

# eNTS

The Magazine of the  
Native Tree Society  
Volume 2, Number 06,  
June 2012



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

The Native Tree Society and the  
Eastern Native Tree Society  
<http://www.nativetreesociety.org>  
<http://www.ents-bbs.org>

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### **Mission Statement:**

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

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*COVER: Photo by Jennifer Dudley, 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 Editor's Corner

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

### [Evolving strategies](#)

by **dbhguru** » Wed Jun 06, 2012 2:39 pm

NTS, I'm feeling the need to discuss a topic with my fellow and lady Ents that's been on my mind for a long time. It is about strategies for winning converts to our methods of measuring trees. I've had a number of useful telephone conversations with Don Bertollette and Will Blozan on this topic. It isn't as though the subject of strategizing has only recently surfaced.

In recent months I along with fellow Ents have lobbied American Forests and equivalent state-level programs, Laser technology Inc. the Society of American Forests and associated state groups, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and indirectly, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, individuals, and helped organize tree-measuring workshops. I'm forever explaining our methods to the groups on interpretive walks, and in lectures presented to nature groups. I strongly support Dr. Don Bragg in his efforts to win wider acceptance for our methods in the U.S. Forest Service. Of course, I use the NTS BBS as a tool to win converts because anything posted on tree measuring may eventually find its way to the eyes of an individual with a receptive mind. The problem is that some of these strategies are very time consuming, and carry relatively low probabilities of success, but the payback could be high.

Some of the above routes are nobrainers. For example, working with and through the U.S. Forest Service has great potential because of Don Bragg. I think our efforts supporting Don is time that can't be better spent. I hope the rest of you agree. Don has his hands full, but he has the credentials to make

headway.

It remains to be seen if our efforts to form a partnership with American Forests will pay off, but as of now, this avenue holds great promise. Two webinars this summer could be the start of something big. Then there are the state programs. However, in terms of my participation, lobbying the state champion tree program coordinators is something best left to others including Don Bertollette, Scott Wade, Bob Van Pelt, Turner Sharp, Michael Taylor, Will Blozan, etc.. The same can be said of lobbying the arborist and recreational tree climbers. Communicating with them is best left to the Ents who are also tree climbers. I see my role here as playing a behind-the-scenes role. But all the above are logical routes to pursue.

Now to the "non-nobrainers". Heretofore I've believed that reaching the forestry community, at large, should carry a high priority. After all, in the eyes of the public, foresters are most commonly associated with tree measuring and forest mensuration is about measuring trees. Additionally, American Forests and the state champion tree programs have lots of tree measurers who are foresters. How does one reach the forestry community, at large?

Although I may be off base, I'm not optimistic about lobbying the professional forestry agencies, be they private or public. Nor do I see much daylight in pursuing the academic foresters. My impression is that these people are convinced that they know all they need to know about measuring trees and have no need of input from outside organizations and people. Still, despite the pessimism, I'm still pursuing members of these groups. For example, I haven't given up on Massachusetts DCR's Bureau of Forestry.

Nor do I see much headway to be made with nature organizations/groups. Their interests lie in broader issues. I expect that tree measuring seems much too narrow and relatively unimportant to pursue. I can understand their thinking, but it leaves them vulnerable when they need to measure trees for whatever purpose.

Is their reason to pursue the forestry agencies and forestry academics even if they continue to be unreceptive? The answer is simple. They present themselves to the public as the experts in tree-measuring. As an example, Joan Maloof tells me that in Maryland, a tree making it onto the state's champion tree register has to be certified by a state forester. I think there are other states with similar rules. This is a strong statement by the profession as to who it thinks is qualified to certify trees. So do we actively lobby these groups despite our prior lack of success, or go our own way with each party ignoring the existence of the other? What steps should we be taking?

This isn't a simple matter, and the path can become convoluted. I've had multiple occasions to be in the forest with PhD level forestry academics where trees were being measured. In all cases involving the academics (ones not in NTS), they deferred to me to do the measuring and unquestioningly accepted my measurements. Yet, I doubt that any went back and told their students that: hey, if you want a tree measured accurately, go get old Bob's help.

What had they been teaching their students to do? What they are willing to acknowledge privately might be embarrassing to them publicly. This said, I always appreciate their private vote of confidence and don't want to lose their tacit support. So, I tread lightly. The door isn't entirely closed, but there is no path to public acceptance that isn't labor intensive - none that I have found.

One group that I have mixed feeling about pursuing are the old-line foresters who have led distinguished careers and are respected by their peers, but who have not yet bought into our methods. Here I speak of individuals separate from their group identities. Don Bertollette and I have discussed such individuals. Don sees value in reaching out to them. When I talk directly with Don, I am persuaded to his point of view. Afterwards, though, I develop misgivings. The reason is that it is a course with an unknown payback.

After acceptance of our methods, are these old-timers going to dash out into the field and measure trees on behalf of our cause, or just acknowledge that there is a new measurement technique out there that can be

used? I suppose I'm asking myself who is going to be proactive on our behalf versus simply refrain from throwing stones at us?

At this time, I'm content to leave the individuals to others such as Don, and back him up if called upon. What complicates this route for me is hearing invalid arguments made by the individuals who express doubts about our methods. Don is much better at threading the needle than I am or my buddy Will Blozan is. Will employs a bigger hammer than I do. Best to keep us out of the debate.

There are other groups that we might think of actively lobbying, e.g. landscape architects. But as the list grows, the need to target certain groups at the expense of others and think in terms of the biggest bang for the buck becomes critical. Tree measuring is our bread and butter. If we are to be taken seriously by others who measure trees, we have to find ways to reach the ones with a genuine desire to get it right. Beyond what has been outlined above, I'm out of ideas.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Sumatran Tiger nearly extinct](#)

by **RyanLeClair** » Fri Jun 01, 2012 2:26 am

Not a tree story, but...another species might be going extinct soon. Here's what I got in my mailbox from a preservation group:

Dear Ryan,

*There are only 400 Sumatran tigers remaining in the world and they're in serious trouble. Only 400 Sumatran tigers are left in the world. Just 80 years ago, there were three unique subspecies of tigers found in Indonesia. Today, two of them are extinct — and now the last one is in serious trouble.*

*At these horrifically low numbers, every day counts for the Sumatran tiger. The Sumatran tiger is classified as "critically endangered" — on the brink of extinction and barely hanging on.*

I would hope that some of these tigers are brought into domestication soon. Also, it's possible to donate through Greenpeace.

Ryan LeClair

## [Tree Top Time Lapse \(2 months\)](#)

by **Hook** » Fri Jun 01, 2012 9:08 pm

### **Tree Top Time Lapse (2 months)**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y43UpDSrX70>

Published on Jun 1, 2012 by ElusiveJuice  
Placement, retrieval, and footage from a brinno time lapse camera hung 90' up a Sycamore tree overlooking Big Darby Creek

### **Sycamore time lapse 2 months**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iU691Bk26sA>

Published on Jun 1, 2012 by ElusiveJuice

Just in case you are not interested in watching the climbing bit... Here is the time lapse video captured by my brinno camera from 90' in a sycamore tree during the transition of spring. brinno time lapse camera hung 90' up a sycamore tree for 2 months, one photo every 4 hours.

## [Re: Tree Top Time Lapse \(2 months\)](#)

by **Hook** » Fri Jun 01, 2012 9:57 pm

*Edward Frank wrote: Hook, You have a Brinno TLC 100 camera - how well do you like it? Or is this the first time you have used it? I see they run about \$139. I would like to do time lapse.*

<http://www.brinno.com/html/TLC100.html>

Hook wrote: That is what I have. This is indeed the first time that I have used it. It could not be easier it

setup, and use. However I have had some difficulty finding software that could handle the .avi package that it produces. Playback is not the issue, but most editing software doesn't like it very well. I had to convert the file several times to find a package that is compatible with most software. Adobe premiere, windows live movie maker, Sony Vegas... All nogos. iMovie did handle it pre-conversion. Last one I tried, of course.

The camera is very nifty in that the jump drive that it records to also has software built in that allows you to set custom time increments beyond those available via the preset knob inside. I was under the impression that I would be able to edit out the night time shots via the included software... Not so ... I was too lazy to go through frame by frame and edit them out... So I left it as it is... strobing.

Duane Hook

## [Urban/Suburban Tree Density Reveals Inequality](#)

by **Jenny** » Sat Jun 02, 2012 8:22 am

I think this is not news to anyone; more money in neighborhoods, more trees. At least, more trees that are cared for. But someone posted this on Facebook and I felt compelled to post it. I now have 2 trees on my block so I must be coming up in the world (actually I live on an avenue and not a side street. Avenues have much more traffic. They run up and down NYC, streets run across.)

<http://persquaremile.com/2012/05/24/income-inequality-seen-from-space/>

Jenny

(And can't post anything without congratulating SANTANA and the METS!!!!!!)

## [Re: Urban/Suburban Tree Density Reveals Inequality](#)

by **lucager1483** » Sat Jun 02, 2012 1:12 pm

Jenny, This is an interesting observation. From what I've seen, I would agree with the basic premise. I think a direct relationship commonly exists between the affluence of a neighborhood and the average crown size, girth, and age per tree. In other words, the better the neighborhood, the bigger the average tree. The exception may be trailer parks. I've seen some well-forested ones (at least on the outside borders). Why do you think this tree/money relationship exists? I have a few ideas, but doubt it has much to do with the cost of planting trees; this can be done very inexpensively (or for just the cost of one's own labor, if the needed time and patience is there, and a seed source is nearby). For example, I've planted about 70 or 80 trees within the last five years, and the total out of pocket cost (seedlings, mulch, hand-tools) was probably less than \$200. Any thoughts?

Elijah Whitcomb

## [African Private Game Preserves](#)

by **lucager1483** » Sat Jun 02, 2012 2:22 pm

Ents,

I came upon this article from a website I frequent. Mises.org's focus is economics and almost exclusively comes from a libertarian (specifically the "Austrian school") perspective. This article deals with the author's visit to a private African game preserve and his argument for the necessity of such places. I haven't been to Africa myself, but I think some Ents have. I look forward to your perspective on this issue. Enjoy. Here's the link: <http://mises.org/daily/5960/Property-Means-Preservation>

Elijah Whitcomb

## [Burlington, MA Sycamore](#)

by **Joe** » Sat Jun 02, 2012 8:53 am

Bob, funny you should start a thread about that sycamore-- yesterday I happened to be in Gt. Barrington, MA and took a picture of that awesome sycamore in front of the McDonalds- which I believe you measured some years ago, after I mentioned it to you, and, as you did that, a buddy of mine was in the "restaurant", saw you, and assumed that just had to be Bob Leverett. So, do you happen to have any numbers on this tree? It looks to me as if it's still growing like crazy, so perhaps next time you're in that area, you could remeasure it.

Joe



Joe Zorzin

## [Surfing sine-based calculations](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sat Jun 02, 2012 3:56 pm

NTS, This post is the companion to Surfing tangent-based calculations (<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=235&t=4150> ). If you know the distance (L) to the target, the attached spreadsheet allows you to compute the minimum angle (a) you need to be at if you have the potential of an angle error (e) so as for your height error not to exceed (E). The derivation of the sine-based formula is much more difficult than the tangent equivalent. I've put all the steps in. The green cells in the spreadsheet allows you to enter values for E, L, and e. The result in the right most column is the angle a. Any angle to the target smaller than a will lead to a larger height error than E. Notice that this is the reverse of the angle error on tangent-based calculations. For tangent calculations, the higher the angle a, the larger the height error E for a baseline of D and an angle error e. With sine-based calculations, for a slope distance L, E increases for an angle error of e as the angle a drops.

This spreadsheet and its tangent equivalent allow the measurer to investigate the impact of angle errors by playing what-if games. The tangent spreadsheet and analysis validates the advice given to foresters in the U.S. Forest Service who were told to keep the angle to the top down. However, the spreadsheet goes further than being a rule of thumb by allowing the measurer to determine the angle needed for a prescribed distance and possible angle error to not make a height error of more than E. The measurer would know to move farther back if calculated a is less than measured a.

Of course, the measurer won't know that the angle error is e, but can set a value for e that is as large as is likely to occur for the instrument being used.

I plan to create more of these spreadsheets to allow measurers to play what-if games. We can cover situations of instrument error, either distance or angle pretty effectively. What we can't do is compensate for the measurer using the wrong target baseline. The use of a common baseline to the trunk for both crown and

base is hardwired into the instruction sequence taught to measurers using tape and clinometer.

Deprogramming the old-timers is turning out to be no mean task. It maybe impossible. Our best chance may be with the younger generation. I've talked a lot with Don Bertollette about this.

Compare angle needed to correct height error does not exceed 1/2 for a slope distance of 1 and an angle error of e. Angles larger than 1/2 will result in height errors larger than 1/2 at the slope.			
Angle Error (e)	Angle Error (e)	Angle Error (e)	Angle Error (e)
0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003
0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004
0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005
0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007
0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008
0.0009	0.0009	0.0009	0.0009
0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
0.0011	0.0011	0.0011	0.0011
0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012
0.0013	0.0013	0.0013	0.0013
0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014
0.0015	0.0015	0.0015	0.0015
0.0016	0.0016	0.0016	0.0016
0.0017	0.0017	0.0017	0.0017
0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018
0.0019	0.0019	0.0019	0.0019
0.0020	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020
0.0021	0.0021	0.0021	0.0021
0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022
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0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024
0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
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0.0027	0.0027	0.0027	0.0027
0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028
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0.0030	0.0030	0.0030	0.0030
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0.0037	0.0037	0.0037	0.0037
0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038
0.0039	0.0039	0.0039	0.0039
0.0040	0.0040	0.0040	0.0040
0.0041	0.0041	0.0041	0.0041
0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042
0.0043	0.0043	0.0043	0.0043
0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044
0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045
0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046
0.0047	0.0047	0.0047	0.0047
0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048
0.0049	0.0049	0.0049	0.0049
0.0050	0.0050	0.0050	0.0050
0.0051	0.0051	0.0051	0.0051
0.0052	0.0052	0.0052	0.0052
0.0053	0.0053	0.0053	0.0053
0.0054	0.0054	0.0054	0.0054
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0.0062	0.0062	0.0062	0.0062
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0.0064	0.0064	0.0064	0.0064
0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065
0.0066	0.0066	0.0066	0.0066
0.0067	0.0067	0.0067	0.0067
0.0068	0.0068	0.0068	0.0068
0.0069	0.0069	0.0069	0.0069
0.0070	0.0070	0.0070	0.0070
0.0071	0.0071	0.0071	0.0071
0.0072	0.0072	0.0072	0.0072
0.0073	0.0073	0.0073	0.0073
0.0074	0.0074	0.0074	0.0074
0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075
0.0076	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076
0.0077	0.0077	0.0077	0.0077
0.0078	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078
0.0079	0.0079	0.0079	0.0079
0.0080	0.0080	0.0080	0.0080
0.0081	0.0081	0.0081	0.0081
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0.0083	0.0083	0.0083	0.0083
0.0084	0.0084	0.0084	0.0084
0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085
0.0086	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086
0.0087	0.0087	0.0087	0.0087
0.0088	0.0088	0.0088	0.0088
0.0089	0.0089	0.0089	0.0089
0.0090	0.0090	0.0090	0.0090
0.0091	0.0091	0.0091	0.0091
0.0092	0.0092	0.0092	0.0092
0.0093	0.0093	0.0093	0.0093
0.0094	0.0094	0.0094	0.0094
0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095
0.0096	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096
0.0097	0.0097	0.0097	0.0097
0.0098	0.0098	0.0098	0.0098
0.0099	0.0099	0.0099	0.0099
0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100

 [ErrorAngleSine.xlsx](#) (596.53 KiB)

Robert T. Leverett

**Re: A bit of a mystery hickory**

 by **Will Blozan** » Sun Jun 03, 2012 10:10 am

*Will Blozan wrote: I am vacillating between C. glabra (type) and perhaps C. alba. Strong attributes of both abound but based on twig size C. glabra would win over.*

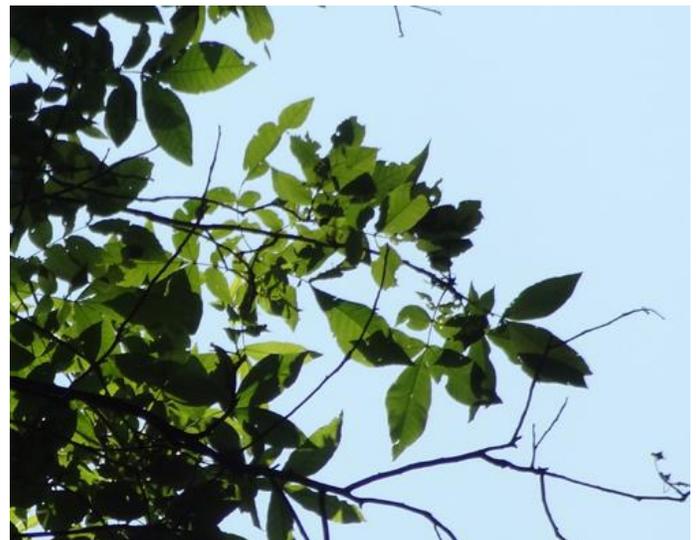
*Jess Riddle wrote: I agree with your assessment. Based on the bark, I would lean towards C. alba, but all the other features seem to subtly point towards C. glabra var. glabra. Definitely not C. cordiformis.*

Jess,

I'm glad you weighed in on this one. Yes, the twigs were way too fine for C. alba. The crown form also did not suggest C cordiformis. Here are some shots.



Full tree stitch



Leaves detail



Crown detail

The tree was 11'8" CBH x 145' tall X 77' spread.

Will Blozan

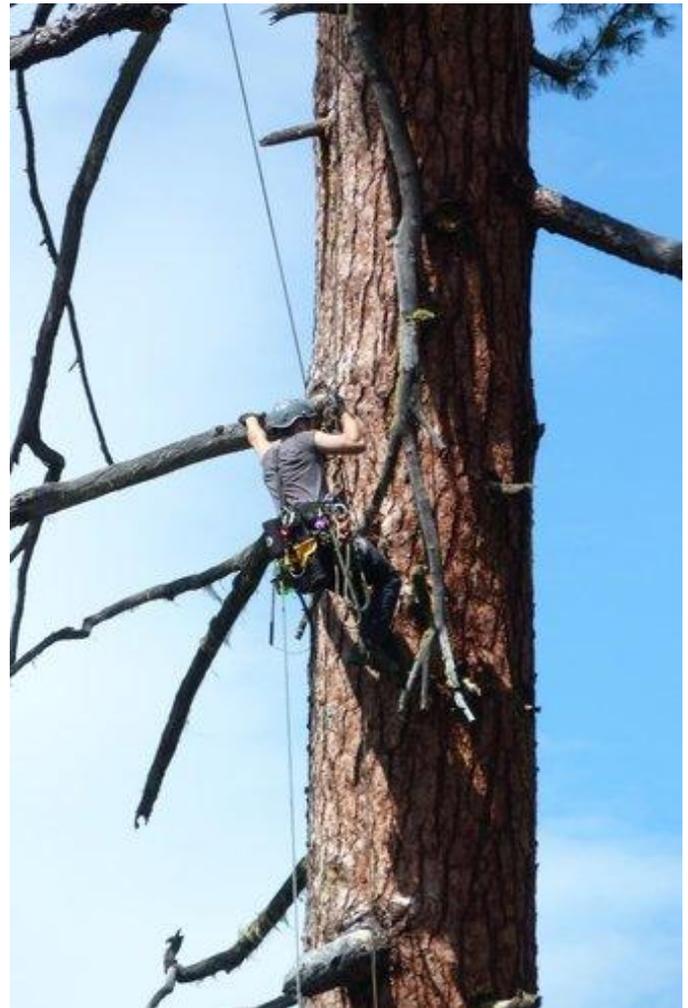
### [Tallest Known Sugar Pine Confirmed By Ascending The Giants](#)

by **M.W.Taylor** » Sun Jun 03, 2012 5:25 pm

On 6/1 I met up with a few news reporters and Ascending the Giants climbers Brian French and Will Koomjian in Canyonville to document what I claim is the tallest known sugar pine in Umpqua National Forest. This tree was long thought dead by the outside world and forgotten about after it was girdled sometime in the early 1990s.

Mario Vaden and I measured the tree in January 2011 at 255 feet handheld Impulse200LR laser. In Fall 2011 I re-measured the tree with assistance from Laser Technology Inc. Western Sales Manager Steve Colburn. This time the measurement was tripod mounted and I used a leap frog prism pole survey to the tree's base. Result 255.12 feet.

<http://www.lasertech.com/blogs/Professional-Measurement/post/2012/05/04/LTI%E2%80%99s-Impulse-200-LR-Measures-Tree-Height.aspx>



24x zoom

On 6/1 Brian and Will climb this towering sugar pine and dropped a tape down from the top-most leader. Result 255.44 feet. The crown is very broad with a central leader that is not visible until you get very far back. For this reason I was not able to hit the very tip

of the highest leader, but I came close.

See attached pictures showing Brian French, the 1st ascender to the top.



12x zoom



Brian French was the first to ascend the world's tallest known sugar pine

Michael Taylor

WNTS VP

<http://www.landmarktrees.net>

## Re: Tallest Known Sugar Pine Confirmed By Ascending The Giants

▣ by **M.W.Taylor** » Sun Jun 03, 2012 9:58 pm



Brian French climbing the worlds tallest Sugar Pine

*MickR wrote: Great stuff - that tree looks incredible. Question though - if it was girdled, how is it still alive? Who did and why was it girdled?*

Mick, The perpetrator was never caught. The tree was completely girdled but apparently the cut was not deep enough ? Judging by the appearance of the girdling, it was a large chainsaw and the cut was deep but the tree was sealed by botanist from the Forest Service and the cut healed quickly. Shocking the tree is so vigorous today. I will look for a picture of the girdled base in the archives and post on this forum if I can find something.

Michael Taylor

## Fungi and European beech forests

▣ by **hamadryad** » Mon Jun 04, 2012 4:06 am

(This is a continuataion of the the European Beech Forest Thread: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=201&t=1683&start=10#p17393> )



Inonotus cuticularis



*Volvalriella bombycina*



*Helvella lucanosa*



*Pholiota aurivella* (Golden scaly cap)



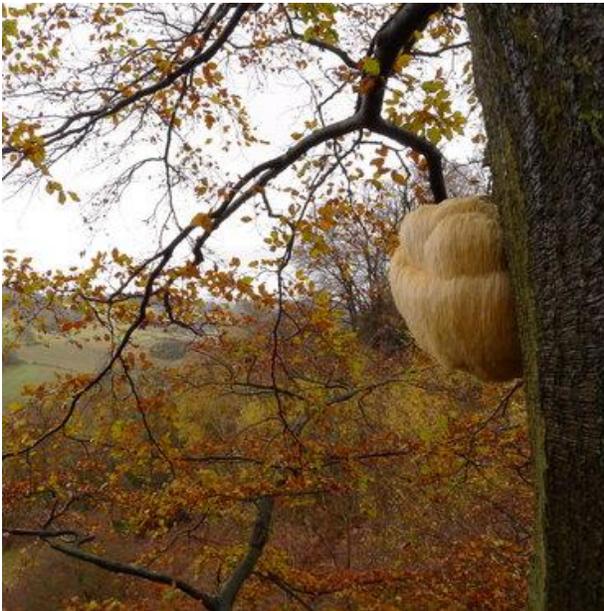
*Clavulina coralloides* (mycorrhizal)



*Fomes fommentarius*



*Hericium coralloides*



*Hericium erinaceus*



*Hericium cirrhatus*

Beech have the second highest associated bio diverse ecology of our natives (U.K) I go out in search of their associated fungal partners regularly. I am most fortunate to live so close to so many great Beech and Oak woods, Epping Forest, Burnham Beeches, Ashridge Park, Knole house etc. Here are a few more images from our U.K Beechwoods.



Bat roost in hollow Beech, note the brown stain above the hole consisting of moth dust!





Anthony Croft

## [Grand Canyon National Park, AZ](#)

by [eliahd24](#) » Mon Jun 04, 2012 11:08 am

Just back from a marvelous western adventure that included 3 days and nights and the Grand Canyon.

Lots of Ponderosa Pine, Juniper, and Pinyon Pine to be seen at the South Rim. Along with small scrubby oak species (Gambel Oak mostly). The biggest trees, however, were the massive Cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*) at Indian Garden, down the Bright Angel Trail. This is an oasis that sits 3000' below the south rim in a little notch that has perennial water due to a spring (I believe). It was actually farmed by Native people until 1919 (guess what happened then... it became a NP under federal control!). Some of the cottonwoods near the springs/creek are well in excess of 20' CBH. Probably near 25' for the biggest. Really amazing. I was on a trail run so I did not have any gear or even a camera phone with me. Worth seeing for yourself though, I promise :)

~Eli Dickerson



## Re: Old Growth on private land.... Does anyone here have it?

by **Ranger Dan** » Mon Jun 04, 2012 10:42 am

*James Robert Smith wrote: A conservation easement might be the best way to go to ensure (at least in modern historical terms) the preservation of your forest. If you deed it over to any private group (including the Nature Conservancy) the land is theirs to do with as they feel. It could turn out that they would be willing at some point to trade the land for something that they feel is more worthy of preservation. They are sometimes given property just for this reason--for trading away to protect something else.*

All good advice. The Nature Conservancy does indeed accept land donations and then sells them for a greater cause of buying up the "last great places".

They only keep exceptional, usually very large properties. Yes, Rex, I have planted white pine around part of my property as a screen and buffer. It grows fast and works well at shading the ground to inhibit aggressive invasive plants, but they require attention in the early years, such as protection from buck rubbing, and vines.

*Rex Kar wrote: I've identified my nemesis as Japanese Honeysuckle. This stuff is ridiculous around here. It won't grow deep in the forest, but around the edge where there is enough sun it is prolific. After a few years it will completely cover a fence row or a small tree under 10 ft.*

The honeysuckle Rex refers to I am going to guess is most likely Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), which is the honeysuckle most folks in the South know of as THE honeysuckle (the one we suckled nectar from as kids), and is the only vining honeysuckle you are likely to find in your area which has fragrant white flowers that turn yellow (sometimes with a flush of reddish color on the back sides). It seems you can find it on nearly every acre of land in the lowland parts of the East. As woods become shadier, it becomes weaker and native plants coexist with it, though they do better without its competition.

It's easy to pull up weak honeysuckle plants that languish in the shade, but where it is vigorous you'll need to use herbicide. I recommend one containing Triclopyr, and to stay away from ones containing 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. The former is not mutagenic or persistent in the environment, and poses little risk to human health (other than potential eye damage if you get it in your eyes, so wear protective eye wear).

These do not kill grasses and sedges, but kill almost all broadleaved plants. One research project found Triclopyr to be ineffective in killing one species of bush honeysuckle, but others reported success with it when application was properly timed and applied. (I have had partial success with it on *Lonicera fragrantissima*, where it has become invasive where I work, the Claytor Nature Study Center). You can find a lot of information by searching for "herbicide honeysuckle".

Of course, once you get rid of the honeysuckle, bird-planted seeds of it and other nasties will come up, so it will be an ongoing project. Planting natives that shade the ground will help, as you know. Do not fall for the nurseryman's advice that ground covers will solve your problems forever. Weeds will come up in any ground cover, and then you'll have a real problem killing only the weeds. Plant trees and shrubs that form a canopy over the ground, so you can continue to spray under them until you finally get the invasives under control. Avoid plants that form multi-stemmed colonies or have spreading habits. You'll have a hell of a time spraying only the weeds under them.

Mulching helps tremendously in reducing seed germination, but will not smother plants such as honeysuckle, ivy or Bermudagrass.

Stiltgrass...I have been attempting to keep it at bay on part of my property for years, with little success. A few tiny patches have disappeared after years of attempts, but if you miss a single plant, you have seeds that may live for 7 years or more. I find new patches every year. The seeds are carried on deer hooves, tires and boots. The floodplains are hopeless...each flood brings new seeds. Biological control hopefully will one day appear. There are selective herbicides that kill only grasses and sedges, and burning in late summer just before seed formation has worked well. I have seen native plants coexisting with it, even annual and biennial plants

such as Phacelias which must re-establish new plants from seed every year. So I don't agree with the doomsayers who say that stiltgrass will spell the end to our native herbaceous plants.

Multiflora rose...I have worked on it a lot and it is not difficult to kill. I use Pathfinder ( a Triclopyr product in a vegetable oil base) to paint on the trunks of many species of woody plants, and it kills almost everything we've tried. Also cutting and painting the stumps with Glyphosate (Round-Up is one product) cut 50% with water (some say less is effective) has worked well for me, any time of year. Timing with best chances of success using these methods is June-Oct. Again, you can find a lot of research work and methods with an online search. Rose rosette virus, carried by aphids, is wiping out far more Rosa multiflora than all my efforts. It appeared about 3 years ago, and now many places in the woods at work that were choked and impenetrable are full of dead and weakened bushes.

We've also done a lot of work on Ailanthus (Paradise or Tree-of-Heaven), and this year I am happy to report that it is now reduced to a few sprouts and a few missed trees, on 470 acres that was heavily infested in many parts. There has been some trial-and-error, but we have a system that works for us, and I will be happy to share.

Dan Miles

## [Re: "Old-growth forests as global sinks"](#)

by **Joe** » Tue Jun 05, 2012 9:47 am

What's weird is that the forestry establishment doesn't get it- they keep repeating the ancient myth that forest growth slows down after 70-80 years- this was mentioned in the Manomet Report and was part of the logic that a biomass harvest catches up with a "business as usual" non biomass harvest after several decades

it may be true that a non cut forest- after 70-80 years will have its compound interest rate of growth slows down- that is, if say it was growing steadily at 5% per year, that can't go on forever as the "yield", that is actual volume growth/year can't keep getting larger, but the actual growth per year continues- so, if the stand already has 20 MBF and it only grows 500 board feet, that's only a growth of 2.5%- there's the rub, because as a financial investment, that's too low- so, what they're tracking is rate of return on investment and if it gets too low, they think it's time to cash in the chips (no pun intended)- but actual growth continues

thus, they're confusing true growth with compound interest growth- the former continues, may even increase, but the latter must decrease

but what they're forgetting is that such "old" forests may actually be putting the growth on very fine trees, so even from the perspective of hard core forestry economics, the growth the of VALUE, may be exceptional and even accelerating

and that's not counting ecosystem values- an old growth forest has exceptional values of many kinds, including of course the ability to store large amounts of carbon

yet, the forestry establishment rants and raves about the desperate need to clearcut forests to get more bunny and grouse habitat and now even Audubon is with them, thinking it will result in more habitat for warblers and other species--- foolishly not realizing how much of the Northeast is heavily logged, what's really "rare and endangered" is old growth- but you won't hear that from most forestry people

I find it bizarre that forestry people just LOVE to utterly wipe out forests- then claim it's great forestry- it's insane

Joe Zorzin

**Re: Girdling (was Tallest Known Sugar Pine)**

by **Bart Bouricius** » Tue Jun 05, 2012 9:02 am

Regarding the girdling, In my over 35 year career as an arborist, I have seen a few strange things where a tree has grown over a 3/8" cable that was girdling it, and survived. This can happen when part of the tree grows over and heals over part of the cable while sap still flows in some of the underneath girdled section.

Obviously not every tree can survive what appears to be girdling, however in a few strange instances, where obviously vascular activity was able to continue, an apparent girdling does not take all the cambium tissue and in time enough grows back to keep the tree going. In this case, I am sure you are right that the cut was not deep enough in at least part of the girdling to cut off all vascular activity, and the sealing may have helped it heal more rapidly, though that can go either way depending on the circumstances. This is indeed a fortuitous circumstance.

Bart Bouricius

**Re: Girdling (was Tallest Known Sugar Pine)**

by **Rand** » Tue Jun 05, 2012 10:37 am

Oddly enough, I've seen both things happen too. I saw a big swamp white oak (~2.5' dbh) in a nature preserve with a big cable wrapped around it, growing next to a river (Once part of a quick and dirty bridge I suppose). I remember the crown starting to look a little funky and the cable was getting tight in the mid 90's. By the time I remembered to bring a hack saw (maybe ten years later), the tree had already grown completely around a foot or so of it. As I cut the strands, it made the creepiest squeaking noise as it rubbed against the wood as the tension came out of it.

I expected the thing to fly when I cut the last strand, but it simply fell off. I ought to go back and see how well the cable's 'trench' has grown back out.

I've also seen a silver maple street tree that looks like it was vandalized by a single chain saw cut.

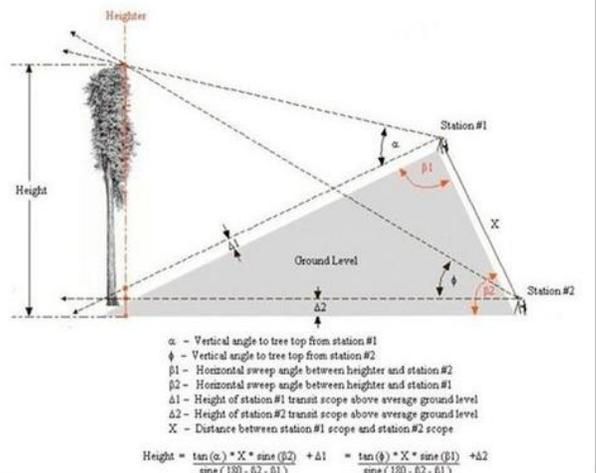
Somehow a foot or so of circumference has grown back together over the last five years. It looks like most of the roots on the rest of the circumference may have died, and the leaves on it are pretty small, so I have doubts about its long term survival.

Rand Brown

**Parallax method revisited**

by **dbhguru** » Tue Jun 05, 2012 11:26 am

NTS, The attachment shows the Parallax method for measuring tree height. Both Michael Taylor and I have presented versions of this method in the past. Michael's is the clearer of the presentations. However, I think it is safe to say that the method has received little attention from NTS members. Time to take it off the shelf, dust it off, and present it again. BTW, I'm not advocating its wide use because it is very sensitive to horizontal angle errors. In a future post, I will explore the impacts of angle errors on the technique. Please stay tuned.



 [ParallaxMethod.xlsx](#) (277.85 KiB)

Robert T. Leverett

## [tiny Ent discovered in my little forest](#)

by **Joe** » Wed Jun 06, 2012 12:06 pm

So, I was out in the forest between my house and the gigantic solar "farm" and discovered this tiny Ent. He seemed peaceful enough, so I left him alone. Maybe he took up residence to protect our 'hood from the monster solar "farm".



Joe Zorzin

## [Movie "Legend of the Forest"](#)

by **Jenny** » Wed Jun 06, 2012 2:33 pm

Oh! Check out the trailer to what looks like an extraordinary 30 minute animated movie called Legend of the Forest by Osamu Tezuka. It is also supposed to be a tribute to the history of animation.

[http://www.fandor.com/films/legend\\_of\\_the\\_forest](http://www.fandor.com/films/legend_of_the_forest)

Some images from the film:



You can download a copy from iTunes for \$1.99

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/movie/legend-of-the-forest/id263215613>

Jennifer Dudley

## [St. Augustine, FL, the Old Senator, May 2012](#)

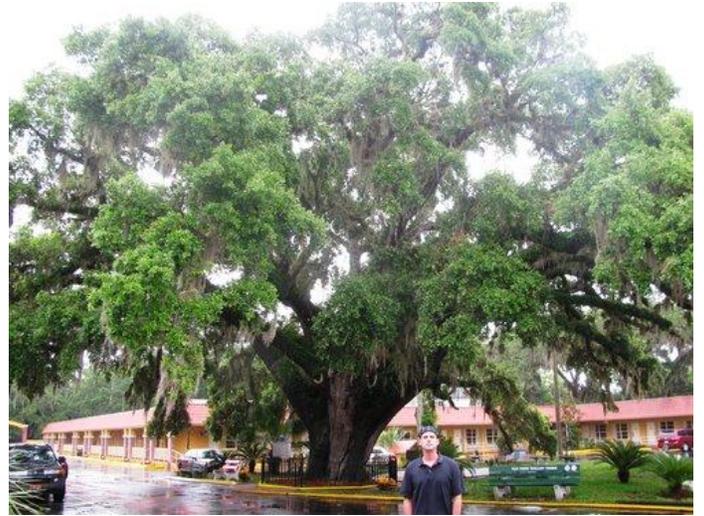
▣ by **michael gatonska** » Wed Jun 06, 2012 5:15 pm

Due to the tropical storm that hit northeast Florida during the time of my visit (I was staying in the First Coast region of the state), I had to cancel two days out of the four that I had scheduled to be exploring the Ocala National Forest. So, with heavy rains in the forecast, I headed to St. Augustine to explore Flagler College, visit the Lightner Museum, walk through the Memorial Presbyterian Church, and eventually wander around the tiny streets to check out some Spanish Colonial era buildings, as well as some elite 19th century architecture.

But my first planned stop, and the most important, was to check out the Old Senator. Strangely enough, this live oak tree sits smack dab in the middle of the parking lot at a Howard Johnson hotel. Nonetheless, from what I have looked up about the tree, it has been core tested to be no less than 600 years old. If you do visit the city, you've got to set aside some time to see this historic, grand, and beautiful live oak.

Personally, I have never seen a tree in Florida with this kind of grandeur, and if I may say it, *wisdom*. It was absolutely the most impressive live oak I have ever seen (although please note that I have not travelled extensively through the state, so I am far from being an expert on the matter). Still, I found the Old Senator awesome to witness, and for me nothing else could compare with it on this day.

I would also like to recommend walking down Magnolia Avenue, which is very beautiful little street in the city lined with Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) growing upon some old and beautifully shaped examples of *Quercus virginiana*.



Self-portrait with the Old Senator



the Old Senator seen from Magnolia Ave - it literally dwarfs the hotel

Michael Gatonska

## [Re: Evolving strategies](#)

by **lucager1483** » Wed Jun 06, 2012 5:31 pm

The more trees I measure, the more I enjoy doing it, and the more I strive to be as accurate as possible. You're an inspiration, Bob. I think, in the simplest sense, what we're (especially you, Ed, Michael, Will, and the rest of the core group of Ents) doing right now is the best approach: Measure lots of trees as best we can (some better than others), using the most accurate methods (sine-sine, tape-drop, etc.), let others in on what we're doing and why, and be open to criticism and serious verification. In the end, those who want to use inferior standards and techniques will be choosing to do so willfully, and those who want to get it right will find us. Some people prefer living in a fairytale world. Some do not. Maybe that's too broad of an analogy, but I think it works. Keep up the good work.

Elijah Whitcomb

## [Re: Evolving strategies](#)

by **Larry Tucei** » Wed Jun 06, 2012 7:43 pm

Bob, You always have been my inspiration for measuring trees. I have learned much from you and our other members. While it is way cool to know the actual height of a tree the real beauty of a trees height is in the eyes of the measurer. You have made many valid points that said I would like to see the State Champion Programs adopt NTS methods. For sure the National Forest Service, and everyone you mentioned, etc. Some people just don't seem to want to know the exact heights. Spending many Falls and Winters in Forests I always saw such beauty and often wondered just how tall the trees in my area really were. Thanks to you and NTS I now have my answers. It amazes me how inaccurate tree books, guides, magazines, etc., can be when it comes to heights. I think NTS is making it more known than you realize. Thanks mostly to your tenacity in

accuracy of measurement and love of trees. Bob I would be honored to be your wing man anytime.

Larry Tucei

## [Re: Evolving strategies](#)

by **Joe** » Thu Jun 07, 2012 8:55 am

As one of the "old time foresters" I find the advanced measurement techniques interesting because:

- \* not so much about the technique or accuracy but because I really dig huge and old trees for aesthetic/philosophic reasons
- \* because being able to measure tree accurately means being able to measure entire forests accurately- and, this is very, very important because foresters need to know so they can do their work better, that is, know how healthy the trees are, how fast they are growing in VALUE, know how fast they are sequestering carbon, so they can know how well the forest responds to their silvicultural work, etc.
- \* ecologists, biologists and especially conservation biologists really should want to know extremely accurately the condition of forests- not just size but also growth and health because this is information human society needs in order to manage and protect forests for the benefit of the human race- the very rough estimates done by most foresters and others just isn't good enough- especially given all the political battles that go on regarding forests- if we don't have good scientific information about the forests, then all those political battles are never going to find good solutions based on facts

So, I think what's important is to inform all those groups you mention, Bob, that this work is important, not just so we can measure the height of a tree to a centimeter but because it's important for the long term well being of the human race and the overall well being of the planet's ecosystem.

As for the scientific need for really good information from the forests- read "Evidence of Impending Tipping Point for Earth" at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/06/120606132308.htm>

Not only should the great specimens of big/old trees be measured accurately, but many other trees need accuracy too- over time, as a way to determine how the forests are being affected by global warming- as that info may tell us something about the potential for being near or beyond a tipping point.

Most foresters of course in their daily work will continue to use the rough methods we use out of necessity, we don't have time to do it right, but we do it right enough for our purposes, but every state needs to have researchers and many of them, doing it right.

The first paragraph in that article is:

"Science Daily (June 6, 2012) — A group of scientists from around the world is warning that population growth, widespread destruction of natural ecosystems, and climate change may be driving Earth toward an irreversible change in the biosphere, a planet-wide tipping point that would have destructive consequences absent adequate preparation and mitigation."

Joe Zorzin

## Re: Evolving strategies

▣ by **edfrank** » Thu Jun 07, 2012 5:00 pm

Bob, I applaud your efforts to convert the "old guard" in the forestry profession. It is hard to avoid a political discussion on this point, but many of the people in the extractive industries – coal, oil, timber, fisheries, etc. view the resource as something that is there for their taking and benefit. Going along with this is a general disdain for anything new and a suspicion of science if it does not directly enhance their ability to extract the resources. If it was good enough to do the job 50 years ago, or 200 years ago, there is no need to try new-fangled methodology.

There is a cult of ignorance that permeates some aspects of our society. Do you remember when in many circles it was a badge of honor to espouse that you could not program your VCR or make the clock stop flashing? There is a bigger and more virulent form of the same mentality sweeping our nation today. If it is new, it must automatically be suspect or rejected out of hand. The worship of deliberate ignorance and the pursuit of such will be the downfall of our society. I think this same pig-headedness is present when thinking about adopting newer laser rangefinder methodologies. It doesn't matter if it is right, or better, it is new and therefore must be opposed. Laser rangefinders were not very common even ten years ago, so these techniques are new in comparison to many of the techniques still being used in forestry today.

There also are the remnants of the old master-student relationship. It is much more prevalent in some fields than others and in some areas of the world more than others. I recall a paper published that showed the results of water tracing in a respected European journal. The old and famous geographer reported that the water from a single sinkhole appeared at springs around the entire region in essentially a radial pattern. It was published and was treated as the gospel in the field, even though everybody knew it was wrong. The results were because of contamination of the sampling devices and not because the water flowed in all directions. But until the old professor passed away, his work and methodologies could not be questioned.

In the United States, we are less deferential to the older generation of researchers, but still there is this influence. We are still being taught the older methodologies by the people in the universities even when these methodologies are known to be flawed and out of date. There is a carry-over from what people are taught, but I do believe that the newer generations of foresters and researchers will not be bound by what has been done before. I believe they will be a receptive or at least respectful audience for our NTS methods.

People getting into forestry these days are computer literate. They do appreciate and understand technology. They are not afraid of using new-fangled

devices if it gives them better results. The older generation of foresters and managers may be a lost cause, aside from some exceptional individuals.

They may be too comfortable in the older methodologies and unwilling or even unable to change. The people we should be targeting to get our message out there is the new generation of forestry professionals and managers that are just starting their careers. These will be the ones making the decisions in the future and the ones I believe we can reach.

Your goal maybe should not be to convert the older generations of managers, but to convince them your methods are valid and get them to allow the laser rangefinder/clinometer methodologies to be presented and taught to those people just starting out.

Edward Frank

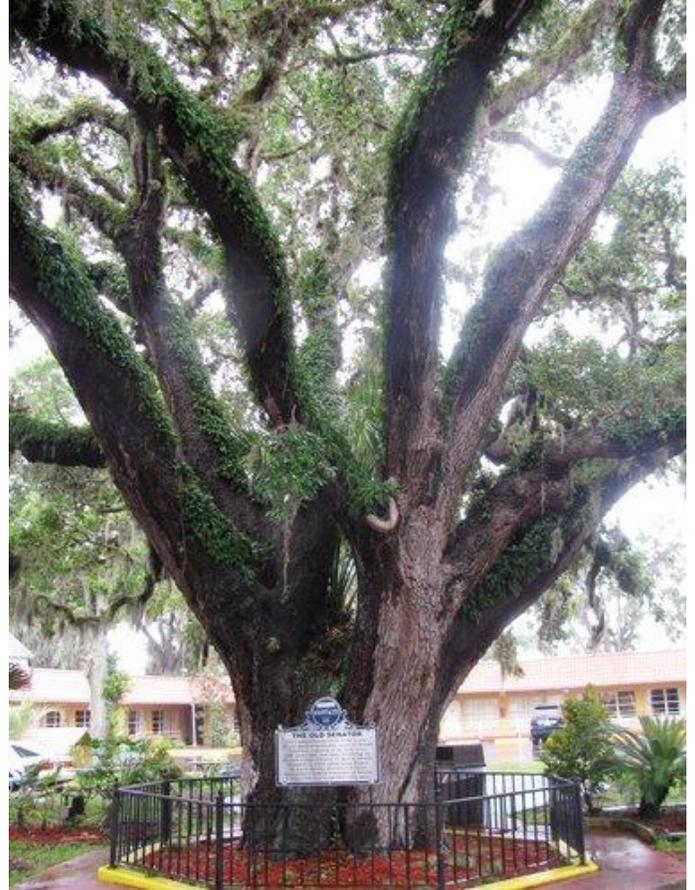
### [Re: St. Augustine, the Old Senator, May 2012](#)

by **Larry Tucei** » Wed Jun 06, 2012 8:06 pm

Michael, Beautiful Live Oak, from the photos it looks to be about 20-25' in Cir. I would question the age and the coring. Live Oaks are extremely difficult to core due to their density. Many times the ages of Live Oaks are greatly enhanced for publicity. Based on what I've learned from measuring Live Oaks these last 6 years I would guess more like 200 years old, 300 could be possible but 600, I doubt it. Still a fantastic tree and thanks for posting on it. There is bigger Live Oak in Jacksonville called the Treaty Oak, it is older than the Old Senator. I've been meaning to get over to that area of Florida, there are several Live Oaks just like the Old Senator and larger. Larry

### [Re: St. Augustine, the Old Senator, May 2012](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Thu Jun 07, 2012



closer view of the trunk of Old Senator

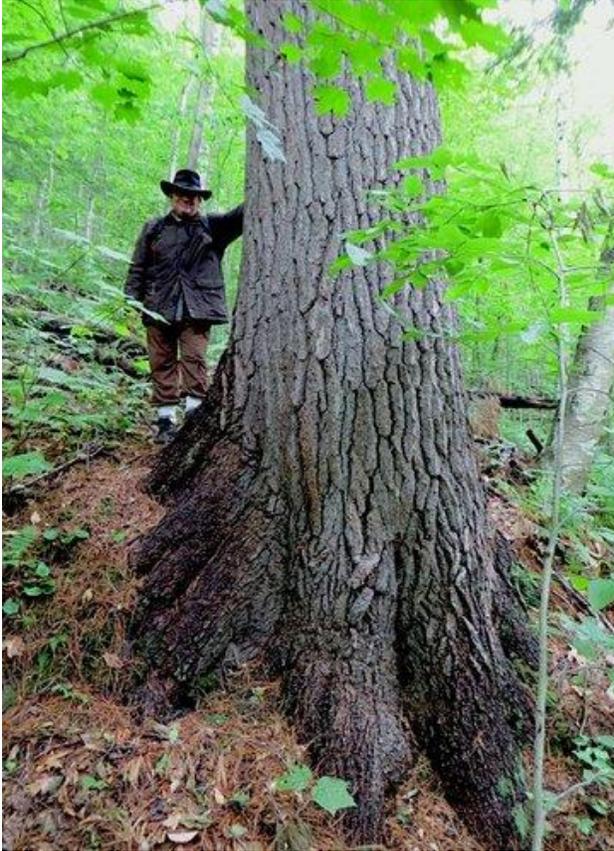
Hi Larry; thank you for writing, and to be quite honest, I am not sure if the 600 years is true or not - I held that information to be a bit suspect when first I read it. Still, when I think about it, even an existence of 200 or 300 years is quite remarkable, particularly considering that this tree is situated in a hotel parking lot. For that, I suppose we can be thankful for the 'tall-tale' publicity. In any event, it is a terrific tree to see. I had read about the Treaty Oak in a past posting by Hook, and although I have not seen that particular one in Jacksonville, it looks like another stunning live oak to check out. I am attaching another photo, hoping that it might give you a better bead on the possible circumference of the Old Senator?

Michael Gatonska

## Two neat images, MTSF, MA

by dbhguru » Thu Jun 07, 2012 9:45 am

NTS, Ed Ritz and I visited Mohawk a couple of days ago and we took these images. The first is of the Joseph Brant pine (11.2 ft x 160.1 ft).



The next shows me at the base of a 142.0-foot white ash. The top of the ash cannot be seen. Although the ash is just 6 feet in girth, the image of me barely visible (right side of tree) shows the exceptional verticality of these forests.



In a recent email to DCR reporting on this visit I wrote the following.

*Now for a final commentary. When I trek through these hidden forest sanctuaries, I am constantly reminded of what makes them special - what sets them apart from the vast majority of undistinguished woodlands that form the Berkshire uplands, and in fact, most of the woodlands of Massachusetts. In Mohawk, it isn't the tree species, or their distribution. It isn't the number of rare or endangered plants. It isn't what Mohawk's woods share in common with other DCR properties, but rather, it is what makes Mohawk's forests distinct - their abundance of exceptional trees. In my view, this attribute cannot be emphasized too much.*

*I am reminded of the report MASSACHUSETTS FOREST RESERVES LONG TERM ECOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM -*

*MOHAWK.MONROE/SAVOY FOREST RESERVE. Although there is useful information in this journeyman effort, from reading it, and other than the mention of the old growth, if I did I not know differently, from the report, I would see nothing exceptional about the forests in the 9th forest reserve. The report is woefully inadequate in its descriptions of the forests of Mohawk, Monroe, and Savoy and their rich cultural history (the old Indian path, the Shunpike, John Wheeler's grave, etc.). When I return from the West, I'll dive into the trail guide for the Mahican-Mohawk Recreational Trail. I have made contact with a source that can take the cultural history to a new level.*

One of the addresses responded as follows.

*Thanks Bob. Impressive as always.*

*I know and have read the report you reference with some frustration in looking for more content, as to more details about what makes this place special. I do appreciate your summary of these forests as being a concentration of exceptional examples.*

*Thanks again for your herculean efforts.*

I include the above response to acknowledge that there are people in DCR who very much recognize and appreciate what we in NTS do, do for DCR properties, and what exists in those properties as ecological-inspirational treasures. It would be grossly unfair of me to imply that DCR, as an organization, does not have many employees who value DCR parks and reserves as ecologically valuable and inspirational. DCR employees can be divided into four camps: (1) those who recognize the full range of values in our public forests, (2) those who are just economically focused on the timber, (3) those who are focused on just recreation, and (4) those who don't think much about it at all. I am forever grateful for the members of category (1), and it is for them, as well as the people of the Commonwealth, that Monica and I have undertaken the effort to do trail guides for the great places in Mohawk, Monroe, Mt. Greylock, and a few other properties. It is a labor of love and one that will likely occupy me for as long as my legs will carry me up and down the ridges. The

third attachment is a draft of the Great Pines Nature Trail. Monica and I have lots of work left to do on it, but getting there.

 [MTSF-GreatPinesTrailDraft.docx](#) (5.18 MiB)

Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: Tree Humor?](#)

 by **Jenny** » Mon Jun 11, 2012 8:17 am

First attempt at a Galehouse joke:

I was chewing some Sweet Gum made by Liquidambar Inc. and did some research on it. They begin the manufacturing process by cutting off apical root stems and then adding chlorophyll, cellulose, pectin, lignin, and chromatin. Then they dip it in a cytoplasm goo and cover it with a plasma membrane.

Boy, is my Dendral bill going to be Styracifluic!!!

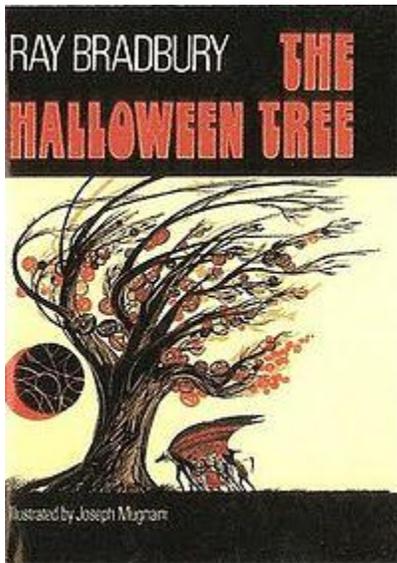
(Jenny)

## [Ray Bradbury dies at age 91](#)

by **edfrank** » Thu Jun 07, 2012 2:37 pm

NTS, With sad tidings, in case you haven't heard, fantasy author Ray Bradbury passed away yesterday at the age of 91. Ray Bradbury is most famous works are the stories Martian Chronicles, the Illustrated Man, Something Wicked This Way Comes, and Fahrenheit 451. He continued working and writing until the end. What does this have to do with trees?

Perhaps not much. He did author the story "The Halloween Tree" <http://www.october-country.com/wychingwell/ww-tree.html> and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Halloween\\_Tree](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Halloween_Tree)



So I can twist things about and make some ties between Bradbury and trees, but only indirectly.

That is not what is important here. What Bradbury represents is a cultural icon.

I do not have any personal encounters with Bradbury to relate. This video is about as close as I came. I watched it while in grade school. It took awhile to find the short story adaptation included here - "Dial Double Zero." This story and those of others early in life deeply affected me and sparked my interest in science fiction. I wrote a number of bad science fiction stories in high school and even had a mimeographed fanzine. I was touched by the lyrical nature of stories within the Martian Chronicles and the entranced by dark future with rays of hope

presented in Fahrenheit 451. I have many, many of his story collections in my library. The world is sadder for his death and forever richer for his artistry.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bl6t0J6yv3o>

It seems in the last few years that many of the great icons of modern western culture are being lost. In music we lost Johnny Cash - a member of both the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. We lost Jerry Garcia, even those who were not fans recognize him as the leader of the Grateful Dead, a symbol of the music of the 60's and 70's. In science fiction and fantasy literature we have lost Kurt Vonnegut, Arthur C. Clarke, and now Ray Bradbury. Every Day we are losing artists, writers, musicians, scientists, philosophers, and poets who shaped our very culture.

I would encourage you all, whenever you get a chance, and you will have chances, to go hear these people speak, to hear them play, to watch them perform, to see them work. Even if you are not a big fan, go. There is a power in their presence and seeing them in person will be something memorable for the rest of your life. Wait behind and try to meet them, do whatever you can. Do it before the presence of these shining lights is also lost to the world. I am going to go see Bob Dylan when he returns from Europe, I am going to go see Maya Angelou. Make the effort and you will be better for it.

Edward Frank

## [Re: Ray Bradbury dies at age 91](#)

by **Rand** » Thu Jun 07, 2012 9:07 pm

My favorite quote from Fahrenheit 451.

### “ Ray Bradbury > Quotes > Quotable Quote



“Cram them full of non-combustible data, chock them so damned full of 'facts' they feel stuffed, but absolutely 'brilliant' with information. Then they'll feel they're thinking, they'll get a sense of motion without moving. And they'll be happy, because facts of that sort don't change. Don't give them any slippery stuff like philosophy or sociology to tie things up with. That way lies melancholy.”

— Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*

<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/show/367298>

We had to read this book in high school and I was rather puzzled at the time exactly what he meant. Being older and wiser I do now..and it's not exactly a coincidence. The 'Underground history of American Education' shows how this came to be. You can read it online here:

<http://johntaylorgatto.com/underground/toc1.htm>

It's extremely thought provoking even if it does feel rather one sided.

## [Re: Ray Bradbury dies at age 91](#)

by **jamesrobertsmith** » Thu Jun 07, 2012 11:52 pm

He was one of the finest writers produced by the USA in the 20th Century. His prose was absolutely striking and gorgeous. I will miss his presence in the world, but we have his great works, those wonderful stories.

In 2010 I had a story in the anthology THE BLEEDING EDGE. The book also had stories by many other authors, including Ray Bradbury. The publisher sponsored a signing event at the Dark

Delicacies bookstore in Los Angeles and I flew out to attend and take part in the mass signing.

So here I am with Ray Bradbury and some of the other authors. That's me standing directly behind Mr. Bradbury on the far left. Also in the photo is William F. Nolan (author of LOGAN'S RUN) and Earl Hamner (creator of THE WALTONS and FALCONCREST television shows), and George Clayton Johnson (teleplay writer for THE TWILIGHT ZONE) and others...



## [the ultimate widow maker](#)

by **Joe** » Fri Jun 08, 2012 4:06 pm

Just saw this tree in the town of Peru in the Berkshires of W. Mass.



Joe Zorzin

## [Re: Tree Humor?](#)

by **Steve Galehouse** » Wed Jun 06, 2012 11:09 pm

Two trees, Acer and Fagus, get into an argument about carbon deposits at the local bank branch. Acer says he is more Populus, and claims Fagus is just Quercus. Quercus says Acer is just a Tilia wannabee, and that he can kiss his Sassafras. Acer tells Quercus he doesn't have the Juglans to carry out his threat. Quercus says "quit Carpinus about it and show me your real Castaneas". Acer says he's feeling Crataegus, and just wants to Larix awhile.

Steve Galehouse

## [Estimating Tree Ages](#)

by **anthony.j.mills** » Thu Jun 07, 2012 8:24 pm

There is an old "rule of thumb" in the UK for estimating the age of open-grown native broadleaves which are not juvenile or senescent: the age is roughly equivalent to the girth in inches. So assuming that a native oak in the US, even in a sub-tropical zone [which isn't necessarily more productive of growth than a temperate climate], will be more or less similar, then a 20' girth would be about 240 years and a 33' girth very nearly 400.

There is a Forestry Commission Information Note "Estimating the age of large and veteran trees in Britain" by John White, which gives a more complex calculation method based on the annual incremental area of wood laid down in each ring by a fully functioning canopy, with variations calculable for decline in over-maturity and retrenchment and according to the history of the site and environmental conditions for the trees growth, which may have some application to veteran trees in the US. It has the advantage of being non-invasive.

Anthony J. Mills

## [Re: Estimating Tree Ages](#)

by **Jeroen Philippona** » Fri Jun 08, 2012 4:25 pm

Michael, Larry and others, here is the article of John White.

 [Estimating age of trees.pdf](#) (192.28 KiB)

I think it is rather good, although you should not use its rules to get an accurate age of a tree. Much depends on growing conditions and species. The big oak with Larry is the biggest of Oak Alley at the Mississippi, Louisiana, over 30 feet CBH and just over 300 years (planted around 1705 - 1710 (am I right, Larry?) so it grew 3 cm (1.2 inches) a year. It probably has near optimum growing conditions for the species (climate, soil).

The Senator looks as if it is 20 - 25 ft around, and it could have grown a bit slower than the Oak Alley oak. But 600 years doesn't look reliable to me either. I should say 250 years. In the Netherlands an open grown English oak (*Quercus robur*) of 23 ft girth with a large crown (height 75 ft, crown spread 130 ft) lost a very large branch in 2007. We could measure the year rings (6 ft from the trunk; the branch started from a height of 13 ft): 211. So the oak was around 230 - 240 years old.

Jeroen Philippona

## [Re: Estimating Tree Ages](#)

by **anthony.j.mills** » Fri Jun 08, 2012 10:43 pm

John White's research and computational methodology is based on large numbers of Forestry Commission records of actual ring counts correlated with girth. It is certainly fully accepted here. I would remind you that GB has 80% of the ancient trees in Europe, a consequence of our landuse practices in the past which favoured their retention. The Ancient Tree Hunt [ATH] has so far recorded upwards of 100,000 trees in 3 categories, notable,

veteran and ancient. [Pedersen quotes "several"] Many ancient trees have verifiable historical records which attest to the relationship between age and girth, records of up to 940 years, which I would suggest are impossible in the USA. There is an oak not a mile from here which was recorded in William the Conquerors Domesday book in 1068, and subsequently in the Chertsey Cartulary. Ask anyone associated with dendrochronology of ancient trees in Britain [Tree Register of the British Isles; Veteran Tree Initiative; ATH] and they will tell you that this methodology is not garbage but fully supported by the evidence and their considerable experience with truly ancient trees.

Anthony J. Mills

## [Re: Kiss your ash goodbye...](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Sat Jun 09, 2012 9:51 am

Mike and NTS,

I have given the NPS coordinates of the finer ash specimens as well as locations of ash "groves". I think Jess has submitted some areas as well. The NPS has done a survey of ash resources in the park but I am not aware of their strategy yet.

Yes, Double Gap is one of the finest collections ever seen by NTS in the Smokies, and it was surveyed by the Ash crew. They were impressed and from what I have heard it will be a priority "grove".

I personally am willing to adopt the superlative specimens on Big Branch, Den Branch, Hurricane Creek and Burnt Ridge. Maybe even Double Gap. I'd like to know the NPS response first, though...

Several years ago Jess and I wrote a letter of support to the NPS encouraging proactive measures. Here is the narrative (a bit out of date regarding some facts):

*Letter of support to the CCSP Review Committee Project: Documenting Ash Tree Resources in GRSM*

*Submitted by Will Blozan, on behalf of the Eastern Native Tree Society  
1/9/2007*

*Members of the Eastern Native Tree Society (ENTS) have been involved in surveys of the forests of Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) since 1993. We have come to realize that within the park borders are some of the finest examples of eastern forest types and individual trees currently known. Among these exemplary specimens are the white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and the Biltmore ash (*Fraxinus americana* var. *biltmoreana*), both reaching record or near-record proportions in GRSM. State champion individuals for white ash can be found in both the North Carolina and Tennessee portions of GRSM.*

*The tallest known white ash grow in GRSM, with two trees known to exceed 49 meters (160.7 feet). A tall canopy species that certainly contributes to the overall forest biodiversity, white ash's ecological role in the rare undisturbed forest ecosystems preserved in GRSM is likely not well understood and in need of more study. Due to the relatively high nutrient soils it prefers, ash may be an indicator species or a component of exceptionally diverse ecosystems. Likewise, the loss of this species may disrupt natural successional trajectories and allow for the influx of invasive species, both situations having ramifications on nutrient cycling, species composition, and possibly soil nutrient availability. White ash, with its intermediate shade tolerance and ability to respond to moderate disturbances, may be a critical element in retaining canopy cover and site integrity in cool, mesic forests. Biltmore ash likely occupies a similar niche in the lower elevation cove forests, and green ash on the scarce floodplains in GRSM.*

*Preserving these forests and continuing to study these ecosystems must become a priority if we wish to learn the ecological importance of *Fraxinus* in GRSM. This cannot happen without an ash resource to draw upon. Thus, on behalf of the ENTS, we support this effort to gather information about *Fraxinus* species before the arrival of the emerald ash borer (EAB). Gathering baseline information- arguably the first step towards preserving and managing the ash*

*resources of GRSM- is a commendable proactive effort. The rapidity of mortality from infestations of the EAB necessitates an established and readily implemented management plan. ENTS would be honored to participate in this noble effort.*

It is my deepest wish that the response to EAB will be more prompt and holistic than that of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). However, ash rarely forms even remotely pure stands which can complicate its preservation action. In reality, the complete loss of ash would not have the visual or ecosystem-level devastation that HWA has had, and would likely not even be noticed by the general public. This fact will likely lead other agencies like the USFS to adopt no action at all on their lands, not too much different from their pitiful response to HWA (here locally at least).

Will Blozan

### [Re: Kiss your ash goodbye...](#)

by **Larry Tucei** » Sat Jun 09, 2012 11:31 am

Will, Damn your writing about the Ash is outstanding. I was wondering if the Forest Service response to the Ash would be slow like with the Hemlock. What a shame! I'm not saying all Forest Managers are not committed to species preservation. But it seems like they don't work fast enough when a problem is found! I don't know how their response can be so slow with pests, disease and so on. To bad they don't have someone like you running the show. To much red tape in our Forest Service I would guess. Anytime a Govt. agency is involved it usually becomes a overcomplicated process. To bad,if it was up to me I'd fire everyone in charge and let the folks who do the work in the Forest Service make the decisions! You wrote that in 07 and here it is 12 Wow!

Larry Tucei

## Joshua Tree, CA

by **Jenny** » Sun Jun 10, 2012 7:48 am

Finally got around to making a Joshua Tree video with pix from my trip back in January. I think if you've been there or want to get a sense of the place, this should be good. But it's too darn long, I realize after the fact! I think I put in pix of the exact same places but one pic was taken by me and the other by my boyfriend. Well, he'll be happy to be represented.

The bird pix are from nearby Topanga Canyon - a gem of a place.

The usual blurry vimeo is here.

<http://vimeo.com/43724997#at=0>



For a better quality experience try MobileMe:

<http://gallery.me.com/jennifdudley#101108>

Jenny Dudley

## Ocean Invasive Exotics

by **TN\_Tree\_Man** » Sun Jun 10, 2012 1:13 pm

ENTS, This may be of some interest to some regarding the potential introduction of invasives off of the coast of Oregon from the "recent" tsunami in Japan. One wonders how many exotic (or those classified as exotic) species have been introduced through natural disturbances and not just by the hand of man.

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20120609/D9V9RA7O2.html>

Steve Springer

## What The Petunia Knows

by **Chris** » Sun Jun 10, 2012 2:38 pm

Real interesting episode of *On Point* about plants in general, not just trees. Run time about 45 minutes

We ooh and ahh over flowers, fields of green, begonias, sequoias, even the humble petunia. But it's easy to underestimate a plant. My guest today says it's no use playing them Mozart. They're deaf as can be. But by a whole lot of other measures, plants are wide awake and really paying attention.

They can see when you come near them. Feel when they're touched. Smell what's going on around them, and respond. And they remember. In their own way, not entirely different from humans, they know what's going on.

[What The Petunia Knows](#)

<http://onpoint.wbur.org/2012/06/05/what-the-petunia-knows>

Chris Morris

## [Re: Evolving strategies](#)

by **DonCBragg** » Mon Jun 11, 2012 8:15 am

Bob-- I'm not sure what it will take to influence how my agency measures tree heights--some of it is of course worked into the equipment-related expenses, and I'm sure many would argue for the need to maintain "continuity" in how measurements are applied...of course, we know these are just lame excuses and will only serve to perpetuate errors that don't need to be... I hope that the work we've done on the height measurement improvements will eventually translate into two key opportunities-- changes to the USFS Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) program, which conducts the national-level inventories of trees and forests, and (hopefully) at least inclusion or mention in all standard forest mensuration texts. I think this last opportunity will have the biggest impact on changing the forestry profession over, but I also suspect the first opportunity (adoption by FIA) may have to happen first in order to provide the needed momentum.

I'll keep looking for opportunities to promote the sine method as often as I can--I've given talks at a number of measurement-, forestry-, and ecology-based meetings on the technique, and I know of at least one biometrics/measurements professor who had starting teaching the technique (he has since moved up into university administration, however...).

Don Bragg

## [Re: Evolving strategies / Tree top Offset Project](#)

by **dbhguru** » Mon Jun 11, 2012 11:28 am

Don, what you have said makes sense. We are behind you. Let us know of anything we can do to help, e.g. collect data to meet an experimental design that would satisfy the requirements. Consider us your troops. To this end I recently posted an Excel

spreadsheet that computes crown-offset. It requires two additional measurements (azimuths to trunk and crown), Then the spreadsheet does the rest. If we all contributed data through this spreadsheet, would it provide you with information of value?

I've attached the spreadsheet for your review. I'd be pleased to modify it in any way that would make it more useful.

 [CrownOffsetAmountAndDirection.xlsx](#)

Robert T. Leverett

## [6/9/12 champion tree event in Atlanta](#)

by **eliahd24** » Wed Jun 06, 2012 9:00 pm

NTS in the Atlanta area,  
There is a free event celebrating the champion trees of Lullwater Garden in the Druid Hills neighborhood of Atlanta, GA on Saturday, June 9th from 10am-noon. Any and all are invited and I will be speaking on the 7 champs that I nominated to the city champion list (one of which I will surprise the Garden Club by announcing it as a STATE champ as well). I know it's short notice, but I thought I'd give it a shot.

Details:

10:00 - 10:30 Light refreshments

10:30 am - 10:40am Welcome and - Very Brief history on when Lullwater Garden Club acquired the property and its mission to preserve it for public enjoyment - Darlene Mashman President, Lullwater Garden Club

10:40am - 11:10 am Discussion of the ancient Piedmont Forest contained within Lullwater Conservation Garden and its trees and how they are important to the forest and neighborhood community - by Eli Dickerson, Piedmont Conservancy

11:10 - 11:30 am Brief Description of the awards, Description of the specific tree and presentation of the awards to Darlene Mashman, representing the

membership of Lullwater Garden Club - by Greg Levine, Trees Atlanta

11:30am - Noon Invite the guests to break off into small groups for guided tour through the garden to access the trees

~Eli Dickerson



It's not every day you get to lead a Congressman and civil rights icon on a forest walk! Win.

### [Re: 6/9/12 champion tree event in Atlanta](#)

by [eliahd24](#) » Mon Jun 11, 2012 2:16 pm

Hey guys. It went quite well. In fact we were graced with the company of Congressman (and civil rights icon) John Lewis! I got to lead a very small group including Mr. Lewis on a walk to a few different champions. Namely Tuliptree, Blackgum, Mountain Laurel (yes it's tree sized), Yellowwood, and American Beech. I put some pictures up on my Facebook, so friend me if you dare :)

At the end of the month I get to teach the NTS SIN method to a bunch of tree climbers at a monthly Atlanta Tree Climbers Club meeting hosted by Tree Climbers International. Pretty stoked about that too!

Eli Dickerson



Group photo of the organizers, speakers/arborists, and Congressman Lewis. (Greg Levine)



Eli explaining that this pre-civil war oak tree stump indicates some very old growth in this forest, as Congressman John Lewis listens in. (Sarah Freeman)

(photos stolen from Eli Dickerson's Facebook Page.)

## [Quercus virginiana & Sabal palmetto](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Mon Jun 11, 2012 6:55 pm

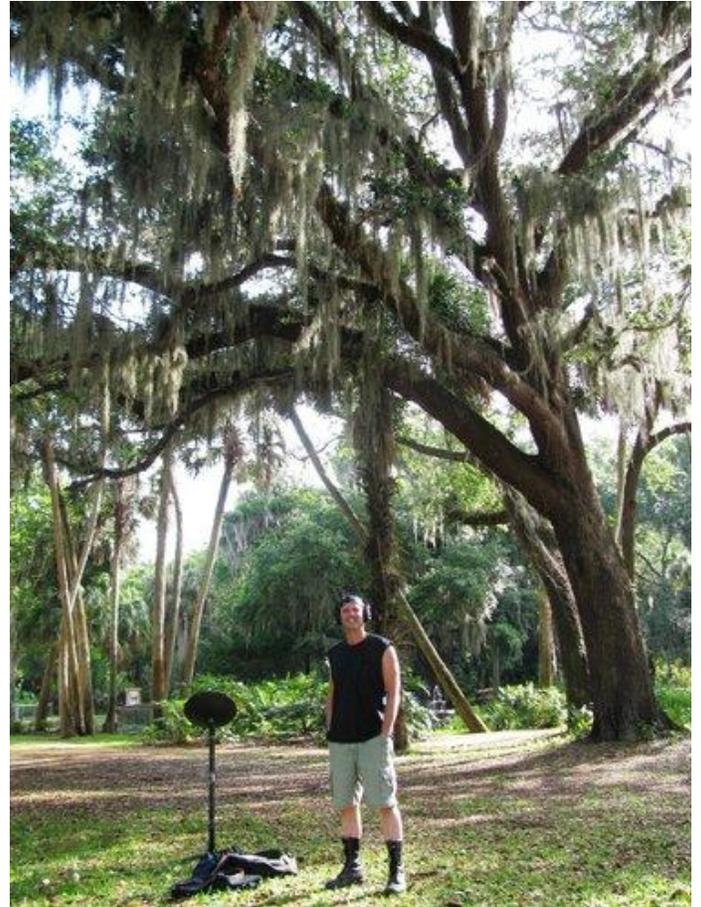
My first soundscape recording outside of New England takes place in the Ocala National Forest. Recognized for its botanical bounty, natural ponds and variety of wildlife, it is the second largest National Forest in Florida; and so it seemed the perfect destination to explore and capture the sounds of nature from that central part of the state. Not to mention, it helps my ears grow like corn in the night.

With over 600 square miles, there are many locations where one can find towering palms, large live oaks, longleaf pine, and scrubby sand pines to make recordings of. This soundscape features the live oak, and the sabal palm, which I captured early in the morning while the temperature remained cool and when (luckily) the U.S. Navy was not doing any live impact training at the Pinecastle Bombing Range.

This is by far one of the lengthier soundscapes that I have posted on Youtube, simply because it has so much activity to listen for - a gurgling melodiousness that I cant stop listening to. The oaks, palms, birds and insects - all facets that give us a new sense of variety and capacity of nature which is our common dwelling.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZ4qHY27s2g>



Site of soundscape recording, May 2012

Michael Gatonska

[http://www.youtube.com/user/EcoEarSoundscapes?ob=0&feature=results\\_main](http://www.youtube.com/user/EcoEarSoundscapes?ob=0&feature=results_main)

## [Re: Quercus virginiana & Sabal palmetto](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Mon Jun 11, 2012 7:47 pm

Edward, Thank You...and, I cant tell you how much I have learned by doing these soundscape recordings of trees thus far, not to mention how enjoyable it is - despite the tedious hours of going through, choosing, and filtering the sound files. But I think its worth doing, even though at this time I cant explain why.

Michael Gatonska

## [Re: Tallest Known Sugar Pine Confirmed By Ascending The Giants](#)

by **mdvaden** » Tue Jun 12, 2012 1:26 am

Michael, if you take into account the new growth that should have been added to this pine since the last laser measurements that were done in 2011, once more the difference between the tape drop and laser is like splitting hairs difference. Because the climbers would be measuring the pine's full height after a season's growth. Here's a shot of the base since you folks were mentioning it.





M. D. Vaden of Oregon

## [Re: Quercus virginiana & Sabal palmetto](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Wed Jun 13, 2012 8:06 am

Hi Larry - yes, the mockingbirds are there, and I was also surprised by the number of cardinals that were flying about when I captured this recording.

Overall on this trip, I saw a lot of birds that I have never seen before, in both Ocala, Bulow Woods (the location of the Fairchild Oak, estimated to be 200-400 years old, including a trail that goes through a

really awesome stand of live oak and an old-growth hammock), and some shorebirds in Washington Oaks State Park. My list of *first-time-to-see* birds includes the tri-colored heron, the wood stork, snowy egret, osprey, common moorhen, boat-tailed grackle, king rail, ibis, black vulture, and swallow-tailed kite - not a very impressive list I am sure.

This is a photo of where I had recorded bird sounds early in the morning at Alexander Spring in Ocala (I rented a canoe there for \$15, 4 hrs which was perfect for me), and I will post the soundscape in the next couple of days:



Hi James, you are right that some soundscapes are in fact very relaxing. Others, can unfold with a lot of 'operatic' drama and tension created between the building-up of and receding of winds. Although I don't post lengthy recordings on youtube, the sounds that I record are typically anywhere from 10 - 30 minutes - depending on conditions (weather, interfering human ambient noise). I would like to eventually try to record a soundscape of, for example, sunset to sunrise.

Here is a link to one of my soundscapes that is approximately 15 minutes. This one is very 'percussive' - hope you enjoy, and please let me know what you think! ;  
<http://soundcloud.com/michael-gatonska/red-oak-leaves-soundscape>

Michael Gatonska

## [Granville, MA](#)

by **sam goodwin** » Wed Jun 13, 2012 8:45 pm

We attended a program tonight at the Noble and Cooley Drum Shop. As we were walking in we stopped and looked at a tulip tree. One of the grandsons saw us and said that he planted it when he was 10 years old with his father to replace a elm tree that died from Dutch Elm disease. He also stated that they have a drum from the Civil War that was made from a tulip tree and they made a reproduction of it. I told him about NTS and he told me about 2 large tulips in town. Has any members measured them? Heading west on route 57, just past the cheese store and as you start going up they are on the left. Since its in the front yard of a house for sale and there wasn't anyone to ask for permission to measure it I just walked by it. The bigger one is at least 10 or more feet in cbh@ about 80 feet tall. I will try and find some way to measure cbh.

Sam Goodwin

## [The Promise of Wilderness](#)

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Thu Jun 14, 2012

A new history of the wilderness protection movement, *The Promise of Wilderness: American Environmental Politics Since 1964*, by James Morton Turner was long anticipated and has now been published by the University of Washington Press.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jsq-6LAeYKk>

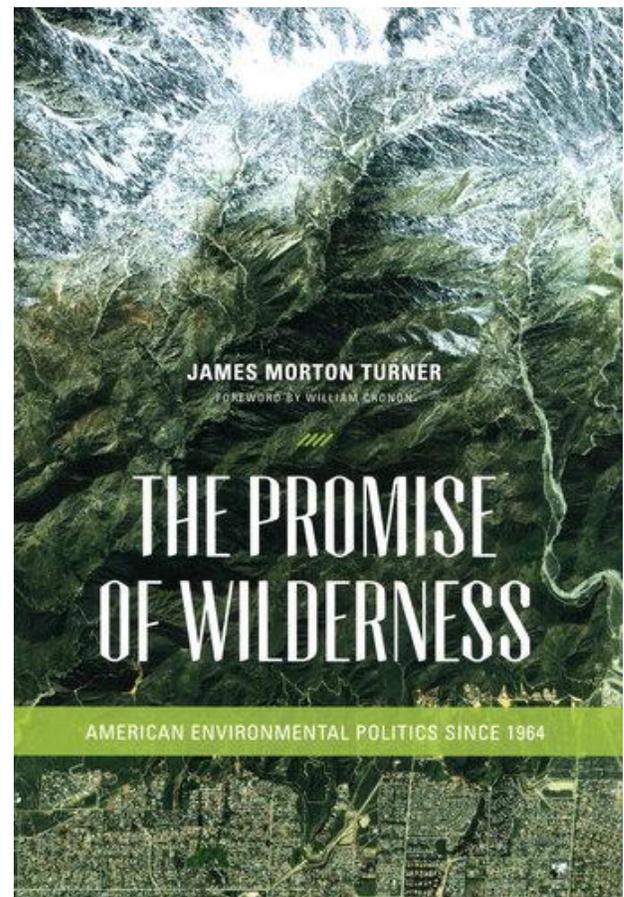
(*The Promise of Wilderness* is also available through Amazon and other booksellers.)

<http://www.washington.edu/uwpress/search/books/TURPRO.html>

The author of *The Promise of Wilderness*, James Morton (Jay) Turner, is a long time supporter of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness. Jay earned his Ph.D. in History from Princeton University in 2004. In 2005, while teaching at Gettysburg College, Jay penned the below editorial for the *Erie Times News* in support of FAW's efforts to protect wilderness in the Allegheny National Forest:

<http://www.pawild.org/articles/etn22505.pdf>

Here is an image of the cover of *The Promise of Wilderness*:



Kirk Johnson

## [Images from MSF, MA](#)

by **dbhguru** » Thu Jun 14, 2012 12:03 pm

NTS

Yesterday I met my friend and DCR district director Tim Zelazo for a photographing trek in Monroe State Forest. For the event, I wasn't in big tree mode. I wanted to share a hidden spot in Monroe with Tim that had always appealed to me for its aesthetics.

After a breakfast at Otters restaurant, we headed to the Dunbar Brook trailhead. But rather than go the trail route we climbed a hill where we would enter the forest in a different place. We first crossed a power line to get to the area and paused to take some shots of mountain laurel and orange hawkweed. It was time to pay attention to the floral displays as well as the trees. They called out to be photographed.

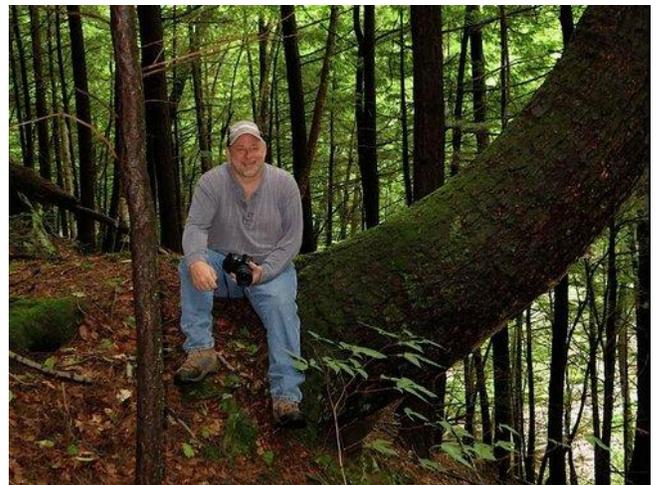


A key feature of the area we visited is the mix of boulders and trees, and in particular, boulders growing on the tops of large rocks. Some of the trees become detached from their rocky perch and in time tip over or become starved of nutrients and die. The next two images show trees on rocks.



The next three shots feature my friend Tim who was trying to capture the essence of a 200+ year old black birch growing on a steep slope.

Boulders come in various shapes and sizes, but light coverings of green mosses blend with the natural gray of the rocks to provide an interesting contrast in colors. It isn't a stark contrast, but a compatible fading of one hue into another. The next shot shows one of my favorite boulders.

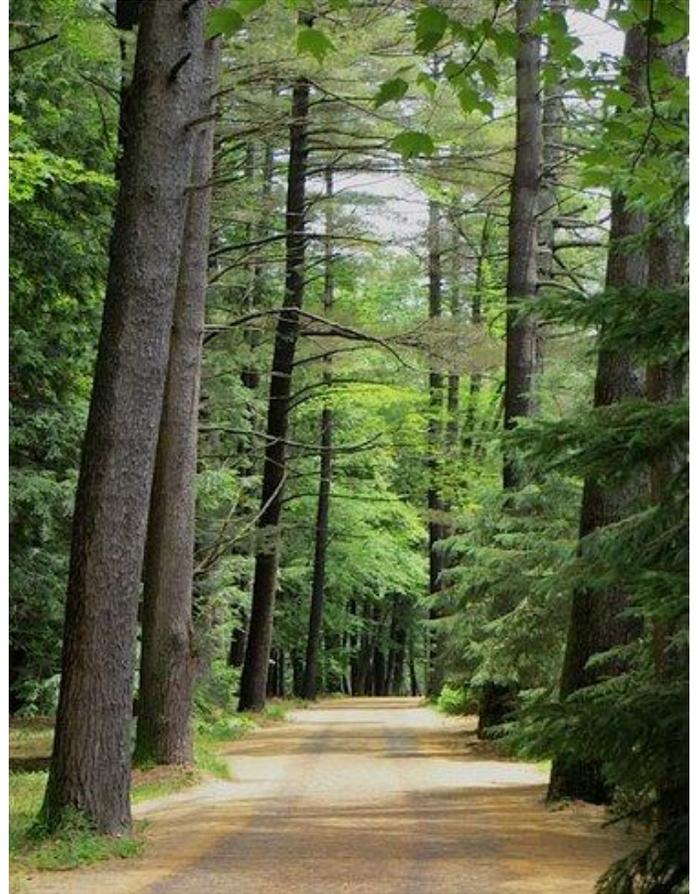




I can't say enough good things about Tim Zelazo. Tim is all the things you want out of a public servant. He is totally devoted to doing the best job he can possibly do and 100% appreciative of the outstanding natural resources that he helps manage. It doesn't get better than that. Tim is also an excellent photographer - much better than I am. So, we make a good team. I have the time to search out the exceptional spots for Tim to ply his photographic skills. But there is more to it than this.

Tim and others in DCR such as Mohawk-Monroe-Savoy supervisor Dave Miller work long hours and they get their job done despite the bureaucracy they must contend with. Some public servants become overwhelmed with administrative details and lose contact with the actual resource. Not so Tim and Dave, and for that they have my eternal gratitude. Both are former employees of the U.S. Forest Service with broad experience. They've been around. So Mohawk and Monroe are in the best of hands.

After leaving Monroe, I drove up Whitcomb Hill to the small town of Florida and then down Route 2 through Mohawk. I wanted to think about what the average driver on Route 2 sees as he/she drives through that corridor of MTSF. I stopped at the picnic area on Route 2 and took several pictures of the pines in the picnic area and of a single pine across Route 2 at the beginning of the Totem Trail. The next three images show the pines. The first two show the narrow paved road in the picnic area. The third image is of the 143-foot Totem Trail pine.



In a prior email to people in DCR, I posted the following commentary.

*Now for a final commentary. When I trek through these hidden forest sanctuaries, I am constantly reminded of what makes them special - what sets them apart from the vast majority of undistinguished*

*woodlands that form the Berkshire uplands, and in fact, most of the woodlands of Massachusetts. In*



*Mohawk, it isn't the tree species, or their distribution. It isn't the number of rare or endangered plants. It isn't what Mohawk's woods share in common with other DCR properties, but rather, it is what makes Mohawk's forests distinct - their abundance of exceptional trees. In my view, this attribute cannot be emphasized too much.*

I believe my brief commentary gets to the heart of the matter here in Massachusetts with respect to the forest resource, and especially our forest reserves. Prior to the 1990s, when public forested properties were described, the descriptions were couched in forestry terminology. Numbers represented aggregates, averages, and broad trends. Individual trees and clusters of trees completely lost their identity. In fact, individual tree statistics were considered to be of no importance. Large trees were treated as curiosities. In fairness to my predecessors, there were exceptions to this portrayal within forestry. The most notable was the late UMASS forestry professor Robert Livingston who championed the old growth forest in the Cold River Gorge. He stood out as highly exceptional. In the early 2000s, Tony D'Amato got his PhD studying the old growth on DCR properties, making use of the research that Peter Dunwiddie and I did in the early 1990s, and Gary Beluzo and I did in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Also in the late 1990s, Don Bertollette got a masters degree at UMASS studying the spectral footprint of old growth. But for the rank

and file, as good as this research is, it has had little impact on attitudes.

The real change in direction came from the work of FMTSF and ENTS in the 1990s, which began with efforts at documenting the old-growth forest remnants and grew into what it is today. As a consequence, we have a new paradigm (loose as it is) for describing special trees and stands of trees that distinguish a property. We actually focus on individual trees and the characteristics of small stands, as opposed to losing the identity of our trees and stands in impossibly broad averages that are meaningless for describing local sites and identifying what is unusual, exceptional, or unique about them.

While our change of direction may be the correct approach for describing outstanding forests sites, sadly, our data still has no place within the Massachusetts Bureau of Forestry. Consequently, it has largely been ignored. This was true throughout the 1990s and continues to this day. Maybe the status quo will change. I don't know. But this I do know. Within DCR, if the management foresters are going to positively contribute as opposed to be obstructionists (which so far they have been), they are going to have to change. They are going to have to broaden their interests and take interest in places like Mohawk, Monroe, Greylock, Mt Washington, Mt Everett, Bash bish Falls, Mount Tom, Robinson SP, and Wachusett Mtn, to name the big ones, for reasons other than resentment at not being able to actively manage them.

Fortunately, within DCR, the winds of change are blowing. The parks and recreation side of DCR has gained influence with the partitioning of Mass public forests into the categories of actively managed woodlands, parklands, and reserves. The shift of influence is gradual, but it is occurring. However, real progress in adequately understanding, classifying and categorizing, and appreciating the forest resource along the lines that make places special would not be possible without the interest of outstanding managers like Tim Zelazo. Tim makes working with DCR a pleasure. I'm very grateful.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: Images from MSF](#)

by **Joe** » Thu Jun 14, 2012 2:20 pm

Bob, I believe (but could be wrong) that Livingston was NOT in the forestry dept. He was in the botany dept. My buddy Dave Gafney took a course from him- and that's how I heard about the Cold River old growth back around '73 or '74. Then, Dave and I bushwacked up and down the Cold River looking for old growth but we didn't have a clue and didn't find it. That is, we searched that section of the Cold River from Tannery Falls north to Rt. 2. Though we didn't find the old growth, we enjoyed the wild landscape- there was not and probably still is not a trail down there.

That summer of '73 I worked at Savoy St. Forest- and NOBODY working there had the SLIGHTEST interest in old growth. This is where I would normally like to mention names - of some DEM lard brains, but when I mention names, I get certified letters from the state forester license board indicating I'm going to be investigated for exercising my first amendment right of free speech- which the license board has decided it has the power to eradicate.

Man, too bad I didn't run into NTS type people back then to explore for old growth - if so, I might have never pursued forestry- and focused on old growth research, maybe going to grad school with Livingston--- oh well, instead, after getting a harpoon in my back by the state, I spent a wonderful winter stacking lumber in the old Kelly Sawmill in Pittsfield for about \$2/hr- I do recall some days doing this work at 20 below zero! What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger- or, at least a lot more bitter.

Some years later, I prepared a forestry plan for Tim's father - I think the land was in Clarksburg- but I never met Tim, then or now. It's nice to hear that the park supers are gaining in influence!

hmmmm..... the basic fact is that foresters are the ones who do stand mapping and they only know how to do it based on traditional forestry needs- perhaps a new kind of stand mapping is needed, less focused on the trees as a financial resource and more on

ecological values- doing so will help advance the cause of ecosystem values, most of which now have no financial value--- if they are at least mapped, then they can't so easily be ignored.

Joe Zorzin

## [Re: Images from MSF](#)

by **dbhguru** » Thu Jun 14, 2012 7:54 pm

NTS, Here are some more images from yesterday in MSF.





Robert T. Leverett

### [Re: Images from MSF, MA](#)

by **Joe** » Thu Jun 14, 2012 9:10 pm

Nice! And, it's obvious that classic forestry stand mapping would not be able to account for the very high aesthetic value of this part of the park!

Get this--- several times over the years, I've mentioned in mgt. plans for private properties that some stands have high aesthetic values and that extra care should be taken during any silvicultural work because of it- and, inevitably, the service foresters tell me to take out ANY reference to aesthetics- REALLY! Not much I can do about it but do as they say, then when I do work there, I'll do it my way anyways.

The state forest mgt. plans I've read often talk about water protection and enhancing wildlife values (meaning of course game species) but you'll have a tough time ever finding the word aesthetic in those plans.

Joe Zorzin

### [October tree measuring workshop](#)

by **dbhguru** » Thu Jun 14, 2012 4:44 pm

NTS, Attached is a draft agenda for the Oct Advanced Tree Measuring Workshop at MTSF. It is a work in progress.

 [Advanced Tree-measuring Workshop.doc](#)

Robert T. Leverett

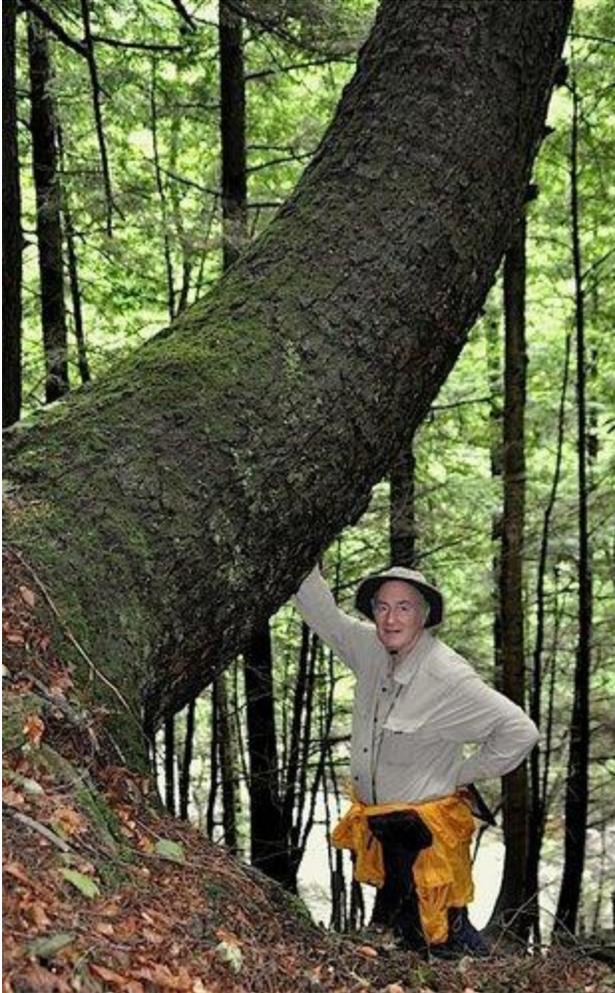
### [Re: Images from MSF, MA](#)

by **dbhguru** » Fri Jun 15, 2012 4:27 pm

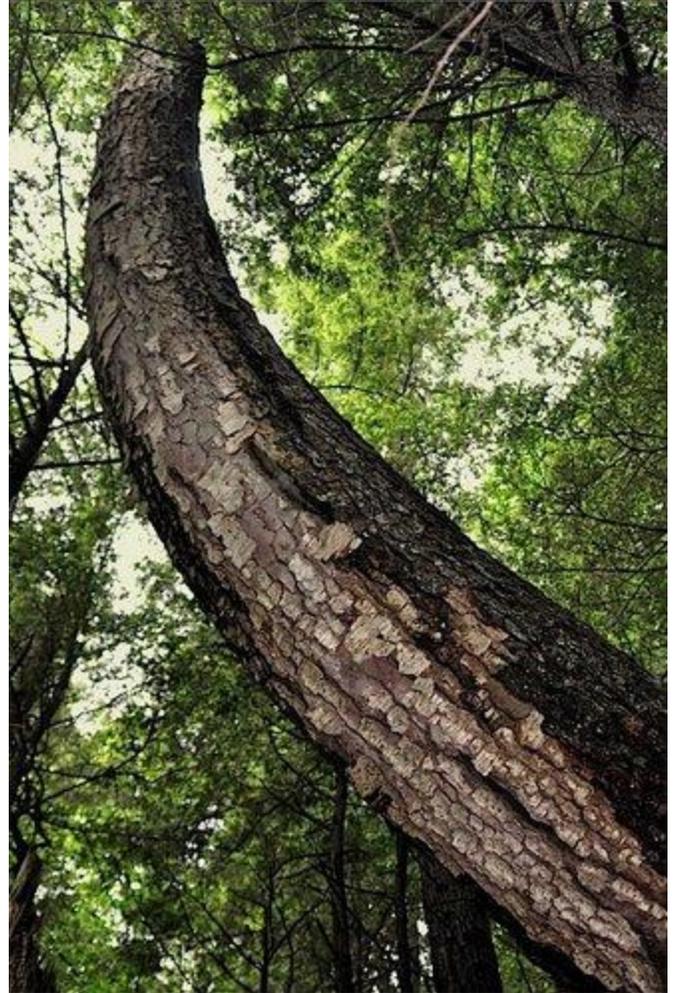
James and Joe, Thanks much, guys. Here are more images, but not ones that I took. Tim took these.



Here is a not very photogenic Bob next to that impressive black birch.



When Tim was lying on the ground looking up and taking a photo, here is what he was seeing.



MSF is what you want a New England Forest to look like. Its forests are mature to old growth. The region is a wetter environment than most other areas of Massachusetts. I expect the average precipitation is close to 60 inches and in the cooler climate, that amount goes far. The result is a lush forest.

NTS, Joe will be filming the October 12th event at MTSF. It is going to be a hoot. Anyone coming from afar who needs accommodations, please let us know.

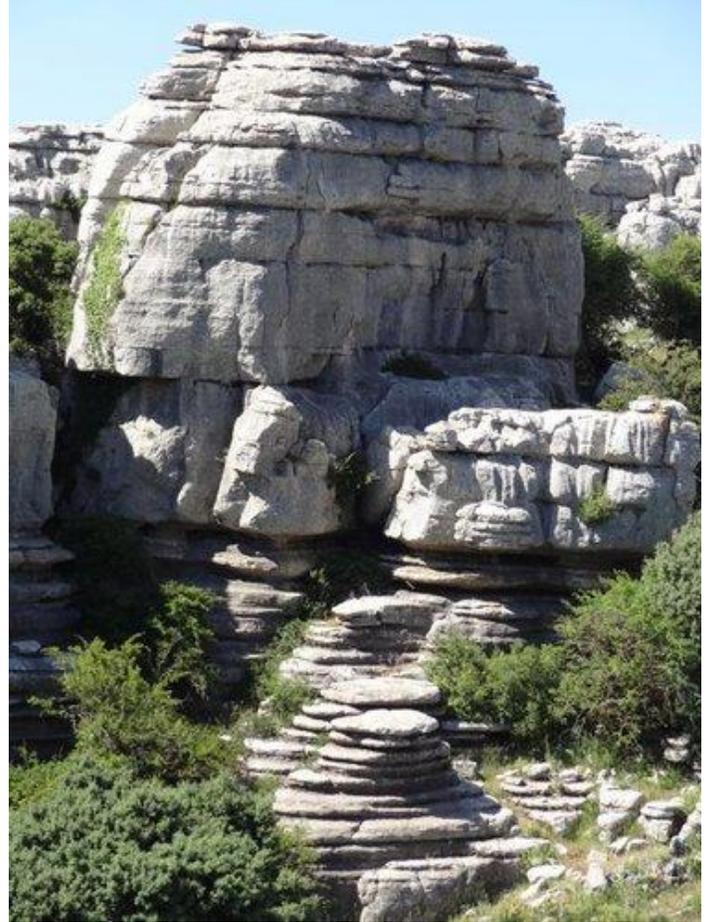
Robert T. Leverett

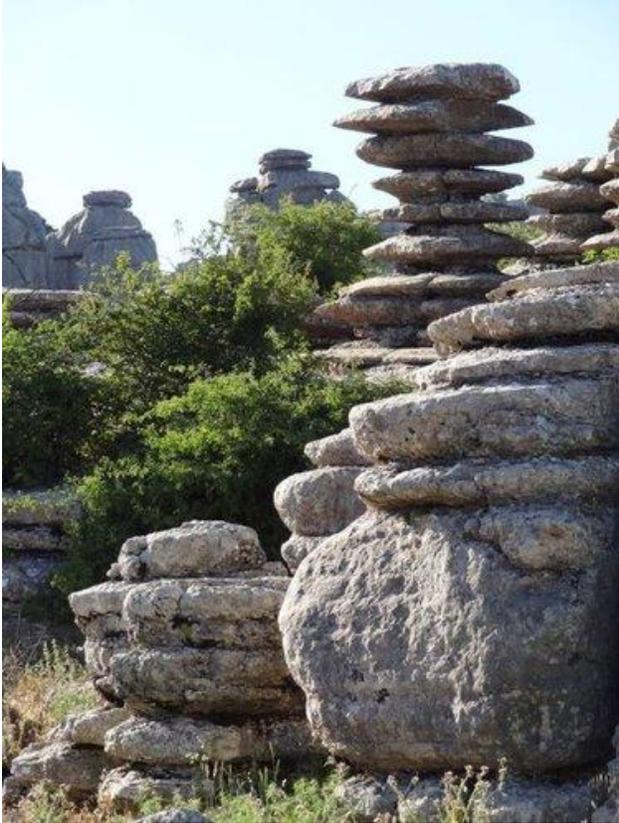
## Re: Joshua Tree, CA

by **Don** » Fri Jun 15, 2012 4:52 pm

Jenny-

Wonderful blend of the essence of Joshua and music.  
Having just returned from Spain, where another  
Parque had put my mind into Flamenco tunes, I'll  
include a few images from *El Torcal, un Parque  
Natural!*





The third image has the impression of an ammonite, a bottom-dwelling sea animal, now exposed on top of a jumble of rocks about as high as any of the Sierras in southern Spain!

Don Bertollette

### [Re: European beech forests](#)

by **hamadryad** » Sat Jun 16, 2012 7:31 pm

Corrrr blimey guvnor, its lonely in ere innit! Heres another beechwood fungi Coprinopsis picaceus

Anthony Croft



## [Paper birch on Mount Mitchell-Native???](#)

▣ by **Will Blozan** » Sat Jun 16, 2012 6:49 pm

NTS,

I found a scattering of paper birch on Mount Mitchell; does anyone know if they are native? Other exotics occur there; Nordman fir, Norway spruce, Scots pine, etc. so maybe it is introduced.



Will Blozan

## [Hemlock needle question](#)

▣ by **sylvanidawn** » Fri Jun 15, 2012 7:23 pm

Hello, I have a question: I was out in the woods recently and was near an eastern hemlock tree. I looked at the undersides of some of its needles and noticed something I hadn't encountered before. I have a picture of this.



I don't know if it is a fungus or scale, or something drought-related (we haven't had a lot of rain lately). Any ideas on what this is? I'm definitely aware of the adelgid!

Jason

### [Re: Hemlock needle question](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Sat Jun 16, 2012 8:42 am

Hemlock needle rust (*Pucciniastrum vaccinii*)

Will Blozan

### [Highest leaf in the Eastern US?](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Sat Jun 16, 2012 6:42 pm

NTS,

A recent hike up Mount Mitchell, the highest peak in the eastern US, prompted me to identify the highest leaf in the east. I had just hiked 3,700 vertical feet, and as a loud ATV shuttled masses of obese humanity to the top where there is an observation deck, I got out my clinometer and scanned the surrounding trees for the highest twig. (unlike everyone else, I was not taking photos of the sign proclaiming the peak the tallest east of the Mississippi River. I bet it is actually tallest east of the Rockies or or some sub-range anyway...)



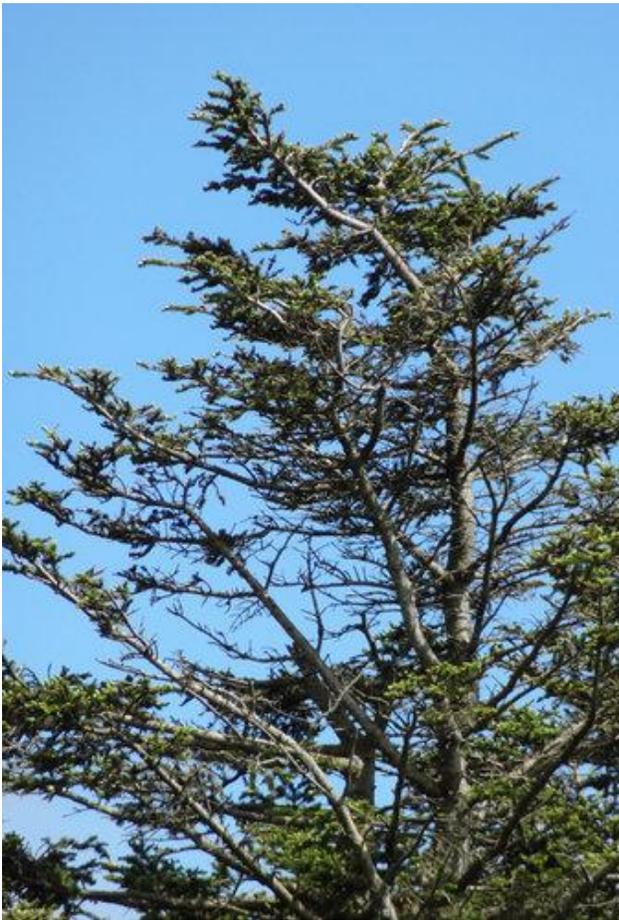
View from top of Mitchell

There were three trees which were contenders...



*Which one is it?*

I then confirmed via rangefinder the tree with the highest leader. This one takes the prize. Of course, all three are Fraser fir (*Abies fraserii*).



The highest leaf!

So, in case anyone was wondering, now we know. I doubt any similarly tall peaks in the s. Appalachians have a tall enough tree to surpass this one.

Will Blozan

### [Re: Highest leaf in the Eastern US?](#)

by [jamesrobertsmith](#) » Sat Jun 16, 2012 9:13 pm

Now we know!

Yeah, Mitchell is the highest peak in the eastern USA, not "east of the Mississippi River" as is often quoted. The highest peak east of the big river (in North America) is Barbeau Peak (8,582 feet--much, much higher than Mitchell) on Elsmere Island in Canada. There are a number of peaks higher than Mitchell east of the Mississippi.

Which trails did you use to get to the summit? Did you start at the Black Mountain campground?

As I've probably mentioned here before, if I had my way, we would tear out the road to the summit and grade it and seed it with native flora. If you want to see the summit, then get off your fat ass and hike there. Can't hike there? Tough.

If only.

James Robert Smith

## Neal Island - ORINWR, West Virginia

by tsharp » Sat Jun 16, 2012 9:27 pm

NTS:

I had the opportunity to pay several visits to this Ohio River Island over the past year. The first visit was in July of 2011. I paddled over from the WV shore to the head of the Island which I knew was heavily forested. What did not know was the heavy knotweed infestation. It was 6-10 feet high and difficult to wade through so I made slow progress. I really was not into measuring trees just trying to get species composition and an idea of height. The first couple of hundred yards were miserable knotweed wading in the high heat and humidity. I perked up when I finally saw a clearing ahead and in my over eager desire to get there I tripped and fell face first into clearing and found a nice stand of nettles. I got a full facial treatment and even though I had long sleeves and pants on the sweat and high humidity soon set me afire. So I did the only thing one could do and took a dip in the Ohio River and discretely wrung my clothes free of the nettle effect. I could have saved the swim because shortly thereafter I got drenched in a thunderstorm even though I took shelter under a deadfall until it blew past. I was just on the edge of a mature stand of Sycamores and Cottonwoods and was thankful I was not in the stand. I soon retreated back to the mainland but determined it was worth paying a visit after leaf fall to do some tree measuring.



Neal Island, WV

On December 19th 2011 I returned and measured 16 trees for CBH and Height. The dead knotweed canes still made walking slow and difficult. On my return to the WV shore I could not get very close to the shore because of shallow mud flats and had to exit my kayak in about six inches of water and three feet of muck about 15 feet from shore. So there I was in December standing in the river and could not move. Luckily, someone on the bank saw my predicament and asked if I needed help. I said maybe but I may be able to free myself but would appreciate if he stayed there while I tried. By laying cross ways over the kayak I finally got one leg freed and soon the other one and by laying flat in the water /muck got close enough to shore that the bystander pulled the boat to shore with me attached. Once again I had to shuck clothes but this time to wring out the mud before I dared get into the car.

On April 2nd I returned after hitching a ride on the refuge owned boat piloted by volunteers Dick Esker and Carl Radcliffe. We launched at the Belpre, Ohio Civitan Park launch site and motored upstream to the island. While passing under the old US 50 bridge, a peregrine falcon greeted us from the bridge abutment by turning his backside to us and squirting a copious amount of falcon poop a good 10-15 feet in our direction. They have successfully nested under the bridge for a number of years and enjoy a plentiful supply of Pigeons.

On this visit I measured another 15 trees and thankfully most of them were beyond the knotweed infestation. The Sycamores had not leafed out yet although most other species were well on their way. Trees measured include 4 species that set West Virginia height records.

Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) 1.9' x 55.6',

Boxelder (*Acer negundo*) 5.1' x 77.0',

American Elm (*Ulmus Americana*) 8.3' x 107.4',

Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) 13.7' x 127.6' x 126.0' (maximum spread)

One species set both WV height and CBH record:

Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) 7.6' x 40.6'

The Rucker Height Index (RHI) for ten species is only 96.2' reflecting the dominance of Sycamore and Cottonwood in the canopy.

Other notable trees included five Sycamores (*Platanus occidentalis*) over 14' CBH with the largest being 17.3' x 131.7' and a Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) 12.3' x 80.2' x 84' (maximum spread)

Neal Island is located near the cities of Parkersburg and Vienna, Wood County, WV. About 10-15 acres at the head of the island is a mature bottomland forest. About ½ of that acreage at the very head of the island has a groundcover of Knotweed. It appears this acreage is flooded on a regular basis and many of the trees show flood damage. The flooding must make a perfect seedbed for the knotweed.

The rest of the island is former farmland that is in various stages of reverting back to forest land. The island is 110 acres with all but 8 acres owned by the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The remaining 8 acres at the foot of the island are owned by the City of Parkersburg in conjunction for some water wells for city water supply.

For a complete listing of trees measured see at the following link:

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1248/Details>

For more information about the wildlife refuge may be found at the following link:

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/ohioriverislands/index.html>

Turner Sharp

## Another tree crown exercise with photos, MA

by **dbhguru** » Sun Jun 17, 2012 1:55 pm

NTS, The Monica Pine (one of several) grows in the back of our house. I keep close tabs on this fine tree. But measuring it is a challenge. The forest surrounding it has tulip trees and N. red oaks ranging in height from 100 to 115 feet for the oak and 118 to 130 feet for the tulips. The Monica Pine is to the best of my abilities to measure it between 134 and 135 feet. I presently have it as 134.5 feet. I have to piece it together through a number of measurements beginning on the other side of the house. Here is a look at its crown peeping over the top of the house from its downhill base on the other side.



From the front of the house, I set up a tripod with the TruPulse 360 and took the measurements to different crown points as shown in the image below. The first number is the linear distance to from 360 to crown point. The second number is the height of the crown point. Since the TP360 reads to the nearest foot, all numbers are to the half-foot.



If you go through this exercise, it doesn't take much thought to conclude that determining the highest point of the crown for a crown such as Monica's Pine is no small job. For example, the greatest angle from my measuring spot was 35.8 degrees. A couple other points were 35.7. But 35.8 was the highest and that twig was not the top of the tree as shown in the preceding image.

I haven't found any location where one can stand and see both the top and bottom of Monica's Pine. None of the simple trick of the trade using tape and clinometer can be applied or the TP360's built-in tree height routine. You have to come at the problem through constructing a series of horizontal planes and march yourself to the top of the pine by measuring the vertical distances between the planes and adding them up.

Ents who think about tree measuring in a serious way learn to do this. However, its success depends on the infrared laser - tilt sensor/clinometer combination. Fortunately, we have those instruments and can tackle such problems. BTW, using my Nikon Prostaff 440, the number I get for the height is 135.25 feet. I'm confident that the TP360's 134.5-foot determination is the closest.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: European beech forests](#)

by **Chris** » Sun Jun 17, 2012 3:26 pm

Evidently, the EEA doesn't want to do [decent or current maps](#), <http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/average-annual-precipitation> but the highest rainfall places seem to be western Scotland, coastal mountains of Norway and the Dinaric Alps [in the Balkans] with a [highest](#) of 183.0"/4648 mm. at Crkvica, Bosnia-Herzegovina. <http://www.wunderground.com/blog/weatherhistorian/archive.html?year=2012&month=0>

Of course, including the US values, you most differentiate between "official" [in the US, [NCDC](#)], <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html> their periods of record, what the normal is based on [entire data record, last 30 years]. So for the eastern US, it looks like [Lake Toxaway, NC](#) <http://www.sercc.com/cgi-bin/sercc/cliMAIN.pl?nc4788> wins for official stations with 92" for the 1970-2000 climate period.

Chris Morris

## [Re: European beech forests](#)

by **hamadryad** » Sun Jun 17, 2012 4:19 pm

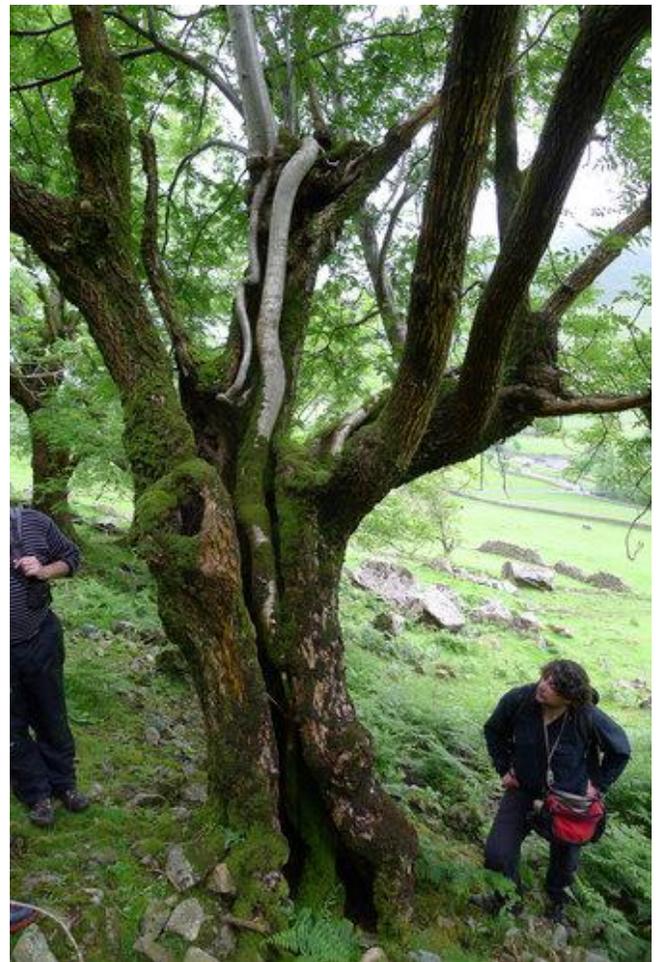
*Bob leverett wrote: Kouta and Anthony, Great posts. Fabulous photography. I love European beeches. There are many here in Florence and Northampton. I'm thinking about starting a photographic project to capture them. However, on another topic, I'm curious. Where are the wettest places in Europe that you all know of? I've seen some pretty high amounts listed for Europe and Asia Minor. Some may be in the Carpathian Mountains. I never hear of rainforest being associated with Europe, but some of the precipitation amounts meet an old definition for rainforest I remember of 75 inches or more of precipitation fairly evenly spread.*

*Here in the eastern United States, a few spots reach to 75 inches or more. So far as I know, all are in the Appalachian chain. Some precipitation maps show a small area in the Balsam Mountains as*

*receiving around 100 inches annually, but I think these are projections/extrapolations. Mount Washington, New Hampshire receives an average of 98 inches of precip annually. Several of the official TVA reporting stations in the southern Appalachians receive between 80 and about 86 inches annually. Forest Service Coweeta Station #8 in the Nantahalas of North Carolina receives 93.*

Bob, You would be hard pressed to get more rainfall than in Cumbria! and Wales too, I will do some digging about and find out but the areas mentioned have awesome bryophytes, even Trees that have roots tracing the water down the branches till they reach the ground.

some images to illustrate, some Dartmoor, some Cumbria, if you guys ever fancy a British Isles tree trek I will happily be your guide for a week. Got lots of contacts for woodland access





Anthony Croft

## [Photo of Sine versus Tangent methods](#)

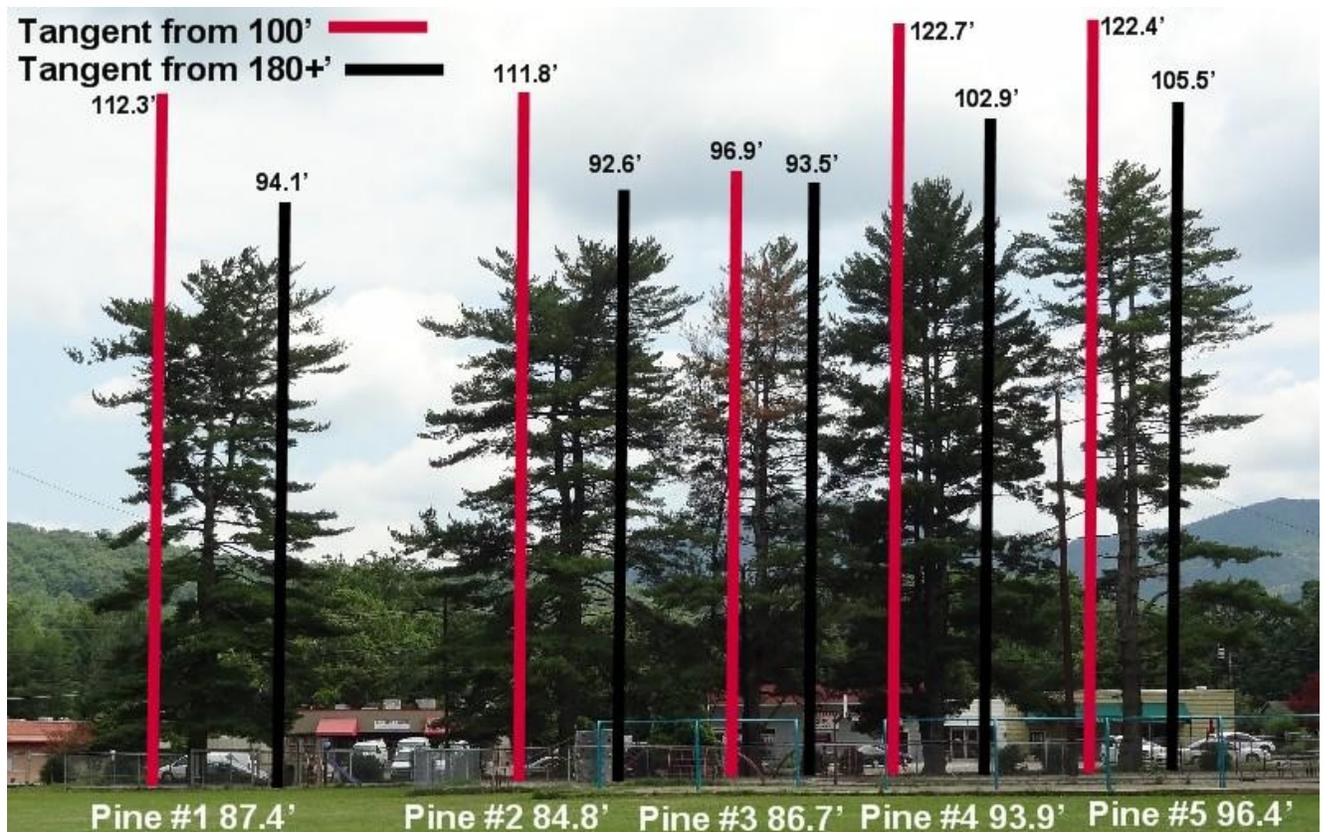
by **Will Blozan** » Sun Jun 17, 2012 7:04 pm

NTS, Inspired by Kouta's great, simplistic graphic of tree height errors, I went to a row of pines near my house. I wanted to overlay the scaled results of the tangent method against a photo of the trees. In the photo below the SINE height is at the base of the trees and the bars illustrate the height as determined by the tangent method at 100' and 180' or greater.

The photo was taken as far as I could get away and zoomed in to reduce parallax. You will notice the Sine heights follow what the eye would expect regarding height rank. Sine heights are actual as searched by the laser for the highest top. Tangent is assuming the highest apparent point is the tallest.

I think simple graphics like this can help to better explain the flaws of the tangent methodology. Bringing it down to Kindergarten level seems to be necessary sometimes.

Will Blozan



## [Re: Photo of Sine versus Tangent methods](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sun Jun 17, 2012 8:13 pm

Will, Good job, a very worthwhile diagram. It and others we devise through the fertile imaginations of our fellow and lady Ents should convince even the most stubborn skeptics. Still, I expect there will

remain a core of doubters - the ones with a vested interest in not being convinced.

The absolutely fundamental point that all serious tree measurers must grasp is that measuring the heights of trees using the tangent method has always been a two baseline problem. One baseline is required for the crown and the other for the base. The two baselines are the same only if the top being

measured is positioned vertically over the bottom. Hypsometer-based routines that call for a distance shot to the trunk followed by an angle to the top and an angle to the bottom make sense only when the top is vertically positioned over the base. To understand this concept, the measurer must understand right triangle trigonometry, otherwise, the measurer is just blindly following a set of steps designed for the simplest measuring situations.

Robert T. Leverett

## Barred Owls

by **Mark Collins** » Mon Jun 18, 2012 12:20 pm



A couple of Barred Owls in Hendy Woods, CA 6-15-12.

Mark Collins

## Re: Barred Owls

by **Larry Tucei** » Wed Jun 20, 2012 5:03 pm

Mark, Really cool photo of the young Owls. I have a story to share about Barred Owls. Back in the mid 1980's I was hunting in the Pascagoula River Basin and as I walked along an old road I noticed something moving in the brush about 5' off the ground. I was a hundred yards or so when I first noticed the movement. As I got closer I realized it was a large Barred Owl 18" tall with a limb line tangled in his wing that had him tied up in the branches of a small tree. A limb line for those of you who don't know is a nylon line with a hook on one end tied to a lower limb of a tree overhanging the water used to catch fish. I guess the Owl got the fish and hooked himself and flew off with the line and later got tangled up distance from the water. He allowed me to cut the line and carry him 1/4 mile to my truck. I met up with my brother and he held him while we drove the 20 miles back to town. We brought him to a local vet who removed the hook treated and later released him. It was an experience I will never forget. The most amazing thing about the whole ordeal was that I didn't have my knife with me when I came accross him so I had to chew the nylon line with that Owl less than a foot from my face. He never once felt threatened by me and I was inches from his claws. I spent over two minutes chewing that damn line. I always loved Owls and was glad to be able to help one. He was one beautiful large Owl. Larry

## [Sabal palmetto & C. Limon](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Wed Jun 20, 2012 3:27 pm

I recently visited the Washington Oaks Gardens State Park in Florida. Fairly early in the morning, I captured this soundscape (as soon as the park gates opened), and in time to avoid the eventual high levels of airplane traffic and noise that would quickly increase during the course of the day - rendering any further recording of nature sounds impossible, at least with the sound gear that I have. As with all of my soundscapes, wearing headphones is encouraged.

The park has approximately 20 acres of gardens, including a citrus grove. While standing among the lemon trees (I am guessing of the Avon variety?), I began to record the sounds of the surrounding cabbage palms, including the insect life and various birds songs and calls. Although close to the Matanzas River, due to the dense and canopied coastal scrub I was separated from the direction of the wind, which did not excite the lemon trees into movement very much – the real tree songs come from the surrounding and much higher growing palmettos.

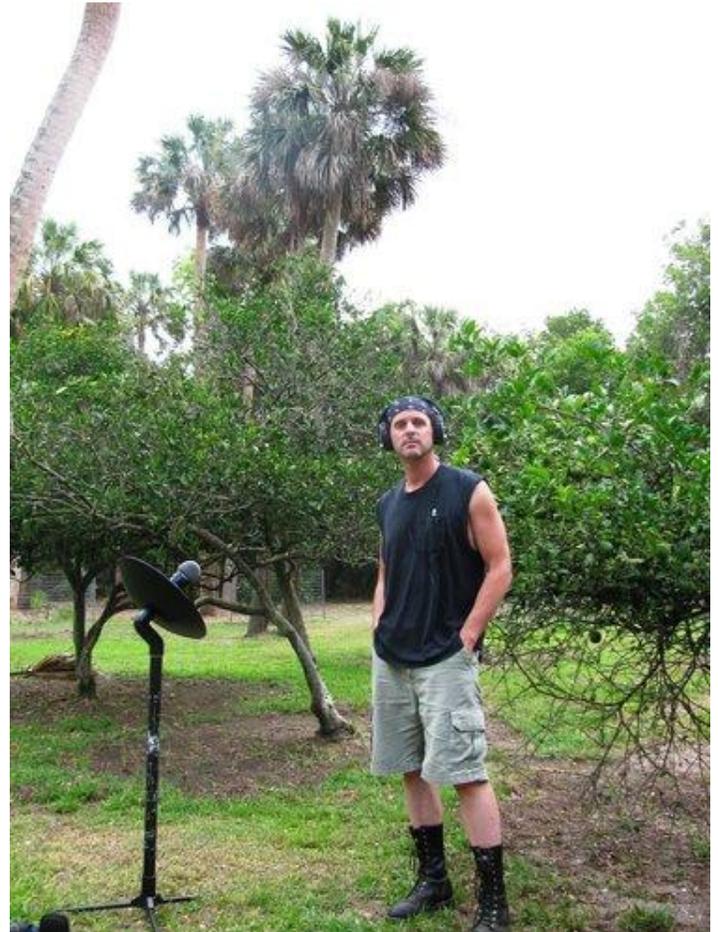
Formally, this soundscape loosely follows a three-part or ternary form (ABA); the three principal parts include A as the initial statement, B the contrast, and the return of A or a restatement. This structure surfaced just by chance, as I began listening to and editing down the YouTube version of the recording.

In Part I we hear cicadas and birds. In Part II we hear the rush and roar of the palmettos, and in our restatement in Part III, a kind of mash-up of cicadas, birds, and trees – but a return of our insect sounds nonetheless.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ci430FdKc4>



The formal gardens at the park are quite beautiful. There are many live oaks, and hundreds of different plants growing there. Happily, I was able to enjoy the natural quiet since I arrived at the park early in the morning, and there were no visitors yet.



Recording in Washington Oaks Garden State Park, FL

Michael Gatonska

## [Great photos of the Southwest 150 years ago](#)

by **Larry Tucei** » Tue Jun 19, 2012 4:26 pm

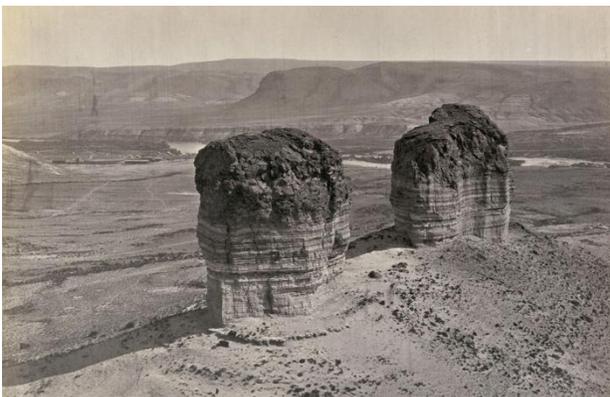
NTS,

A friend of mine sent me this link that had some very interesting photos of the Southwestern US of long ago. Many of you have been to some of these locations so I thought I would share it with you:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2012/05/the-american-west-150-years-ago/100304/>



*Oak Grove, White Mountains, Sierra Blanca, Arizona in 1873. (Timothy O'Sullivan/National Archives and Records Administration)*



*Twin buttes stand near Green River City, Wyoming, photographed in 1872. (Timothy O'Sullivan/Library of Congress)*

Larry Tucei

## [Re: Great photos of the Southwest 150 years ago](#)

by **Don** » Wed Jun 20, 2012 9:14 pm

Larry- One of the "tools" of Ecological Restoration involves establishing reference conditions. Reference conditions can be oral (spoken records), written (descriptions of environment from texts written at the time, or subsequently), or photographs (depicting visual conditions of the environment, as far back as the mid-1800's).

In our work (Natural Resources Branch, Science Center, Grand Canyon National Park) in support of the re-introduction of a natural fire regime at Grand Canyon NP, we sought to obtain images of the vegetation there, as far back as photographic records were kept. We searched local and regional University libraries and Museums, and obtained quite a bit, and each addition seemed to provide additional leads. Ultimately, we sent one of us to the Smithsonian, and found a wealth of photos.

I still get excited about the process, and have spent hours going through such photos. In the process of getting approval for research on the means of restoring of pre-settlement fire regime, we put posters and white boards aplenty, with repeat photography (sometimes more than just early and current!).

We'd have loved this one, but didn't run across it in our (we thought) exhaustive search!

Don Bertolette

## [Re: Great photos of the Southwest 150 years ago](#)

by **Don** » Thu Jun 21, 2012 5:51 pm

*Joe Zorzin ask: Don, did the Indians of the SW start fires or were most "natural"?*

Joe- SW Native Americans did 'manage forests' for their own ends, mostly for hunting purposes, and to some extent for clearing and agricultural uses. Were they the primary shaper of the forests that the first

European settlers encountered? It's thought by most academics that they were not. The Southwest currently has, and for quite some time, has had, one of the highest ground strike (lightning) densities of anyplace in the world. For as much as we could determine from various 'proxies' for "recorded history", palynologists (those who analyze pollen, and associated microfossils such as charcoal) have been able to determine proportions and species present in the Grand Canyon area and the interplay of those with presence of charcoal/wildfire.

In retrospect, it's much easier seen than it was to determine. Given a more or less constant regime of lightning strikes, a wildfire regime of high frequency (random lightning downstrikes), low intensity (ground fuels kept at low levels) naturally emerged.

The claims of early settlers of forests of large, clear, park-like forests was the result of such a regime.

The rush to populate the West doomed such forests...the knee high native grasses were soon consumed by introduction of cattle and sheep. The current situation where we have the opposite, low frequency/high burn intensity catastrophic wildfires (or worse yet, human caused fires like the Rodeo/Chedeski Fire caused by a lady lighting some brush because she was lost, on a forest service road and a native American starting a fire to earn money from fighting it), was the result of a turn of the century "perfect storm" of growing conditions that encountered a USFS/BLM/NPS fire management policy of immediate suppression. High density, young regeneration growing into 'froghair' forests, serving as fuel ladders to enable ground fires to climb into the old-growth ponderosas and go 'catastrophic' with the seasonal storms.

The Southwest has a seasonal weather pattern known as the Monsoon season, where from early July to late September, afternoon thunder and lightning storms pop up, with lightning and thunder that I guarantee will quicken your heartbeat. AND often lead to downstrikes, back by high winds. Now there's the formula for our nearly yearly SW wildfire season. Sorry to ramble...

Don Bertollette - Moderator, WNTS BBS

## Cleaning Borer Handles

by **edfrank** » Wed Jun 20, 2012 12:26 am

Posted to the ITRDBFOR

*Hello All, Our bits are coming out of the handle with corrosion on the tips even though we cleaned them right before putting them away the night before.*

*We've been coring cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*) that are frequently very wet, and we suspect a small amount of liquid is collecting in the handle each time we but the bit away. Vapors then cause corrosion overnight.*

*Has anyone had similar experience with their bits corroding while stored? If so, how did you clean out the handles or otherwise deal with the problem?*

Russ Carlson, (RCA, BCMA, ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist #354, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist PD-0008B, PNW Tree Risk Assessor #891, —ESF alumni RM'73) wrote:

*The end cap of the handle tube can be unscrewed, facilitating a thorough cleaning of the handle. You may need a vise to get a firm grip.*

*The bit should never be placed in the handle until it has been properly cleaned. A light lubricant such as WD-40 is sprayed or dripped into the inside of the bit, twisting the bit to allow the lubricant to coat all sides. Put some on the outside of the bit also. Next, use a small bore (.17 or .22 caliber, for 5 mm bit) rifle cleaning kit. I find that two cleaning patches, one at a time, do a good job on the inside. I then use the second one to wipe down the outside of the bit before storing, being careful to get between the threads. Don't forget to wipe down the extractor, too.*

*Use the same process on the handle tube, after removing the end cap. If you find there is collected rust, you will need to use a wire brush and corrosion solvent to remove it. If it is quite bad, consider replacing the handle. Good luck,*

William (Ed) Wright writes:

*I agree with Russ Carlson's comments, but would add a few things. I'm working a lot in very wet places (tropics/cloud forests), so this is an important issue for me.*

*(1) The end caps of many increment borers are now nylon or something similar. Unlike the metal end caps they are a press fit, so they do not really unscrew. They can be removed, but will never look the same afterward! After cleaning the rust etc. from the end cap (get down into the circular groove where the sharp edge of the borer bit will be sitting), spray the inside of the end cap with WD40. I try not to remove the nylon end caps very often, because they will gradually become loose. Also, if you're going to remove the nylon end cap, then plan to clean the entire inside of the handle. If you have rust in the end cap, then you probably have rust on the side walls of the handle as well. A related point for after cleaning the increment borer is to always tap the borer handle open side down on a rock or concrete floor to dislodge anything that shouldn't be inside the handle. Bits of twigs, leaves, dirt, rust, and a small pool of water can end up in the circular slot of a nylon end cap, right where you are ready to put your clean borer bit.*

*(2) There's nothing wrong with spraying some WD40 into the handle down onto the end piece where the borer bit will be sitting. WD40 is great for driving out moisture (Similar products are available from other manufacturers). Remember to tap the borer open side down before spraying.*

*(3) After returning from the field, if you have the space, then leave the bits and extractors out of the handles after cleaning. This allows the handles to air dry. Ideally, you would have a stiff wire drying rack somewhere out of the way so that the bits and handle could be dried/stored semi-vertically.*

*(4) When I'm in the field (multi-day backpack trips) I use Kimwipes instead of gun patches. They are lighter and take less space than gun patches. Kimwipes are lint free paper used in chemistry labs. I'm sure there are other brands available. They are much tougher than other paper, but are still thin and absorbent.*

*(5) I also leave most of my 22 caliber gun cleaning kit at home when I'm backpack/tent sampling (except the brass brush). Wrapping a WD40 soaked Kimwipe (1/3 of a paper is the right amount) around the extractor tip can do an adequate job of cleaning the inside of the borer bit when you are in the mountains. The thorough cleaning can wait until you're back in the lab.*

*(6) A tip from Rex Adams of the University of Arizona Tree Ring Lab... There is always some WD40 left in the bottom of the can. You can open the bottom with a can opener, after making certain that all the pressure is really gone of course! Even the small WD40 cans are a little big for a pants or vest pocket, so a small plastic dropper bottle full of WD40 is great for use in the field. Many dropper bottles for medicines (e.g. eye drops) can be reused for this.*

*(7) Finally, you might consider pressing the borer tip into a block of bees wax after cleaning and before replacing it in the handle. Bees wax blocks are available from Ben Meadows and Forestry Suppliers for lubricating the outside of the borer bits. I think coating the sharp end of the bit with wax before replacing it into a potentially wet handle is better protection than spraying the end with WD40. Good luck.*

Forwarded by Edward Frank

## [Benefits of exercising in the woods](#)

by **lucager1483** » Wed Jun 20, 2012 10:45 pm

Ents, I thought this article would be of interest to those ents who enjoy walks (or jogs, runs, or hikes) in the woods. I figure pretty close to one hundred percent of us fit in this category. The basic gist of the story is confirming the significant mental health advantages of exercise outdoors, especially around trees and in the woods, when compared to exercise performed indoors, or in "non-natural" environments.

I strongly agree with the author's conclusion and can testify firsthand to the benefits of exercising in "natural" environments. Here's the link:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9344129/Jogging-in-forest-twice-as-good-as-trip-to-gym-for-mental-health.html>

Elijah Whitcomb

## [Re: Benefits of exercising in the woods](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Fri Jun 22, 2012 3:42 pm

Hi Eli and Joe,

Thanks for posting this article- I have never been in a gym for a workout, and I cant imagine the air quality of Gold's Gym in East Hartford, CT.

I found another related article about walking in the woods - which caught my attention with its opening sentence: In Japan, they call it shinrin-yoku – literally, “forest bathing.”

The article goes on to mention "A more unusual suggestion, proposed by researchers at Japan's Nippon Medical School, is that trees emit a fine mist of health-giving “wood essential oils.” In a series of shinrin-yoku studies, the researchers have reported that walking for two hours in a forest enhances immune function (as measured by levels of “natural killer cells”), reduces levels of stress hormones and

lowers blood pressure..."

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/fitness/why-is-walking-in-the-woods-so-good-for-you/article4209703/>

It seems that some Europeans are really into primal workouts-

here is guy doing a primal workout in Meerdael Forest in Belgium, (which looks like a beautiful place), and the music is pretty good too...



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHJG28JfAmA&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHJG28JfAmA&feature=player_embedded)

Here is another which I liked (but with corny music) - Methode Naturelle, shot in the Guisborough Forest, UK:



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CDQV0jN48A&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CDQV0jN48A&feature=player_embedded)

Michael Gatonska

## [Longleaf & Slash Pine Soundscape](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Thu Jun 21, 2012 6:28 pm

This soundscape I captured in Ocala National Forest, during an early morning hike on a section of the Florida Trail that touched the southwest corner of Billies Bay Wilderness. On the on the drier perimeter are longleaf pine and slash pine, and I found a spot to make the recording. This was two days after a tropical storm had hit the northeast of Florida, and the winds were still relatively strong.

After making this recording, I found the sounds of the pines to be quite similar to the dark, more baritone or bass-like song of the red pine trees that we have in New England (as compared to the soprano or flute-like white pine trees of the same region).

Based on the physical characteristics of, particularly the longleaf pine, I began to think about how wind interacts on surfaces causing them to resonate at a given frequency dictated by their size. In other words, similar to playing a violin pizzicato, or plucking a string instrument, the needles react in the same way as a resonating string. So, all lengths being equal, the larger the diameter of the string (or needle in this case) the lower it's pitch or resonant frequency. A question to myself - Is this why we hear both a high roar and a low roar in the trees, calling and answering in acoustic exchanges during fairly strong winds that moving though the surrounding stands? – is it the higher pitched sounds (branches and needles), and the lower pitched sounds (larger limbs and sapling trunks, etc.), that we hear resonating?



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cN3JnWGfVM4>

"We were taught to sit still and enjoy the silence. We were taught to use our organs of smell, to look when apparently there was nothing to see, and to listen intently when all was seemingly quiet.

Luther Standing Bear, Oglala Dakota

Michael Gatonska

## [Re: Longleaf & Slash Pine](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Sat Jun 23, 2012 10:43 am

Hey Larry,

As far as wind sounds, this version that I posted on youtube was really the most intense wind-through-the-needles moment of the soundscape - in the much lengthier recorded version, there is much more bird chatter and frog sounds that come through. This spot in Ocala was not too bad; the misquitos were just killer though... my citronela oil was totally worthless here.



However, in Alexander Spring I tried to capture some sounds in some really dense scrub; when there some fairly strong gusts, chunks of palm tree were falling everywhere - so I really didnt feel exactly safe. Plus, if I stood in one spot for very long in that environment, it didnt take long for all kinds of insect life to started crawling all over me. Here is a photo of the boardwalk on part of the Timicuan Trail- it was really wet in this area, full of white cypress, cabbage and saw palmetto, oaks, the full monty.

Michael Gatonska

### [My Visit to Land Between the Lakes, KY = 1 big white oak](#)

by **samson'sseed** » Sat Jun 23, 2012 10:02 am

Land Between the Lakes is 250 square miles, so I'm sure there are bigger trees than this white oak I found growing in "The Home Place," a replica 1850 farm. I was really impressed with the variety of hardwoods found at LBL, but the area was clear cut for the iron smelter industry from 1870-1925. Most of the mature trees must be no older than 80 years old.

The uplands of LBL consist of about 80% hardwoods, 15% meadow, and 5% pine. Dominant trees include white oak, southern red oak, post oak, black oak, shagbark hickory, pignut hickory, sycamore, black walnut, sugar maple, red maple, mimosa, and cottonwood. Willow grows in the low areas. Birch, juniper, and ash are also present. The pine trees are shortleaf, Virginia, and white. I noticed on the range map that this is a disjunct population of Virginia pine. The types of native grasses growing in the meadows include big bluestem, little bluestem, gamma, and Indian grass. Coreopsis and purple coneflower were blooming in abundance.

I estimate the diameter of this white oak is almost 6 feet. Shagbark hickory saplings are growing in its shade. There are several nice specimens of mature shagbark hickory trees growing nearby but none are

of exceptional size.



I was surprised at how common black walnut and sycamore were. This area was known as Land Between the Rivers before the TVA created the 2 lakes. The frequent floods must have enriched the soil, aiding the growth of those species.



Biologists here use fire to manage the forests and the Elk and Bison prairie.

Notice the bison wallow and the widely spaced trees in the background. This is the type of landscape the early colonists encountered but with bigger trees and probably enormous old dead snags.



We saw bison, cattle egrets, and turkeys, but no elk. It was too hot and they must have been bedded down in the shade. We also saw several white tail deer outside the prairie.

LBL is a great place for solitude. There were hardly any people or cars here.

Samson's Seed

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

by **M.W.Taylor** » Mon Jun 25, 2012 4:44 pm

Zane Moore recently reported finding a 318.2 ft redwood in a remote basin in Big Basin State Park. No other tree south of San Francisco is this tall until you get to Tasmania. Not even giant sequoia in the Sierra Nevada. Zane also reports finding 2 other redwoods at 302 ft and 303 ft respectively. The supposedly 329 ft Mother Tree is actually about 290 ft. Either it lost its top at some point or was mis-measured to begin with.

The Old Tree of Portola Redwoods State Park stands just over 305 feet.

There are currently only 4 redwoods known to be over 300 feet south of San Francisco. Zane Moore has found 3/4 of them in only a months time. He currently uses a tripod mounted Impulse200LR with prism and poles to measure trees. His measurements should be within inches of a climber deployed tape-line.

Zane Moore is also known as the "TREE TRACKER". He is 17 years old. His rate of new tall tree discovery is simply astounding !

Michael Taylor  
WNTS VP  
landmarktrees.net  
Big Tree Coordinator For American Forests

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

by **RyanLeClair** » Mon Jun 25, 2012 5:03 pm

Hi Michael,

I remember that you wrote how Mr. Moore had found a *Platanus racemosa* in the 180 ft. range...where exactly in California is this tree?

I happened to be in California a couple of weeks ago...but not in your neck of the woods...more near Los Angeles. My mom and aunt and I checked out a very venerable *P. racemosa*...it grows in the town of San Juan Capistrano. Here is the listing:

<http://www.ufe.org/bigtrees/images.lasso?KeyValue=175>

It seems the tree in my photo is the tree in the website. Granted, the landscape in the website photo is very different, but then again, the website photo might be outdated.



My mom near the tree.

Ryan LeClair

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

by **tsharp** » Tue Jun 26, 2012 7:32 am

NTS: It appears that the California Sycamore (*P.racemosa*) pictured is another good example of a multi-stem champion.

TS

### [Re: Sabal palmetto & C. Limon](#)

by **Jenny** » Tue Jun 26, 2012 10:30 am

I love these evocative soundscapes! This is not really pertinent to the work you do, but one of my best childhood memories was waking up at our summer camp on Sebago Lake in Maine to the sound of the wind rustling the oak leaves outside my window. At home, there was an eastern white pine outside my window, but I don't associate it with sound, just with comfort. Now, in NYC, one of the (many) things I wish I could have a tree outside the window with leaves blowing in the wind.

At the moment I have a houseful of baby sparrows and pigeons - I should make a funny soundtrack of THAT noise! (I rehab/raise orphaned baby birds and sometimes adults)

Jenny Dudley

### [Re: Sabal palmetto & C. Limon](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Wed Jun 27, 2012 4:34 pm

I also grew up being surrounded by woods and in a small New England town. Similarly, I too used to love the times of year when I could open up the windows at night, and let the sounds sing me to sleep - different speeds of winds in wave on wave, crickets in thickets, the occasional thunderstorm. Of course, when I lived in both Manhattan and Brooklyn during the years of my undergrad and graduate studies, I had quite the same NYC sounds that you have every night - albeit minus the population of rehab baby sparrows!

Michael Gatonska

## [Taking The Survey Into The Sky](#)

by **M.W.Taylor** » Mon Jun 25, 2012 3:50 pm

Point cloud mapping can also be used for more than just volume/surface area calculation of trees. It can also be used as a tool to measure entire forests.

Using an airplane and weather balloon, a few friends and I have been mapping the mighty Fetzer Oak from above. The Fetzer Oak is tallest and possibly largest known valley oak in California. Height it 153 feet, dbh 9 feet. The trunk bifurcates at about 30 feet.

Using 1) weather balloon mounted servo controlled GoPro2 with TP360 and 2) airplane fly-over with side door removed and hand held DSLR, we generated a series of photo-sequences to use in the photo-bundling software to produce a 3D point cloud of the general Fetzer Oak area. See attached.

From this overhead point cloud all the heights and of every tree visible in the cloud can be quickly and accurately measured without actually needing to go there. If you zoom in on the screen captures from Meshlab you'll see the measuring rod tool from Meshlab Version 1.31 where I am measuring Fetzer Oak at 154 feet. Actual height 153.12 feet.

Not only can I measure all the trees in the point cloud but I can also measure the height and size of all the other visible structures including volume of the large barn to the Northern East.

This aerial photo-bundling system to measure forest canopy shows much promise for cloud mapping large tracts of forest to search for the tallest trees just like a LIDAR search. Similar type point clouds are generated but with the photo-bundling method you get a nice set of pictures that link up with the point cloud. These linked photographs can be used to identify species and tree health.

The cost of mapping forests with this new approach vs. tradition LIDAR is now being investigated. I'll have more updates later as we scan larger tracts of forest.

Michael Taylor

WNTS VP  
landmarktrees.net  
California Big Trees Coordinator For American Forests



measuring tool on Fetzer showing 154 ft



measuring tool on Fetzer showing 154 ft



measuring tool on Fetzer showing 154 ft



point cloud generated from aerial mapping of Fetzer Oak Grove. Note the measuring tool on Fetzer showing 154 ft



balloon mapping of mid to upper trunk of Fetzer Oak + overhead point cloud



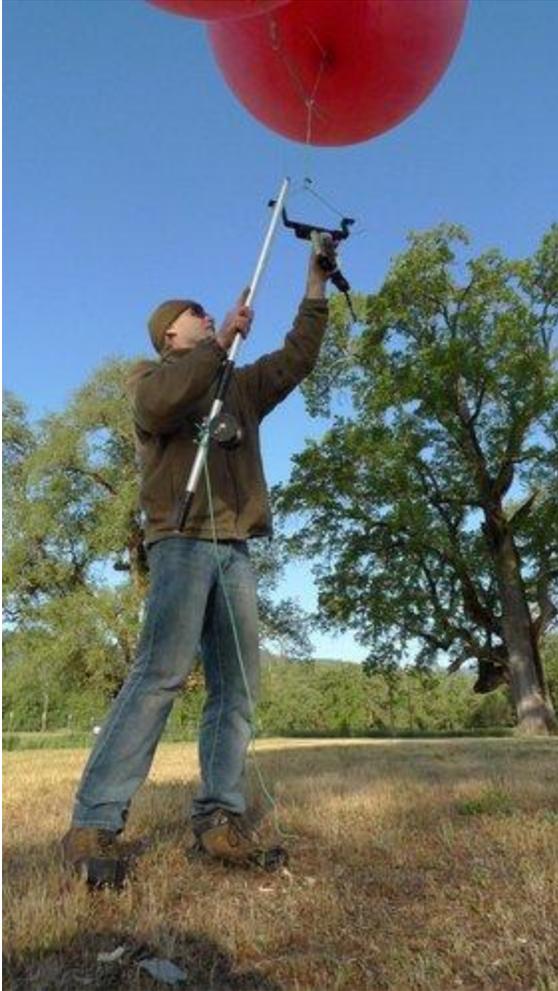
balloon mapping of mid to upper trunk of Fetzter Oak + overhead point cloud



balloon mapping of mid to upper trunk of Fetzter Oak + overhead point cloud



balloon mapping of mid to upper trunk of Fetzter Oak + overhead point cloud



balloon mapping of mid to upper trunk of Fetzter Oak  
+ overhead point cloud



with 3/4 Watt amplifier



Gimbal Mount for weather balloon with Gopro2,  
Truplse260 with servo activated remote trigger + live  
wireless video feed with 3/4 Watt amplifier



Taking Photographs With HighSpeed DSLR Of Fetzer Grove With Side Door of Plane Removed



Fetzer Oak grove from above looking SE



Fetzer Oak grove from above looking NW

Michael Taylor

## Re: Taking The Survey Into The Sky

by **fooman** » Mon Jun 25, 2012 5:43 pm

Fantastic stuff Michael!

I've been day dreaming recently of having a camera attached to a R/C quadcopter for high viewpoint photography of trees. They are powerful enough now to carry a small payload (e.g. camera, GPS) for up to 30 minutes. Utilising GPS and gyros, pre-programmed flight paths can be developed for aerial photography - they are becoming quite commonly utilised for real estate photography and GIS applications - would be more flexible than a ballon (which is a great idea!) and not as expensive as a plane (after more than a handful of flights).

What are your thoughts on the ability to map a ground reference for height measurement when the base is not as explicit as the open grown example given? Would you be looking to reference features on the tree (e.g. base to feature via laser, feature to top via photo-mapping?)

What 3D photo mapping software were you using - I am tempted to try the method on a similarly exposed *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* near where I live - it appears to be ideal to learn the method (<http://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/830>).

Cheers,  
Matt Smilie

## Re: Taking The Survey Into The Sky

by **M.W.Taylor** » Mon Jun 25, 2012 10:28 pm

Matt, I have just applied for a grant for the GPS stabilized quadcopter as you describe. What version flies for 30 minutes ? The ones I was interested in go about 20 minutes and carry up to 3 lbs. Sure would be nice to get an extra 10 minutes of flight time. I first thought I could buy a standard edition quadcopter but when I saw the video of their flight patterns I realized they'll get stuck. A GPS stabilized

quad-copter is necessary I think to avoid drifting into trees, unless you can launch from an open area.

Your 30 minute flight time GPS quad-copter with DSLR mounted beneath could literally be transformed into a personal forest mapper. The concept is proven by the weather balloon and airplane mounted DSLR. The scale is just bigger. Instead of bark fissures and twigs the bundling software matches larger features.

I would upload the point cloud to this BBS but it is a 15 Mb file. I'll email the graphics file to those interested. Those screen captures that I attached are low-res don't really show the fine details I can see while viewing in Meshlab.

I currently use Photosynth to generate the point cloud but I just downloaded 123D Catch by AutoDesk. That program does not need a WiFi and is also free.

The ground reference will be a challenge for dense redwood and douglas fir forests. I'll have more information on that soon as I will soon try it. Photographing from directly above and then two oblique views from same position may offer the best chance to capture ground interface points. Also, taking pictures when the sun is directly overhead will help. Mapping in the Winter when the sun is low will create huge blank spots on the ground that were basically blackened by shadow. When that is the case I will create point using the TP360 and merge with the Photosynth point cloud. Unfortunately the TP360 does not work while moving in airplane or quadcopter so it will only work while mounted on the weather balloon platform. I would not have time to measure the ground interface anyways while flying with the TP360. Everything goes by too fast. Just need to pick up the ground features with a high speed, high resolution DSLR in Burst Mode. If I can do this I should get a workable ground interface to accurate estimate crown height.

Michael Taylor

## [Re: Taking The Survey Into The Sky](#)

by **fooman** » Mon Jun 25, 2012 11:28 pm

Hi Michael,

The 30 min was a max duration on a hobby model I was looking up - I see the current record for a R/C quadcopter is approx 65 mins now (no payload) - super optimised motors/batteries and controllers.

There are full on beasts which can carry 3 kg (6.6 lb's) for 10 minutes - used for cine-quality aerial videography, with gyro stabilised gimbal mounts.

In terms of the camera - I would not use a DSLR.

Rather I would go with a mirrorless camera (e.g. Sony Nex or Olympus/Panasonic 4/3rds) or high quality compact (e.g. Canon GX1), hooked up to a programmable timer. Very similar burst speeds, and high resolution, but a much lighter and smaller package than a DSLR - results in more duration.

Came across

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvRTALJp8DM>  
recently - nice demonstration of quadcopter self-controlling maneuverability.

Cheers,  
Matt Smilie

## [Spider mites](#)

by **sylvanicdawn** » Wed Jun 27, 2012 6:08 pm

I've been reading some articles about eastern hemlock trees that have experienced outbreaks of spider mites after having been treated with imidacloprid. My question is, are spider mite outbreaks absolutely inevitable after such treatments? Are mite populations on such trees boosted by other conditions, such as drought?

Sylvanicdawn

## [Re: spider mites](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Wed Jun 27, 2012 9:43 pm

In hemlocks, Imidacloprid definitely can lead to spider mite outbreaks, especially on hedges and trees near reflective hardscapes. This has been substantiated in scientific research papers (and not just hemlocks on hemlocks). However, some of the worst infestations of spider mites I have seen in the wild (as in old-growth, in-forest conditions) was in Cook Forest State Park, PA. These trees had never seen HWA or been treated with imidacloprid.

It seems like the larger hemlocks and those in more natural conditions and not suffering from drought stress or poor soils do much better at resisting mites even with imidacloprid. If spider mites are a concern and HWA is the target, use dinotefuran soil or foliar oil spray. Actually, a foliar spray of dinotefuran (1/2 to 1 lb per 100 gallons) with oil (1-2%) is awesome for hedges and smaller trees.

Will Blozan

## [Hello from Beaverton, Oregon](#)

by **saeschliman** » Mon Jun 25, 2012 5:25 pm

Hi all, just wanted to take a moment to say hello and introduce myself to the forum.

By profession I am an application engineer (aka programmer), but as a novice hobby arborist, I love nothing more than taking in the beauty and majesty of trees while out on a walk... not to mention my wife and daughter are sick of me talking about trees all the time, and I confess that it would be nice to have an audience which might actually take a small amount of interest in my musings about trees for a change. (sniff!)

Having lived all over the country (Albuquerque, Pensacola, Austin, Cincinnati, western Michigan, and now the Portland metro), I've fallen in love with a variety of species over the years, most of which I'm proud and fortunate enough to now have on my property here in Beaverton. Among these (recognizing that most of these are not native to Oregon - hopefully I won't be black-listed for this faux pas!?): Northern Red Oaks, Tulip Poplars, Eastern White Pines (which I actually prefer to the Western, which IS native :)), a variety of cherries (Rainier, Bing, Black, etc..), a Coast Redwood, Dawn Redwoods, Southern Magnolias, a Sauser Mag, a number of Red Maples, and some peach trees (which unfortunately have died / are dying due to blight).

The one species among my favorites which I do not currently have is the Pacific Madrone, which I plan to get this year now that I have a place to put it (see peach trees, above).

One thing that I find interesting (and again, that the rest of my family decidedly does NOT) is that my Northern Red Oaks grow much faster out here in Portland than they ever did in Ohio or Michigan, their native lands... mine are currently averaging a somewhat astonishing 6 to 8 feet per year. (The Red Maples do about the same - my Red Sunset is exceeding 7 feet / year)

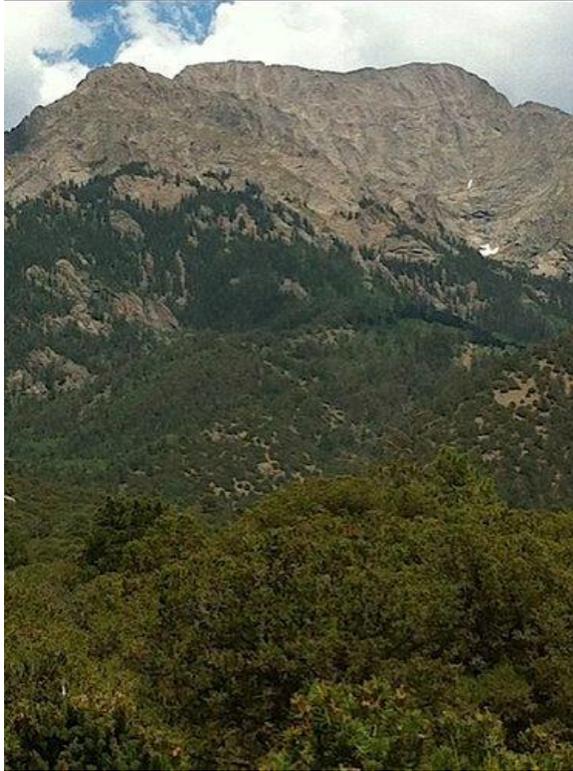
Looking forward to speaking with you all,

Scott

## [Re: Benefits of exercising in the woods](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sun Jun 24, 2012 5:23 pm

Ed, Don, Elijah, Larry, et al., From my location in Crestone, CO up in the Sangre de Cristo range, I'll put my two cents worth in. But first, the view from my window.



Lots more images to come. But back to the question at hand. Does exercising in the woods have added benefits? Does it get one closer to nature? Well, like some many of these questions we pose, the answer is not black or white. I believe that people who are very close to nature and appreciative of natural beauty can benefit from exercising in a natural setting. But for those who aren't very close to the natural world, I doubt they gain much other than breathing clean air. Attitude is all important.

Robert T. Leverett  
Co-founder and Executive Director  
Eastern Native Tree Society

## [Re: Benefits of exercising in the woods](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Wed Jun 27, 2012 4:20 pm

Hi all:

I just wanted to post this on Method Naturelle - it seems to be a highly independant if not a somewhat improvisatory way to excercise and interact with nature, having both physical and cognitive benefits for people of all age groups. I am considering giving it a try after I learn up some more about it...

The Methode Naturelle was created by George Hébert, a French theorist and instructor who, while traveling the world, became fascinated with the physical capabilities of small primitive tribespeople in Africa. He became deeply intrigued by their broad range of natural athletic skills, all honed without the aid of physical education experts. Herbert came to realize that their very existence required physical strength and adaptability—they ran to chase animals, they jumped to cross streams, they climbed trees to pick fruit and were incredibly fit because of it. These native people lived a life in nature, according to nature and had achieved superior fitness simply through movement essential to survival.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKGF-ErsJil>

What is the Methode Naturelle?

The essence of Herbert's Method Naturelle is to mimic the fundamental movements that a primitive existence demanded.

Herbert established what he called the ten families: the ten essential primitive movements necessary for survival or optimum fitness.

The ten families are:

- Walking
- Running
- Jumping
- Quadrupedal movement (moving on all fours)
- Climbing
- Balancing
- Throwing
- Lifting
- Defense
- Swimming

Herbert called for a generalist approach to fitness. He argued that being good at all aspects of movement is better than being exceptional at one aspect. That by focusing on all aspects of fitness (the ten families) one is able to reduce his/her risk of injury and create a versatile body that is effective across a broad range of activities and physical pursuits.

Michael Gatonska

## [Crestone Group, CO](#)

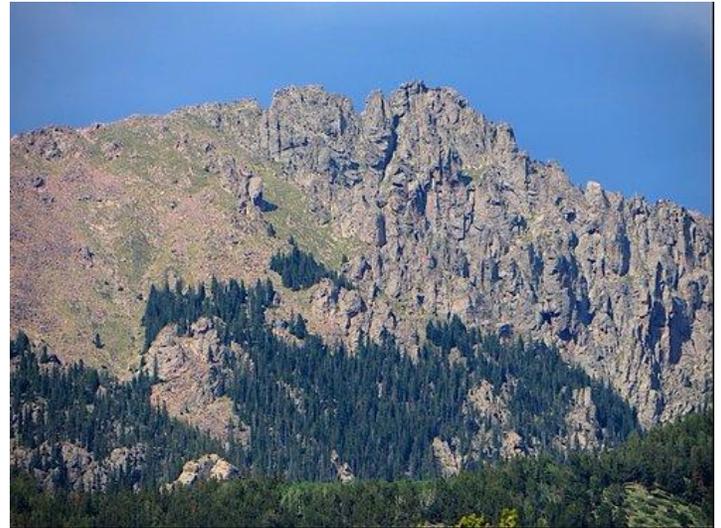
by [dbhguru](#) » Sun Jun 24, 2012 10:56 pm

NTS, Monica and I are on our way to Durango, CO to house sit. Durango has become our home away from home, but we have key stopover places elsewhere in Colorado. Both of us need to commune with the Great Sand Dunes, and I in particular with the lofty Sangre de Cristo range. We're staying a couple of nights in Crestone, CO, at the base of the Sangres, and eye-popping scenery is right out our windows.

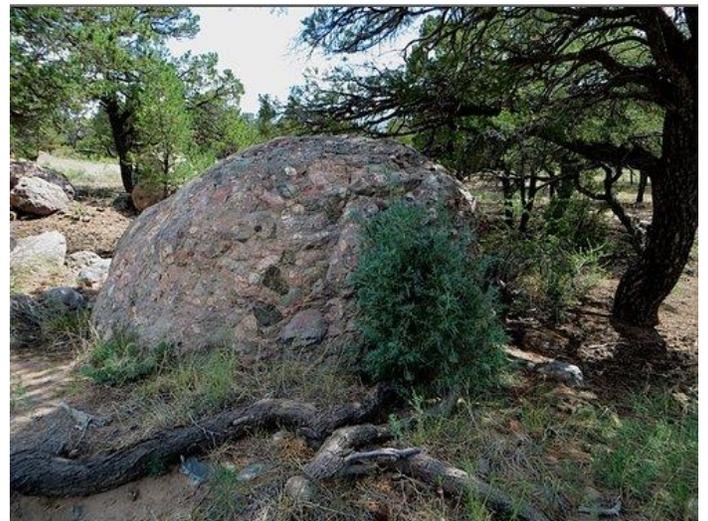
The Sangres are Colorado's longest range. The range starts in Colorado and ends in New Mexico. Altogether it runs for 220 miles and boasts 10 fourteeners in Colorado and all of New Mexico's thirteeners. In addition it has more class five climbs than any other Colorado range. The Sangres have a wealth of old growth. Rocky Mountain bristlecone pines, countless old junipers, pinyon pines, and ponderosas dot the ridges and canyons. One feature that distinguishes the western side of the range is its abruptness. Virtually know foothills. The peaks thrust upward above the San Luis Valley between 5,000 and 6,500 feet, creating a mountain wall that rivals any in Colorado. The Front Range has the greatest base to summit rises in Colorado, but that majestic line of peaks has lots of foothills. Not so, the Sangres. They rival the Tetons in Wyoming, although in an actual contest, I'd still have to give the Tetons the edge.

Normally we head straight for the dunes, but we varied the itinerary this year and went to the small

town of Crestone, north of the dunes. Here are some images from two short walks this afternoon. The first image shows the wall of the Sangres. It is Crestone conglomerate - excellent for climbing.



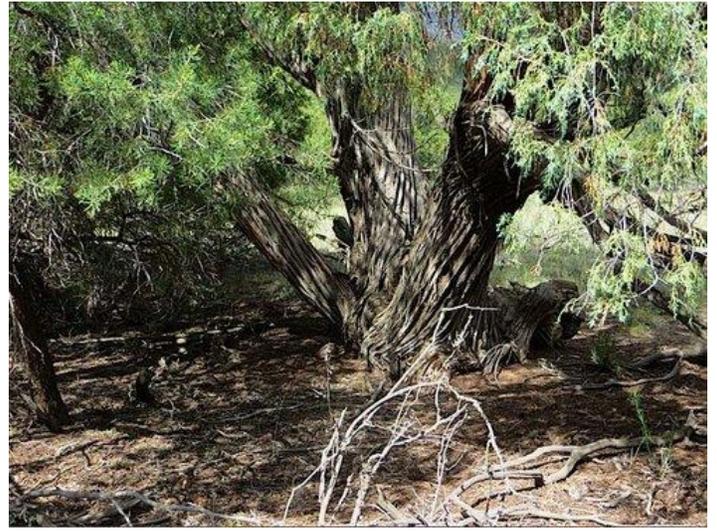
Here is a look at the conglomerate up close.



Barely 10 minutes into my first walk, I came across this whopper pinyon pine - probably 350 to 400 years old. There are many pinyons in the 200-year age range.

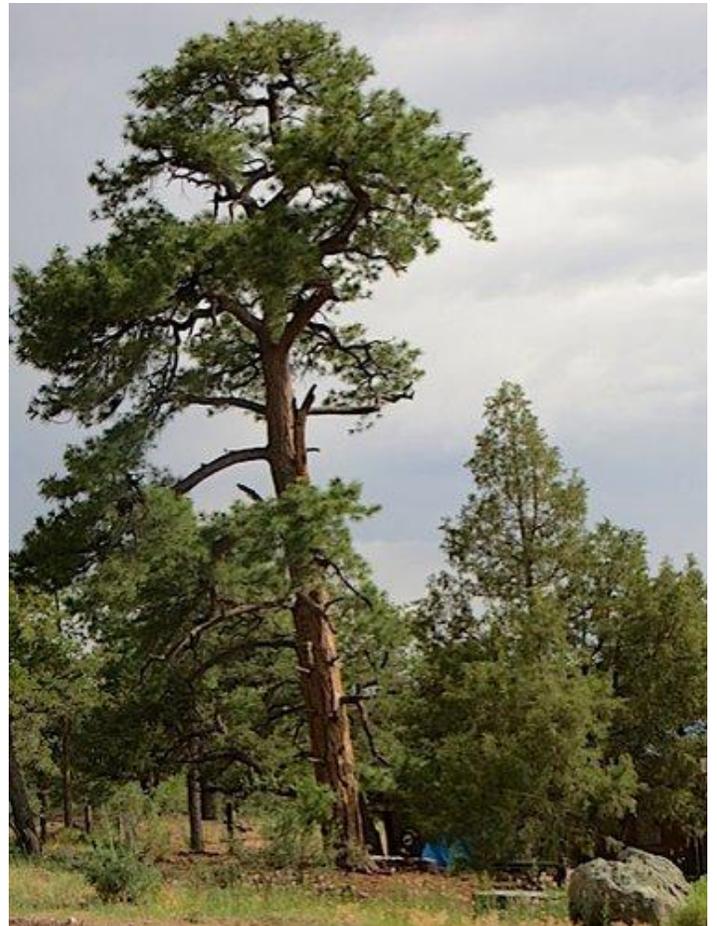
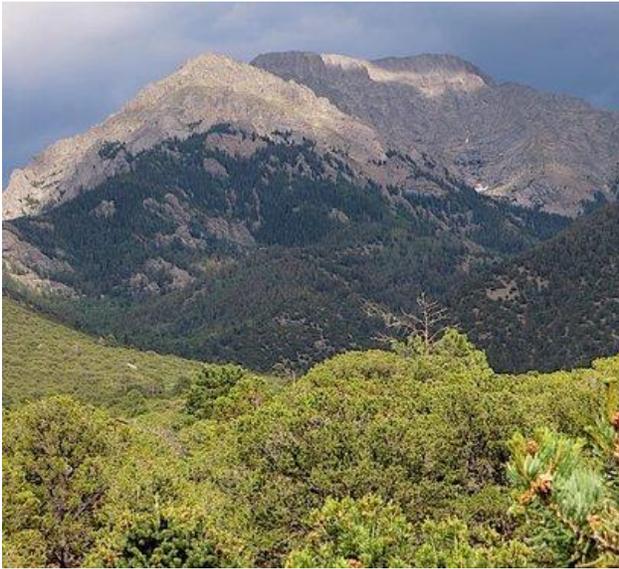


An ancient juniper. Who knows how old.

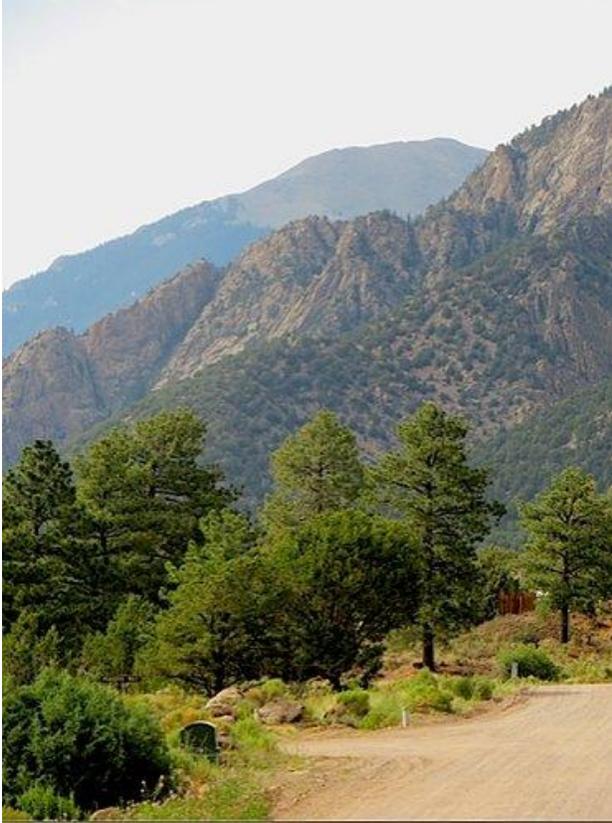


This ponderosa is no junior.

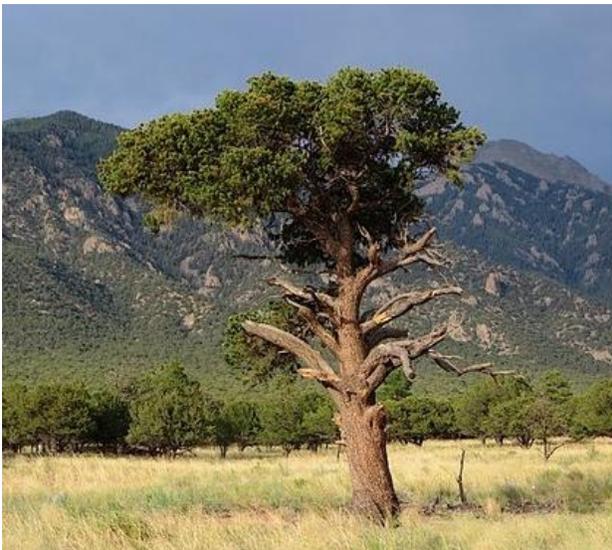
Here is another look at the Crestone Group, which has five of the 10 fourteeners. There is Crestone Peak (14,294), Crestone Needle (14,197), Kit Carson (14,165), Challenger Point (14,081), and Humbolt Peak (14,064). These are all by NAD 29. You have to add 5 or 6 feet to convert to NAVD 88.



More spectacular scenery.



Here is a lone pinyon seen against the backdrop of the Sangres.



Another very old ponderosa seen through a peep hole.



And finally, a picturesque juniper.



I should point out that Crestone is home to many spiritual seekers. The list is long. Buddhist monasteries and other religious groups have a big presence. It is apparent that they hold the area in great reverence.



Robert T. Leverett



East Spanish Peak

### [Re: Crestone Group](#)

by **Larry Tucei** » Mon Jun 25, 2012 7:38 pm

Bob, Beautiful photos! The Sangre de Cristo range is my favorite in Colorado. I guess because I was lucky enough to visit them twice. I always enjoy your Colorado postings and the photos are always good. My favorite spots are the Spanish Peaks, La Veta Pass and Pikes Peak. I love it out there and wish I was with you guys. Have a safe journey and look forward to all your postings from out west as always.

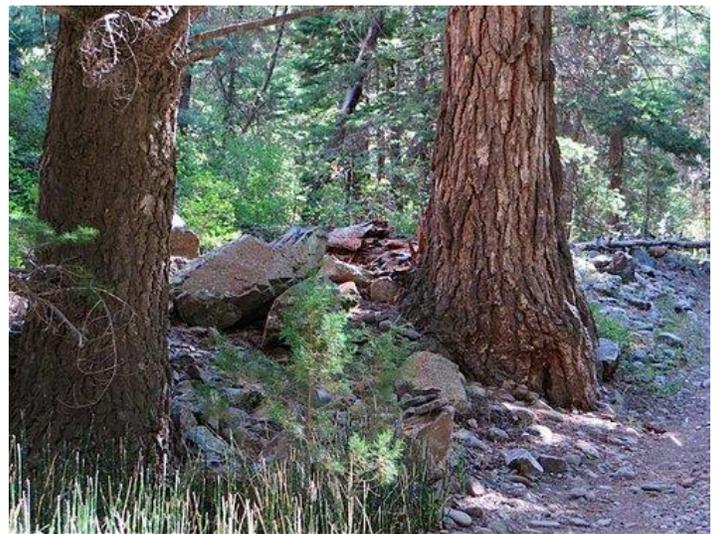
A photo of yours truly in Oct 2008 on a small mountain range 10 miles east of Spanish Peaks. I hiked about a mile and a 1/2 with a 1500' elevation change to capture some photos of the Peaks. A friend of mine owns land just east of a small range that blocked our view of the Sangre de Cristo. I've been to the base of the Spanish Peaks several times but never climbed them. That would have been a challenge and a half! Larry

### [Re: Crestone Group](#)

by **dbhguru** » Mon Jun 25, 2012 9:13 pm

Larry, I climbed West Spanish Peak many years ago, all 13,625 feet of it. It was an beautiful trek. Yes, the Sangre de Cristo range is tops. Here are some images from today.

1. Old growth Doug fir.





2. How about a little wildlife?

Green snake



angle-wing



white admiral



3. Now to scenery. Here is a shot of 14,081-foot Challenger Point (center of photo) taken from the outskirts of the town of Crestone.



The elevation of the photo is about 7,900 feet. So the big peak rises nearly 6,200 feet above its base. Actually, Challenger Point is part of Kit Carson Mountain, which has a 14,165-foot summit. To the north lies 14,064-foot Humbolt Peak and to the south Crestone Peak (14,294 ft) and Crestone Needle (14,191 ft) round out the fourteeners in the Crestone Group. Farther south the Blanca Group adds four more fourteeners, and even farther south Culebra Peak rounds out the ten fourteeners. The Sangres are serious mountains.

Throughout the morning I was awash in old-growth Doug fir with a few Colorado blues thrown in for good measure. I measured a 132-foot Colorado blue and a 128.5-foot Doug fir. These are the tallest trees I've measured in the Sangres. There is so much territory to cover. In terms of old growth, except for a few spots, what the East gives us in bits and pieces, the West has in spades. But most of it is in canyons and at high elevations protected by the sheer ruggedness of the terrain. It is why I love the West.

Robert T. Leverett

## Re: Crestone Group

by dbhguru » Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:26 am

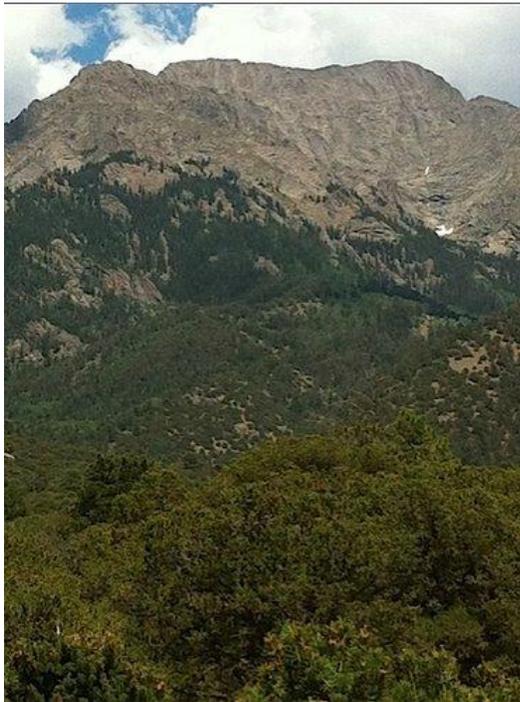
*Joe Zorzin wrote: The west is great- but sooo fragile. Too many politicians would love to sell off our public lands- to their cronies of course. It wouldn't taken long to permanently damage these landscapes. When I see some of your western photos, Bob- I imagine Crazy Horse and his band riding through....*

Joe, Yes, the West is fragile and it WILL increasingly be degraded. I'm starting to adopt the James Robert Smith position of seeing it now if you want to see it, because it will be gone in 50 years. The collective weight of seven or more billion humans gobbling up resources at an ever increasing rate, polluting the environment as we go, spoiling the landscape, and creating artificial surroundings devoid of any natural features or energies is not just the wave of the future, it is the wave of today. The big crash will come, as it must. Damn depressing.

For now, I'm going to enjoy as many places as I can, while doing what I can to help protect some great places that otherwise would succumb to exploitation of one form or another, often by groups or government agencies which are supposed to protect them. But now to more positive material. Here is another image of Challenger Point, named for the ill-fated crew of the Challenger. Its elevation is listed as 14,081 feet on NAVD 29. On the later model of NAVD 88, it would be 14,085 or 14,086 feet.

On a further optimistic note, I've been extremely impressed with Crestone, CO. It is a small town that is populated by spiritual seekers, including various Buddhist sects, Hindus, Native American, Christians, etc. all living as close to the Earth as they can. It is spartan living in the extreme. Consequently, Crestone wouldn't appeal to the average tourist looking for foolish diversions and/or high activity entertainment. It certainly wouldn't appeal to the spoiled ski crowd looking for development opportunities. There are very few fat people in Crestone (James Robert has more colorful adjectives). In fact, I'm not sure I've seen one truly fat person in all Crestone. Pretty amazing.

Yesterday, on the North Crestone Creek Trail, we met a man and his wife. The fellow turned out to be Abbot Steven Allen, founder of Dragon Mountain Temple. He carries the lineage of Shunryu Suzuki-roshi author of "Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind". We had a most uplifting conversation. They walk the trail every day, and for the most part, have the trail to themselves. Of those you might meet, most are backpackers headed for the alpine lakes or climbers headed for the heights to climb the imposing rock faces of the Crestones.



The wilderness area and national park in this region protects a lot of acreage, and for added insurance, there is the ruggedness of the Sangres. A new geological treatment has them along with the Sawatch, Mosquito, Ten-Mile, and Gore ranges as the youngest mountains in Colorado. The Front range dates to the Laramide Orogeny, around 65 million years ago. The San Juans date to 25 to 30 million years ago, but the Sangres were uplifted 20 million years ago, courtesy of the Rio Grande rift.

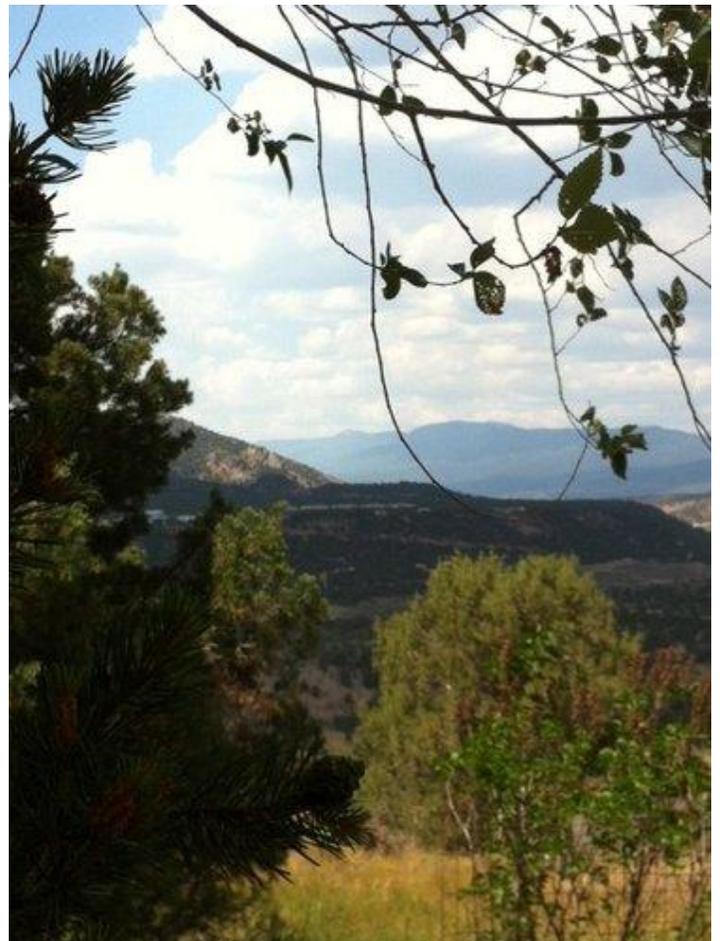
Well, gotta pack. We'll be leaving for Durango in a couple of hours.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: Crestone Group](#)

by [dbhguru](#) » Fri Jun 29, 2012 3:59 pm

Larry, et al., Monica and I are presently on the outskirts of Durango house sitting for friends. We have an involved routine, at least for us. There are chickens, cats, fish, and birds to feed. Many, many plants to water. It is all fun though. To the east there is a cattle ranch. To the west, there is an incredible view across the Animas River valley and into the La Platas. The sunsets are off the charts. The house sits at 6,660 feet elevation, so the nights are cool. No air conditioning.



*This is the view from the front yard of the house we're taking care of.*

I'll be sending reports from time to time, but mostly without pictures since Kip and Laura don't have high speed internet. This post is being sent from Monica's iPad via a 3G network. It works for text.



*This image is from the back yard of the home we are house sitting.*

While in the Sangres, I broke my record for both Doug fir and Colorado blue spruce for those mountains. I got 132.0 feet for a Colorado blue and 128.5 feet for a Doug fir. Those numbers are well below my Colorado records that both come from the La Platas. Ponderosa, Doug fir, and Colorado blue champs will all be remeasured on July 12th with Steve Colburn, North American Sales Manager for LTI. Pretty cool, huh?

Robert T. Leverett

## [Goulding Creek, CO](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sat Jun 30, 2012 6:04 pm

NTS, Today Monica and I braved the heat and went for a hike up Goulding Creek in the eastern La Platas. The area is in the Hermosa Cliffs region just west of U.S. 550 and north of Durango. The trail starts at about 7,900 feet and goes up steeply, threading its way between the spectacular sandstone cliffs. The summits of the cliffs are between 10,000 and 10,200 feet. The climb to a passageway between the cliffs reaches almost 9,900 feet. The vast majority of hikers go for the views across the Animas River Valley to the east. Monica and I are not yet in shape for steep climbs on hot days in altitude, so our round trip trek was just under 2 miles.

The good news is that the trail goes through a mix of old growth Doug fir and Ponderosa Pine. I measured one Doug fir to just under 135 feet. I couldn't get to its base to take a girth measurement, but I believe it to be around 10 feet. I took plenty of images, but can't download them to this iPad. I should have taken images with my iPhone, which would download. Oh well, I'll show the images at a later date. At any rate, the area represents another location rich in old growth ponderosas and Doug firs. Chalk another one up for WNTS.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Ancient Tree Guides No 1, 2, 3,4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, Ancient Tree Forum UK](#)

by **edfrank** » Sat Jun 30, 2012 10:58 am

Latest Ancient Tree Guide no 8: Trees and Events.  
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Ancient Tree Guides No 1, 2, 3,4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

[http://frontpage.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum/atfnews/news04/guides.htm#Ancient\\_Tree\\_Guide\\_No8](http://frontpage.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum/atfnews/news04/guides.htm#Ancient_Tree_Guide_No8)



The Ancient Tree Forum and  
The Woodland Trust - working together  
to conserve the UK's ancient trees.

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For advice and guidance on how you can help ancient trees see our series of Ancient Tree Guides:

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Ancient Tree Guide No8  
Trees and Events

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## External Links:

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<http://www.takepart.com/article/2012/02/21/its-not-fairytale-seattle-build-nations-first-food-forest>

### It's football vs. forest in Va. Tech sports facility controversy

By Lindy Royce-Bartlett, CNN  
[http://www.cnn.com/2012/05/31/us/virginia-forest-football/index.html?hpt=us\\_c1](http://www.cnn.com/2012/05/31/us/virginia-forest-football/index.html?hpt=us_c1)

### Urban/Suburban Tree Density Reveals Inequality

<http://persquaremile.com/2012/05/24/income-inequality-seen-from-space/>

### Fungi Fantastic timelapse

<https://vimeo.com/36742933>

### Tree hunters find world's tallest (known) sugar pine

At 255 feet, the top of this giant gives pause to even the hardiest of climbers, who plan each step  
<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120604/NEWS/206040302> June 04, 2012, By Paul Fattig, Mail Tribun

### Old-growth forests as global sinks

[http://web.natur.cuni.cz/fyziol5/kfrserver/gztu/pdf/Luysaert\\_et\\_al\\_2008.pdf](http://web.natur.cuni.cz/fyziol5/kfrserver/gztu/pdf/Luysaert_et_al_2008.pdf)

### Warming Arctic Tundra Producing Pop-Up Forests

by Andrew C. Revkin  
<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/06/03/warming-arctic-tundra-producing-pop-up-forests/>

### Algae, Lichens, and Mosses: Wallflowers of the Earth System

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/06/120603191621.htm>

### Emerald ash borer confirmed in Smokies.

The Associated Press, Posted: Thursday, Jun. 07, 2012  
<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2012/06/07/3298331/emerald-ash-borer-confirmed-in.html>

### Invasive species ride tsunami debris to US shore

Jun 9, 4:42 PM (ET) by Jeff Barnard  
<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20120609/D9V9RA7O2.html>

### 10 Life Lessons to Learn from Trees

by Mousumi Kumar Saha / June 11th, 2012

<http://www.successtories.co.in/10-life-lessons-to-learn-from-trees/>

### Mad frog bonanza: up to 36 new frogs discovered in tiny Madagascar forest

April 20, 2012  
[http://news.mongabay.com/2012/0419-hance\\_mad\\_frogs\\_betampona.html](http://news.mongabay.com/2012/0419-hance_mad_frogs_betampona.html) and  
[http://www.greatnewsnetwork.org/index.php/news/article/mad\\_frog\\_bonanza\\_up\\_to\\_36\\_new\\_frogs\\_discovered\\_in\\_tiny\\_madagascar\\_forest](http://www.greatnewsnetwork.org/index.php/news/article/mad_frog_bonanza_up_to_36_new_frogs_discovered_in_tiny_madagascar_forest)

### Analysis of global fire risk shows big, fast changes ahead

by Sarah Yang, Media Relations | June 2012  
<http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/2012/06/12/climate-change-global-fire-risk/> NTS Discussion:  
<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=28&t=4210>

### Cougars make a comeback after a century of decline

by Matt McGrath Science reporter, BBC World Service  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-18425472>

### Cougars Are Returning to the U.S. Midwest after

More Than 100 Years By John R. Platt | June 14, 2012  
[http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/extinction-countdown/2012/06/14/cougars-returning-midwest-after-more-than-100-years/?WT.mc\\_id=SA\\_Facebook](http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/extinction-countdown/2012/06/14/cougars-returning-midwest-after-more-than-100-years/?WT.mc_id=SA_Facebook)

### Champion specimens a big part of everyday landscape, KY

<http://www.kentucky.com/2012/06/15/2225667/trees-that-top-the-list.html>

### Maybe not the Turkey you imagine- Finally –

Some true Turkish Delight! Discovery of some tasty oaks by Neil Pederson | 6.17.2012 at 11:53am  
<http://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2012/06/17/finally-some-true-turkish-delight-discovery-of-some-tasty-oaks/>

### Two new Ramsar Sites in the USA – Congaree

National Park, SC & The Emiquon Complex, IL  
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**Inside One Of The World's Largest Treehouses:**

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(PHOTOS/VIDEO) Posted: 06/20/2012 6:14 pm

Updated: 06/20/2012 11:35 pm

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/20/worlds-largest-treehouses->

[ministers\\_n\\_1612838.html?ncid=txtlnkushpimg00000](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/20/worlds-largest-treehouses-ministers_n_1612838.html?ncid=txtlnkushpimg00000)

[040](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/20/worlds-largest-treehouses-ministers_n_1612838.html?ncid=txtlnkushpimg00000) YouTubeVideo:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adXuOi0ewH4&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adXuOi0ewH4&feature=player_embedded)

**James Webb Space Telescope**

<http://www.jwst.nasa.gov/index.html>

## **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