are soon forgotten.

The guidebook authors keep quoting each other and thereby perpetuate mis-information and trivializing the subject. There's no statistics, science, rhyme nor reason to the numbers you see for tree dimensions in these sources. I suppose there is some experienced-based information from some of the sources. For example, nursery guides probably use some of their experience for cultivars growing in yards. On occasion, you see a reference to a champion tree in the National Register. The authors seldom reveal an understanding of what championship status means.

Basically, tree dimensions are considered as either curiosities or trivia or dealt with perfunctorily without thought. And I suppose that will always be the case to a considerable degree. The topic is not likely to become widely popular and only becomes peripherally important when some group or individuals succeed in making it so. Of course, the primary group pushing this class of information is NTS. We'll be swimming upstream for several years to come because the Internet allows misinformation to be spread with near-light speed. However, I am seeing some evidence that our message is getting circulated.

On a more generally theme, each of us pushing the subject of tree statistics has his/her own reasons. I've explained on a number of occasions that what drove me to take measuring seriously was the need (as I perceived it) to document surviving old growth forests in the East. That had been poorly done and I felt the public needed to know what the physical characteristics of the old growth sites were, especially where superlatives were involved. I started by using equipment and techniques of the forestry profession, and when they clearly did not work, co-engineered my own methods, Will Blozan being my partner. That story has been often told. Others have done the same, e.g. Bob Van Pelt and Michael Taylor. We're all pushing the envelope.

Tree superlatives are what often capture the imagination and spur the tree equivalent of treasure hunts. When I started documenting MTSF's white pines, there wasn't a single document in government, academia, or the environmental organizations that pointed to the extraordinary nature of the resource. That situation has changed. More and more Massachusetts residents take pride in what Mohawk represents. We do make a difference.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Food for thought](#)

by **Joe** » Sat Jul 07, 2012 4:14 pm

dbhguru wrote: NTS, Basically, tree dimensions are considered as either curiosities or trivia or dealt with perfunctorily without thought.

If the science community trivializes potential tree size- then they are doing an immense injustice to all of us. We need to know how forests and trees can develop to better understand what a healthy forest is, to better understand the full potential for carbon sequestration, to better understand how wildlife populations will change as the forest develops, to better understand the changes the Earth is going through with global warming- if tree sizes can't be measured accurately, what hope do we have of anything else told to us by ecologists/biologists and natural resource professionals? Trivializing such information perhaps is just an example of the trivialization of other sciences and even our politics. This perhaps is perhaps part of the dumbing down of America.

Joe Zorzin

[Re: Food for thought](#)

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Sat Jul 07, 2012 4:54 pm

Salmon ecologists have been paying closer and closer attention to site potential tree height.

Years ago, when doing a logging project near salmon streams, part of the contracts sometimes included "cleaning out" the streams by pulling all of the coarse woody debris out and keeping the channel clear. Well, around the late 1980s people studying salmon began to document the importance of coarse woody debris in retaining spawned-out salmon carasses within a stream's ecosystem (as opposed to being washed out to sea) where they are scavenged by a wide variety of animals, which in turn deposit the nutrients far and wide throughout the surrounding forest ecosystem in their leavings. The salmon spawning and being scavenged process has the ability to transport and distribute *massive* amounts of nutrients from the ocean deep into the continent's interior forest.

Now it is common knowledge that always retaining coarse woody debris in salmon stream is the way to go. One way to help do that is to remove no trees from the edge of the stream out to the site potential tree height during a logging project, to maximize the potential of coarse woody debris contribution to the stream over time. Sometimes logging contracts even include adding coarse woody debris to a stream if it is deficient in that area because of past management practices or something. Sometimes dead hatchery salmon are even deliberately dumped by the truckload high in a stream's drainage.

So that's just one practical example that goes to show it's important to have a handle on how tall trees can really grow.

Kirk Johnson

[Recruiting new citizen tree scientists](#)

▣ by **pattyjenkins1** » Sun Jul 08, 2012 12:57 pm

As many of you know, I've been trying to figure out how to move the TCI "Citizen Science" initiative forward. Here's where things stand:

I just had a VERY helpful conversation with Steve Galehouse. He helped me decide that:

1) The centralized database that TCIer Paul Giers has created of all the state and national champ trees is not a duplication of effort in terms of having a site to collect tree information. We will now work with Mitch to see what kind of possibilities there are for using Paul's database as a feed to the NTS database, of course respecting its requirements for measuring methodology, etc.

2) Rather than hosting the TCI citizen science initiative on the TCI website, it will be better to create a new website, which can appeal to a broader base of tree enthusiasts than just recreational (and occasional professional) tree climbers. With that in mind, I just secured the domain **TreeRangers.org**. Cool name, eh? Steve's suggestion. It's staggering how many other possibilities there are for what can be done with such a website. Steve had some great ideas, including reaching out to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to create a "Tree Badge" for measuring trees, Virtual Geo (Tree-o)-Caching, and Tree Trails.

Bob: Thanks for your suggestion of paring down Will's "Tree Measuring Guidelines." Ed, I hope Bob's nomination of you for the job is okay with you. I have the March 2008 revision of the Guidelines. It's 30 pages and daunting for me, a college-educated non-scientist. I can only imagine the thoughts that might go through someone's head who has never dealt with this kind of document. It will be great to have a brochure at whatever point it's ready. Unfortunately, there are only two photos of the workshop Eli did, and neither shows Eli teaching or using a measuring tool. Bummer.

3) The new website can also house the "Learning About Trees Directory" that I've created. This will

enable anyone who's studying any aspect of trees to tell about their research and get help (observational, samples, data, locational) from anywhere in the world.

Now on to web design, implementation of ideas, publicizing, etc. Anybody who wants to help is invited.

Patty Jenkins

[Re: Recruiting new citizen tree scientists](#)

▣ by **Will Blozan** » Sun Jul 08, 2012 3:27 pm

Patty, Here is a YouTube link about the SINE method done by the late Colby Rucker. I think we could redo it with more quality and simplicity but it works.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WFUpbv8Mhg>

Will Blozan

[Re: Recruiting new citizen tree scientists](#)

▣ by **dbhguru** » Sun Jul 08, 2012 6:49 pm

Patti, We're at your service. From what you and Steve have discussed already I'm sure we can help bring some of the ideas to fruition. The actual steps needed to measure the height, girth, or crown spread of a tree from the ground are simple, and can be learned by anyone with the interest. We just have to work on the steps and reduce them to the absolute basics. I'm confident that we can find ways to make measuring challenging, competitive, or just plain fun and are happy to do it.

The reasons why the measuring process appears so complicated in the very many communications a newcomer might encounter on the BBS falls largely into five categories:

1. More involved measurements such as projected crown area, trunk volume, and trunk and limb volume, basal footprint
2. Reducing measurement error to below some threshold value such as +/- a foot
3. Comparing different measurement methods in terms of the accuracy that can be expected from each
4. Identifying situations that present special challenges and engineering methods to handle them
5. Determining the location of points on a tree in 3-dimensional space such as the location of the absolute top relative to the base.

These five areas need not be the concern of the beginner. Best that they aren't. Sticking to the three common measurements is plenty for most tree measurers. However, from the above, anyone looking to push the envelope has a fertile field to deal with.

A question arises as to why anyone, wanting to keep it simple, would want to go beyond the straightforward measuring guidelines that we will produce for you. The answer can be supplied in a single word - credibility. There are so many mismeasured trees out there and some many people who have done the mismeasuring that debates, arguments, competitions are bound to occur. In a very real sense, it is about excellence and whether or not that is important. If ball park approximations are okay, then traditional tree-measuring methods may suffice. But that isn't what NTS is about, and when someone is claiming a new champion through the use of a problematic technique, whose measurement is to be judged right?

What makes this field especially challenging for NTS these days is that, as you know, NTS is not the first group to be in the tree-measuring activity (business, avocation, hobby, obsession, etc.). Groups

and individuals who have been about tree measuring for years or decades have as much right to have their say as we do. But as you have no doubt gathered, the record they have left is not exactly sterling. On challenging trees, errors committed by timber professionals and amateur big tree hunters can easily be in the tens of feet with one tree height having been mismeasured an eye-popping 67 feet. And the tree was listed in the National Register for a time. We seek to distance ourselves from such silliness. That is why we in NTS will not except measurements from other sources until they have been qualified.

By now, you may have gathered that trying to improve the quality of tree measuring requires conflict resolution. Prides get in the way.

Robert T. Leverett

[Hawks Nest Rail-trail, Ansted, WV](#)

by **tsharp** » Sun Jul 08, 2012 9:29 pm

NTS, On March 25 I had a chance to hike this trail and measure some trees along the former railroad right of way. I wanted to get an idea of Hemlock tree heights while they are still with us. This is a fairly recent addition to the Rail-trail system in West Virginia. The rail line was abandoned in 1972 and the Town of Ansted, with the help of the National Park Service, acquired funding and a plan to turn it into a rail trail by 2007. Ansted is a small town about 60 miles east of Charleston, WV on US 60 now called the Midland Trail and formerly called the James River and Kanawha Turnpike. After I-64 was completed 99 percent of the through traffic bypassed the town so the town is trying to capitalize on its scenery. The trail is short at only 1.8 miles but drops about 500 of elevation along Mill Creek to its confluence with the New River below Hawks Nest State Park. Mill Creek is picturesque stream with a good variety of tree and wildflower species among the many large boulders along its stream bed and banks. There are patches of Rhododendron and Hemlocks scattered in the gorge. The Hemlocks are

starting to show HWA damage at the lowest elevation as one nears the New River but look healthy higher up. It has a series of small waterfalls with the largest being about 20'. The Rail -trail runs along river left (descending) of Mill Creek with Hawks Nest road on river right. I started out on the rail trail but soon decided I was on the wildflower side with a southwest exposure and switched over to tree side with a northeast exposure and only got one foot wet in the process. Most of the time in the winter or spring a foot crossing would not be possible. Most of the trees were young. I measured heights of 23 trees of 12 species including 7 Hemlocks. The tallest two were Sycamore (*P. occidentalis*) at 134.7' and Yellow-poplar (*L. tulipifera*) at 125.5'. The tallest hemlock was 109.8'. No CBH was taken because the person that dropped me off for some tree measuring time drove off before I had taken my D-tape out of the car. My aching knees had no regrets. The Rucker 10 species Height Index (RHI-10) is 107.3'. A complete listing of trees can be found on the Trees Database at:

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1252/Details>

There is a tramway at the bottom that goes up to the lodge at Hawks Nest State Park and when it is operating one might consider riding back up especially if is hot and humid. I understand the state Park has developed a trail from the lodge that connects to the rail trail. Jet Boat rides upriver to view the New River Gorge Bridge also depart from here. Recently the New River Gorge National River had their purchase area boundary extended along the New River down to Mill Creek and intend to make a trail connection depending of certain land acquisitions. Additional information about the rail trail can be found here:

<http://www.trailsrus.com/railcoalwv/fayette-ansted.html>

Turner Sharp

[Quercus virginiana soundscape](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Sat Jul 07, 2012 6:34 pm

A spreading southern tree of the white oak group, I captured this soundscape underneath a sprawling live oak in the Ocala National Forest. At the 35" mark of the recording, after the insect sounds begin to fade out of the sonic texture, the live oak and the ever-present tentacles of Spanish moss contribute to a dark ultrasonic swish – to my ears, almost having an ocean or wave-like quality.



Live oak, Spanish moss, cactus

The beauty in sensation levels that emerge and recede in this live oak song reminded me (for some reason) of the importance of the *medium*. In other words, to transmit vibrations from one place to another requires that there be some material in the intervening space - this material is called the medium, and in this soundscape the live oak is just that. The medium may be matter in any form- solid, liquid, or gas. It may be essentially one-dimensional, as for example a stretched string. It may be two-dimensional, as a stretched membrane on the head of a snare drum, the leaf of the live oak, or the surface of a body of water. It may be three-dimensional, as the interior of a body of water, or, even the atmosphere around us. The string, the membrane, the leaf, the lakes, and the atmosphere are all distinct, relevant, and equally important in the acoustic(s) of this world. For some reason, recording this soundscape brought this to

mind.

I must admit that this was a very relaxing soundscape to capture, despite the hard to ignore ‘thug-level’ of mosquitoes.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm3PGzpMyfY>

Michael Gatonska

[Eastern Mountain Maple, Green Frogs, and a Chipmunk](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Mon Jul 09, 2012 6:06 am

I captured this soundscape while standing underneath an Eastern Mountain Maple during the green frog breeding season in Litchfield, CT. Setting up my equipment underneath the tree, and next to a pond where the frogs had congregated to compete for call time and recognition, I was able to listen to and record some very vigorous frog calls along with the gentle, nonharmonic flapping of the maple leaves (at about the 1'10" mark this activity enters the recorded sonic texture). Also recorded, was a curious chipmunk who kept approaching me and the microphone, muttering something or another - before darting off again. Hence, the periodic surprises of accented rustlings from the forest ground.

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

on). The green frog males song an accented ‘twang’ sound, similar to the banjo, or in my opinion, more akin to the sanxian, which is a Chinese lute — a three-stringed fretless and plucked instrument.



Maple & Green Frog recording site

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

Females must recognize the male they choose by his call. By localizing where his call is coming from she can find him. An additional challenge is that she is localizing his call while listening to the many other frogs in the chorus, and to the noise of the stream and insects. The breeding pond is a very noisy place, and females must distinguish a male's calls from the other noise. How they recognize the sound pattern of the male they are pursuing from the surrounding noise is similar to how intelligent hearing aids help people hear certain sounds and cancel out others.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMZ9iewNEF0>

http://www.youtube.com/user/EcoEarSoundscapes?o=b=0&feature=results_main

Michael Gatonska

[Planned series of discussions](#)

by **dbhguru** » Mon Jul 09, 2012 9:55 pm

NTS, Michael Taylor and I have been talking about launching a series of discussions on various measurement topics in hopes of stimulating interest and participation from a larger segment of the NTS membership. Measuring trees encompasses a good deal more than using the sine method to determine tree height. There are the other dimensions and how to do them better, and more to the point, there is a host of ancillary measurements needed to document the structure of the tree as it relates to the measurements being taken. There is also measurements to analyze crown structures of different species, and then there is the determination of the best position to be in to minimize the impact of distance and angle errors on height, diameter, etc.

I realize that the subject matter I'm alluding to can be overwhelming to anyone just wanting to take simple measurements without fuss or bother. While I am sympathetic to their hopes, such a mindset is responsible for what we see today. Doing it quick and simple has reduced tree measuring to a rather banal

activity. An expanding of consciousness is called for. Michael and I hope to increase the awareness of tree measurers to what is really involved, but do it gradually. There won't be any taking two steps and falling off the dock.

Will we be presenting material of little practical value? Not at all. Practicality will be the name of this game, because there are lots of hidden aspects to tree measuring that if brought into the light of day could improve accuracy regardless of the measurement method used. Now to an important point. The discussions are not going to be a witch hunt for users of particular techniques and admonishing them from the pulpit. This is about improving one's skills regardless of method used.

BTW, a lot of the material planned for the series has been presented in the past, but for the most part, it has gained little traction. I must take responsibility for that. I'm sure that I packed too much into the postings and associated spreadsheets. I can't say I wasn't warned, but my desire all along has been to put tree measuring in the field on an ever sounder footing, and that means absorbing a good deal more than simple application of sine top-sine bottom. Despite my past over-the-top dendromorphometry postings, I believe we can move things forward, albeit through a different approach. Smaller, bite-sized presentations are the prescription. One dose at a time. Let me give two examples. If a tangent measurer suspects a clinometer error of say 0.5 degrees, will the impact of that error be greater at higher or lower angles? The answer to that question is simple. The higher the angle, the greater the error. Now take the same situation applied to the sine method. Will the impact of an angle error of 0.5 degrees be greater at higher or lower angles? Again, the answer to the question is simple. The lower the angle, the greater the error. Now, how many tree measurers know the answer to both those questions off the tops of their heads? But once the answers are given, the measurer is immediately armed with two very important rules of the road.

The above are examples. Michael and I plan to address many such questions and give simple rules of the road - where that is possible. We will work our way through simple situations with simple answers,

but we will not shy away from the more complicated and often unavoidable situations. Still, I promise that we will always look for the simplest explanation possible, and to that end, we welcome participation. However, whether others choose to directly participate or not, the material will be there for the reading. Big Ed will know what to do with it to make it conveniently available. And for those who would like to participate, but are reluctant to do so, please keep in mind that no question is too basic or simple. The odds are that any question asked is a question that plenty of measurers would like to have asked. Silence is not a virtue.

I will begin closing my sales pitch with an admission. I admit to holding the opinion that we in NTS are the best field-based tree measurers going. I have lots of reasons for saying this, and stand ready for anyone to prove me wrong. This is not arrogance. I'm certainly willing to be proven wrong. Anyone who has a better method or can show me that a method I've advocated as the best isn't, I'll willingly and publicly knowledge my error. It isn't about ego or professional pride or turf, it is about tree measuring and who has something to contribute.

I've been measuring trees by all popular methods and ones of my own engineering since the late 1980s. Throughout this time, I have witnessed stubbornness on the part of old timers to update their methods. We'll I'm an old timer. I'll be 71 in a few days. So, I'm not particularly sympathetic to institutionalized stubbornness. I'm not, nor are my partners (Michael, Will, Don, Don, etc.), the new kids on the block. But we don't know everything either. We'll continue to grow through our interactions with others, and that's the way it should be. I'll now turn the podium over to Michael Taylor. After Michael, please other such as brother Will, do join in. But for now, Michael?

Robert T. Leverett

[Champion Rocky Mtn Ponderosa Update](#)

by **dbhguru** » Mon Jul 09, 2012 3:04 pm

NTS, Yesterday Monica and I went up Hermosa Creek to check on the champion Rocky Mountain champion ponderosa pine. It is in fine shape. I remeasured it using the TruPulse 200 and got 160 feet on the button. This is a little less than what I get when I use the Nikon Prostaff 440 for distance.

On July 12th, Steve Colburn, North American Sales Manager will come over to Durango and we'll remeasure the champion ponderosa, the Doug fir, and the Colorado blue. We'll use both TruPulses and the Impulse 200LR. It will require 3 or 4 hours to do all three trees to the level of accuracy that we want to achieve. I'm arranging newspaper coverage for the event. We'll also measure a champion cottonwood on Friday.

I'll keep everyone posted. This may be a big step for WNTS in Colorado. If you make a big enough noise, people will hear you. Right now, I'm being pretty loud.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Champion Rocky Mtn Ponderosa Update](#)

by **dbhguru** » Mon Jul 09, 2012 10:05 pm

James Robert Smith wrote: I look forward to seeing photographs.

I promise there will be plenty, and the project has taken an interesting turn. The Durango Herald may cover the measuring, and if not that paper, another. Also, and here is one I'd bet nobody would have expected. There will be witnesses to the measurings, and one group is probably going to be "Great Old Broads For Wilderness". Yep, I picked up the phone and called them today, and they are very interested in the tree measuring and in WNTS. Senior Power!

Steve Colburn, North American Sales Manager for LTI will come in on Wednesday afternoon. We'll do all the measuring on Thursday, then socialize Thursday evening. Friday morning will be another measuring episode. Who knows where this will go. Dang, I wish Michael, Will, and Don were here. I need somebody to keep me out of trouble.

Robert T. Leverett

[Cold Bank Pass and Engineer Mountain, CO](#)

by **dbhguru** » Tue Jul 10, 2012 9:28 pm

NTS, Today Monica and I revisited an old haunt. We first went to 10,640-foot Coal bank Pass in the San Juans. I wanted to check on the very tall Englemann spruce just below the pass at an altitude of approximately two miles. I used my TruPulse 200, which is often slightly conservative. I got 142.0 feet on the button. To my knowledge, this is the tallest accurately measured tree of any species at an altitude of 10,560 feet within the Rocky Mountain biome. You may recall that Don Bertollette, Rand Brown, and I measured it a couple of summers ago. It is doing fine.



Monica and I then headed up Engineer Mountain until the weather threatened. This time we made it to

11,850 feet. Ed is going to post images below the text. While I'm house sitting, I send images via Monica's iPad to Ed and he graciously inserts them into the post. The images were all taken above timberline on Engineer.



The big news is that I broke my previous record for a tall tree above 11,000 feet. My previous record was 126 feet at 11,040 feet. Well, how about 135.0 feet at 11,050 feet. Yep, the new tree is number one above 11,000 for the Rockies. It has a modest girth of 8 feet. It is also an Englemann.



Engineer Mountain is a treasure trove of tall Englemanns. I measured lots of other Englemanns, but nothing that pushed any limits.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Cold Bank Pass and Engineer Mountain](#)

by **dbhguru** » Wed Jul 11, 2012 10:27 am

It is fabulous country. The vistas are endless. I'll be sending more. And the hiking and climbing opportunities are endless. The San Juans have 13 fourteeners and many thirteeners. Some are absolutely spectacular such as 13,972-foot Pigeon Peak - a Matterhorn like mountain that you get glimpses of from U.S. 550 and see up close and personal from the Durango to Silvertown scenic train. The big challenge for Monica and me is getting acclimated. I start to feel the altitude when I first get out here and climb above 8,000 feet. I need some time before going above 10,000. It is a whole different experience from climbing at 0 to 4,000 feet, which encompasses most of my climbing in the East.



One More Image from Engineer Mountain

The San Juans have the largest area of land above 10,000 feet in the lower 48. And the San Juans have the best forests in Colorado. They get more precipitation than the other ranges. Wolf Creek Pass is the snowiest of the major Colorado passes. I set a new tall tree record everytime I come here. The 135-footer at 11,050 feet was especially sweet. It is an accessible tree that I'll put on my list to revisit.

James Robert...I'm sure you'll have a grand time out here. Of course, the Weminuche Wilderness is the crown jewel of the region, but La Platas and San Miguels are splendid ranges (actually sub-ranges of teh San Juans). Places like Hesperus Mountain in the La Platas (13,232 ft) are not visited that much, but tremendously rewarding. Hesperus was one of the four sacred peaks of the Navajos. Many of the Colorado mountains are named after miners who exploited them. I'd prefer that the Navajo name be used for Hesperus, but I haven't found out what it is.

Another sacred Navajo peaks is Blanca in the Sangre de Cristo Range. A third is Humprey's Peak in Arizona. The fourth is in New Mexico. Its name escapes me right now. Heck, you can't go wrong anywhere in the area.

Durango is a neat town if you like to visit towns, which I generally don't. What is refreshing about Durango is that you see many bronze-skin, very fit people on the streets. Durango calls itself the mountain biking capital of the world, and I see no

reason to dispute its claim. Back packing, river rafting, and mountain climbing are all very popular in the area. Naturally, there are the sedentary tourists who swell the population in the summer that don't look exactly physically fit, but they don't swamp the population like the lard-asses you see porking around in Gatlinburg, TN, or as Will calls that abomination, Fatlinburg. Yeah, I know, I shouldn't be making such comments. My bad. But dang, it is just so refreshing to see athletic, health conscious people in abundance, who don't eat three meals a day at McDonalds, pass their bad habits down to their children, and complain bitterly if they can't drive to the top of every mountain. From comments you've made in the past, I have a feeling you agree.

...Out here the landscape just about photographs itself. The colors are varied and vivid. Nature paints in bold strokes. The land forms are spectacular and it is spacious - oh so spacious. I suppose I do pay a little more attention to composition these days, but the West does spoil.

In the East, as you know, the colors are often green on green. There is less relief to the landscape and the humidity dulls skyscapes and distant horizons. There is plenty to photograph, but it takes more talent to make eastern landscapes appear alive, vibrant, and youthful because for the most part they aren't. I struggle to capture the features in MTSF and MSF. I usually have to limit the physical area I'm focusing on to micro-scenes. It does work, but I'm left with little room for expansion, i.e presenting my lady and fellow Ents with another big tree trunk isn't exactly innovative.

By contrast, the western scenes are expansive and very, very colorful. You have the micro expanding to the macro in an infinite variety of shapes, textures, and colors. In contrast, expansiveness in the East usually runs you into an obscure horizon or a neighbors backyard. Yes, there is a lot to deal with in places like New York's Adirondacks, our on the Maine coast, but it the breadth of photographic material plays out much sooner. I'm not complaining about eastern landscape possibilities, just being frank.

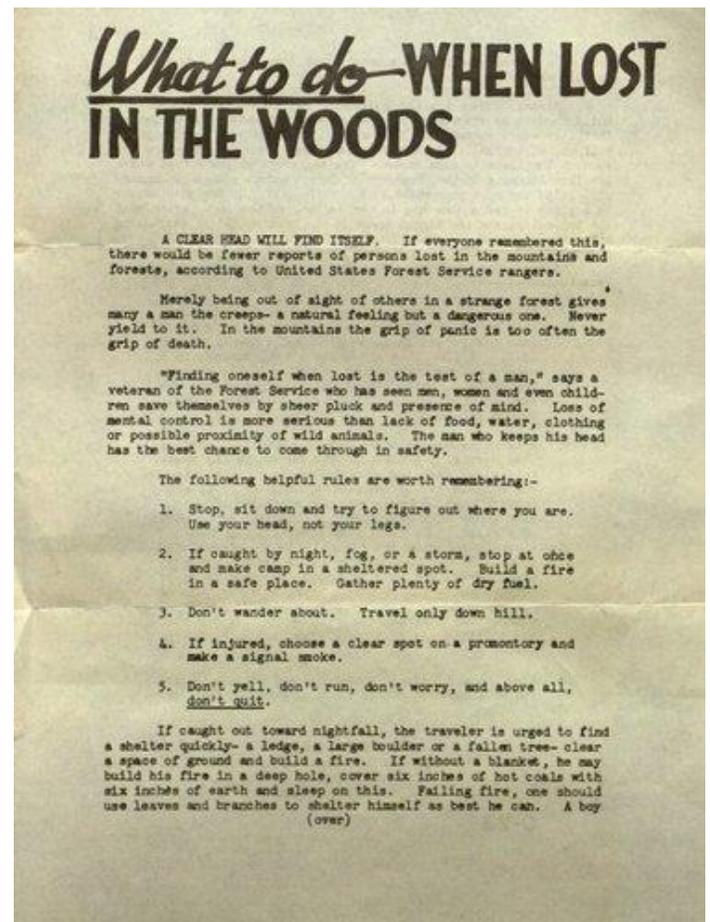
When Monica and I return to Florence, MA, I'll get back into the routine. There's lots of work to be done,

but when my thought turn inward and images begin popping into my head, they will most likely be of western expanses.

Robert T. Leverett

When Lost In The Woods (1946)

□ by **edfrank** » Fri Jul 06, 2012 12:28 pm



Timeless advice from US Forest Service, circa 1946:

"It is better to carry a clear head on your shoulders than a big pack on your back." More advice here:

<http://bit.ly/KYcjCR>.

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Jul 09, 2012 4:52 pm

Just a few updates and remeasures:

The Dawn Redwoods are growing. In another month, there should be 2 over 130'

4273 129.8'
546 130.1' I missed the number on the tree last time.

Tuliptree next to the 129.8' DR, likely a little older 114.1'

Sycamore
129.8'
121.8'

European Larch
116.3'
132.9' I didn't have a good angle on this one. There are fenced off areas with young shrubs adjacent to the tree. I'll get a better shot soon.

Conifer RI
RI 10 129.79
RI 5 140.34

Brian Beduhn

Get a load of these numbers, CO

by **dbhguru** » Thu Jul 12, 2012 5:35 pm

NTS, Well Monica and I just returned from Hermosa Creek and the measuring confirmation. The Durango Herald was there. Four representative from "Great Old Broads for Wilderness", Steve Colburn and wife and Darin ? and wife from LTI. And Laurie Swisher of the San Juan NF. The group headed up the trail pausing at various trees. Laurie Swisher is great. She is the old-growth forest inventory specialist for the San Juan NF, and she knows her stuff.

When we got to the area of champs, Steve Colburn and I set about our work. Between us we had three TruPulses and one Impulse. To cut to the chance, here are the numbers.

Species	height	girth	Name
Ponderosa Pine Schrater Pine	160.7'	9.5'	
Doug Fir White Fir	160.1'	10.8'	Dick
Colorado Blue S. Blozan Spruce	159.0	6.3'	Will

In addition, Laurie convinced me that the tree I measured up on Goulding Creek was an Englemann instead of a Colorado Blue, which at 151.5 feet (I originally reported 153, but that was from too great of a distance), is the height record for the Rockies, so far as we know. That's four species height records for the Rockies. How sweet it is! WNTS rules.

I was too preoccupied with measuring to take images, but we'll have plenty courtesy of the Durango Herald. I can now relax a bit. We have the altitude champs from Coal Bank Pass and Engineer Mtn and the above four champs from the La Platas.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Get a load of these numbers, CO](#)

by **dbhguru** » Fri Jul 13, 2012 10:56 pm

NTS, After assisting us measured the ponderosa pine, the Doug fir, and the Colorado blue yesterday, Laurie Swisher returned and cored three trees. She cored a large ponderosa, not the one we measured, but one we discussed growing on the trail. It is 390 years old. The champion pondy is 270 years old, and the slender Colorado blue is a surprising 227. Laurie will return to date the Doug fir.

In addition, we are laying plans for a joint FS-WNTS group of field trips next summer. WNTS will identify big tree-tall tree-old tree sites and then a joint team from the FS and WNTS will visit, measure, and document. Pretty neat. Just what I'd been wanting to happen for a long time.

Robert T. Leverett



[Are we making progress yet?](#)

by **dbhguru** » Fri Jul 13, 2012 2:24 pm

NTS, Yesterday was a shot in the arm for me. I'd begun to think that WNTS was going to silently die with nobody happening to take notice. I am given to such pessimism from time to time, but usually snap out of it. As for a little history, WNTS was born as an idea in the head of yours truly as RMNTS (Rocky Mountain Native Tree Society). Don Bertolette joined me in the concept. RMNTS was too restrictive

and RMNTS was expanded to WNTS. I think that idea was originally Don's. Ed Frank took the bull by the horns and created the Internet infrastructure. Don Bertolette agreed to be the President - a daunting assignment from far off Alaska. But Don came to Durango, as did Lee Frelich, and Rand Brown a couple of summers ago. From a practical standpoint WNTS became a physical entity at the gathering. Since then Michael Taylor has joined us from the West Coast as the VP.

It's tacitly assumed that I'll function as the mouth piece for these movements until people get sick of hearing from me and send me silent signals to get lost. I've been calling the role Executive Director. I suppose that is the closet title to how I typically function.

Until yesterday, I was beginning to think that those get lost signals were being sent. Nothing was happening. But then suddenly, it came together. Thanks to Laurie Swisher of the Forest Service, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, the Durango Herald, and Laser Technology Inc., we had ourselves a real event. It has given me a spark of life and reason to don my evangelical cloak and try, try again.

The story of yesterday's event in the Durango Herald will come out tomorrow. The reporter is a seasoned veteran. I think he'll do a good job. I established a good ole boy to good ole boy report with him right away, and he has perused our website and BBS. I think his story will raise awareness of not only some special trees, but of WNTS and the WNTS connection to Durango. I think others may come forward and offer us support.

As to the event, if I had to choose one individual to cite as worthy of special praise, it would be Laurie Swisher of the Forest Service. I had begun to give up on the Forest Service, but Don Bertolette encouraged me not to be hasty. He was right. It is a question of finding the right people, making the right connections. In this area, we are definitely making progress.

Robert T. Leverett

[The Beginnings of The Western Native Tree Society](#)

by **Don** » Sat Aug 06, 2011 3:38 pm

Guest Editorial: The Beginnings of the Western Native Tree Society by Don Bertolette

*** This is a reprint of the Guest Editorial published in the July 2011 issue of eNTS The Magazine of the Native Tree Society

<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=159&t=2818>

[Anyone been to Zoar \(NY\) lately?](#)

by **lucager1483** » Fri Jul 13, 2012 11:40 pm

NTS, All the attention brought to the great state of Ohio, especially the northeast portion, and more particularly the Lake Erie watershed, a few months ago, brought to mind nearby Zoar Valley. Most, if not all, ents, I presume, are familiar with this special place even if they haven't seen it in person. A search on the BBS or Google or whatever should turn up descriptions aplenty.

I spent about two hours there this afternoon, mostly on the big flat along the main branch of Cattaraugus Creek with the greatest concentration of tall trees. I hadn't been to Zoar in at least two years, and it was very refreshing. My main objective was to measure some trees, of course. This was a bad idea, because the density of the stand made the job pretty much impossible. Very few trees (pretty much just those along the creek banks) had both base and top visible, and those had to be viewed from across the water.

The upshot of it is I only made two measurements of any repeatable quality, a sycamore at 144.5' and a tulip tree at 130.5'. The taller trees stand closer to the center of the flat, and I did get some straight-up shots with my Nikon 440. The highest returns topped out at 48 yards for tulips, with high 30s to low 40s for the

other species (sycamore, walnut, bitternut hickory, etc.). These numbers seem consistent with past reports. I would really like to know if any trees (likely sycamore or tulip) have broken the 160' barrier yet. I wasn't able to confirm any, but I don't think it's out of the question.

The main reason I'm posting this meager report is to find out if anyone has been to Zoar lately or has plans to visit in the near future. I'm just putting a feeler out, I guess. Bob Leverett mentioned a short while ago that he would like to see people "adopt" certain superlative forests or groves, and this one would be a gem for someone. I'd do it, but it's about 150 miles west of me, and it's hard to get out there on a regular basis. Zoar needs an ent friend, I think.

Elijah Whitcomb

P.S. If you'd like to visit Zoar, now is a great time. The water level of Cattaraugus Creek is very low and all of the public land should be easily accessible. It's a cool place, for sure.

[Re: The Lost Coast](#)

by **mdvaden** » Sat Jul 14, 2012 1:28 am

Don ... When in Prairie Creek, or Redwood National next to it, did you happen to come across this trillium?



[Re: Recruiting new citizen tree scientists](#)

by **pattyjenkins1** » Sat Jul 14, 2012 8:20 am

Good news! This is exactly what we hoped would happen. Yesterday I got an email from a friend who went to Eli's "Tree Measuring Workshop" for the Atlanta Tree Climbing Club. Alan is an experienced climber who lives in Nashville. He went on Ebay (for the first time) and bought himself a clinometer and nikon laser rangefinder. He says he should soon be "an ace tree measurer."

Anybody else who wants to do a SINE measuring workshop? Send me a date, time, and location, and I'll publicize it.

Patty Jenkins

[Re: Recruiting new citizen tree scientists](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sat Jul 14, 2012 10:01 am

Patti, That is very good news. When I return from the West, Michael and I will begin that series of promised discussions on tree measuring. But just a small preliminary. The key for a person using the sine method to grasp right off is that four measurements are taken: the distance and angle to the crown and the distance and angle to the base. The sine of the top angle is multiplied by the distance to the top for height above eye level and the sine of the angle to the base is multiplied by the distance to the base to get height below eye level. The two components of height are added together to get the total. That is it. That's the sine method. If the base is above eye level, the the height to base is subtracted from height to crown to get full tree height.

Most of the other information we present about the sine method is to help the measurer quickly identify which of competing tops is the highest and to provide

information on where best to position oneself to minimize angle and distance errors resulting from instrument error. We talk a lot about the size of the error one can make from different combinations of factors. But that is all icing on the cake. With respect to measuring height, still at the introductory level and beyond the above, we discuss how to measure trees using the tangent method, the method of similar triangles, and a combination of the sine and tangent methods. But the beginner need not concern himself/herself with all the extra stuff. In fact, best not to. It can make the subject appear to be way too much.

Admittedly, it starts to get interesting, or dicey, if the new measurer is challenged by someone of the old guard on methodology. That is when one may want to delve deeper. The stronger one's math background is, the quicker one comes to understand the strengths and weaknesses of each method. Tape and clinometer users may still make arguments for the adequacy and sufficiency of their method, but as Steve Colburn of LTI said a couple of days ago, it is all about understanding and using the right method, and method translates to mathematical model. So to be able to defend one's position, one eventually has to delve deeper into the math, and that is where NTS comes in.

I'm really excited about appealing to the recreational tree climbers as a group. The desire to find and document champions seems to be a natural companion interest. I think NTS has struck it rich in our developing association. Andrew, we're in your debt, buddy.

Robert T. Leverett

[White oak tree near Akeley, PA](#)

by PAwildernessadvocate » Sat Jul 14, 2012

I was reminded of the old white oak tree in Hale Cemetery at the corner of Gouldtown Road and Akeley Road near Akeley, PA (Warren County) during Ed Frank's recent presentation at Allegheny Outfitters in Warren. Dave from Allegheny Outfitters brought up the tree, and it jogged my memory. The last time I had been out to that cemetery a year or more ago I had noticed the tree, but was actually researching stuff *under* the ground at the time instead of stuff *above* the ground. So to speak.

Went back out to see it again and take a few pictures this past week. I also measured the dbh at approximately 78.5", more than six and a half feet.

Hale Cemetery from the south.



Oak from the south side of the cemetery.



Oak from the north side of the cemetery.



The tree is too big for my d-tape (which only goes up to 76.5")!



Kirk Johnson



Re: Cold Bank Pass and Engineer Mountain, CO

by **Rand** » Sat Jul 14, 2012 4:50 pm

dbhguru wrote: Robert, Mt Sneffels is one of the most picturesque of the fourteeners. Seen from the Dallas Divide, the Sneffels Range, as it is called, is very striking and resembles the Swiss Alps in the minds of some authors and photographers. I have lots of photos of Sneffels, but all in the summer. Autumn is the time to see the Sneffels Range.

Hey. I think I have some pictures of that:



Here are two of what I'm pretty sure are Mt Sneffels:



Rand Brown

[Re: Cold Bank Pass and Engineer Mountain, CO](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sat Jul 14, 2012 5:20 pm

Rand, Yep, that's the Dallas Divide. Great place. That's Sneffels in the first image.

Robert T. Leverett

[Vallecito Reservoir east of Durango, CO](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sat Jul 14, 2012 6:13 pm

NTS, About 20 miles east of Durango, the Vallecito Reservoir offers numerous camping opportunities for the public and swaths of big ponderosa pines for me. The general area suffered an enormous forest fire in 2004, the Missionary Ridge Fire that burned over 70,000 acres, but luckily the large Ponderosas near the reservoir didn't go up in smoke. Their bases were burned, but their thick bark enabled them to survive.

The area does not grow the extremely tall pines, but I did measure two to a height of 135 feet and a third to 131. The largest I measured was 11.4 feet around. Many are between 100 and 125 feet. It is another dart on the board.



The image below is in a campground on shores of the Vallecito Reservoir east of Durango. On the trunk of this pondy you can see the scars of the 2004 Missionary Ridge fire. The survivors have pretty thick bark. I measured a couple of pondies to 135 feet in this area, and a third to 131 feet. I don't think I can break 140 in this area. Many pondies in and around the campground are between 170 and 300 years old. A few may approach 400. There are lots of young pines too. In some of these areas you can find lots of pondies between 110 and 125 feet, but after that they shut down. I think the acquisition of significant

height takes a lot longer for the ponderosa than for the eastern white pine. Just my two-bit observation at this point.



Robert Leverett

[Silly question- Do poplar trees attract lightning?](#)

by [jamesrobertsmith](#) » Sun Jul 15, 2012 8:47 pm

If my mother-in-law sees even the smallest poplar sapling showing up on her acreage, she will chop it down. I asked her why she did this and her answer was:

"Poplar trees attract lightning!"

On the surface of it, that seems like a totally ridiculous statement. But I have heard lots of rural people make the same claim over the years. For what reason do many people think that Tulip trees attract lightning? In my experience, I don't see poplars struck any more often than any other type of tree.

Is it because they rupture more violently when struck? Is it because they tend to be among the tallest trees around and subsequently get struck more often?

Why the hell do so many country folk think that poplar trees attract lightning?

James Robert Smith

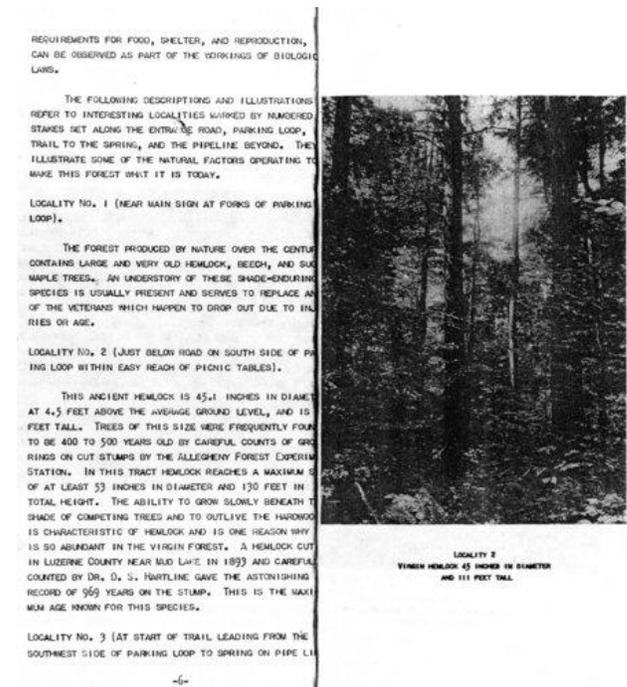
[A 969-year-old Eastern hemlock \(Tsuga canadensis\)?](#)

by [PAwildernessadvocate](#) » Sun Jul 15, 2012

Several years ago I posted this information to the old ENTS email list, so I thought I would repost it in the BBS forum too for people to see.

I have a copy of a USDA Forest Service publication titled "The Tionesta Natural and Scenic Area, Allegheny National Forest" and dated March 1943. The document focuses on the 4,100-acre Tionesta old-growth forest straddling the county line in southern Warren and McKean Counties. However, when describing the age and size that Eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) can achieve on page six it also mentions the following about a **969-year-old** hemlock in Luzerne County:

The ability to grow slowly beneath the shade of competing trees and to outlive the hardwoods is characteristic of hemlock and is one reason why it is so abundant in the virgin forest. A hemlock cut in Luzerne County near Mud Lake in 1893 and carefully counted by Dr. D.S. Hartline gave the astonishing record of 969 years on the stump. This is the maximum age known for this species.



Has anyone ever seen any other documentation of *Tsuga canadensis* living more than 500 or 600 years or so? 969 years is amazing!

Kirk Johnson

[Re: A 969-year-old Eastern hemlock \(Tsuga canadensis\)](#)

by edfrank » Sun Jul 15, 2012 11:51 pm

Kirk, The document "Hough, A. F. and Forbes, R. D. 1943. The Ecology and Silvics of Forest in the High Plateaus of Pennsylvania, Ecological Monographs, Vol. 13, No. 3, July 1943" describes a 536 year old hemlock apparently located near the creek bottom of East Tionesta Creek. It does not mention any older hemlocks being located. I can email you a copy of the report if you are interested. (2.16 MB).

I have the 1977 report: "Bjorkbom, John C., and Larson, Rodney G. 1977. The Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas, Forest Service General technical Report NE-031, Upper Darby, PA: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experimental Station. 24 p." <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/4015> It likewise does not mention the older tree from the report you mention.

Charlie Cogsbill mentions a number of older hemlock trees in this discussion from our website: http://www.nativetreesociety.org/specie...ck_age.htm

The Hough reference is this article: "Hough, A. F. 1960. Silvical characteristics of eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). Res. Pap. NE-132. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station. 23 p. <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/13718>

At maturity, hemlock may reach large size and great age. The record for age is 988 years; for d.b.h., 84

inches; and for total height, 160 feet (23 , 53).^{3,7}
These trees were in original old-growth stands.

The first reference cited by Hough 1960 is Frothingham, E. H. 1915. The eastern hemlock. U.S. Dept. Agr. Bul. 152. 43 pp., illus http://www.archive.org/stream/bulletino...t_djvu.txt but it does not give really old tree ages in the text. The second reference is Morey, H. F. 1936. Age-size relationship of Hearts Content, a virgin forest in northwestern Pennsylvania. Ecology 17: 251-257. I don't have a copy of that article.

Kirk's original post can be found here:

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/fieldt...in_pa.htm

The Confirmed Ages for Eastern trees Thread can be found here:

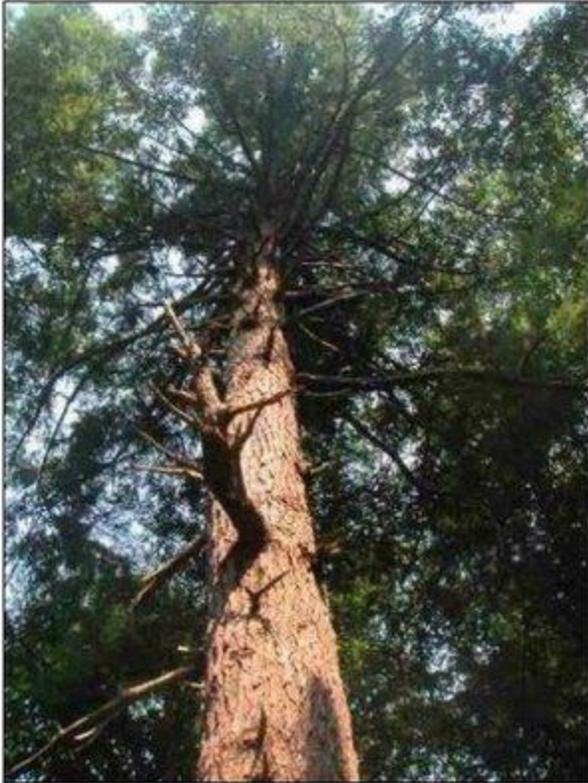
<http://www.nativetreesociety.org/dendro...speci.htm>

Neil Pederson's Eastern old-List is found here:

<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/~adk/oldlisteast/>

There also is this report from Schalls Gap:

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/bullet...v06_04.pdf



Schall's Gap Natural Area Hemlock—this eastern hemlock (Tsuga canadensis) was reportedly cored by graduate student from the Pennsylvania State University Forestry School in the winter of 2000-2001 and was determined to be 550 years old. Similarly, Dr. Ed Cook has cross-dated cores taken from a 535-year-old and 511-year-old hemlocks from the Tionesta Research Area in 1999. Photograph courtesy of Ernie Ostuno.

Edward Frank

[Re: A 969-year-old Eastern hemlock \(Tsuga canadensis\)](#)

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Mon Jul 16, 2012

Here's a link to the 1915 Frothingham publication on Google Books:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=NheCnV...ck&f=false>

I don't see a way to convert this to a PDF though. You can read it online, but I'd like to download it and print it out to read. I don't really like reading documents that large online.

You can purchase a PDF of the 1936 Morey article here for \$14:

<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/1...6309675853>

I don't feel like spending \$14 on it though, so I'm going to try a source where I think I can probably get a copy for free.

Kirk Johnson

[Re: A 969-year-old Eastern hemlock \(Tsuga canadensis\)](#)

by **edfrank** » Mon Jul 16, 2012 8:43 am

Here is a version of Frothingham (1915) in Word - I saved the image file from each page and compiled them:

 [Frothingham 1915 The eastern hemlock Tsuga canadensis \(Linn.\) Carr.docx](#) (2.34 MB)

and as a pdf:

 [Frothingham 1915 The eastern hemlock Tsuga canadensis \(Linn.\) Carr.pdf](#) (2.55 MB)

Edward Frank

[Re: A 969-year-old Eastern hemlock \(Tsuga canadensis\)](#)

by **dbhguru** » Mon Jul 16, 2012 10:18 am

Ed, et. al., In conversations with Charlie Cogbill, he rejects, or at least suspects, the validity of the 988 figure. He came to believe that it was an extrapolation. We'll never know for sure.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: A 969-year-old Eastern hemlock (Tsuga canadensis)

by Neil » Tue Jul 17, 2012 8:37 am

hi All,

969 years is just so hard to believe when hundreds, if not at least 1000, hemlock have been cored across much of its range by several talented dendrochronologists prior to HWA outbreak and no one yet has broken 600 years. While this is a rather incomplete list -

<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/~adk/oldlisteast/Spp/TSCA.html> - it indicates how rare a 900 year old hemlock would be. It also indicates that Tionesta is still home to the old-documented hemlock.

Short heads up: a large-scale effort to retrieve hemlock core samples before they are lost from the landscape will begin sometime in early fall. I will give NTS a heads up before the launch in case folks want to participate. Who knows, maybe out of this loss an 800 year old hemlock will be documented?

Neil Pederson

Re: A 969-year-old Eastern hemlock (Tsuga canadensis)

by edfrank » Tue Jul 17, 2012 8:36 pm

Neil, Will, Kirk,

In some ways the ages for these extremely old hemlocks is akin to looking at the older accounts of 250 foot tall white pine trees. Part of the effort is to try to track down the original source for the numbers and see if there is any additional information to be had about the tree, the location, or if it is an extrapolation what part was an actual count and how much was an extrapolation.

It is reasonable to guess it is an extrapolation, but I don't know that it is not simply an outlier on the old age spread. There could be one out there and by its

nature a unique or extremely rare example. The further up the age goes the fewer trees. At some point there is only going to be one oldest tree left, and the maximum age it reaches is not constrained by the shape of the curve or the ages at which the other trees died. It is unlikely, but not impossible, that the number is an actual ring count age.

Look at the list of ages from Thuja occidentalis:

Thuja occidentalis	1653	XD
Thuja occidentalis	1567	XD
Thuja occidentalis	1141	XD

All three are from the Niagara Escarpment on Flowerpot Island in Lake Huron, but there is a 426 year gap between the third oldest and second oldest specimen. So a gap between the 988 year old (or 969 year old) specimen and the 555 year old one by Cook from Tionesta is not unprecedented. I am doubtful of the age being from an actual ring count, but I can't exclude the possibility without further data, and I can't really accept it either without more data.

Edward Frank

Re: A 969-year-old Eastern hemlock (Tsuga canadensis)

by Will Blozan » Tue Jul 17, 2012 9:07 pm

Ed,

Good argument. I would guess however, that there are far more samples of ancient hemlocks collected than those of white cedar. Neil's count of hemlock samples does not include the hundreds collected during the Old-growth Mapping Project I worked on 1993-1997. Our outlier was 510 years old; 400 being obtainable but not common. We did select for the oldest "looking" tree; a search image honed by referencing the outcomes of the hundreds of cores. Neil can attest to this ability.

I sampled some yellow birch "dated" to 1,200 years back in 1997. When I saw the trees they looked no different than the hundreds of others I had seen.

Turns out this guy extrapolated from a ring sample of not the trunk, but fallen *branches*. OMG, a wasted trip... I did ask him what the trees would look like if the branches grew as fast as the trunk... he didn't get it.

I also seriously doubt that hemlock wood would survive nearly a millenium without rotting. Also, an immense 84" diameter hemlock would not be an ancient specimen but one growing under ideal conditions.

Will Blozan

[Re: Front Page of the Durango Herald - We Made It!](#)

by PAwildernessadvocate » Thu Jul 19, 2012 11:56 am

Thought this article from today's Summit County Citizens Voice may be of interest to this thread:

<http://summitcountyvoice.com/2012/07/19...ar-durango>

Colorado: New wilderness proposed near Durango

[Re: A 969-year-old Eastern hemlock \(Tsuga canadensis\)](#)

by Rand » Thu Jul 19, 2012 1:19 pm

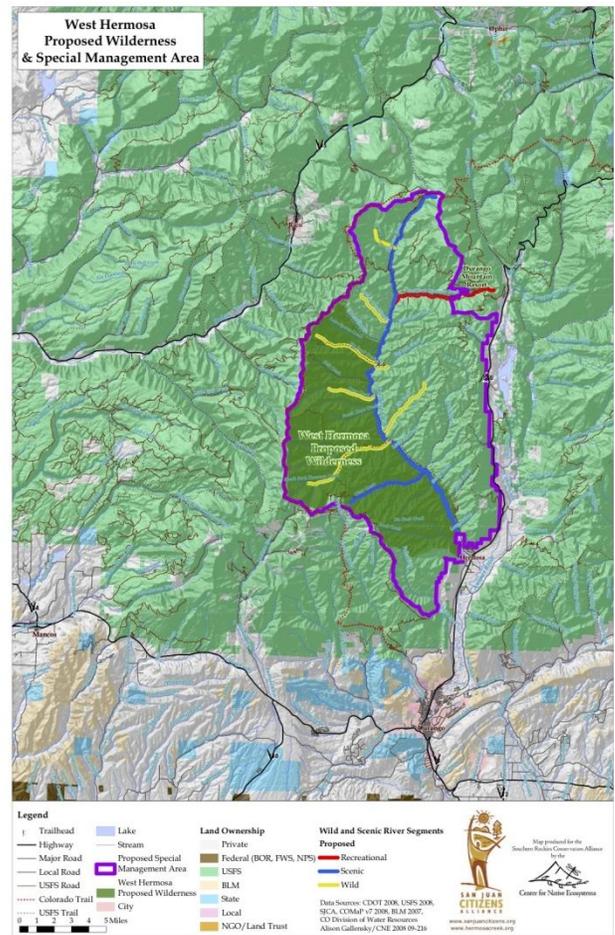
Wouldn't the age gaps be better expressed as percentages rather than years. ie the percentage gap between the oldest/youngest thuja is

$$(1653-1141)/1141 = 45\%$$

vs

$$(988-555)/555 = 78\%$$

for hemlock. Expressed this way the disparity is a lot more eyebrow raising, then comparing numeric age differences between two species, where one lives 2-3x longer than the other.



Kirk Johnson

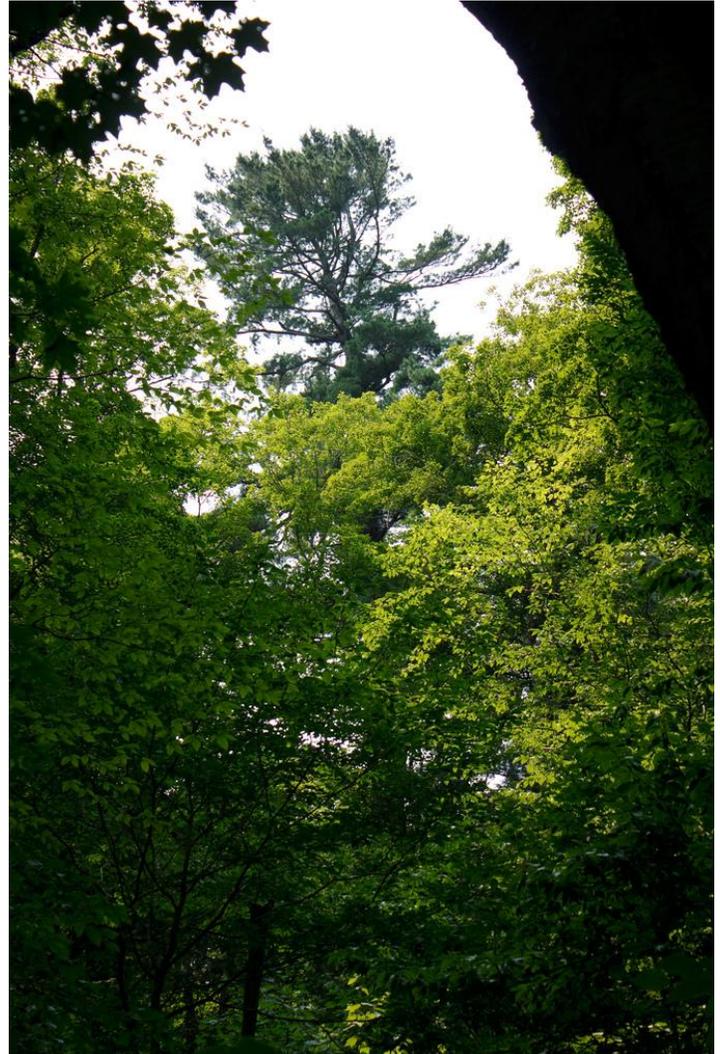
[Thoreau Tree \(MA\) recording session](#)

by **Andrew Joslin** » Sat Jul 14, 2012 2:33 pm

On July 14, 2012 composer and NTS member Michael Gatsonka joined me to hike to the Thoreau Tree with the goal of making arboreal recordings in the area of Dunbar Brook/northern Berkshires. With high humidity and temperatures predicted to be in the low 90's f. we had our work cut out for us. As many NTS know Michael has been recording wind sounds associated with various tree species. Our hope was to ascend the emergent Thoreau Tree and pick up some wind above the deciduous forest canopy. As it turned out what little wind there was died by the time we were in position to record. I think the trip was not wasted, Michael continues to improve his climbing skills and showed great determination in hot conditions to make a 100' ascent to reach the lower crown of the tree. Those who've visited the tree know it is no slouch, Thoreau has the magnitude of a PNW conifer. I'm surprised again each time I have the privilege to visit this very impressive white pine.

Instead of wind we enjoyed a chorus of bird calls emanating from the Dunbar Brook valley. Perhaps hundreds of vireos of several species calling at once, black-throated blue and black-thoated green warbler were calling from near the tree, hermit thrush, wood thrush and scarlet tanager were also playing their parts. Beneath the avian chorus the soft rumbling purr of Dunbar Brook far below us provided a soothing rhythm section. Words can't do it justice, I'm looking forward to hearing what Michael captured.

A glimpse of Thoreau's 153'+ top, Michael spotted it first



Michael at the base of the tree. Note the remains of a formerly up slope sugar maple that snapped at the butt and crashed down next to Thoreau



Young beeches at the base of Thoreau



The mighty trunk, the first live limbs on this side of the tree are in the 110' height range



Resting and rehydrating after 100' ascent



Recording. Deer flies, blackflies and mosquitoes stayed with us in the tree so we had to give blood while we limited movement and noise during recording, well worth it though.



-Andrew Joslin

[The Thoreau Tree, MA soundscape](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Mon Jul 16, 2012 5:33 pm

This soundscape was captured after climbing into the spreading horizontal limbs of the Thoreau Tree on a very humid July afternoon. Classified as perhaps the largest white pine tree (by volume) in New England, we made no mistake in spotting this massive tree right away following our 45 minute hike into the forest with climbing and digital audio recording equipment.

Unfortunately, the wind let us down in this day – no movement whatsoever to stir the delicate, spraylike foliage of the pine, and we noted that even the quaking aspens were both silent and immobile. Still, there was a valley plenty full of bird song to capture, and so that is just what we focused on.

Once we climbed up in the Thoreau Tree, and with an open view looking out over the Dunbar Brook environment, one of the sounds that were captured include the gentle background “sh” - the soft and slowly rolling white noise from the moving waters of the distant brook. In the foreground, with the valley acting as our geological or physical resonator, some of the birds that can be heard in varying textural layers and in multiple counterpoint include Red-eyed Vireos, Scarlet Tanagers, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and the Hermit Thrush.

This white pine tree is a familiar sight to many of the ENTS. As a result of its being a ‘veteran’ tree, I was quite happy to have had the opportunity to collaborate with Andrew Joslin on this project.

Hopefully, we have added yet another chapter to the Thoreau Tree’s important value, history and legend in our organization.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAgO7v2qK18&feature=plcp>



Looking up at Thoreau



the View



No sight of ground...



Enjoying the view from my branch in the "recording studio"



Recording!

Michael Gatonska

What's Our Real Membership?

by **dbhguru** » Mon Jul 16, 2012 4:37 pm

NTS, I took a look at our membership roster and when each member was last active, i.e. logged in. Of 524 membership entries, only 259 have been active this year in the sense of logging in. We're a much smaller organization than I've been telling others. I don't know how many members go to the BBS, but don't log in. I also have no idea how many non-members visit the website of BBS. It could be a lot. But when it come to the truly active members, I doubt we number over 100. If you look at the website, the BBS, and peruse the eNTS Magazine and Bulletin, you can't help but be impressed by the amount of material that's been generated. Thank you, the faithful.

Ed may have a different take on the activity. He's in the best position to know how much activity is generated on our Internet infrastructure.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: What's Our Real Membership?

by **edfrank** » Mon Jul 16, 2012 5:59 pm

Bob, I think you are missing the boat on this one. People can view the BBS discussions without logging in and can view the discussions without even joining the BBS. I am sure that many more people view the discussions than are represented by the numbers who log onto the BBS. The number of really active members is likely around the hundred or so you suggest. The same can be said of other groups. They have a membership of so many people, of which only a small proportion actively participate in organizational activities. How many of you are members of the Audubon Society and how many of you have logged onto their website in the last year? I consider myself to be a member of the National Speleological Society even though I haven't logged onto their website for years. I don't believe the proportion of active members is any different for this

organization than for many others, if anything I think we have a higher percentage of active participants than most groups. So you should keep citing the 500 members number as it is representative of our actual membership. The system sends out notices to inactive members and I regularly get message from these people who are afraid they will be removed from the BBS membership simply because they have not logged on in awhile.

Look at the views of the Bulletin - the Bulletin of the Eastern Native Tree Society, Volume 6, No. 4 had over 4871 views. Many of them were people looking more than once, but that doesn't account for all of the numbers. I don't know how many of those people downloaded the pdf file. People are looking at our BBS. On our Facebook page we have 712 likes - if people don't want to see our posts they can simply click one button to stop hearing from us - so they are seeing posts made there and wanting to see them. In the last week the data say we have a talking about of 219 meaning:

People Talking About This

The number of unique people who have created a story about your Page from 7/10/12 to 7/16/12. A story is created when someone likes your Page; posts to your Page Wall; likes, comments on or shares one of your Page posts; answers a question you posted; responds to your event; mentions your Page; tags your Page in a photo; checks in at your Place; or recommends your Place.

and a total reach of 1967 people:

Weekly Total Reach

The number of unique people who have seen any content associated with your Page from 7/8/12 to 7/14/12. This includes Ads and Sponsored Stories that point to your Page.

So people are aware of us and our membership is growing. We have more members now on the BBS than we ever had on any of the other discussion lists, and our likes on Facebook are even higher. We are growing, I just think you are letting your frustrations cloud your assessment. I have not posted much in the last few weeks, so the numbers are not as high as they could be under normal circumstances.

Edward Frank

[Re: Northern California redwoods visit](#)

by [larrythelobster](#) » Mon Jul 16, 2012 7:41 pm

Hey guys!

I have lived in California all my life but I live on the coast in so-cal in a small beach town called la jolla. I have spent my whole life here in the desert and i never thought about visiting parts of California with any natural beauty until recently. I went up to the redwood national park and saw some beautiful trees that amazed me beyond belief. (i've included some pictures) I'm looking to do this again but perhaps a little bit more comfortably, does anyone know how i can plan easy [California Vacations](#) where i can see the Redwoods but be able to sleep in a comfortable bed in a hotel. Any advice would be great because i cant wait to visit these beautiful trees again.

Thanks,
Larry



Redwood_Trees.jpg

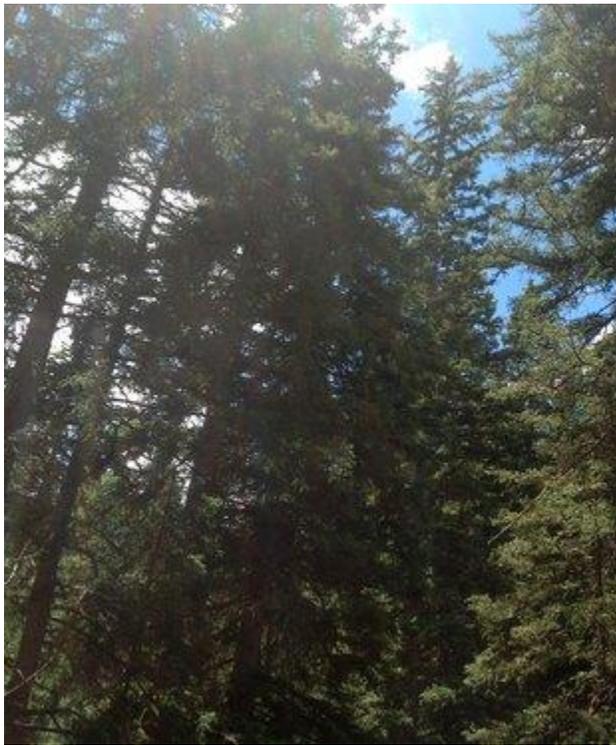


some pictures I took

Colorado Blue

by **dbhguru** » Tue Jul 17, 2012 6:47 pm

NTS, Today Monica, Dr. Nancy Weiss, Carol Wise, Rose Chilcoat, and yours truly went back up Goulding Creek to remeasure the tall Colorado blue spruce growing at 9,425 feet right at the head of the stream. I had measured the tree a couple weeks ago, but was not satisfied with the measurement. Today the weather was perfect. So up the steep trail we went through old growth ponderosas and Doug firs. Near our tree we ran into an obstacle, a small herd of cattle that included a bull. We succeeded in shooing the cows away, i.e. off the trail, but gave ground quickly to the bull. He was keeping track of his girls, and would cotton no interference from us. Then he moved on and I was encouraged by the others to finish the task, which I did. I would have liked to have stayed longer, but was out-voted.



The Colorado blue is 150.5 feet tall and has a girth of 10.0 feet. At that height, it becomes the 4th of its species that I've measured to 150 feet in the San Juan's. Bob Van Pelt has measured one also. So that's five total. The tree measured today is seen below in the center of the image. It is the More distant of the

group. It is a fairly old tree - probably around 250 years.

A Colorado blue close by measured 140.5 feet. I measured a third to 129.0 feet. All three were measured with a TruPulse 200.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Colorado Blue

by **dbhguru** » Wed Jul 18, 2012 10:53 am

James,

The possibilities are unlimited out here. Last night Monica and I and two friends attended a celebration of Dick and Foxie Mason's 30th wedding anniversary. There were around 55 guests. Foxie started Music in the Mountains 26 years ago and so there were plenty of musicians present, but lots of folks with other backgrounds. Because I'd been on the front page of the paper a couple days before, I got lots of attention. There was lots of interest in big trees. One rancher friend of Dick and Foxie offered to outfit Monica and me with horses to go into the high country and search the draws. I got lots of tips on where to look for big aspens, tall firs, you name it. Next year, we'll extend searches, documentation, and partnership arrangements.

So, Durango has become the center for the Rocky Mtn zone of WNTS. It is all coming together. In a couple days Monica will head to Sante Fe, New Mexico and I'll have the opportunity to search for more notable trees. Then we'll reverse direction and head for Idaho. After leaving Idaho, we'll head across Wyoming through the Grand Tetons and to the Bighorns. From there we'll cover the remainder of Wyoming and hit the Black Hills to end the WNTS part of the trip. We'll take a fairly northern route to that will eventually take us back via Michigan and a piece of Canada. We'll end up in New York's Adirondacks and then Lake Champlain.

Robert T. Leverett

[Giant Cardon \(cactus\)](#)

by **edfrank** » Wed Jul 18, 2012 3:15 pm

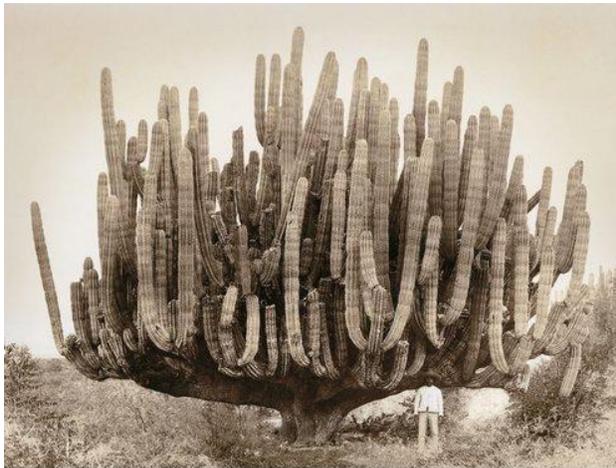
Cardon Cactus - Baja California, Mexico, circa 1895

Photographer: León Diguét

Ref: SK01608-03

The French historian and naturalist León Diguét made six scientific expeditions to Mexico between 1893 and 1913. An autodidact, he wrote over 40 articles based on his travels (on such diverse subjects as botany, archeology, anthropology and linguistics) and was one of the first scientists to use photography to illustrate his research writing. With only a few copies of this photograph known to exist in the world, this image of a Cardon cactus (nearly 8 meters tall and weighing roughly 10 tons) shows a spectacular example of a plant of this species.

http://www.voyagesenphotographie.com/detailsSK01608-03_200-px.shtml



San Sebastian Zinacatepec (État de Puebla)

See also: Diguét's Studies of West Mexico

J. Andrew Darling

Journal of the Southwest

Vol. 42, No. 1, Ritual and Historical Territoriality of the Nayari and Wixarika Peoples (Spring, 2000), pp. 181-185

Published by: Journal of the Southwest

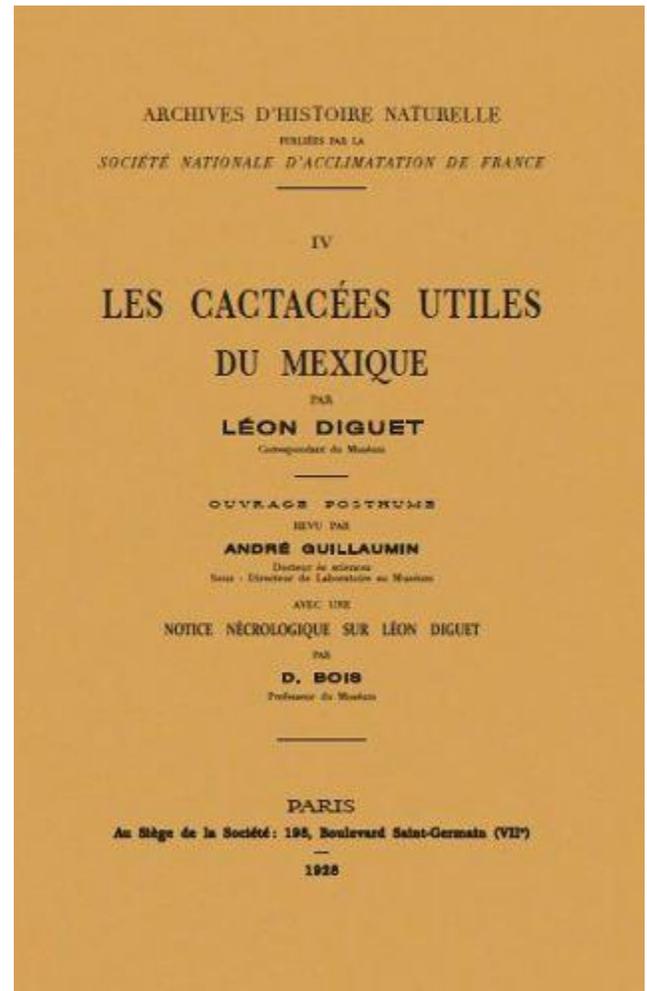
Article Stable URL:

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/40170147>

LEÓN DIGUET

Nacido en París en 1859, León Diguét fue a México a la edad de treinta años como químico industrial para la mina de la compañía de Rothschild El cobre del Boleo.

<http://aviada.blogspot.mx/2011/08/leon-diguét.html>



http://cactusbiblio.free.fr/Diguét/Diguét_Cact.pdf

posted by Edward Frank

[Good News for WNTS](#)

▣ by **dbhguru** » Wed Jul 18, 2012 3:30 pm

NTS, The WNTS outlook has improved over the past few days as we have cemented our relationship with Great Old Broads for Wilderness, the San Juan NF, and a number of local folks of varying background who definitely are interested in what we do and want to help. The article in the Durango Herald has shown that. One must have patience - not one of my strengths. But also, it doesn't not pay to squander time and energy on lobbying the wrong groups. I'm taking stock of how I spend my time in recruiting efforts.

One would think that the state champion tree coordinators would be logical NTS members - every one. One would think that they would collectively jump at membership with us. What do they have to lose? Nothing, and they have much to gain. A no brainer. Maybe so, but they have not beaten down any paths to our door. Other examples could be given of unproductive efforts, but I, in particular, have to exert caution and not write off whole groups. For example, the forestry folks. Here, I'm coming to see that it is a question of strategy. Recruiting foresters by attempting to go through, say SAF or a state-level equivalent, is likely to produce nothing. However, individual foresters with a known interest in big trees is a group well worth pursuing. Individual foresters could be some of our most productive members especially in alerting us to sites and trees. The trick is getting in contact and dealing with them on a one-on-one basis. That's the key, and I think we'll gain traction in 2013 out here in Durango.

One group that I'm writing off is the academic foresters - again, individuals notwithstanding. I once thought the academics would be a good group to pursue. But they show little interest. What we do is very peripheral to their interests. It isn't about whether they are busy or not. You find time for what is important to you, and avoid what isn't.

The American Forests route is showing great potential. For years, we could get nothing started and now it's about to take off. Again, patience is a virtue.

The LTI connection is growing rapidly. We're positioned to have a real partnership.

The tree-climbers are an exciting group with many possibilities for collaboration. Lots to be optimistic about here.

Well, enough babbling for now. I'll save up some babble for tomorrow.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Good News for WNTS](#)

▣ by **dbhguru** » Wed Jul 18, 2012 9:33 pm

NTS, we are moving forward in WNTS toward a long sought after relationship with the San Juan NF. Laurie Swisher, their old-growth inventory specialist, is going to establish a FS database to record WNTS measurements. The objective will be to correlate the measurements we obtain to climate, geology, and topography. There will be a long term management objective, which is fine. LTI may join us in the project, although their exact role has yet to be determined. One role would be to keep my TruPulses and RD1000 operable.

My point to Laurie and other FS officials is that WNTS data for the region needs a home where it can do some good. I think that point is being accepted, and if we can collect enough measurements, they will analyze the factors that explain the growth.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Colorado Blue

by **dbhguru** » Thu Jul 19, 2012 10:17 am

James,

Retirement has two faces. You have more time to do things, but you are also older and less able to do them. Monica and I are trying to arrange our lives so that we can spend more time out here, maybe three full months a year. I'd like four. There are endless opportunities for discovery and I'm finally starting to network. Finding people with interests in special trees has been a long process, but the good news is that they do exist. They often need someone to confirm for them that the trees they like are indeed special. After that, they're anxious to share. But nobody expected the kinds of discoveries that WNTS is making, so there is a fresh face being put on tree discoveries in the Durango area.

I haven't abandoned my work in Massachusetts, nor shall I, but I confess that there is so little forest left that really excites me in the entirety of New England. Basically, there are three classes of forest: (1) managed, (2) mismanaged, and (3) forest reserves, by whatever name. For the most part, the managed forests back there are the very definition of boring. The mismanaged forests take up the lion's share, and the reserves (often what fall into the previously mismanaged category) and a pittance - taken over the landscape as a whole. The unmanaged white pines of Mohawk, Monroe, Bryant, and Ice Glen in Massachusetts, Pack Forest and the Elders in New York, and the Claremont and Tamworth pines in New Hampshire are the notable exceptions. Those places do fire the imagination, but collectively they add up to so little. Outside of New England, It is true that the Adirondacks have large reserves of old growth, but if your looking for big tree old growth, then there is really very little of that. Elsewhere in the Northeast there are the jewels like Cook Forest, but again, they really are small, and we know all these places very well.

By contrast, out here there is the continuing process of discovery. I'll never know what lies up the next canyon or draw. It keeps the blood churning and the

sheer ruggedness of the land prevents the kind of exploitation that so easily occurs throughout the East. The expansiveness of the area of rugged terrain seems boundless. The San Juans alone have 13 peaks over fourteen thousand feet, as many as all of California. The number of thirteeners is probably at least 250. There is more land above 10,000 feet than anywhere else in the lower 48. And every trail I've gone on, I encounter trees over 200 years in age. I've sent lots of images, but every photo of a spot is just a sample of the area. In New England, it would be the whole subject. In these comments, I don't mean to sound like I'm complaining, just trying to convey an idea of what is out here to be excited about.

Robert T. Leverett

Saying Goodbye to Durango, CO

by **dbhguru** » Thu Jul 19, 2012 6:09 pm

Today is our last day house sitting in Durango. It is a sad occasion for both Monica and me. We'll miss the birds, fish, chickens, and parade of wildlife going across the property. I'll even miss the watering assignments and periodically filling the cistern with city water, which we haul using Kip's truck and a 250-gallon tank.

This has been by far our best house sitting assignment. The view from the kitchen window is spectacular. The sunsets are spectacular. The surroundings are bucolic. We're far enough out of town to be removed from the congestion and noise that goes with a town of any size. But life must move on, so tomorrow it is Sante Fe. Monica wants to attend the Sante Fe opera, which I'm told ranks high.



Although, my expectations had tanked on getting here with respect to the WNTS mission, I leave with a renewed enthusiasm. It is all in making the connections and the infrastructure is finally getting put into place to allow WNTS to have an impact. Next year could be the big one.

When I get to a place where we have high speed Internet, I'll send more images, but for now, I'll close with one sent to Ed Frank for posting via the cellular network we can use on Monica's iPad. Last night didn't offer up a spectacular sunset, but it was a pleasing one. Here's a look.

Robert T. Leverett

[The Changing Soundscape in New York City](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Fri Jul 20, 2012 2:19 pm

I wanted to post this article titled *Working or Playing Indoors, New Yorkers Face an Unabated Roar* from the New York Times. I believe that it is the first article in a series that will explore the changing, and sometimes deafening, soundscape in New York City.

In many restaurants and gyms, the noise can average over 96 decibels, which if sustained for a long period of time can cause hearing loss. I did a quick check in Pierce's book *The Science of Musical Sound* to locate

his chart on Sound Intensities Expressed in Decibels. Level (dB) 0 = the threshold of hearing. Level (dB) 120= the threshold of feeling.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/20/nyregion/in-new-york-city-indoor-noise-goes-unabated.html?_r=1

This is an interactive Sound Tour of New York City <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/07/20/nyregion/a-sound-tour-of-new-york-city.html?ref=nyregion>

Let's pump up the volume!

Michael Gatonska

[Say hello to Santa Fe, NM](#)

by **dbhguru** » Fri Jul 20, 2012 7:03 pm

Monica and I have arrived in Santa Fe, NM. We took US 160 east to US 84 and south to our destination. On the way we stopped at Echo Amphitheater, a natural enclosed sandstone formation that is spectacular. Ancient junipers cover the terrain as one approaches the formation. The rings on specimens pruned along the trail were much too narrow to count. I'll have images when I download my camera. Anyway, if you are traveling down U.S. 84 on your way to Santa Fe, I highly recommend stopping.

We're staying at a B&B in old Santa Fe that sets at an altitude of 7090 feet. Santa Fe is really up in the air, but the surrounding mountains are pretty subdued compared to Colorado's San Juan's. I don't see much, if any, opportunities for really big trees. Perhaps in some of the canyons of the Sangre de Cristo range, but it is really dry. More to come.

Robert T. Leverett

[US 84 \(CO\) to Santa Fe, NM](#)

by **dbhguru** » Fri Jul 20, 2012 8:02 pm

NTS, Going south on US 84 from Pagosa Springs, CO is a beautiful ride. You follow the San Juans to their terminus. Here is the view from US 84 looking eastward.



Now a view from New Mexico



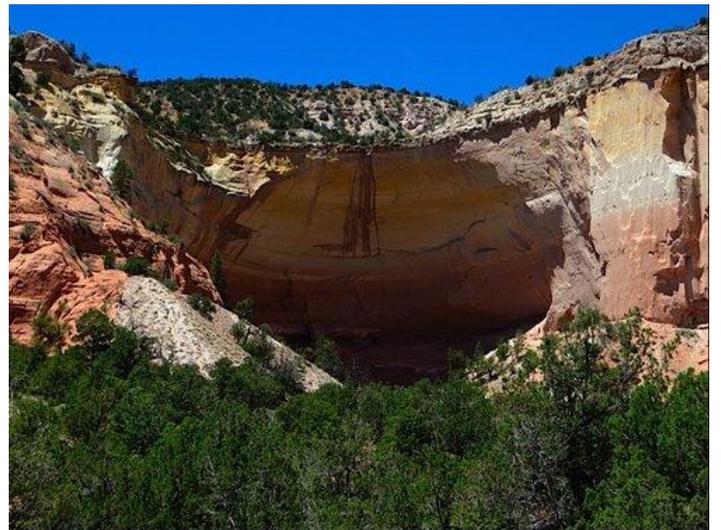
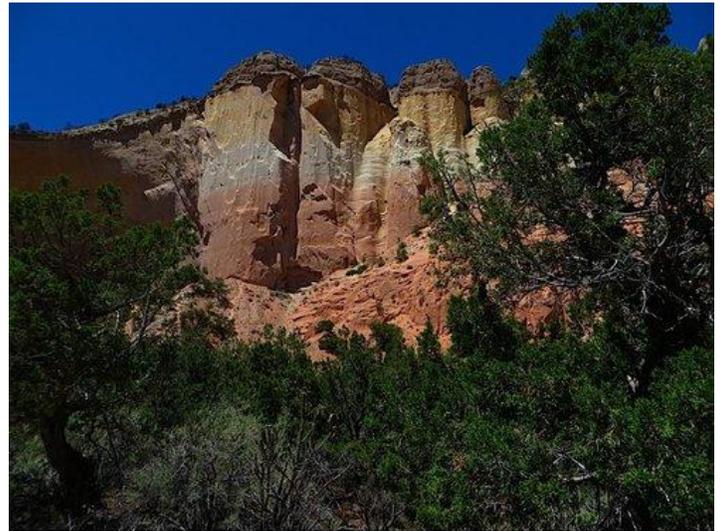
My Internet connection is slow here. So, I'll send more images later.

Robert T. Leverett

[Echo Amphitheater, NM](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sat Jul 21, 2012 10:04 am

NTS, The stretch of U.S. 84 that goes to Santa Fe from Colorado is a visual feast. One spot is just amazing. It is called Echo Amphitheater. Formed by sandstone, it is just as described, a giant bowl or natural amphitheater. It is a favorite haunt of the late artist Georgia O'Keefe who lived a few miles south of the Amphitheater.



There are many ancient junipers in the area. I expect some are well over 500 years of age.

James Robert Smith, this region of our country provides visitors with a continuous visual feast. The

towns are small and far apart and the land between is oh, so scenic. I think you are going to have an incredible experience out here. BTW, you must continue on the Goulding Creek trail for about 2.5 miles to get to the largest aspens. So far the largest that I've learned about measures 10.7 feet in girth. For an aspen, that is freakin large.

Robert T. Leverett

[The World Forum for Acoustic Ecology](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Sat Jul 21, 2012 4:27 pm

I recently came across this terrific site, and felt that some of the NT's may particularly enjoy checking out some of the WFAE's directory of videos.

The World Forum for Acoustic Ecology (WFAE) was founded in 1993, and is an international association of affiliated organizations and individuals in North America, Europe, Japan, and Australia that share a common concern with the state of the world's soundscapes. What I really like about the organization is how their members represent a multi-disciplinary spectrum of individuals that are all engaged in the study of the social, cultural and ecological aspects of the sonic environment.

Here is the website: <http://wfae.proscenia.net/>

Here is a link to their directory of videos related to the field of Acoustic Ecology
<http://soundexplorations.blogspot.com/>

...and, here is an sample of what you will find in the directory:

This 2009 documentary explores the work of Bernie Krause in his study of the soundscape, and it details the creation of a proposed Center for Soundscape Study



<http://vimeo.com/2310435>

Michael Gatonska

[Villanueva Cottonwood, NM](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sat Jul 21, 2012 8:19 pm

NTS, Monica and I made a discovery today going to Villanueva. A cottonwood near the Pecos River tops all I've measured. Take a look.





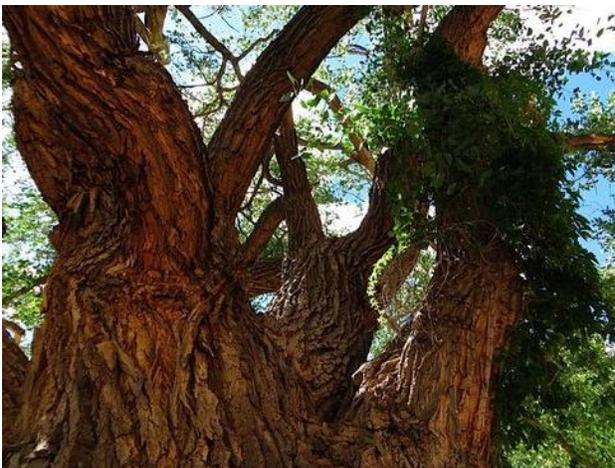
This sucker is 33.3 feet around. Its height is only 51.5 feet, but who cares. It has enormous limbs. There are other large cottonwoods in a local state park, but none to challenge this one. My guess is that it is a Rio Grande cottonwood. I'll have more images when I get a faster Internet connection.

Robert T. Leverett

[More Villanueva Cottonwood images, NM](#)

by [dbhguru](#) » Sun Jul 22, 2012 4:06 pm

NTS, Here are 3 more Villanueva Cottonwood images. BTW, the tree is on State Route 3 going to Villanueva.



Will correctly diagnoses that the tree is a coppice, although not so obvious when you are next to it because seams that might suggest separate trunks stop at the base of limbs. However, virtually all the big cottonwoods growing in relatively open conditions out here coppice. It reminds me of the strong tendency of silver maples to coppice in flood plains in the Northeast.

Regardless, this is a great tree. It is evident that one must not write an area off because it is dry.

Robert T. Leverett

Old eastern hemlocks in MI Hiawatha N.F.

by **RoySpencer** » Sun Jul 22, 2012 10:33 am

I'm a climate researcher (and NTS newbie) at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, but my wife and I are originally from Sault Ste. Marie, MI. I've always had a hobby interest in trees.

During a recent visit to the Sault, we gathered some driftwood on the shores of the Upper St. Mary's River, which drains out of Lake Superior. When I returned home to Alabama, I discovered one of the pieces was obviously cut off the side of a large log by a sawmill. Judging by its curvature, I estimate the log was close to 2 ft in diameter. What surprised me was the number of rings in this fairly thin slice of wood: about 190 in a little over 3 inches from the outer surface of the log inward to the saw cut.

This got me interested in what kind of tree might be so old (maybe 500 years or more), so I contacted Ed Cook about old hemlocks he sampled near Salt Pt. in 1983 during a trip across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Ed graciously gave me some advice and papers regarding the identification of old hemlocks and the use of an incremental borer (which I already have).

Anyway, I've been examining some cool-season Google Earth imagery of the eastern Hiawatha National Forest, and have identified what look like a number of hemlock stands which will require some hiking to reach. This Fall I would like to go visit a few of these, and maybe try to get a permit to take a few cores if I find anything that looks quite old.

Since the oldest hemlocks Ed Cook found in 1983 were not far off of existing roads and trails, I suspect there are numerous hemlocks even older than Ed sampled in this region.

I just thought I would introduce myself, and see if anyone has any advice for me.

-Roy W. Spencer
Huntsville, AL

Western Expanses, NM

by **dbhguru** » Sun Jul 22, 2012 10:31 pm

NTS, Here are some images from the Taos Plateau and south end of the San Luis Valley from US 285 in northern New Mexico. I don't get a cooped up feeling looking across the great expanse of space.



The next image is of Mount San Antonio, a 10,908-foot cinder cone. It presents quite a spectacle as you drive through the great expanse.



The cloud layer intrigued me.



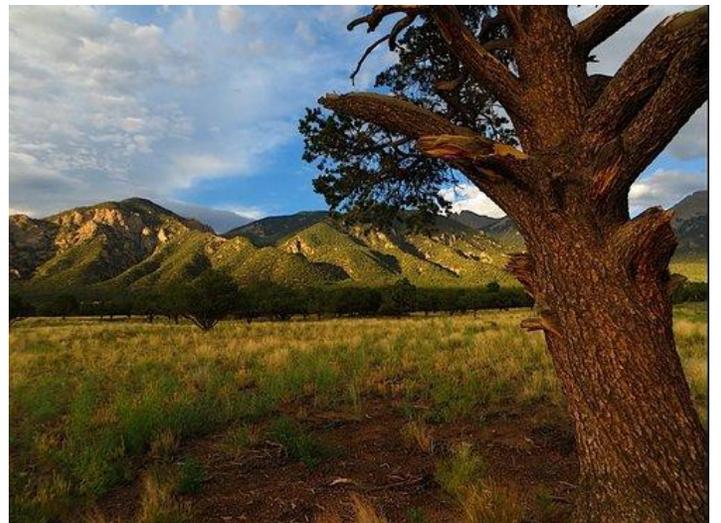
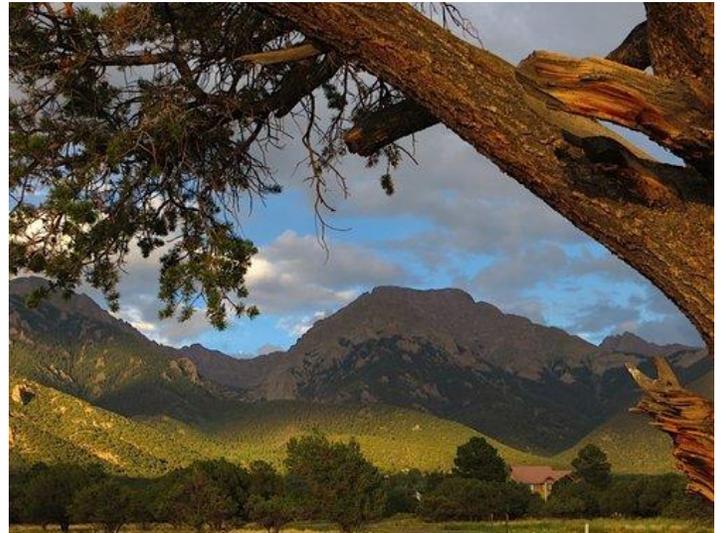
More to come.

Robert T. Leverett

[Crestone Moods, CO](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sun Jul 22, 2012 10:50 pm

NTS, Monica and I are back in the Sangre de Cristos. The light was right about an hour ago and here is some of what I saw.



Robert T. Leverett

[Desolation Wilderness, CA](#)

by **Mark Collins** » Sun Jul 22, 2012 10:58 pm

I went on a solo overnight backpack trip in Desolation Wilderness over the weekend near Lake Tahoe. Usually I go for the granite, views,

wildflowers, lakes, and that one of a kind Sierra sunshine. This time, trees were my focus. I entered the Sierra under the cover of darkness Friday night. It was excruciating seeing the black silhouettes of towering trees fly by my car window along the road. Without light, I was unable to really look or identify them. My hike began Saturday morning.



Here is a tree that caught my attention, along the trail. I believe it's a lodgepole pine?



I remember seeing this beautiful juniper last year, along the PCT, and had to pay a revisit.



After spending the night near Aloha Lake, I hiked back to my car. I was looking forward to driving home and seeing the forest that I missed Friday night due to darkness. I was completely blown away. The pines along the road were majestic. Miles and miles of old growth pine forest. Gnarley, towering old

pinos everywhere I looked. I was afraid I was going to crash my car because I could not keep my eyes on the road. The Ponderosa Pines really grabbed my attention. There were so many fantastic giants. I stopped my car and grabbed a picture of a couple large ones.



I had to grab my measuring tape for this last one. It had a cbh of approximately 22' 5."



**Re: old eastern hemlocks in MI
Hiawatha N.F.**

by Neil » Mon Jul 23, 2012 6:55 am

Dear Roy (and NTS),

I wish you luck with finding old hemlocks. Your work could be a real boon in reconstructing past environments. Contacting NTS was a great idea. No doubt there are NTS who can help you with your project. I'm happy to help as you need, too.

This gives me a good opportunity to make you aware of a large-scale project to recover and save information locked away in hemlock trees before they are lost to HWA. Amy Hessel of West Virginia University (<http://hessl.eberly.wvu.edu/>) and I have a paper accepted at Progress in Physical Geography <http://ppg.sagepub.com/>. The main goal of the paper is to make a call to arms to document and recover information in old-growth hemlock forests. It seems like many people are stating to do this now. We hope to HeLP coordinate the collection and archiving of information and cores, especially in regions where HWA is currently taking down many trees (though I did get off the phone with a Smoky Mtn employee who had said he sees encouraging signs in the survival of some trees). Amy will have a PhD student coordinating the project. There will be a web site and a more formal announcement early in the fall (hopefully).

I wanted to give NTS a heads up as I thought of you the whole time we were putting this together. I can see NTS playing an important role in the success of this rather ambitious project. For some more information, below is the title of the paper and a draft of the abstract.

Neil Pederson

**Hemlock Legacy Project (HeLP): A
Paleoecological Requiem for Eastern Hemlock**

Amy Hessel and Neil Pederson

Progress in Physical Geography

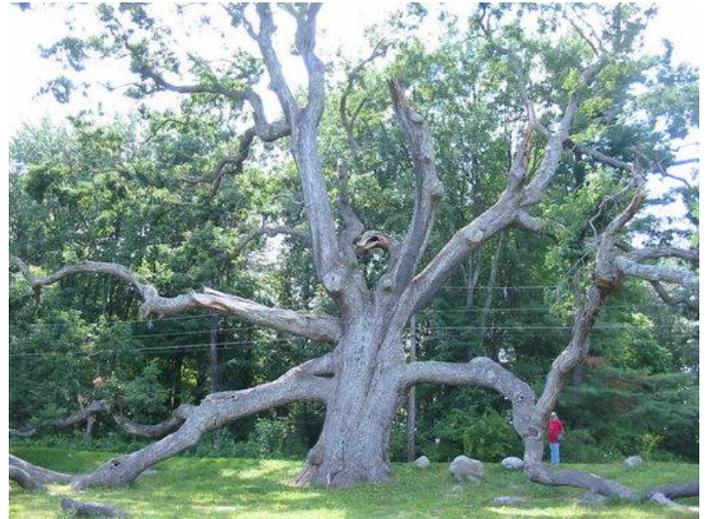
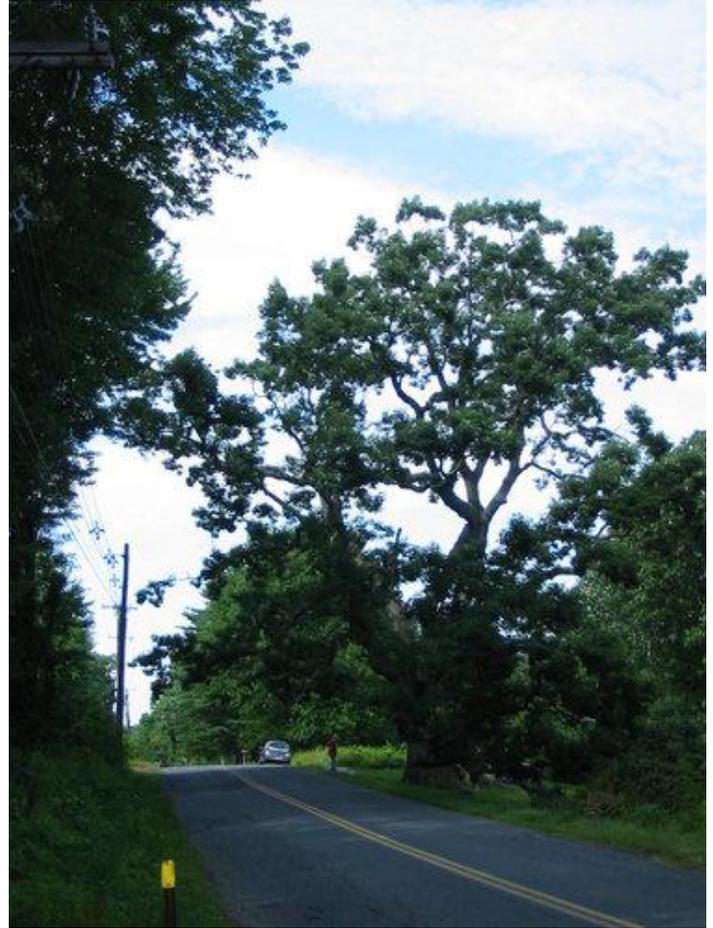
<http://ppg.sagepub.com/>

Eastern North American forests have effectively lost two major tree species (American chestnut and American elm) in the last 100 years and two more, eastern and Carolina hemlock, will be functionally extinct over much of their ranges within a couple of decades. The loss of eastern hemlock is of particular concern because hemlock is: 1) a foundation species; 2) one of the longest-lived tree species over much of temperate eastern North America; and 3) sensitive to climatic variation and ecosystem disturbance, making it an ideal species for the reconstruction of environmental history. Unlike American chestnut, we have a small window of opportunity to salvage environmental histories from hemlock before they are lost. In this progress report, we review the extensive body of science derived from this paleoenvironmental archive and urge scientists from eastern North America to sample and archive old-growth hemlock while living and dead material remain. Here we describe a community-based approach to salvaging paleoenvironmental archives that could serve as a model for collections from other foundation species currently threatened by exotic forests pests and pathogens (e.g. whitebark pine, ash). The approach supports Schlesinger's (2010) call for "translational ecology" by building connections between scientists, students, environmental NGOs, and land managers focused on old-growth forests.

[7/19/2012 pictures of the Granby oak, CT](#)

by **sam goodwin** » Mon Jul 23, 2012 10:11 am

On my first attempt to take pictures we ran into a intense thunderstorm with one lightning bolt hitting the road about 200 feet in front of us. We took a left and headed away. We went back the next day to take the pictures and make sure the oak wasn't struck. After last years snow storm I don't know if the tree could take it.





Sam Goodwin

[Re: 7/19/2012 pictures of the Granby oak, CT](#)

by **sam goodwin** » Tue Jul 24, 2012 7:12 am

Will Bloza wrote: Thanks for posting these. What a shame and just a relic of it's former presence. The recent pruning would have been a great time to get some age estimates from the limbs. Do you know what happened to the wood?

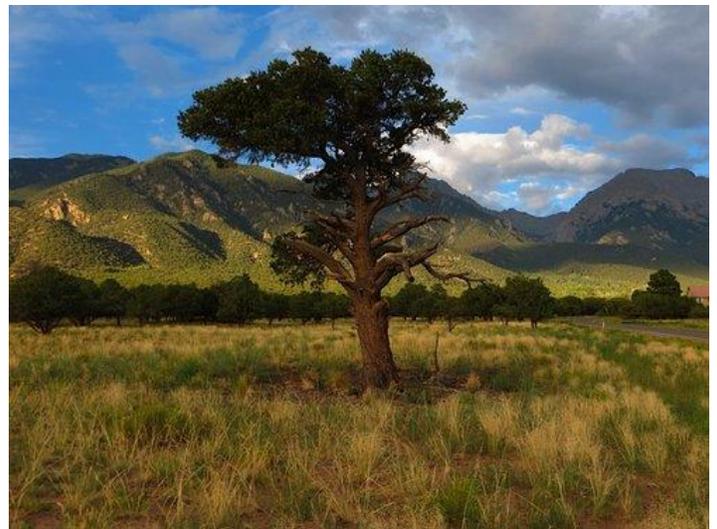
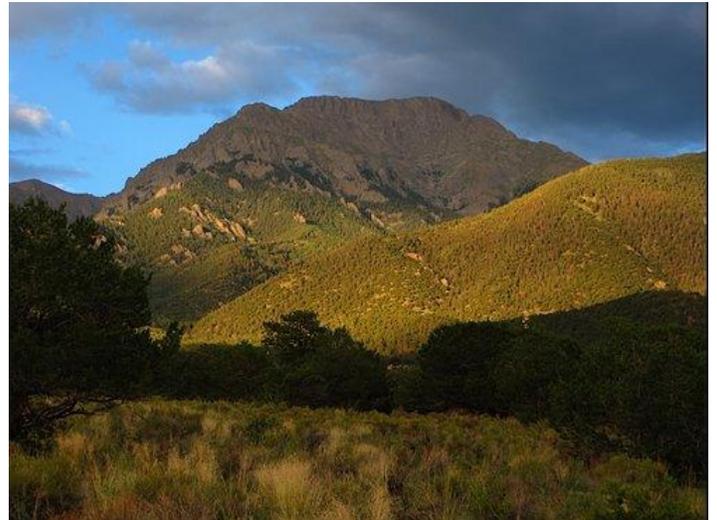
Will, the salvageable wood is being stored and they are looking for suggestions on doing something with it. One suggestion is commemorative disks. A second suggestion is to turn it over to local artists and see what they come up with.

Sam Goodwin

[More Crestone Moods, CO](#)

by **dbhguru** » Mon Jul 23, 2012 9:33 pm

NTS, Here are two more images taken at Crestone, CO yesterday evening. The evening light was just right and the combination of light and shadows worked.



I'll have lots more on Crestone and all places we stop when I get a better Internet connection. Right now we're in Maybell, CO, staying in the historic Victory Hotel, which once saw Teddy Roosevelt, the Asters, and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. My, do we sense the history here.

Robert T. Leverett

[Goodbye Crestone, Hello Maybell, CO](#)

by **dbhguru** » Tue Jul 24, 2012 9:38 am

NTS,

Yesterdaay morning after a fabulous breakfast at a tiny pnce in Crestone, we headed north. This image is looking east from the northern end of the San Luis Valley. Our elevation was around 8,000 and the peaks to the East are between 12,000 and 13,500 feet. No foot hills.



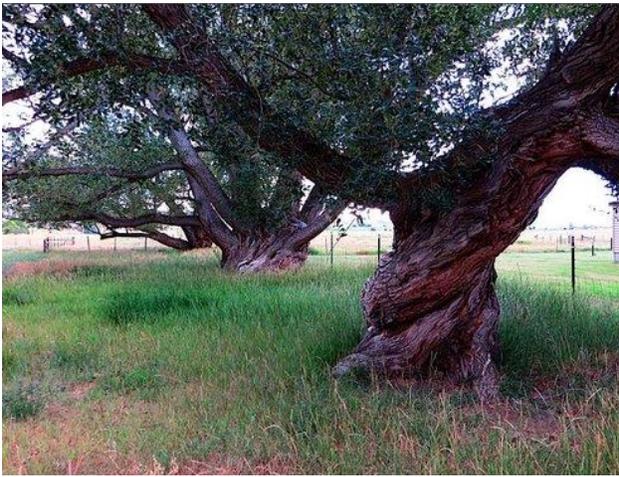
I briefly revisited an old haunt at Twin Lakes in the Sawatch. Here is a look at 13,930-foot Mount Hope. The Sawatch continue more or less, where the Sangre leave off. The Sawatch have 15 fourteeners.



We ended up in Maybell, CO, a tiny ranching town with a famous old hotel, the Victory. Here's a look.



Lots of stories to tell about Maybell, but gotta wait for a better Internet connection. A coupe of finals shots from back of the Victory of gnarly old cottonwoods.



The Victory saw such historic personages as Teddy Roosevelt, the Astors, and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. More to come.

Robert T. Leverett

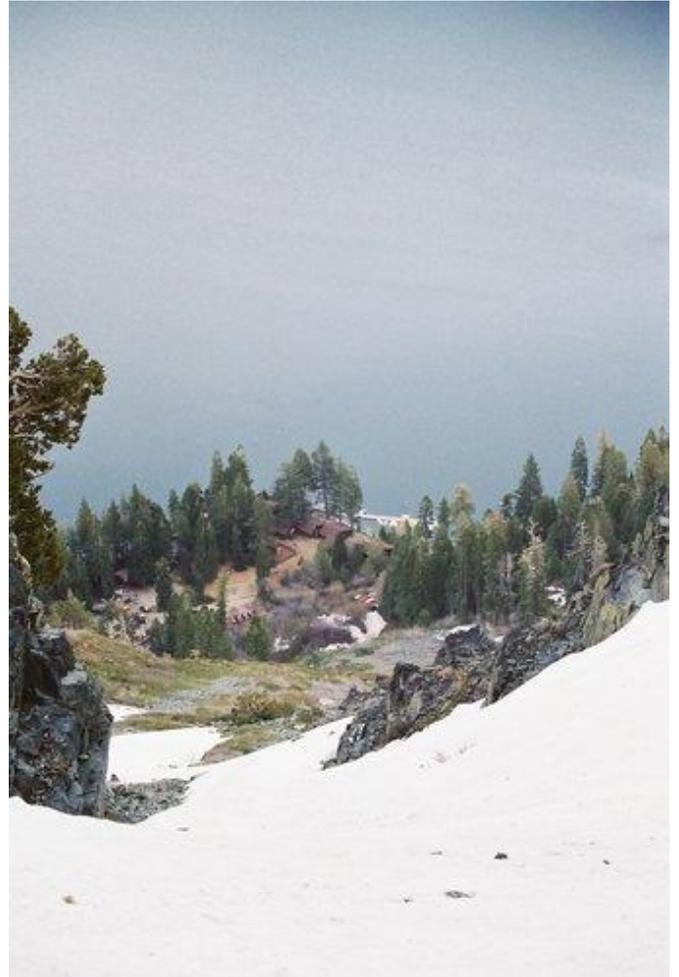
[Re: Desolation Wilderness, CA](#)

by [PAwildernessadvocate](#) » Tue Jul 24, 2012

Cool photos of those big pines out there! Thanks for posting!

I attended a multi-day conference in May of 2002 at a camp/conference center at the south end of Fallen Leaf Lake. This is on the immediate east side of the

Desolation Wilderness. One day when there was some free time in the conference schedule I went out the back door and started walking straight up the slope into the designated wilderness toward Cathedral Peak. Only a couple-hour hike but it was worth it. Here's a few snapshots.





Kirk Johnson

[Twelve Years of Fires](#)

by **edfrank** » Tue Jul 24, 2012 6:36 pm

Twelve Years of Fires

July 20th, 2012 by Michon Scott

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/earthmatters/2012/07/20/twelve-years-of-fires/?src=eo-blogs>

Besides acquiring photo-like images of the surface of Earth, the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites can detect the anomalously high temperatures associated with actively burning fires. Using this "hotspot" data, John Nelson of IDV Solutions made a map of major fires in the contiguous 48 United States from 2001 through early July 2012.

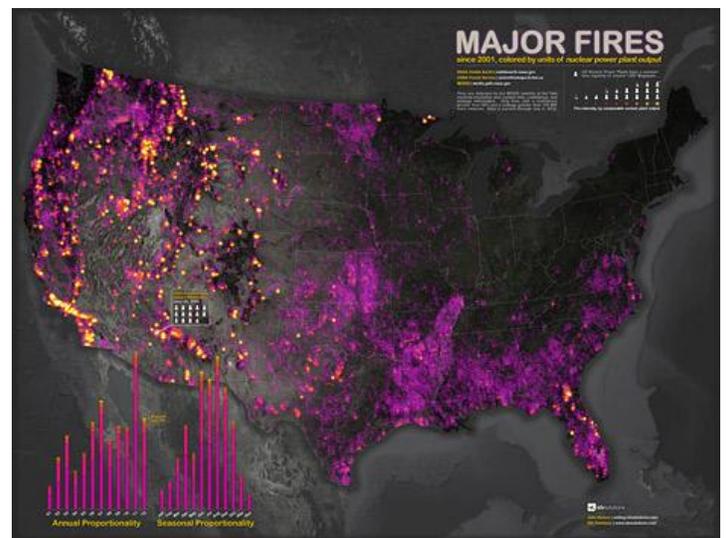


Image courtesy John Nelson, IDV Solutions.

This map shows not just the locations, but also the intensity of major fires. Nelson has scaled the fires by "units of the typical American nuclear power plant's summertime capacity." The most intense fires are yellow, and less intense fires appear in shades of magenta and purple. Graphs in the lower left corner show the proportion of fires by year and by month.

Jessica McCarty, who studies U.S. fire patterns at Michigan Tech Research Institute, observes that the most intense blazes are usually wildfires in forested

or peatland areas. Prescribed fires to benefit agriculture and ranching are generally less intense.

A high-resolution version of this image is available here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/idvsolutions/7562141732/sizes/o/in/photostream/>

[Green River in Dinosaur National Monument, UT](#)

by **dbhguru** » Wed Jul 25, 2012 2:48 pm

NTS, Today Monica made it to the location where the Green and Yampa river come together. It is an awesome place, a 2,550-foot deep canyon in Dinosaur National Monument. What a sight! I'll have lots of images and narrative. The image below was taken with my iPad. It is a little over exposed but gives an idea of what's to come: ancient junipers and pinyons, dizzying heights, great views. Incredible place, and it was almost lost to a damned dam project.



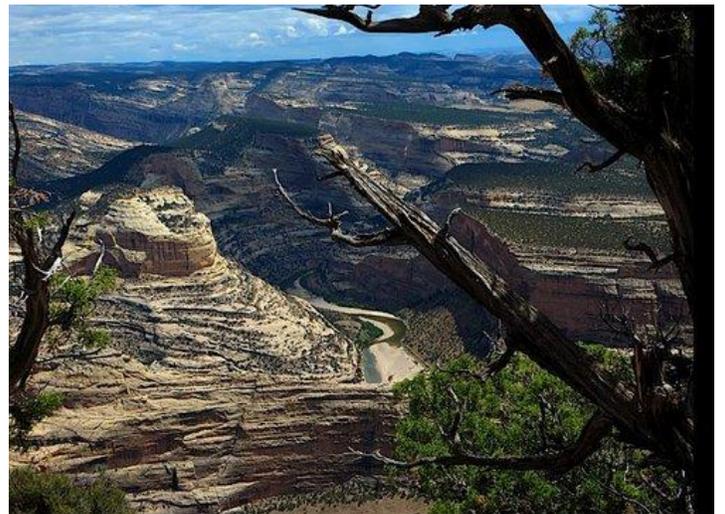
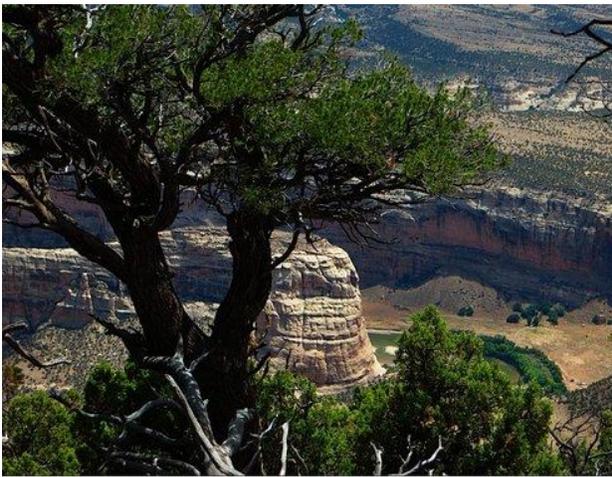
Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Green River in Dinosaur National Monument, UT](#)

by **dbhguru** » Wed Jul 25, 2012 7:05 pm

Here are some additional images of the canyons we saw. The maximum depth I could identify for any of the points above either the Green or Yampa Rivers is 2,875 feet. If you follow the ridge line up from the 2,875-foot spot, you can justify 3,200 feet as the maximum canyon depth. It is a game of numbers to a degree. But one can confidently say that many spots are 2,500 feet deep. That is typically the depths quoted.

There aren't many people who make the journey to the point where you see the confluence, although the hiking distance is only a couple of miles round trip. This is one scenic treasure. The maze of canyons that are created by the two rivers, the Green and Yampa, defies description. It is tortured geology.





More pictures and descriptions to follow.

Robert T. Leverett

[Two more images from DNM](#)

by [dbhguru](#) » Wed Jul 25, 2012 8:01 pm

NTS, Two more DNM images. The first shows me and the largest pinyon pine I've seen. The second image speaks for itself.

If you've never been to Dinosaur National Monument, I highly recommend visiting it. It is much, much more than just dinosaur fossils, although that would be sufficient, and the displays are excellent. However, the monument offers an unending sequence of spectacular vistas.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Green River in Dinosaur National Monument, UT](#)

by PAwildernessadvocate » Wed Jul 25, 2012

dbhguru wrote: Incredible place, and it was almost lost to a damned dam project.

Great pictures! Thanks for posting!

Yep, the confluence of the Green and Yampa Rivers was the site of a monumental 'to dam to not to dam' tug-of-war in the early 1950s the likes of which hadn't been seen since the great Hetch Hetchy debate. Opposition to the dam was led by David Brower of the Sierra Club and Tionesta, Pennsylvania-native Howard Zahniser of The Wilderness Society. When they won the battle and prevented the dam from going in to Dinosaur National Monument, Zahniser immediately parlayed the nationwide momentum for conservation that campaign had generated into a new campaign for the Wilderness Act, which he wrote and had introduced into Congress in 1956. That scenic site at Dinosaur NM in some ways could be considered the genesis of the campaign for the Wilderness Act!

Kirk Johnson

[Colorado Potpourri](#)

by dbhguru » Thu Jul 26, 2012 5:11 pm

NTS,

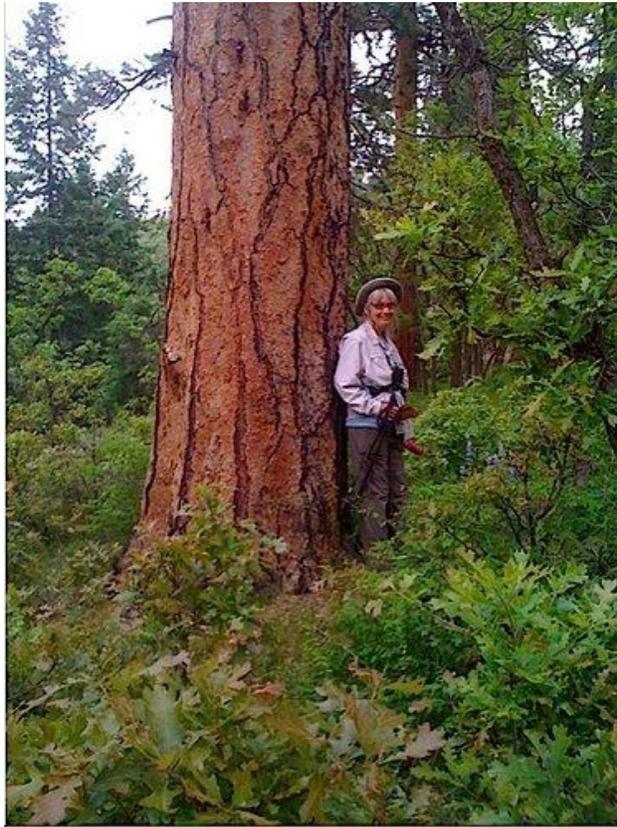
This is a potpourri of images from Monica's and my on-going trip. The first is a sunset from Durango on Florida Mesa where we were house sitting. The scene looks toward 12,790-foot Mount Lewis. These scenes occurred almost nightly.



Here is another almost daily scene - a mule deer in the yard. The visits were a treat for us, but they ate the flowers, so the people we were house sitting for aren't always pleased, but they are tolerant.



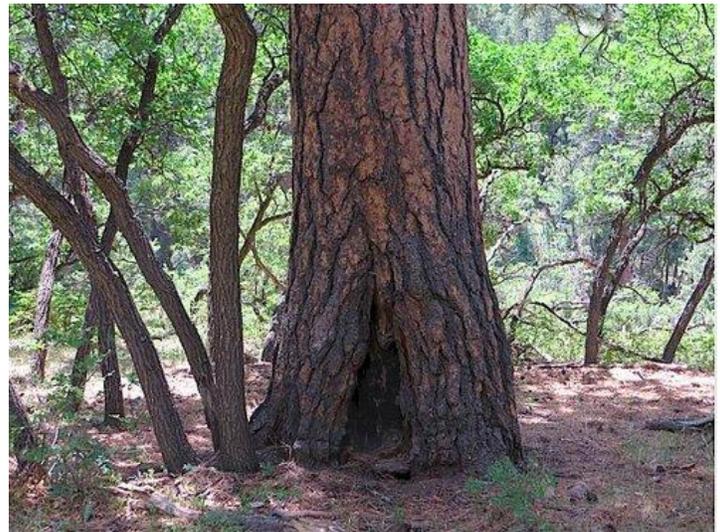
Big ponderosas are common in the La Platas. Here are two images of pondies with Monica included for scale.



Remember the 390-year old pondy Laurie Swisher cored. Here it is.



Along the trails, special trees popped up. This old pondy caught my attention. As I recall it is 11.4 feet around and 104.0 feet tall.



There is old and then there is the really old. In the Sangres, old junipers are the rule. Please witness one senior citizen.



The extraordinary views are an ever present feature of the landscape. In fact, the extraordinary becomes the common place. Here is a view of the West Needles, a subrange of the San Juans with peaks to about 13,500 feet.



On an evening while we house sat, we went to Dutango Mountain ski resort where we attended a concert of Music in the Mountains. Looking eastward, here was the view of the West needles. You walk out from the concert and this is the view you get.



And finally, another shot looking down into the canyons of the Green and Yampa Rivers. Thank God for David Brower.

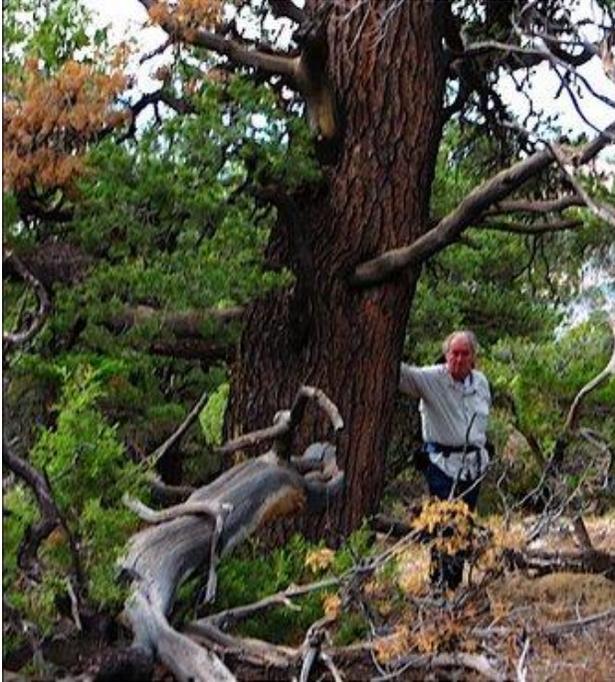


Robert T. Leverett

[Two more images from Dinosaur National Monument, CO & UT](#)

by [dbhguru](#) » Wed Jul 25, 2012 8:01 pm

NTS, Two more DNM images. The first shows me and the largest pinyon pine I've seen. The second image speaks for itself.



[Teton Pass, WY](#)

by dbhguru » Sat Jul 28, 2012 6:23 pm

NTS, On our way for a two day visit to the Tetons, we took a route from Pocatello, ID to the Tetons that crossed Teton Pass. We had taken this route before, but this time we stopped at the pass and took a trail to the south. Wow, is it scenic. The pass is relatively low. It is just over 8,400 feet. The surrounding peaks exceed 10,000. There are gorgeous displays of wildflowers every where. Here is a look at fireweed. The mountains in the distance are the Gros Ventre on the east side of Jackson Hole. They have very different geology from the Tetons.



Indian paintbrush and Monica.

If you've never been to Dinosaur National Monument, I highly recommend visiting it. It is much, much more than just dinosaur fossils, although that would be sufficient, and the displays are excellent. However, the monument offers an unending sequence of spectacular vistas.

Robert T. Leverett



Fireweed up close.



Across Jackson Hole and into the Gros Ventre. You can see the road from the pass going down to Jackson Hole on the left.

Monica and a huge Englemann spruce. I measured them to 118 feet in height and 11 feet in girth. A lot are over 100, but I couldn't break 120 at the pass.



Indian paintbrush up close and personal.

Mountain vista.



Tomorrow, Monica and I are going to take the Phillips Canyon Trail. It is on the north side of the pass and joins the Teton Crest Trail. It promises a wealth of wild flowers and maybe some tall trees, and grand views, to be sure. The Tetons are at the top of the feeding order. Can't get enough of them. More to come.

BTW, I highly recommend the trip across Teton Pass for anyone leaving the Tetons and heading west to Idaho.

Robert T. Leverett

[Into Grand Teton National Park, WY](#)

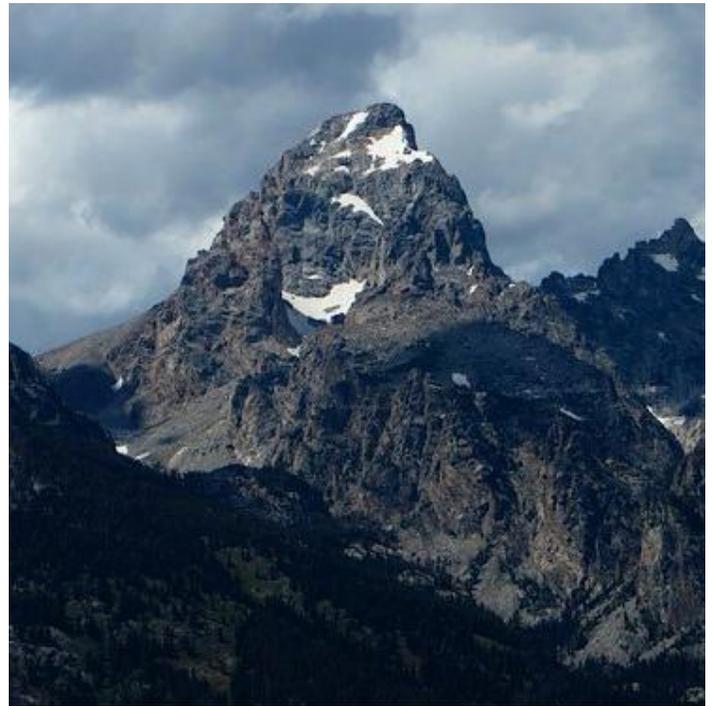
by **dbhguru** » Sat Jul 28, 2012 6:40 pm

NTS, After Monica and I left Teton Pass and drove through Jackson, we headed north into the Park. Here are four images from yesterday from the main access road.

Here is a view of the Grand. From these sagebrush flats, the Grand rises just under 7,200 feet. The abruptness of the rise is breathtaking, and exceeds all but a few base to summit rises in the Rockies. And I know of none other that is as abrupt. The Grand is 13,774 feet above sea level on NAVD29. On the later NAVD88, its elevation is listed as 13,779 feet.



The Grand up close



A glacier on the Grand. It has had a rough time this year.



Elsewhere in the Tetons.



Lots more to come on the Tetons including our trek around the String Lakes, where I measured a Colorado Blue to 125.0 feet.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Into Grand Teton National Park, WY](#)

by [jamesrobertsmith](#) » Sun Jul 29, 2012 5:46 pm

Once you've been there and looked up at those peaks, you never forget them. According to the Park literature, those small glaciers have only been there

since the 1400s (apparently they did ice core samples).

Classic thrust-fault mountains. Not many like them in North America, and they're certainly the biggest of that type of mountain building here. Next time I go I am seriously considering bagging Grand Teton. There is only one short stretch of technical climbing to reach the summit, and there are guides who will teach you the moves and lead the way. I may pay out the bucks and bite the bullet and do it.

If not that, then an online pal has promised to lead me to the top of Middle Teton which is Class IV climbing, which I am willing to attempt.

[Re: Into Grand Teton National Park, WY](#)

by [Rand](#) » Sun Jul 29, 2012 8:35 pm

I remember coming up through Jackson from the south, heading north and wondering where the mountains were, when all the sudden you come around a hill, and -wham- there they are. My reaction was, "Oh wow they really do look as impressive in person as they do in the photos." Of course I had to pull over and immediately take a picture (Hey look world, I'm a tooorist!)





Here's a picture standing at the base of the thrust fault, looking upward. Oh my, that is a long ways.



Fun story. I was on the east side of Grand Teton, an hour before nightfall, 7 miles up the Jenny lake trail, when I met a group of backpackers chugging up to the backcountry campsite. "Suppose I can make it out before nightfall." I sez. They snort in doubt. I think they forgot that it was ~2,500' downhill. I almost ran over a moose, but made it all the same. I nice thunderstorm show awaited me at the bottom:



Rand Brown

Phillips Pass and Ski Lake, WY

by **dbhguru** » Sun Jul 29, 2012 11:02 pm

NTS, Today Monnica and I left the Grand Teton NP, heading back to Pocatello. But before we left the Tetons completely, we wanted to sample the Phillips Pass trail on the western slopes of the Tetons. The western side is far less dramatic, but has its charms - and fine trees. In fact, I'm just beginning to open up to the possibilities. Here is a look at a very old Doug fir. Its girth is 13.1 feet. Its height is only 80 feet, but it has had crown breakage in the past.



Later I came across a huge Doug fir that had died. Its girth is 14.9 feet. It is also short. I didn't take a picture of it. Some of the big Dougs exhibited an almost iridescent moss on their trunks. Here is an example.



The trail crossed many meadows. Here is a look at a couple of the meadows.



One twisted trunk of a spruce (Englemann or Blue) caught my eye.



There were plenty of fine vistas.



Our destination was a pond called Ski Lake. It lies at 8,650 feet. Here's a look.



Now to trees. yes, I measure a lot. Here is the list of the more prominent.

Species	Height	Girth
CO Blue Spruce	112.0	
CO Blue	127.0	
Doug Fir	80.0	13.1
Doug Fir	113.0	
Doug Fir	93.0	14.9
CO Blue	114.0	10.2
Englemann	113.0	
CO Blue	118.5	
CO Blue	120.0	
CO Blue	114.5	
CO Blue	122.0	8.5
CO Blue	123.0	
CO Blue	123.5	8.8
CO Blue	130.5	9.1

I measured dozens of Englemans, Blues, and Dougs to between 95 and 110 feet. There are many mountain valleys in this area which could have equal or better stands of timber. And nobody seems to realize these trees are all over the place. So chalk another one up for WNTS. When I return to Florence, MA, I'm going to build a spreadsheet that summarizes the Rocky Mountain measurements. But for now, I'll close with one last shot.



As you can see, the mountains in the region are timber-covered. Teton Pass is 8432 feet. Ski Lake is 8,650. We started at 7,860 ft. So, you see that elevations are not at timberline. The western Tetons are a whole different place, and the big timber

possibilities are mind-boggling. Oh, how I wish we had a local Ent to take up the mission. The story of the Rocky Mountain significant forests and trees is a story that has yet to be told.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Into Grand Teton National Park, WY](#)

by **Rand** » Mon Jul 30, 2012 4:08 pm

dbhguru wrote:Rand, Great shots. Tell us more. Sounds like you had some adventures that we'd like to hear about.

Comic hyperbole aside, it wasn't that interesting. I came around the bend, on a narrow part of the trail and saw this moose, maybe 20 feet away just off the trail. I screeched to a halt, and he sorta looked at me with this, "You aren't going to be a problem, are you?" look. Not willing to try my hand at a Thagg Simmons impression, I gave him a 'No Sir', look and quietly sashayed behind the closest deadfall, and with nothing else to do took a few pictures:



Eventually he decided I was mostly harmless and wandered on his merry way. With his business end no longer pointing at the trail, I felt free to continue.

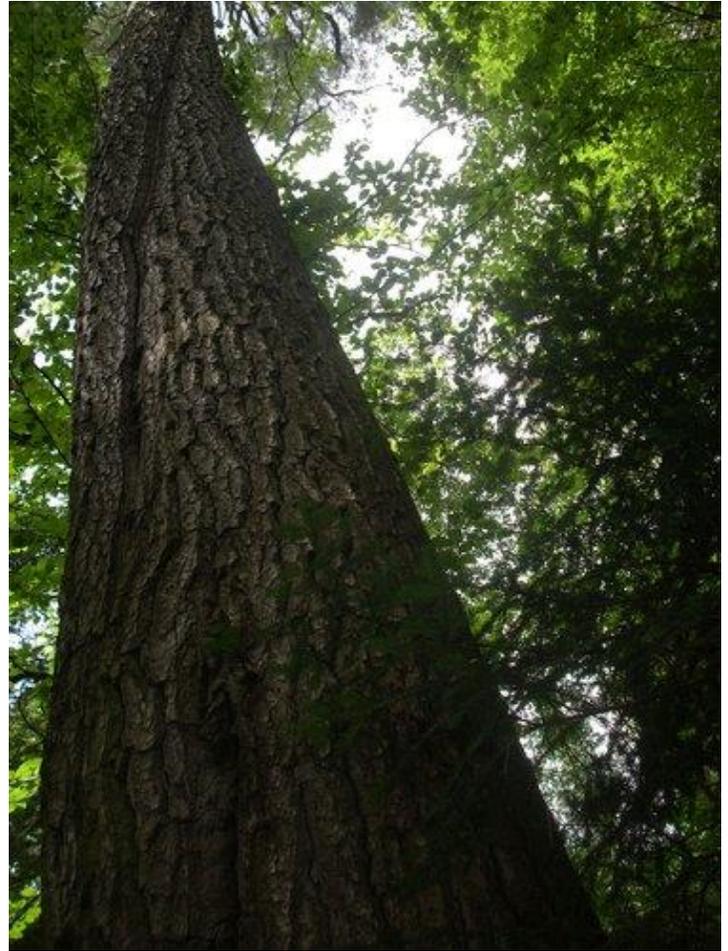


Rand Brown

[Elder's Grove, in Paul Smith's NY](#)

by [adam.rosen](#) » Sun Jul 29, 2012 9:15 pm

I went to the 1675 Grove, or the Elder's Grove, in Paul Smith's NY on July 28, 2012. We lost one of the big ones during last week's microburst. The rest of the trees are standing tall and looking very impressive. I love how the canopy in that grove has two levels- normal second growth level and then the OMG level. I have pictures of some of the tall trees in the grove, a picture of myself with the enormous snag, only a few days old, and a photo of some sort of tree nymph who I ran into on the way.





some of the other old growth maples I've seen- Gifford Woods or the Syracuse witness tree.



The directions to the grove can be accessed with a google search for elders grove, and an article from Adirondack Life comes up.

I know that there are trees in the MTSF that are taller, and the tall ones are more numerous, but the 1675 grove has a gnarly factor that is hard to match. Some well weathered yellow birches are a bonus, not big, but obviously old and really cool. There is also at least one old growth maple that's right up there with



The grove is owned by Paul Smith's College, which has a forestry school. A faculty member studied the grove, tagged the pines, etc.

<http://www.adirondacklifemag.com/blog/2012/07/28/the-tallest-tree-in-the-adirondacks/> and <http://www.adirondacklifemag.com/blog/2012/07/28/the-first-forests-in-the-adirondacks/> provide some nice context. Of course, I'm sure which is actually the tallest tree in NYS is up for dispute.

Adam Rosen

[More Teton Images](#)

by [dbhguru](#) » Mon Jul 30, 2012 3:33 pm

NTS, When we leave Pocatello, we'll head straight for Yellowstone, then through Shoshone Canyon, Cody, and across the Bighorn Basin to the Bighorn Mountains. So, here is the last batch of Teton images.

The first image is of String Lake and a look at Teewinot and the Grand. Teewinot is a 12,325-foot peak that is closer than the grand. In the image, the Grand, barely visible thrusts 13,779 feet (NAVD88) into the clear Wyoming air.



Here is a view of an old burn. It didn't cover that many acres, but its effects will persist for decades. Our trek took us around the String Lakes, a 3.5 mile hike with only a couple hundred feet gain in altitude.



Teewinot, the Grand, and Owen. Owen is the second highest Teton summit.



Another look at Teewinot, the Grand, and Owen from a closer perspective.



Closer Still.



Farther along the front.



And one last look.



The Tetons never lose their appeal for me. Their abruptness speaks to raw Earth power. Their sheer size and steepness is the source of their power. When in the sagebrush meadows at their foot, gazing up to their craggy summits, one's sense of the power of mountains and their impact on human imagination is greatly heightened.

The Tetons afford us the pinnacle Rocky Mountain experience for the least effort. Several million visit the Tetons each year. Monica and I have made 5 visits since we've been married and with each visit, we find new reasons to return. You get into the high

country very quickly, and with my tree discoveries in the western Tetons, they present a wider range of experiences than I had come to expect.

Robert T. Leverett

[One Great Book on the Sangres](#)

by **dbhguru** » Mon Jul 30, 2012 5:31 pm

NTS, While in Crestone, I came across a book entitled "CRESTONE - GATEWAY TO THE HIGHER REALMS" by Dr. James McCalpin. It is THE best book of its type that I've ever seen. It is a "comprehensive guide to Crestone, Colorado, and area attractions

- The Baca National Wildlife Refuge
- The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Northern Entrance
- The Sangre De Cristo Wilderness.

McCalpin is a geologist, consultant, historian, author, etc. all rolled into one. His wealth of knowledge on the area is astounding. His understanding of the geology of the range and his adherence to the principle of no detail left behind has set the bar for books of the genre to a new height. So often I find books about areas like Crestone to be a hodgepodge of lifted materials from dozens of disparate sources, often in conflict with one another, with the author clueless as to the conflicts. McCalpin's book is anything but. He is the ultimate stickler for detail and accuracy.

I plan to contact Dr. McCalpin and acquaint him with NTS and what we have to offer. Next year I'd love to connect with him on site and pass all the big tree-tall tree data on the area that I've collected to him. I think he would know how to treat it. I think it would be very important to him. What a connection that would be - another coup for WNTS.

Robert T. Leverett

[Tree -ring photo \(Teton Pass, WY\)](#)

by **dbhguru** » Tue Jul 31, 2012 8:30 pm

NTS, On our Phillips Trail trek near Teton Pass, Dale Rounkles, my son-in-law, took images of a cut Doug fir stump. Here are three images.



Someone had done a field count and has etched the number 231 on the stump. I did a sampling and got 202. My photo count yielded 190. There is about 20 years to the base. So the tree was around 210 years when cut. There are countless firs in the area between 150 and 250 years and probably some between 300 and 400. The area is a big tree haven. Next year!

Robert T. Leverett

External Links:

Revisiting the Washington Tree, CA

William Tweed, 7:03 PM, Jun. 29, 2012

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/article/20120630/LIFESTYLE/306300006/William-Tweed-Revisiting-Washington-Tree>

Mysterious African 'Fairy Circles' Stump Scientists

Stephanie Pappas, LiveScience Senior Writer
Date: 27 June 2012

<http://www.livescience.com/21228-mysterious-african-fairy-circles-mystery.html>

Mystical marks in virgin forest explained

June 27, 2012 by: Nina Kristiansen

<http://sciencenordic.com/mystical-marks-virgin-forest-explained> NTS topic: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=144&t=4258>

Fungi-Filled Forests are Critical if Endangered Orchids are to Thrive

Biological Conservation
Newsletter, No. 331, July 2012

<http://botany.si.edu/pubs/bcn/issue/latest.htm#Orchids>
[PDF Print Version]
<http://botany.si.edu/pubs/bcn/issue/pdf/bcn331.pdf>

Ancient Tree Stumps on Cleethorpes Beach (UK)

July 4, 2012 at 7:18 am · Filed under Lincolnshire
History, Grimsby & Cleethorpes, by Rod Collins

<http://www.rodcollins.com/wordpress/ancient-tree-stumps-on-cleethorpes-beach#more-2069>

Violent Storms Strike GSMNP; Two Dead

<http://news.yahoo.com/2-dead-violent-storm-lashes-great-smokies-104907386.html>

Nature Inspires Art: Nature Plays a Vital Role in Our Creative Expression

From Claude Monet to Mark Twain, nature has inspired great works of art throughout the ages.

http://www.nature.org/newsfeatures/specialfeatures/nature-inspires-art.xml?src=e_gp

Siberia 2012: Progress along the Embenchime

July 14th, 2012 by Joanne Howl

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/fromthefield/category/siberia-2012-embenchime-river-expedition/?src=eo-features>

* Siberia 2012: The Thirsty Kochechum

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/fromthefield/?p=4310&src=eo-blogs>

* Siberia 2012: After the Fire

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/fromthefield/?p=4300&src=eo-blogs>

* Siberia 2012: Smoke and Rising Waters

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/fromthefield/?p=4291&src=eo-blogs>

* Siberia 2012: Laundry Day

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/fromthefield/?p=4282&src=eo-blogs>

* Siberia 2012: Reading the Signs

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/fromthefield/?p=4265&src=eo-blogs>

EPIC mudslide caught on camera [Raw Video]

Fri, Jul 13, 2012: Global National's Francis Silvaggio and crew were at the scene of an incredible mudslide at Johnsons Landing in British Columbia on Friday. Global News cameras were rolling the whole time.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1cCs-S5EKc>

As Mushrooms Evolve to Live With Trees, They Give Up DNA Associated With Decomposing Cellulose

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/07/120718192047.htm>

"Global Warming's Terrifying New Math"

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warmings-terrifying-new-math-20120719?print=true>

Three simple numbers that add up to global catastrophe - and that make clear who the real enemy is by: Bill McKibben

Fungus time-lapse

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZc1M6HkaSg>

Published on Jul 22, 2012 by arkchristensenBIO
The sequence of 3000 images was collected at 40 min intervals with a Canon PowerShot A510 digital camera. The images were compiled into a QuickTime movie using ImageJ, a public domain Java image processing program. The movie is presented at roughly 35 FPS

In praise of ancient tree stumps

<http://www.hcn.org/issues/44.12/in-praise-of-ancient-tree-stumps> High County News - From the July 23, 2012 issue by Becca Hall

Battling Mexico's illegal logging trade Residents of Cheran town say authorities have done nothing to stop loggers stripping local pine forest of trees. (Here's a novel approach from locals tired of illegal logging: Kill the loggers.)

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2012/07/201272424714619374.html>

Satellites See Unprecedented Greenland Ice Sheet Surface Melt 07.24.12

<http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/greenland-melt.html>

Haiku In the Breeze 2012 *Inspired by the Weathergrams of Lloyd Reynolds, the North Carolina Haiku Society and the North Carolina Botanical Garden created 50, hand-lettered haiku on strips of grocery bag paper and hung them from trees and branches in the garden. Visitors were invited to write their own haiku in response. The exhibit hung from June 16 through July 30, 2012.*

http://lilaf.smugmug.com/Poetry/Haiku-In-the-Breeze-2012/24059109_ckVj9D#!i=1953674738&k=cLB48tB

Woody Agriculture - On the Road to a New

Paradigm Posted by Nate Hagens on July 27, 2012 <http://www.theoil drum.com/node/9358#more> NTS Discussion: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=21&t=4351>

Introduction to Woody Agriculture (2011 Woody Ag Short Course) Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpJR2yfLUU0>

Climbing to Amazon's 'roof' for data

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnKHYgfhwr0>

Species number on Earth a mystery, James Cook University, Monday, 23 July 2012

<http://www.sciencealert.com.au/news/20122207-23590.html>

The Basics of Nature Photography from Michael Melford

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJB4S2AAPTU>

High Dynamic Range Panoramas with Promote Control

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oRHDrgBOHY>

How long before a tree rots away?

July 30, 2012 - 07:15, By: Ida Korneliussen

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

Chart: Tropical forest loss between 2000-2005

mongabay.com, July 29, 2012

<http://news.mongabay.com/2012/0729-chart-tropical-forest-loss.html>

Tiny Beetles Take a Large Bite Out of the Forest

July 28, 2012

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=78677>

Silt from Elwha River dam removal doesn't hang around, say scientists by Gsry Chittim/ King 5

News <http://www.king5.com/news/environment/-Silt-from-Elwha-River-dam-removal-doesnt-hang-around-163948316.html>

The Basics of Nature Photography from Michael Melford

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJB4S2AAPTU>

High Dynamic Range Panoramas with Promote Control

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oRHDrgBOHY>

About: eNTS: The Magazine of the Native Tree Society

This magazine is published monthly and contain materials that are compiled from posts made to the NTS BBS <http://www.ents-bbs.org> It features notable trip reports, site descriptions and essays posted to the BBS by NTS members. The purpose of the magazine to have an easily readable and distributable magazine of posts available for download for those interested in the Native Tree Society and in the work that is being conducted by its members.

This magazine serves as a companion to the more formal science-oriented *Bulletin of the Eastern Native Tree Society* and will help the group reach potential new members. To submit materials for inclusion in the next issue, post to the BBS. Members are welcome to suggest specific articles that you might want to see included in future issues of the magazine, or point out materials that were left from a particular month's compilation that should have been included. Older articles can always be added as necessary to the magazine. The magazine will focus on the first post on a subject and provide a link to the discussion on the website. Where warranted later posts in a thread may also be selected for inclusion.

Edward Frank – Editor-in-Chief