



One of the highlights of the day occurred while I was heading home. I stopped my car at a completely random spot (to use the bathroom I must confess) and wondered into a rather inconspicuous section of forest. Lo and behold was the largest tree I have ever seen. I grabbed my measuring tape and got an approximate cbh of 56 feet 2 in!! This makes it the largest tree I have ever seen to date. I know there are larger ones up north, but this tree blew my socks off. (below)



Overall, another memorable trip...



Marc Collins

[Re: Exploring the Redwood Forest \(Humboldt Redwoods State Park\)](#)

by **Mark Collins** » Sun Sep 09, 2012 9:41 pm

JRS, I usually camp near the creek and try to stay away from sleeping under the big trees. Perhaps it's to avoid the possibility of getting hit by a big branch.

It's so quiet at night that if a tree fell nearby, the noise would be absolutely terrifying. So far, I've always had a fitful sleep when I camp in the redwoods. Friday night, I dreamed that I was visited by horses and a strange prehistoric animal. They were stomping around my head and snarling and sniffing around my ears. To make matters worse, as hard as I tried, I couldn't wake up!

Bob and Ed, In regards to the big tree: I was surprised how large this tree was and how it didn't seem to be visited by many folks. I did notice someone's initials carved into it though. I don't want to say too much just in case, but it wouldn't be too hard to locate it again. Here's another photo of it from a different angle...



Mark Collins

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park

by dbhguru » Sun Sep 09, 2012 8:31 pm

NTS, Monica and I stopped at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park in Woodstock, VT this afternoon on our way back from Plattsburgh, NY. The plan was to rendezvous with one of the park rangers and look at trees on what is a managed forest that dates back into the 1880s. We didn't have much time, so I had to be quick. It is a unique property, I'm told, in the National Park System. I immediately saw that there were some impressive trees growing in the Park. I started by re-measuring the state champion Norway spruce for them which is at the headquarters. It is impressive. It measures 12.5 feet around and is 128.0 feet tall. The old measurement was 124.0 feet. But the taped distance was to the trunk and the high point is behind the tree in the direction of measurement. I took one image, but blew the picture. Here it is anyway. Monica is in it for scale.



After measuring the champ, I was ready to see the plantation spruce. To cut to the chase. In the short period I had, I measured only a few, but got one to 134.5 feet in height. Many of the Norways in the oldest plantation are over 120 feet. I very seriously doubt that I'll find a Norway that reaches 140.

After the Norways, I then measured several European larches to between 100 and 110 feet. I spotted skinny, tall one and got 126.0 feet. I will return and do more thorough job, but don't expect to break 130 on that species. We then went to a knoll near the headquarters that had the largest pines I saw on the property. They date to around 1880. I got three slightly over 130 feet in height. I didn't have much time so I'm unsure if I got their highest tops. Then I measured a white pine growing down the hill that looked tall and got 141.8 feet. That's the best I was able to do, but I was satisfied.

A solid partnership is developing with the Park. Lots of work to do that, but NTS should get some good publicity. Lots of important people and organizations go there. We'll be doing some programs for the Park in the future.

Tomorrow, I'll have images of Lake Champlain.

Robert T. Leverett

[NPR program about champion tree measurers](#)

by **Andrew Joslin** » Mon Sep 10, 2012 12:03 am

Heard this today on the NPR (National Public Radio) program "Living on Earth"

<http://www.loe.org/shows/shows.html?programID=12-P13-00036>

Scroll down to the last show entry "Trees".

 [trees.mp3](#)

-AJ

[Leveling Appalachia:](#)

by **Joe** » Mon Sep 10, 2012 9:07 pm

Leveling Appalachia: The Legacy of Mountaintop Removal Mining

<http://e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2198>

first paragraph:

During the last two decades, mountaintop removal mining in Appalachia has destroyed or severely damaged more than a million acres of forest and buried nearly 2,000 miles of streams. Leveling Appalachia: The Legacy of Mountaintop Removal Mining, a video report produced by Yale Environment 360 in collaboration with MediaStorm, focuses on the environmental and social impacts of this practice and examines the long-term effects on the region's forests and waterways.

Joe Zorzin

[Big Bob' - a giant eucalypt that stretches up more than 70 meters \(229 feet\) or about 21 storeys high is believed to be Queensland's tallest tree.](#)

Grow Big Bob!

<http://www.esri.com/news/arcwatch/0812/tallest-tree-recorded-in-queensland-found-with-gis.html>

[Re: 'Big Bob' - a giant eucalypt - Queensland's tallest tree](#)

by **KoutaR** » Tue Sep 11, 2012 1:24 pm

Here is a table of the tallest measured tree species for each Australian State, compiled by Dean Nicolle in 2011:

<http://www.crcforestry.com.au/newslette...able-2.pdf>

As you can see, there has been very little tall tree measuring in Queensland and some other states. Almost 20 m gap between the "Big Bob" and the tallest tree known by Nicolle in 2011.

Kouta Rasanan

Re: 'Big Bob' - a giant eucalypt - Queensland's tallest tree

by **fooman** » Tue Sep 11, 2012 6:41 pm

Hi All, Although the various articles don't state the species, it is probably a Blackbutt - *Eucalyptus pilularis* - one of the larger *Eucalyptus* species in the state.

As Kotua pointed out, there is not a lot of information about tall trees in Queensland. I've spent a bit of time in the state for work - we have an office at the Gold Coast, close to the NSW border, and a number of clients spread throughout Queensland. Queensland itself is a large state - slightly bigger than Alaska, almost three times the size of Texas, spreading from the tropics (10° S) to the border with NSW at 29° S, 1300 miles from top to bottom. West of the Great Dividing Range, it is dry and arid, to the east it moist, and depending on the latitude, tropical or temperate.

Queensland has a number of interesting tree species - for me they are mostly in the *Araucariaceae*:

[*]Three species of *Agathis* - *A. robusta* (Queensland Kauri), *A. microstachya* (Bull Kauri) and *A. atropurpurea* (Blue or Black Kauri)

[*]Two species of *Araucaria* - *A. bidwilli* (Bunya Pine) and *A. cunninghamii* (Hoop Pine).

Agathis atropurpurea and *Araucaria cunninghamii* are supposed to get to 60 m (200 ft), with *Agathis robusta*, *Agathis microstachya* and *Araucaria bidwilli* getting anywhere from 40 to 50 m tall (130 to 165 ft).

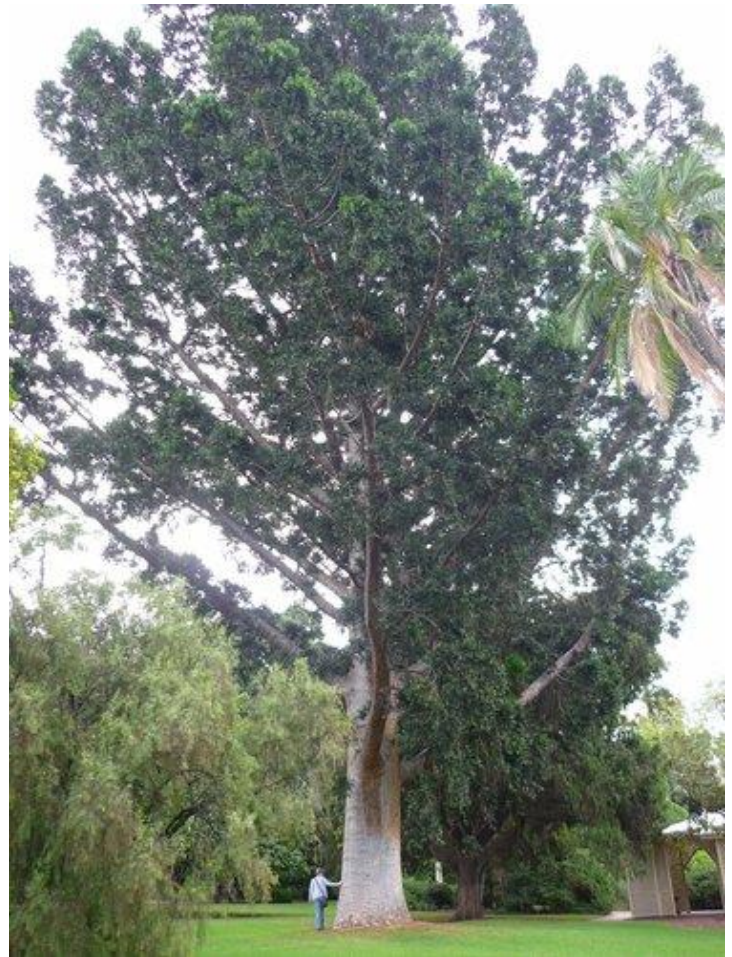
Araucaria from Norfolk Island (Norfolk Island Pine) and New Caledonia (Cook Pine) are also exceedingly common.

The other cool tree species I have seen in QLD are:

[*]Queensland Bottle Tree - it is similar to a miniature baobab tree (Australia does have a baobab species, but the bottle tree is unrelated).

[*]Morton Bay Fig - A huge fig species.

Some photos, including a few not from QLD!:



Agathis robusta, large specimen at Adelaide Botanic Gardens



Bunya pines at Bunya Mountains, SE Queensland



Hoop pine, stumpy specimen at Brisbane Botanic Gardens.



Avenue of Araucaria, includes Norfolk Island Pine, Cook Pine, Hoop Pine, and a couple of Bunya Pine. Adelaide Botanic Gardens



Cook Pine, Brisbane Botanic Gardens



Queensland Bottle Tree, Adelaide Botanic Gardens

There are some nice specimens documented at the Australian Register of Big Trees, including:

[*]Bottle Tree:

http://www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au/listing/view.php?listing_id=463

[*]Bull Kauri:

http://www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au/listing/view.php?listing_id=121

And finally, on my first visit to Australia, I drove through the SE Queensland town of Blackbutt, named after the tree, and was greatly amused by name of the local gallery, as seen in Google Street View:

<http://goo.gl/maps/xUj44>

Cheers,
Matt Smilie



[Experts release list of 100 threatened species](#)

by **edfrank** » Tue Sep 11, 2012 11:43 pm

Experts release list of 100 threatened species
Global News and The Associated Press Tuesday,
September 11, 2012 1:48 PM
<http://www.globaltv Edmonton.com/feature/6442712847/story.html>

TORONTO - International conservation groups have unveiled a list of the earth's most threatened 100 animals, plants and fungi and say urgent action is needed to protect them. More than 8,000 scientists from the IUCN Species Survival Commission have come together and identified the species Tuesday in a report presented to a global conservation forum on the southern South Korean island of Jeju. The species live in 48 countries and include the Tarzan's chameleon, the spoon-billed sandpiper and the pygmy three-toed sloth. The Zoological Society of London and the International Union for Conservation of Nature fear the 100 species will die out because they don't provide humans with obvious benefits. Experts say that focused conservation efforts can prevent the species' extinction in almost all cases.

<http://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/426256/price-less-or-worthless-final-wq-2040.pdf>

Of particular interest to all of us tree folk, is that the list includes several species of trees.

Abies beshanzuensis

Baishan fir

Population size: 5 mature individuals

Range: Baishanzu Mountain, Zhejiang, China

Primary threats: Agricultural expansion and fire

Actions required: Ex-situ conservation and re-introduction, and establishment of a protected area

Diospyros katendei

Population size: 20 individuals, one population

Range: Kasyoha-Kitomi Forest Reserve, Uganda

Primary threats: High pressure from communities for agricultural activity, illegal tree felling, habitat degradation due to alluvial gold digging and small population
Actions required: Enforcement of legal protection of area, field surveys for further search and ex-situ conservation in arboreta / botanic gardens

Dipterocarpus lamellatus

Population size: 12 individuals

Range: Siangau Forest Reserve, Sabah, Malaysia

Primary threats: Habitat loss and degradation due to logging of lowland forest and creation of industrial plantations
Action required: Restoration of Siangau Forest Reserve and re-introduction of species to previous range

Dombeya mauritania

Population size: Unknown

Range: Mauritius

Primary threats: Habitat degradation and destruction due to encroachment by alien invasive plant species and cannabis cultivation
Action required: Control of invasive plant species, habitat protection and reintroduction of propagated individuals

Elaeocarpus bojeri

Population size: <10 individuals

Range: Grand Bassin, Mauritius

Primary threats: Habitat degradation
Actions required: Unknown - trees are currently being closely monitored to determine level of threat and how these should be addressed

Erythrina schliebenii

Coral tree

Population size: < 50 individuals

Range: Namatimbili-Ngarama Forest, Tanzania

Primary threats: Limited habitat and small population size increasing vulnerability to stochastic events

Actions required: Complete establishment of Forest Reserves and continue propagation efforts, ex-situ conservation

Euphorbia tanaensis

Population size: 4 mature individuals

Range: Witu Forest Reserve, Kenya

Primary threats: Illegal logging and habitat degradation due to agricultural expansion and infrastructure development

Action required: Enforcement of legal protection in the Witu Forest Reserve, which has diminished due to civil insecurity

Ficus katendei

Population size: < 50 mature individuals

Range: Kasyoha-Kitomi Forest Reserve, Ishasha River, Uganda

Primary threats: Agricultural activity, illegal tree felling and habitat degradation due to alluvial gold digging

Action required: ex-situ conservation in arboreta / botanic gardens; enforcement of protection to contain encroachment and habitat degradation; community development programmes in areas adjacent to the reserve

Hibiscadelphus woodii

Population size: Unknown

Range: Kalalau Valley, Hawaii

Primary threats: Habitat degradation due to feral ungulates and invasive introduced plant species

Actions required: Survey the extremely steep terrain for additional individuals
Control of invasive species in the remaining suitable habitat so that species can be reintroduced if more individuals are located

Magnolia wolfii

Population size: < 5 individuals
Range: Risaralda, Columbia
Primary threats: Isolation of species and low regeneration rates
Action required: Protection of remaining population and exploration of potential for ex-situ conservation

Picea neveitchii

Population size: Unknown
Range: Qinling Range, China
Primary threats: Forest destruction
Action required: Ex-situ conservation and re-introduction; establishment of protected areas

Pinus squamata

Qiaojia pine
Population size: <25 mature individuals remaining
Range: Qiaojia, Yunnan, China
Primary threats: Limited distribution and small population size
Action required: Ex-situ conservation and re-introduction; establishment of protected areas

Tahina spectabilis

Suicide Palm, Dimaka
Population size: 90 individuals
Range: Analalava district, north-western Madagascar
Threats: Habitat loss due to fires, logging and agricultural developments
Action required: Establishment of a protected area and development of a management plan

Voanioala gerardii

Forest coconut
Population size: <10 individuals
Range: Masoala peninsula, Madagascar
Primary threats: Harvesting for consumption

of palm heart and deforestation
Action required: Protection of individuals and habitat coupled with public awareness campaigns

Re: 'Big Bob' - a giant eucalypt - Queensland's tallest tree

by **KoutaR** » Wed Sep 12, 2012 9:58 am

In whole Australia, over 5 million hectares (12,355,300 acres) is known to be old-growth forest as at 1996-1997. The used definition: "Ecologically mature forest where the effects of disturbance are now negligible." Source:

<http://www.forest-education.com/index.php/tasmania/C233/>

Two big bull kauris (*Agathis microstachya*) called "Twin Kauri Pines" at Lake Barrine, Crater Lakes National Park, Queensland:



According to the park web site, the girth of the bigger tree is 8.5 m (28 ft), height about 50 m (160 ft) and age about 1000 years. There has been logging in this park in the past. I saw a lot of bull kauris but these two seemed to be the only big ones.

Kouta Rasanen

[Re: Central Sierra Expedition - Big Sugar Pines Down](#)

by **Zachary S** » Sat Sep 01, 2012 1:48 pm

UGGGG. Well that's disheartening. We've lost a great number of big trees recently. Although, it's not entirely shocking that the Pickering Pine fell because it had a fire scar near the base that went all the way through the trunk... a flying buttress just doesn't work that well on trees that aren't sequoia! At least they fell through natural causes, even though nearby logging may have contributed to wind stress on the trees.

Anyone can correct me or add some to the list that I may have not heard about, but since 'Forest Giants' was published 11 years ago, we have lost these trees that were in the book -

- Washington sequoia (still alive but lost half of trunk and most of foliage to fire and snow load in 2005)
- Ol' Jed douglas fir (found standing but dead recently)
- Klootchey Creek Giant Sitka spruce (snapped in a storm in 2007)
- *Pickering Pine sugar pine*
- *One-Armed Bandit sugar pine*
- Yosemite Giant sugar pine (dead from beetles ~2009)
- Sergeant RandAlly yellow-cedar (fell in 2004)
- Eureka Valley Giant Jeffrey pine (dead from beetles)
- Idaho Giant w. white pine (dead from beetles and felled 1999, before publication, but still listed in book)
- Goodman Creek Tree Pacific silver fir (fell in 1997, before publication, but still listed in book)

I also suspect one or more of the Port Orford cedars listed may have succumbed to root rot since publication, a couple of the Jeffrey and ponderosa pines may have died or fallen prey to beetles, and some of the grand fir could have died from old age as they're very short lived. Anyone have more updated information? I keep records on this stuff and am always fascinated with large western conifers.

Also, the Whelan tree is a *beast*.

Zachary Stewart

[Re: Central Sierra Expedition - Big Sugar Pines Down](#)

by **M.W.Taylor** » Wed Sep 12, 2012 12:43 pm

Zachary, We did find a 9' dbh sugar pine below the Pickering Pine bench, down by the Stanislaus River. This unknown tree rivals One Armed Bandit in size. Mike Hanushchik and I also located a large sugar pine in Eldorado National Forest. This tree has close to 6,000 cubic feet and also would make Bob's book if it were known about then. So we have 2 replacement sugar pines. However these big old sugar pines are extremely rare.

Don, I did not get an age count. The shattered remains of the trunks were hollowed out anyways. I doubt I could count more than half the actual rings given what is left of the trees. The place is a huge mess. Looks like the place got hit with a "Fuel-Air-Bomb".

Michael Taylor

[Balloon Launch At Little Bear Wallow Meadow](#)

by **M.W.Taylor** » Wed Sep 12, 2012 1:43 pm

Last weekend I launched a 6ft weather balloon at Little Bear Wallow Meadow, Trinity County California, to survey for big and tall trees and also test a survey platform I've been working on. In this meadow grows the 2nd largest known ponderosa pine by volume, an 8.3' dbh, 234' specimen with 5,200 cubic feet of wood volume. It's a real beast.

The area around Little Bear Wallow Meadow is arguably the finest forest in Trinity National Forest, despite it being partially cut.

The balloon was mounted with a remotely controlled Trupulse360 forestry laser and inexpensive 20x optical zoom digital camera. The Trupulse and the camera are mechanically linked so that when I look

through the video feed of the camera crosshair it is aligned with the Trupulse360. This way I can use the camera as the viewfinder for the Trupulse with a nice high-resolution wide angle picture.

I use bluetooth control to change the mode and settings of the Trupulse360 while in the air from my laptop on the ground. The range using a bluetooth amplifier aka "bluetooth wardriver" is about 500 feet. A recurring command is sent to the Trupulse to prevent it from timing out if idle on turning off.

There is full servo drive control of the zoom-in and zoom-out features of the Panasonic F25 as well as the take-picture of take-video buttons. I can even take pictures while doing video. The interface is mechanical.

This video feed goes into my mini laptop computer and also there a smaller screen on the remote control itself with the same image. Using a 3/4 watt video amplifier on the balloon platform I can get 400ft+ range line of sight. A switch on the remote control can go back and forth between the digital camera view and the eyepiece of the Trupulse360 so I can see what is happening with the Trupulse360 in real time if I don't have the bluetooth and laptop linked up with the Trupulse.

The RC joystick turns the video of the Panasonic F25 camera on and off. This inexpensive camera from Amazon has 20x optical zoom and 1980x1080 high definition video. The joystick also activates the take photograph button, which can be pressed in continuously for burst mode.

This is a total survey platform and it works great when the winds are calm. I can download the measurements directly into Laser Technologies MapSmart program using the bluetooth so I can use the platform as a control point for 3d surveys from the sky.

Using the gear driven servo drives I can get fine tune control of the Trupulse, which is triggered by connecting serial pin#1 and pin#2 with a servo switch which is also button controlled from the remote control. Without the 5:1 gears the motion of the servo motors would be too fast to use the TP360

effectively.

This system only works in calm conditions. If windy though this system will be a total nightmare and you'll likely lose your equipment. Also, the balloon will pop easily against sharp objects if fully inflated so keep away from trees and pine needles. A fall from 200+feet will shatter any camera or Trupulse completely...or your head! Consider wearing helmet if using this. Seriously! I popped the 6ft weather balloon as I was bringing the platform back down through the trees. Even from 8 feet up this 4lb platform fell like a brick right by my head. I was fortunate nothing broke on the platform or my head. It hit the ground with a loud thud. Scary moment.

Also, make sure to use 80lb or higher strength braided fishing line such as Pro-Line.

The platform weight exactly 4 lbs. The lift on the 6ft weather balloon was easily 7 lbs so I could have lifted more equipment potentially. The greater the lift per weight ratio, the greater the stability and control of the platform. Two or more lines can be used to anchor the platform to allow for better control and prevent balloon loss in the event of the single anchor line breaking.



scanning south at 250ft, just above the canopy



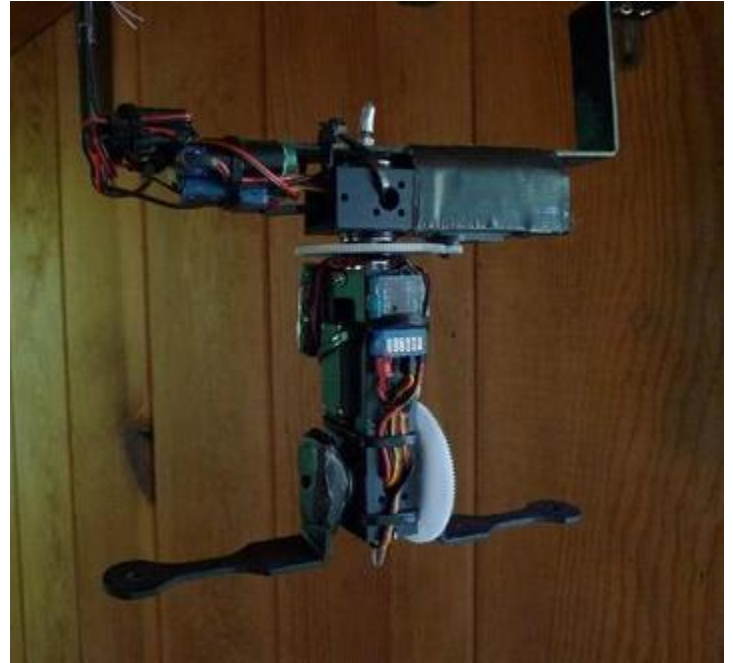
looking southeast



giant ponderosa from above. Volume of this beast is 5,200 cubic feet !



6ft cloudbuster balloon. Lift is 7lbs when slightly overinflated to 6ft. Rated diameter is 5.5ft



servo driven 5:1 geared platform without Trupulse and SLR



servo motor and differential gear driven Trupulse 360B

Will update on more balloon launches next month.

Michael Taylor
WNTS VP
California Big Trees Coordinator
<http://www.landmarktrees.net>

[Re: Balloon Launch At Little Bear Wallow Meadow](#)

by **fooman** » Wed Sep 12, 2012 5:18 pm

More cool stuff indeed.

I can think of an improvement for balloon stability (and safety): Use 3 guy lines, as separated as much as the clearance conditions allow. With appropriate controls over the winding (e.g. semi-automated motors) and sufficient lift from the balloon to maintain tension and position, you would end up with a pseudo-Stewart platform at the balloon end. You would get a reasonable amount of control on the position of the balloon during ascent and descent, within the footprint of the guy lines.

Cheers,
Matt Smilie

[Re: Balloon Launch At Little Bear Wallow Meadow](#)

by **M.W.Taylor** » Wed Sep 12, 2012 7:47 pm

Matt, Yes !

The 3 anchors is exactly what I am going to do next launch (minus the self winding motors). Got all the gear ready to go. Will provide pictures of the set-up close up. I can't spread the anchors out too far though or the L bracket could contact one of the lines and get tangled. But 30 or even 40 degrees separation between anchor points should be no big deal at all.

Also, the anchor cable applies the lift force of the balloon to the top bracket to prevent counter rotation. The center of the gear drive as well as the shafts that hold the gears are hollow so the steel cable goes right through the entire mechanism and freely rotates inside. The 7 lbs of force is applied directly down on the top bar.....thus preventing the counter rotation of the equipment module.

If the force were applied to the anchor on the bottom only the top would rotate because it has less mass. You could not control anything without the tension cable going all the way through. This is the secret... :)

I also tried gyroscopes and they work too, but they are heavy and have power requirements...thus more batteries and weight. I need to keep the weight under 4lbs for this.

Your suggestion on the self winding motors has me thinking now. A closed loop feedback system, PID type, for 3 automated winders with dancer rollers. This is exactly what I used to do when I worked as an engineer for Alza Corp. I think the platform would be most stable if based on tension feedback as opposed to something else. The dancers will maintain constant tension. As they approach the end of their travel, then the windup spool activates to re-center the dancers while keeping tension constant. The logic on this system is well researched. It would look cool too. Little mini dancer rollers for each anchor line.

Any other ideas?

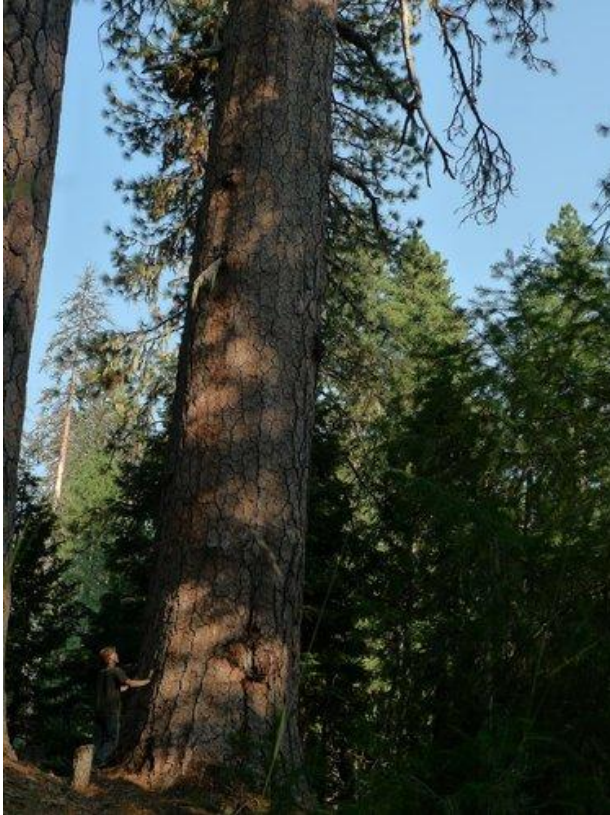
The entire set-up cost me under \$1,000 if you do not include the Trupulse360 which is on loan to me from Laser Technologies Inc. The next version will be carbon fiber, not aluminum. I should be able to get the platform under 3 lbs with carbon fiber.

This is what I really need for the balloon launches... a moment control platform

<http://www.gyroscope.com/d.asp?product=CMG>

I've applied for a grant to get one. This is uber geek stuff.

The attached is a picture of the beastly huge pondy from the ground. Taken on the same day of the balloon launch.



lovitt ponderosa at Little Bear Wallow Meadow

Michael Taylor

[Future of the Internet and Harnu](#)

by **edfrank** » Wed Sep 12, 2012 5:23 pm

I wonder how generations down the road will deal with the presence of the internet. In some aspects it broadens and enriches our discussions. In a few clicks I found the 1889 map on the range of the buffalo, and I was able to share it with those involved in the discussion. You responded with a document from 2010 on buffalo. So we have information at our fingertips.

One favorite science fiction story by Isaac Asimov is called "The Feeling of Power." In it everyone is dependent on calculators and the fictional analog of the internet to do much of their thinking for them.

One person through old books teaches himself to add and subtract by hand, or in his mind without using a calculator – that is the feeling of power being able to do math without the calculator. This is carrying the concept to ad absurdum but it is food for thought. To what degree are future generations going to learn information and processes for themselves and to what degree are they going to become dependent on external readily available resources like the internet over memorization? Are we going to have a richer culture because the information is available or a more ignorant one, because why learn something when you can easily look it up?

There is the assault on intellectualism going on not only in this country, but around the world. It is going to be another cultural revolution, ala the murder of all educated people in China when Mao took over? Are we going to be pushed into another dark age where being ignorant is a virtue? Where the only things we know are what the internet tells us? And who will control the internet?

There is the No-Child-Left-Behind where the goal is to obtain good test scores, rather than teaching students to think. There is a drive to better regurgitate certain key test facts rather than understanding their context or derivation. If you don't believe me there is in the Texas Republican platform an article opposing the teaching of critical thinking skills to students in the public school systems!!

Has the internet been a force for greater understanding among differing cultures or promoted world peace and freedom? It can be argued that it has. Many people talk with others from around the world on a daily basis. One service Harnu <http://www.harnu.com/> is essentially a chat forum set up to allow anyone to start a conversation with a stranger anywhere else in the world.

The internet has its downside also. I think it has led to the increasing radicalization of our politics. Now people with beliefs different from those in their local area are not tempered in their actions by those in the surrounding community, but can reach out to others with similar ideas across the country and never hear a voice speaking a different thought than their own.

They can vent full force whatever they think and receive applause and agreement, no matter what they have said. This has most benefited those with fringe beliefs who now have access to online communities of like minded souls.

We will see what happens. I am not among those who view the past through rose colored glasses and want to return to an existence that never was. I don't think that just because kids do something different today than how it was done when I was a child, that is the end of civilization, nor is it even in some vague undefined way automatically bad because it is different. I look for a brighter future because of things like the internet, if we can just get through the growing pains.

Edward Frank

Re: Future of the Internet and Harnu

by **HarnuHQ** » Thu Sep 13, 2012 1:22 pm

Hello everyone. Just wanted to say that your concerns about social media reinforcing people's homophobic tendencies i.e. "birds of a feather flock together", is the exact problem we're trying to address with Harnu. Whereas some networks help you keep in touch with friends and other like-minded people, our mission is to connect the world in direct conversation such that people can obtain perspectives they could never otherwise have been exposed to. For example, if you want to know what's happening in Kazakhstan today, you can of course read a newspaper and discuss with friends. With Harnu, you can talk directly to the people there and hear their own opinions and perspectives e.g. <http://www.harnu.com/m/gm/1159>.

With conversations automatically translated into everyone's preferred language, we're striving to create an environment where cultural discovery is fun, engaging, and of course educational. For more context on Harnu, here's a recent article on us: <http://ventureburn.com/2012/08/harnu-is-map-based-social-networking-and-its-brilliant/>

Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in and hope to see you on Harnu sometime!

/Jason from Harnu.

<http://www.harnu.com>



<http://youtu.be/4mWZGV4FFp4>

[Native American Name for Douglass Fir?](#)

by **costalpilot** » Wed Sep 12, 2012 10:25 am

Hi Folks, Its fun finding groups like this that celebrate and encourage interest in our world.

Thanks for being here and allowing me to join. I am working on an article about Opal Whiteley (if you don't know her, I suspect you would LOVE her: opalonline.org).

Does anyone have information about native american names for the Oregon Pine, or Douglass Fir?

Especially in Oregon, the Southern Wilamette Valley? I think it is interesting that my brief research on this subject has not turned up much information as to native American names for trees. I'm sure names change with different groupings, but so far I havent found a native american name for the Oregon Pine. thanks in advance.

Richard Speer

[Re: Native American Name for Douglass Fir?](#)

by **costalpilot** » Thu Sep 13, 2012 5:40 am

Larry Tucei wrote: Hi, Welcome to NTS. Bob Van Pelt would be one to contact. He is one of the leading Scientists in the north western US. I'm sure some of the other members will respond to your question. I really enjoyed her writings on the link you posted and all the photos. <http://www.opalonline.org/>

Thanks Larry. The intersect index for Opal really is one of the most helpful keys to opening up a book in any format I have ever seen. For instance I wanted to post this scene for ya'll (a nod to my Southern heritage) and there were four links to get to the scene I wanted: chapter, day, scene or paragraph. Not many resources around that are more helpful than that.

Personally I feel this is one of the most poignant and touching thing I have ever read, but that may just be

me:). here is a link to a (beautiful) friend of mine's reading of this selection, buit you have to sit thru several minutes of another reading and the quality is horrendous, but she's a pretty lady with a gorgeous voice, so its not all hard to take.

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzGv-nJ5JJM>)

While I did mind the baby , there was an odd sound like someone crying a great way off. The mamma says, "I wonder what it is." I know it is the death-song of that gray fir tree they are falling this afternoon. Sleeps is come upon the baby. The mamma says for me to get out of her way. I go now goes to the woods.

I did. I went on to where its growing was. It reaches up and up -- most away to the clouds. Days have been when I did sit by it to have thinks. And Thomas Chatterton Jupiter Zeus has gone goes there with me, and Brave Horatius has waited waits while I did say prayers by that great tree. And I have told it all the things I am going to do when I grow up. I have told it about the books I am going to write about wood-folks and them of the field, and about the twins I want when I grow up, and the eight other children. And always I have read to this great fir tree the letters I have wrote and put in the big log for the fairies to take to grandmére and grandpère . And night-times I have heard the little wind-song among its arms most near to the sky, and I have almost touched the big gray shadow with velvet fingers that stays close by it at night-time.

And today there I did watch and I did hear its moans as the saw went through it. And I sat down on the ground. There was a queer feel in my throat and I couldn't stand up. All the woods seemed a still sound except the pain-sound of the saw. It seemed like a little voice was calling from the cliffs. And then it was many voices. They were all little voices calling as one silver voice come together. The saw -- it didn't stop -- it went on sawing. Then I did have thinks the silver voice was calling to the soul of the big fir tree. The saw did stop. There was a stillness. There was a queer sad sound. The big tree did quiver. It did sway. It crashed to the earth.

Richard Speer

Re: Balloon Launch At Little Bear Wallow Meadow

by **M.W.Taylor** » Thu Sep 13, 2012 7:10 pm

Don Bertollette wrote: Michael- Re popping, how about an appropriately sized (and light) parachute(quick deploying)?

Option#1

I am working on a parachute for the balloon. My idea is to cover the top radius of the balloon with a 6th parachute. If the balloon pops, the parachute instantly deploys. The parachute would also help give further protection to the top of the balloon.

Option#2

Use an accelerometer board, they cost about \$30 on Amazon. When 0 G is detected for all 3 axis (you are in freefall) a contact switch closes and the parachute deploys forcefully.

[http://www.amazon.com/L3G4200D-ADXL345- ...
ass+module](http://www.amazon.com/L3G4200D-ADXL345-...ass+module)

I like Option#1. Simpler.

Also, if somebody wants to donate 3000 cubic feet of helium and 30 6ft cloudbuster balloons, I'll provide the lawnchair and I will deploy myself into the canopy. 3,000 cubic feet of helium will cost you about \$3000 now. The military is hoarding all the helium for their new spy blimps. There is currently a severe helium shortage.

mdavie wrote: Did you get a feel for how well this is going to work for your purposes?

As an exploratory tool it works great. I can zoom in all the videos and photographs to look for big crowns, tall crowns, big trunks and I can differentiate species.

The biggest challenge will be getting the balloon close to the tree without popping it.

For point cloud mapping the side of tree trunks that remains to be proven. I suspect it will work great if I launch with no wind. Hoping to put it to the challenge soon. Need to get more helium first. That stuff is expensive!

Michael Taylor

Re: Asheville Trees

by **Will Blozan** » Sun Sep 09, 2012 12:40 pm

Edward Frank wrote: Shortleaf Pine (Pinus echinata) reaches 141.2 feet at Camp Branch along the Chattooga River and 140 on Tamassee Knob in South Carolina. I also think this is an undermeasured species across much of its range.

Perhaps our list needs updated, it has been awhile since Jes Riddle did the last version. the tallest Pitch Pine (Pinus rigida) is at Warwomam Road on the Catooga River in GA at 136.3 and at 135.4 at Ellicott Rock Wilderness in South Carolina.

The Warwoman Road shortleaf is now 138.7' as of last measurement (12/29/2010) with a girth of 5'10". The neighboring pitch pine is 142.3' with a girth of 8' even. Next to this is a Virginia pine 122.3' with a girth of 5'1". The Cliff Creek drainage has very nice shortleaf:

6' X 131.5'
6'5" X 127.2'
6'6" X 128.1'

I have not broken 120' yet in the Asheville area for pitch pine. Several sites have them to 118'. Of course, with rounded tops they could be 120' I just can't see the top.

Will Blozan

North Dakota Champion Cottonwood

by **Jimmy McDonald** » Sat Sep 15, 2012 12:27 am

I have been working in North Dakota lately and I decided to take a little detour on my way home back to Minnesota. I read on the North Dakota Champion trees that there was quite a large Cottonwood in Horace. 26'8". I saw a few pictures online of it. It has a name even Uncle Johns Cottonwood. It is a two trunked tree, or something like that I'm still confused as to when it's one tree or two or has two trunks. But here are some photos and I'll be interested to hear what you guys have to say about it. I gave it a measure and found it to be 28'7" cbh. You may be able to get a smaller measurement due to its shape.





Jimmy McDonald

those with two or more trunks even of the tree with the multiple trunks spring from the same root system. For champion tree purposes only those trees with a single trunk - meaning it would have only a single pith at ground level should be considered as a champion tree for the species. I would like to see a separate list maintained for multitrunk trees, but for now by definition only single trunk trees should be counted as champions. There is a caveat - A single individual trunk of a multitrunk tree would be eligible to be a species champion if it was the largest known individual trunk for the species. The other trunks in the multitrunk clump would not be considered in its point calculation for girth, height, or crown spread, only the largest trunk itself.

It is a nice and impressive tree. Thanks for taking the time to visit the tree and measure it, and to post it to the BBS. I like to see large trees like this documented even if they are multitrunk specimens. They just should not be compared with single trunk individuals for champion tree purposes.

Edward Frank

[Re: North Dakota Champion Cottonwood](#)

by **Chris** » Sat Sep 15, 2012 11:10 pm

Very nice form in the first photo.

To be fair, it is probably Plains Cottonwood (a different subspecies from the eastern variety most of us are familiar with). The [American Forest's register lists the largest](#) in the amusingly named 'Hygiene, CO'. It is clearly multi-trunk too [in fact more so than this ND one].

Chris Morris

[Re: North Dakota Champion Cottonwood](#)

by **edfrank** » Sat Sep 15, 2012 1:46 am

Jimmy, for measurement purposes a tree with a single trunk is considered to be a different class of tree, than

[A great silence is spreading over the natural world](#)

by **edfrank** » Thu Sep 13, 2012 7:15 pm

'A great silence is spreading over the natural world'
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/sep/03/bernie-krause-natural-world-recordings>

Bernie Krause has spent 40 years recording nature's sounds. But such is the rate of species and habitat loss that his tapes may become our only record of the original diversity of life

[Re: A great silence is spreading over the natural world](#)

by **michael gatonska** » Sat Sep 15, 2012 11:57 am

Hi all;

Regarding Bernie Krauze, I have recently been in communication with him via email. I just called him up on a Sunday afternoon, and after some explanation about the work I have been doing, his assistant asked Bernie if she could give me his email address. since then, he has been providing me with some helpful technical advice, in particular regarding mic's, other technical suggestions, and on sound editing and engineering. He has also pointed me in the direction of some valuable support and network resources, which include the Soundscape Support Team, the Nature Sound Society, and the Nature Recordists Group. All are west coast based.

A while back, I had posted on NTS a documentary made in 2009 on Krauze and his work:

<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=246&t=4323>

Gordon Hempton - known as the sound tracker - is another iconic figure. His mission to find and record the last places of quiet on the Earth before they've disappeared entirely. This is a link to a recent documentary made on his work:

<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/656755301/sou>

[ndtracker-help-save-natures-quiet-places](#)

Natural quiet is a rapidly disappearing resource, and according to Hempton, there are only seven or eight naturally quiet places left in the United States (i.e. places where the sounds of nature are unbroken for intervals of at least 15 minutes during daylight hours). None exist in Europe any more. The voice of our planet has been drowned out.

If we consider Pythagoras' philosophical and mathematical assumption that the universe is held together by the balance of a specific acoustic design, then the question that comes to my mind is "what are the consequences of a significant alteration in the original relationship between man and the sounds of his environment?" I suppose that this alteration was pushed into hyperspeed at the beginning of the industrial revolution.

I have recently read about the idea of the Anthropocene – which is basically defined as the new epoch in which we humans have become a force of nature, and that we are reshaping our planet on both a geological scale and at a far-faster than geological speed. We are feeling (and reeling?) from the implications of this at the social, cultural and economic level. On a somewhat positive note, however, through the work of many people (including soundscape artists like Krauze and Hempton), we are being moved to consider the impact of humanity's collective actions on both our planet and our future.

Michael Gatonska

Jake and Joe, MTSF, MA

by dbhguru » Sun Sep 16, 2012 5:21 pm

NTS, Today Joe Zorzin and I went to MTSF to lay the grounds for his filming of the upcoming Oct 12th tree measuring event. The weather was gorgeous. We accomplished what we really set out to do - have fun. We went straight to the Jake and Joe trees. I wanted to measure Jake's new candle growth to get a better confirmation of the height gain of Jake this growing season. You can see below what was determined. Yes, Jake had a heck of a growing season. Next year isn't so likely to be as good.



With Joe Zorzin present, I re-measured Jake's full height and again confirmed the height at 171.0 feet using the LTI TruPulse 360 exclusively. Joe peered through the TruPulse and confirmed the numbers.

Macroscopic measurement of new growth
 Red = 0.28 mm (Macroscopic reading)
 Dist = 215 ft to center of new growth
 Red Arrow = $[(215 \times 0.28)/41.667] \times 12 = 17.34$ in
 Red Vert = $17.34 \times \cos(30) = 15.02$ in this season
 Tot vert hgt of Jake = $117.5 + 49.0 + 4.5 = 171.0$

While there, I also re-measured the Joe Norton tree, just a few yards away, and got 166.6 feet. I'll now re-measure Saheda in the Elders Grove to see which is #2 in the height department for all New England. I expect that Saheda is close to 167 feet.

I hope to measure the new growth of a sample of the Mohawk pines in November and December. However, my focus for next week will be the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP in Woodstock, VT. Monica and I will be returning on Sept 26th for a day of measuring on behalf of the Park. A great partnership is developing.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: New forest (The Borg's Woods) said to be over 235 years

by njstriker » Sun Sep 16, 2012 6:21 pm

Black Gum appears to be a field succession species, for instance where an old beaver pond once was. There's a few in Borg's Woods, and they are all big old ones in mature forest areas. Saplings appear to stay small for decades, they really need sunlight. It's the Beech that do best in shaded areas, and also the invasive Norway Maple. The Norway Maple presents a far greater threat than most ecologists realize, because it shades out everything else. The species was threatening to alter the basic ecology of Borg's Woods. Dozens of Norway's, mostly in the 3" to 8" diameter range, were killed by ringing them, starting in 1994. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of saplings were pulled up. There used to be about 200 saplings per year that needed to be yanked, but now it's only a few dozen. This is best done in early November when they stand out as green, and everything else is already turned color, or later in the month when the Norway saplings are yellow and no other trees have leaves on them. The mother tree, over 12" diameter, at the top of the hill on the preserved Landi lot, was ringed and killed over 10 years ago. A 2nd mother tree, even larger, was at the end of Woodland Ave in Maywood. It was on the west bank of Coles Brook and seeding into the woods. It could not be ringed because it was on someone's private lawn. Maybe God is on the side of conservationists, because that tree bit it in the great October snowstorm of 2011.

Eric Martindale

[A Thousand Invisible Cords](#)

by **Don** » Mon Sep 10, 2012 1:30 pm

Fellow NTSers-

Have just been informed by my cousin Randy Fulton that there is a commendable PBS program making the rounds (looks like it has already played most of the East Coast, just now getting to the West Coast).

It's called A Thousand Invisible Cords...Connecting Genes to Ecosystems.

<http://athousandinvisiblecords.org/broadcasts-showings>

I understand from Randy that it's about the genetic properties of cottonwoods and pinon pines, and how genetic determinants are impacted by environmental factors such as soil microbes, fungi, insects and such that evolve around them.

It's playing in Anchorage later this week, at which time I'll report on the program...this program has Northern Arizona University connections, so I'm inclined to promote it.

Don Bertollette - President/Moderator, WNTS BBS

"When we try to pick out anything by itself we find that it is bound fast by a thousand invisible cords that cannot be broken, to everything in the universe. "

While that's a big undertaking, Northern Arizona University's has taken a smaller bite in their "*A Thousand Different Cords: Connecting Genes to Ecosystems*" PowerPoint presentation. It's audience is probably most appropriately an academic one, but a lay person can pick up many of the basics.

Ed, it explains (without mentioning) "resilience", the value of biodiversity, relates individuals to populations, to communities in ways you may not have thought of before...this will be a powerful tool for informing climate change concerns, forest restoration, and far more complex issues.

I hope that at the very least, this will provide you with food for thought and discussion!

View this fairly large Powerpoint file by going to: <http://athousandinvisiblecords.org/education> navigating to Downloads, and clicking on Lecture Notes (in either Powerpoint or *.pdf formats).

It will take several minutes (4 on my laptop/cable connection) to download and more to view.

Don Bertollette

[Re: A Thousand Invisible Cords...](#)

by **Don** » Mon Sep 17, 2012 3:13 am

Ed-

Per my promise to return to NTS after viewing the PBS program my prescient cousin recommended, and report of it's content, I am here to report failure...

Not complete irrevocable failure, as I have come across a powerpoint presentation that encapsulizes many of the points of the program. I will shortly provide means of accessing this absolutely mind-challenging manner of viewing our forest ecosystems. But first, I'd like to explain that the title comes from John Muir's original and elegant quote,

Re: Asheville Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Sep 17, 2012 11:00 am

The *P. echinata* @ 124.6' has a girth of 5'2".
However, its needles are now all brown and it has
long scratch marks down the trunk with sawdust
collecting on the lower plates. I assume it is dead.

I spent some time with the pitch pine, battling
prickers and poison ivy, but was able to get
measurements from many different angles: 117.2'
120.6' 121.0' 122.2' 122.3' 122.8' 124.8'
124.8' was the best of the lot. It's around 5' cbh.
There are several others that could break 110' nearby
but I was running short on daylight.

Brian Beduhn

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Sep 17, 2012 11:49 am

Biltmore update #?

I remeasured the 2nd tallest dawn redwood, the larch
and the Norway spruce. I wasn't able to get the
highest measurements on the spruce or the redwood.
I've had many different measurements supporting the
revised heights and only one to support the highest
reported. I'm attributing the highest figures to an
inaccurate laser reading achieved when backing up
and shooting at the same time.

	highest attained	actual height
Norway spruce	137.0'	133.6'
Dawn redwood	129.8'	126.4'

Some more numbers and an update

Species	height	old height	common name
<i>Larix decidua</i> ?	137.8'	132.9'	European larch

<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Height	Eastern hemlock	Biltmore #	Hemlock #
	129.3'		1370	
	139.1'		350	
	120.8		186	351
	116.0'		188	
	127.5'		877	
	118.6'		848	
	123.1'		875	
	112.5'		4161	
	116.1'		4138	
	114.9		852	
	120.4'		853	
	118.6'		850	
	119.1'			
	141.6'			

<i>Tsuga caroliniana</i>	Carolina hemlock
107.0'	312
94.4'	1473
106.7'	
110.5'	461
93.0'	462
85.1'	463

<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn redwood
83.0'	3908

<i>Picea orientalis</i>	Oriental spruce
98.3'	548

<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White pine
140.2'	1699
142.3'	no#

<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> v?	Weeping hemlock
33.6'	

Pinus echinata			Shortleaf pine	
height	cbh	old height	Biltmore#	Hemlock#
108.4'	8'6"	107.4'	216	
107.9'				

Cryptomeria japonica Japanese cedar
67.5'

Pinus resinosa Red pine
118.4' 116.0' no#

I explored the grove to the right of the house where 3 scarlet oaks of 130'+ once resided. I found just one over 100'. The 141.6' hemlock was in that grove but it looks like the scarlets had been sacrificed for more parking lots. The 106.7' carolina hemlock is very close to the current tallest carolina on the estate at 115.1' I missed it before. I missed the dawn redwood before as well. There is another grove of redwoods that I wanted to hit but it started raining. They'll be tough to get due to two superlative butternuts directly above them, so I'll wait til the leaves are down. One butternut is NLT 126' and the other is 120'+.

Conifer Rucker 10
white pine 158.3'
hemlock 143.6'
larch 137.8'
norway spruce 133.6'
dawn redwood 130.1'
baldcypress 126.7'
oriental spruce 122.9'
red pine 118.4'
nikko fir 115.1'
carolina hemlock 115.1'

RI 10 130.16'

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **Will Blozan** » Mon Sep 17, 2012 2:42 pm

Brian, Great work! Man that place continues to grow. I am really interested in the butternuts since they will smash the current eastern height record. I can rarely find them over 100' with a 115' tree the lone record for many, many years. Where are they? I don't even recall any sizable ones there in my wanderings.

Will Blozan

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Sep 17, 2012 2:56 pm

Will,

They are on the side of the road, past the dam but before the wildlife inhibitor in the road. I'm fairly certain they're butternuts. I called them walnuts at first but they definitely have the butternut bark. It is Biltmore, so they could be exotics but I don't know what else they could be. I'll double check on my ID. Correction: I had 118.8' on one and NLT 126' on the other.

The hemlock grove with the 4 140's and dozens of 130's must have been on a slope which is now a clear cut. One 140' remains up top along with over a dozen over 110'. The grove is a pale shadow of its former self...but at least there is another parking lot. Much of the clearcut clearly didn't need to be cut. It's baffling why it was.

Brian Beduhn

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **Will Blozan** » Mon Sep 17, 2012 4:15 pm

Brian, I recall black walnuts there but could be mistaken. They really look very different so it is hard to confuse if true black and butternut.

I remember the incredible hemlock grove was slated for "HWA management" (i.e kill the trees). I verbally petitioned the chief horticulturalist and arborist to treat them and even volunteered to do it if they bought the chemical but I guess the chippers won out. That single grove was poised to be the archetypal second-growth monitoring (height/volume) for the species. It also may have produced the tallest living hemlock in a few more decades with proper management. To me, it was the ultimate fruition of F.L. Olmsted's vision for a forest cathedral. Now it is an insult to his foresighted legacy. Here is a shot from a few years ago



Will Blozan

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Tue Sep 18, 2012 11:58 am

It truly is a shame that those hemlocks were removed. That looks like a thriving forest! Some do remain but they're either along the roadside or up on drier land. Healthy hemlocks abound on the estate but I've only seen one high quality grove similar to the one in the photo. The current grove doesn't hold any 140's though.

I'll check the nuts to make sure of walnut or butternut. I've confused them before.

Removing all of the large tuliptrees in front of the house is also an insult to Olmsted's legacy. The reasoning was that it was Olmsted's vision to have small, similarly sized trees. Yeah, I generally choose tuliptrees when I want small, uniform treescapes!?

For all the wonderful trees they have and all the treatments they have done, they've also committed their share of blunders. I noticed one dead hemlock out of hundreds standing. They have put in the work but I agree that they have made some shortsighted moves as well. –

Brian Beduhn

Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Thu Sep 20, 2012 8:47 am

The trees in question are definitely black walnuts.

They are quite tall as well. NLT 123' and NLT 129' The dawn redwoods are growing into their crowns. It was difficult to differentiate so these figures could be off by a few feet. When the leaves come down it should be easier to measure...and I'll get those spectacular black walnuts as well.

Metasequoia Glyptostroboides

	height	Biltmore #
Biltmore grove #2	85.4'	no#
	86.3'	1880
	87.5'	1879
	95.1'	1874
	112.5'	1881

Tsuga Caroliniana

Approach Rd. Grove#1	96.9'	4316
	99.5'	4317
	89.2'	1464
	89.0'	297
	93.0'	296
	91.5'	298

Tsuga canadensis 141.6' I didn't get a #.

I drove right by a portion of this grove. It has a 143.6', a 141.6' and a 139'. Possibly more 140's to be found.

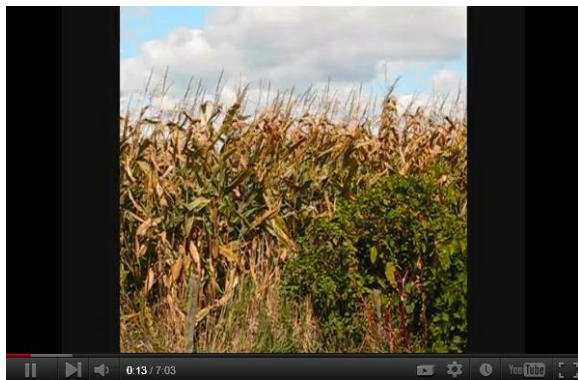
Brian Beduhn

Late Summer Soundscapes

by **michael gatonska** » Thu Sep 20, 2012 10:59 am

I wanted to share two recent soundscapes that I have captured:

New England Cornfield



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

This is a 7'00" soundscape made during the afternoon alongside the edge of a cornfield in South Windsor, CT. Taken from the info found below.

Location: South Windsor

Date: September 17, 2012

Time: 3:30 p.m.

State: CT

Description: late afternoon soundscape recording at edge of cornfield

Habitat: agricultural/along Connecticut River/deciduous along river

VoxType: afternoon

Category: soundscape

Sample rate: 48k 24 bit

Microphone pattern: Double MS stereo-2 channel;

150°

Take# 2

Anthrophony: airplane/automobile

Geophony: the rustling sounds of drying cornstalk leaves in moderate wind conditions

Biophony: field crickets (*Gryllus pennsylvanicus*)

Weather: sunny

Temp: 76 fahrenheit

Humidity: 84%

Wind: 7-14 mph

GPS: Lat/Lon: Lat/Lon: 41.75°N 72.67°W Elevation: 62 ft

Recordist: Michael Gatonska

Notes: homemade Mic suspension with windjammer and Canon tripod/monitored without headphones

Blue Moon Soundscape



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WntnCx6w2gE>

This is an 2'30" soundscape made during the evening of a blue moon. Taken from the info found below.

Location: South China

Date: August 30, 2012

Time: 10:45 p.m.

State: ME

Description: night soundscape recording along lakefront

Habitat: lakes/coniferous/some deciduous

VoxType: night

Category: soundscape

Sample rate: 48k 24 bit

Microphone pattern: Double MS stereo-2 channel; 150 °

Take# 1

Anthrophony: motorcycle/automobile traffic

Geophony:

Biophony: field crickets (*Gryllus pennsylvanicus*)

Weather: clear

Temp: 66 fahrenheit

Humidity: 70%

Wind: zero to light

GPS: Lat/Lon: 44.48°N 69.5°W Elevation: 207 ft

Recordist: Michael Gatonska

Notes: homemade Mic suspension with windjammer
and Canon tripod/monitored with headphones



Recording under blue moon



Position of recording at cornfield

Michael Gatonska

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

Metasequoia Glyptostroboidea (Dawn Redwood)

by **bbeduhn** » Tue Sep 18, 2012 4:09 pm

I've been searching out Dawn redwoods this summer and have a surprising list of those in Buncombe County. There are doubtless more but a fair number is represented here. I've added a couple of bonus trees as well.

Montreat

Kanawha 68.6'

Black Mountain

Blue Ridge Assembly 86.0'

Weaverville

Bochi. Chiropractic Merrimon/Reems Ck. 70.9' 80.4'

Woodland Hills/I-26/ New Stock ~108.4' ~114.8'

Asheville

Red Cross Merrimon Ave. 68.8' 69.4'
Asheville Transit Authority 65.7' 70.1' 73.9'
Skate Park 73.1' 74.1'
YMCA Downtown 60.8' 62.8' 65.7'
Asheville Savings Bank Merrimon Ave.
73.5' 80.2'

Merrimon Beaver Lake ~74.5'

sadly, is coming down soon

Town Mtn. Rd. 82.4'

Edgewood, N. Avl 71.0' 72.3' 77.1'

77.3' 78.2' 80.4' 81.0'

Veterans Rehab Ctr, Oteen 89.0' 91.4'

Church St. @ Aston 85.1' 86.9' 90.8'

Aston @ Church St. 92.3' 99.1' 101.0'

Lakeshore near Beaver Lake 102.7'

Springside, Arden 112.2'

Sunset Drive, Town Mtn. 112.6' 115.3'

May be a little taller, poor vantage

TGIF, Biltmore Village

127.3' 126.7' single tree, double top

Evelyn, North Asheville

104.3'

Biltmore Forest

East Forest 76.5'
Forest, cul de sac 108.8' 110.1'
Forest 103.6' 115.2' 120.5'

Biltmore Estate

Biltmore Grove #1 95.5' 111.1' 112.5'
113.3' 115.6' 117.6' 126.4'
Gardens 83.0' 93.3' 130.1'
Biltmore Grove #2 85.4' 86.3' 87.5'
95.1' 112.5' an absolute beanpole

The crowns intermingle with those of two very tall
black walnuts

Taxodium Distichum Baldcypress

Buchanan-Asheville 86.5' cbh 14'1"
UNCA Botanical Gardens 96.0' 103.3' 107.1'

Biltmore Estate 100.4' 101.5' 105.3'
116.7' 126.7'

Cryptomeria Japonica Japanese Cedar

Black Mountain Lake Tomahawk
90.0' By far, the tallest I've seen
Biltmore Estate 67.5'

Update - Metasequoia Glyptostroboidea

The second Biltmore grove 85.4' 86.3' 87.5'
95.1' 112.5' an absolute beanpole

Evelyn, North Asheville 104.3'

Much gratitude to Will Blozan for pointing out
several of these trees.

Brian Beduhn

New record European larch

by **KoutaR** » Thu Sep 20, 2012 10:53 am

NTS, I wrote about the tallest European larches (*Larix decidua*), I had measured until then, here:

viewtopic.php?f=198&t=1533

German tall tree hunter Karlheinz Brüne recently told me about a tall European larch in Schlitz, Germany, and invited me to measure it. According to the official information this tree, dubbed as "Grand German", is as tall as 55 meters (180 ft), but Karlheinz's preliminary measurements gave only ~45 meters.

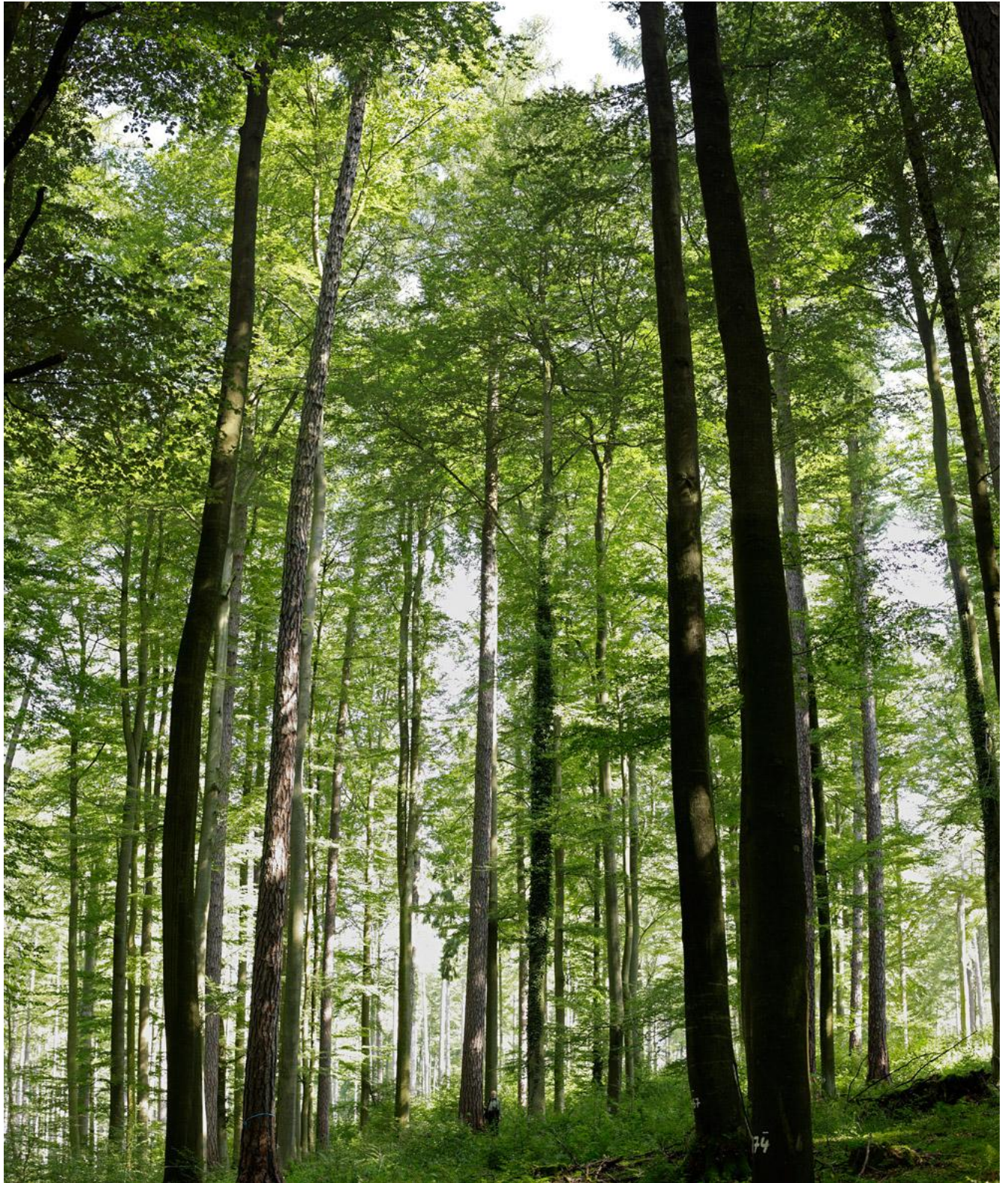
The tree grows in a 400-hectare lowland forest outside the natural range of the species. In addition to larch, the stand contains plentiful European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). First larches have been planted in 1742. Now larch appears to regenerate naturally in the patches where beeches have been removed. Media articles speak about "195-years old trees" but it is unclear to me if it is the Grand German's age, too.

My measurement was very close to that of Karlheinz: 45.5 m (149 ft). CBH is 354 cm. According to the official information its volume is 20 cubic meters.

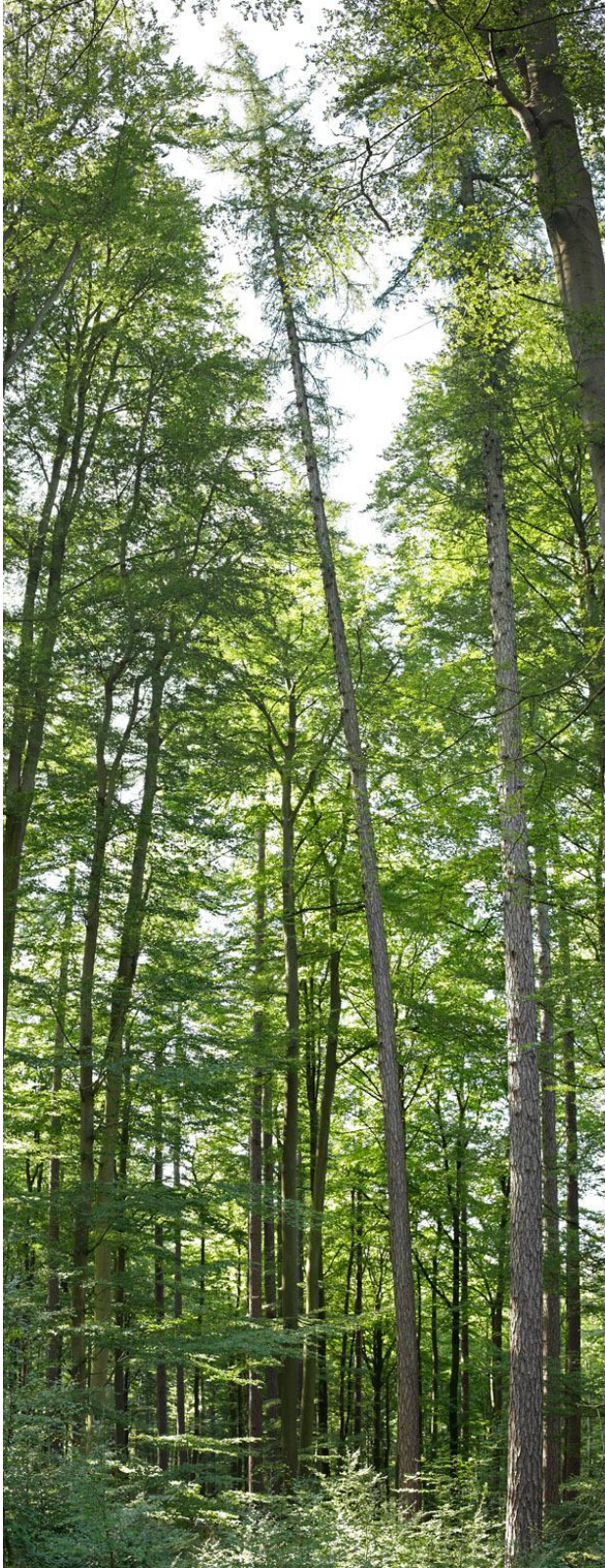
After measuring the Grand German, we concentrated on other larches and soon noticed the stand has lots of taller trees than the Grand German. And how tall! I had not known European larch can attain such heights at all. The first over 50 m tall larch was the 51.6-meter (169 ft) tree pictured below. Its CBH is only 263 cm.



Kouta, Grand German and Karlheinz



Karlheinz at 51.6-meter European larch



52.6-m and 51.8-m larches, center and right

We found two still taller trees growing side by side. The tallest is the very thin leaning tree below, with a CBH of 195 cm. Its height **52.6 m (173 ft)** makes it **the tallest reliable measured European larch** we are aware of. The second tallest tree, height 51.8 m (170 ft), is on the right.

It is possible that somebody has confused the tree identities. The Grand German is undoubtedly the largest tree of the stand but it is far from being the tallest although the official information states so. Its top is also intact. Perhaps the 55-meter tree still exists, we had possibility to explore only a small part of the forest, though it should be a prime stand because it is marked as a seed collection site.

Thus, the name "Grand German" is quite misleading: the tree is not the tallest in Germany, nor the thickest or largest (e.g. the Bräsenwälder Lärche is 460 cm and 30 cubic meters).

Tall European larches exist as north as in southern Finland. In a research forest of Finnish Forest Research Institute in Punkaharju, there is a 47.1-meter (155 ft) larch measured with Riegl VZ-1000 laser scanner (price about \$ 200.000!). The whole stand was laser-scanned and an animation of the scanned stand can be seen here (the tallest tree appears at 0:48):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYGvF5n0dFA>

It is the tallest tree of Finland. Forestry engineer Esko Oksa told me the wood volume of the stand is now over 800 m³/ha and was over 1000 m³/ha before thinning. The tree is pictured below.



Kouta Rasenan

[Re: Tallest Tree South Of SF Bay Confirmed](#)

by **M.W.Taylor** » Thu Sep 20, 2012 3:50 pm

Update:

Steve Sillett and Jim Spickler climbed the tall redwood in Big Basin State Park recently. Their direct tape drop measurement was 100.01 meters, or 328.12 feet. Zane and I missed the very "tippy" top of the highest leader, which was obscured a little from our view. Nevertheless, we got fairly close to Steve's direct tape drop measurement. His interpretation of ground level was a little lower than ours though.

This redwood is the only known 100m southern population redwood (those south of San Francisco) and the only known 100m+ tree south of 38 degrees latitude. Centurion, a eucalyptus regnans in Tasmania was last measured at 327.6 feet in 2006. This tree may, or may not be over 100 meters now.

[Hyperion and Helios Climbs, CA](#)

by **edfrank** » Thu Sep 20, 2012 11:39 pm

For those of you on Facebook, On September 19, 2012, Richard Preston posted two photos, one of Hyperion taken in 2006 and one of Helios also taken in 2006, along with individual notes that read in part:

Top of Hyperion, world's tallest tree (coast redwood in N. Calif.) Height (unofficial) as measured recently by Steve Sillett et. al.: 379.65 ft (115.72m). It grew 2.4 inches this year, fast for a redwood this tall. Helios was recently measured at 376.54 ft (114.77m). It grew about 1.5 inches this year.

The assumption here being that the measurements are from this year even if the photos are from a several years ago. Does anyone know anything about this?

Edward Frank

Say Good Bye to the White Ash Tree (WV)

by **russ richardson** » Thu Sep 20, 2012 10:06 pm



SAY GOOD BYE TO THE WHITE ASH TREE -
Death Knell By Ash Borer
(09/21/2012)
Russ Richardson

http://www.hurherald.com/cgi-bin/db_scripts/articles?Action=user_view&db=article_s_hurherald&id=49623

Thank you!



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp1y4O6bsM0>

Vandalism of Sycamore on Crulls Island, ARIW, PA

by **edfrank** » Thu Sep 20, 2012 11:47 pm

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness posted on Facebook

One of the ugliest things encountered during the annual Allegheny River Cleanup on Tuesday was something that is not easily cleaned up, picked up or carried away. Some misguided soul desecrated a federal wilderness area by thoroughly spray painting the trunk of an ancient sycamore tree (*Platanus occidentalis*) on the northwest side of Crull's Island in the National Wild & Scenic Allegheny River.

Part of the spray painted message appears to read "RIP GRAMPA" (sic). If so, it's certain that "Grampa," whoever that is, is looking down from heaven in shame on his grandchild who desecrated a federal wilderness area in his name!

The names "Betty" and "Joe" also appear to have been written. If you think you may know who these people are, please contact Friends of Allegheny Wilderness at info@pawild.org

Beech blight aphids dance, Ohio

by **edfrank** » Fri Sep 21, 2012 12:03 am

Duane Hook came across these Beech blight aphids while hiking in Zaleski State Forest in Ohio. He encountered this bizarre group of insects engulfing a few branches of American Beech Trees.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSS4shS5kfo&sns=fb>

Here is another video of them on Youtube:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iX-UXLviqxl>

"Tiny hairy white bugs dancing on a tree branch near a trail in Brandywine Creek State Park. These are beech blight aphids, *grylloprociphilus imbricator*, also known as Boogie-Woogie Aphids for obvious reasons."

Beech blight aphid - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beech_blight_aphid

*The beech blight aphid (*Grylloprociphilus imbricator*) is a small insect in the order Hemiptera that feeds on the sap of American beech trees. The aphids form dense colonies on small branches and the undersides of leaves.*

The aphids themselves are a light bluish color with bodies covered with long, white, waxy filaments giving them a woolly appearance. They first become apparent in July and as populations continue to grow they become increasingly noticeable. Very high numbers can be seen on individual branches, sometimes extending onto leaves. Infested trees may appear to have their branches and twigs covered with snow. This aphid has a defensive behaviour in that it raises the posterior end of its body and sways from side to side when disturbed. Many aphids performing this action at the same time has led to this species being referred to as the "Boogie-Woogie Aphid" ...

Edward Frank

Re: New record European larch

by **Will Blozan** » Thu Sep 20, 2012 4:50 pm

Will Blozan wrote: Kouta, WOW!!! I am truly impressed with those heights and I do hope a 55m tree will be found. Did you measure any associated species? Great job and great post!

Will, the stand where we measured contains only larches and beeches. We didn't measure beeches; they were lower and very difficult to measure with leaves. Karlheinz tries to contact forestry officials if they know where the 55-meter tree is located. At the best the stand should be re-measured when beeches are without leaves.

if you meant the both forests, yes Esko Oksa and I measured other species in Punkaharju, Finland. Esko has Nikon Forestry Pro. Many tall trees, native and introduced, exist in the research forest which is located in the most favorable climate for tree growth in Finland. Below some tall trees from Punkaharju.

35.4-meter (116 ft) silver birch (*Betula pendula*). It is surrounded by taller European larches. This tree may have been taller than the tallest silver birch in Białowieża (36.4 m, 119 ft) before its top dried and broke off a few years ago.

There are taller Siberian larches in Roshchino, Russia, also outside the native range. Tangent measurements have given heights up to 53 m (174 ft). Tremendous 2000 m³/ha have been measured in the >250 years old Roshchino stand by Finnish researchers.

Kouta Rasanen



35.4-meter silver birch

39.9-meter (131 ft) Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). This tree is located in a nature reserve where no logging occurred after ~1930.



39.9-meter Scots pine

40.5-meter (133 ft) Siberian fir (*Abies sibirica*). The species is not native in Finland.



40.5-meter Siberian fir

43.6-meter (143 ft) Siberian larch (*Larix sibirica*).
Also this species is not native in Finland.



43.6-meter Siberian larch

[Re: Asheville Trees](#)

by **bbeduhn** » Fri Sep 21, 2012 10:15 am

Update

Metasequoia Glyptostroboidea Dawn redwood

Country Club & Griffing, N. Asheville
65.0'

Cunninghamia lanceolata China-fir
Country Club & Griffing
89.2"

Pinus palustris longleaf pine
Country Club by golf course 81.6'

Pseudotsuga menziesii var. glauca
Rocky Mountain Douglas-fir
Evelyn & Charlotte, N. Asheville 76.0'
79.2'

Abies alba silver fir
Albemarle Park, Charlotte, N. Asheville
113.8' tough shot at the crown. the tree is almost
entirely surrounded by a building.

May be a few feet taller.

Calocedrus decurrens incense cedar
Weaverville Hwy/ New Stock 69.7'

[Reconstruction of Soundscape of 1940's Wisconsin](#)

by **edfrank** » Fri Sep 21, 2012 1:26 pm

Ecologists convert wildlife professor's notes into
soundscape of 1940s Wisconsin
By Liat Clark, 19 September 12

Aldo Leopold Foundation Senior Fellow Dr. Stan Temple has been working with folks at Purdue University to simulate the dawn chorus at the Shack based on Leopold's field journals? There has been a

*flurry of media interest in the project this week--
check it out and listen also for a story coming soon
on NPR's All Things Considered!*

<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2012-09/19/aldo-leopold-birdsong>

Re: Reconstruction of Soundscape of 1940's Wisconsin

by **michael gatonska** » Fri Sep 21, 2012 4:03 pm

One of the ecologists (Stan Temple, a professor of wildlife ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison) mentions in the article, "The difference between 1940 and 2012 is overwhelmingly the anthrophony -- human-generated noise". "That's the big change. In Leopold's day there was much less of that." He explained that today, in 48 US states, there are no locations more than 35km from the nearest road.

Here are some additional notes on Aldo Leopold, with a couple of links worth checking out:

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) is considered the father of wildlife ecology. He was a renowned scientist and scholar, exceptional teacher, philosopher, and gifted writer. It is for his book, *A Sand County Almanac* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Sand_County_Almanac), that Leopold is best known by millions of people around the globe. The *Almanac*, often acclaimed as the century's literary landmark in conservation, melds exceptional poetic prose with keen observations of the natural world. The *Almanac* reflects an evolution of a lifetime of love, observation, and thought. It led to a philosophy that has guided many to discovering what it means to live in harmony with the land and with one another. It is perhaps best known for the following quote, which defines his land ethic: "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Leopold is credited as the founding father of wildlife ecology, Leopold's cornerstone book *Game*

Management (1933) defined the fundamental skills and techniques for managing and restoring wildlife populations. This landmark work created a new science that intertwined forestry, agriculture, biology, zoology, ecology, education and communication.

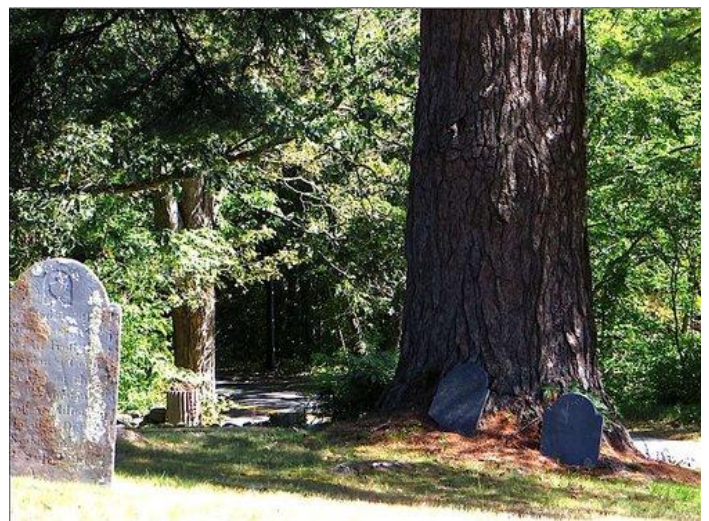
Here is a link to the Aldo Leopold Foundation: <http://www.aldoleopold.org/>, and finally, here is a link to some excerpts of his writings <http://gargravarr.cc.utexas.edu/chrisj/leopold-quotes.html>

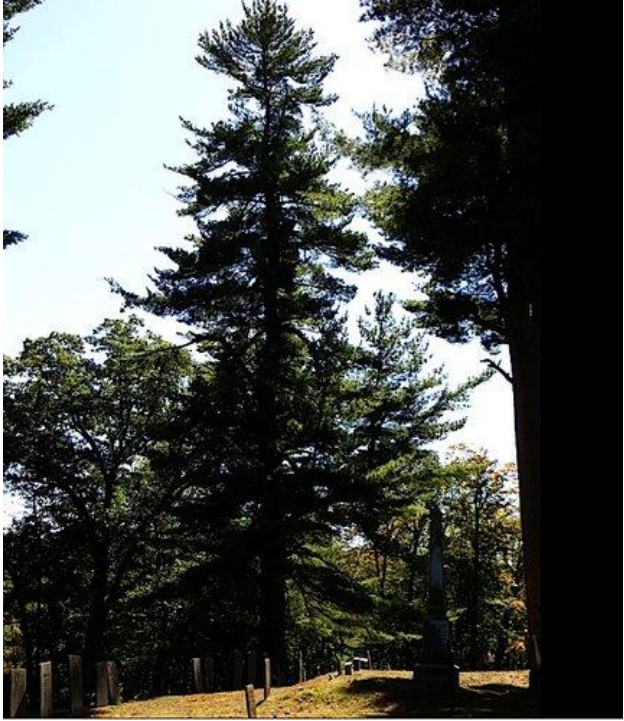
Michael Gatonska

Howland Cemetery, MA

by **dbhguru** » Fri Sep 21, 2012 5:04 pm

NTS, I'm working to update various lists that I keep. One is list of white pines in massachusetts measured by Ents that reach 290 points or more on the champion tree formula. One tree that I keep close tabs on is a huge pine in Conway's Howland Cemetery. I haven't always appreciated this pine. But it has acquired newfound respect. First some images.





The updated dimensions are: Height = 142.0 feet, Girth = 14.75 feet, Avg Crown spread = 69.0 feet.

The total big tree points come out to 337. That is not slouchy. Growth is very slow, but the tree is in good health. The 69-foot average crown spread surprised me. I'm accustomed to thinking of crown spreads for forest grown pines. Numbers between 35 and 50 feet are the norm, but these more open grown pines have much more to offer, crown-wise. What is especially satisfying is that the tree has a single trunk



. You can see in the attachment with the list of 290+ pointers that I'm up to 44 in Massachusetts. A trip to Ice Glen will give another. I couldn't find my numbers for a beast of a tree on the edge of the property. It will certainly make the list. All in good fun.

Tomorrow, Bart Bouricius and I participate in a bioblitz for a city park in Pittsfield, MA. Report pending.



[290PointPinesonMassProperties.xlsx](#)

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

White Pines on DCR Properties with total big tree points of 290 or more								
Hgt	Girth	Spread	Points		Property	Name	Summary	
160.2	13.3	48	332		MSF	Thoreau	Property	# >= 290
146.0	14.2	48	328		MSF	Grandfather	MTSF	25
143.0	14.1	48	324		MTSF	Trout Brook	MSF	4
165.0	12.1	48	322		MTSF	Tecumseh	KMDSF	5
167.5	11.8	45	320		MTSF	Saheda	Windsor	1
145.1	13.3	46	316		KMDSF	Dubuque	Total	35
140.3	13.5	48	314		WSF	Windsor SF		
140.3	13.4	48	313		KMDSF	Dubuque		
171.0	10.6	46	310		MTSF	Jake Swamp		
151.9	12.2	45	310		MTSF	James Madison		
144.2	12.6	46	306		MTSF	Thomas Jefferson		
142.4	12.7	46	306		MTSF	Hiawatha		
160.0	11.2	45	306		MTSF	Joseph Brant		
150.8	11.8	46	304		KMDSF	Dubuque		
142.5	12.3	49	302		MTSF	Campground		
156.1	11.2	45	302		MTSF	Mirror		
150.5	11.5	48	301		MTSF	Encampment		
125.3	13.6	48	301		MSF	Tim Zelazo		
152.5	11.3	48	300		MTSF	Wampanoag		
154.2	11.1	50	300		MTSF	Ed Frank		
152.9	11.2	46	299		MTSF	Sitting Bull		
153.9	11.0	48	298		MTSF	Bear		
141.0	12.0	50	298		MTSF	Indian Springs		
152.5	11.1	47	297		MTSF	Jani Pine		
162.0	10.3	47	297		MTSF	Frank Decontie		
157.2	10.6	50	297		MTSF	W. Commanda		
150.5	11.1	44	295		MTSF	Crazy Horse		
142.5	11.6	50	294		MTSF	Pooh Pine		
145.3	11.4	48	294		KMDSF	Unnamed		
154.0	10.6	50	294		MTSF	Paul Horn		
140.2	11.8	45	293		KMDSF	Unnamed		
156.4	10.3	47	292		MTSF	Sacajawea		
130.5	12.3	50	291		MSF	Sigurd Olson		
157.4	10.1	47	290		MTSF	Oneida		
142.5	11.3	48	290		MTSF	Totem Trail		