



# eNTS

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

The Native Tree Society and the  
Eastern Native Tree Society  
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<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: Frozen forest, Roan Highlands, NC/TN by James Robert Smith.*

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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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## Editor's Corner

By Edward Frank

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eNTS Magazine Editor-in-Chief  
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Welcome to the January 2013 issue of the eNTS Magazine. I find it difficult at times to know what to write in this space. I have not been able to get out into the field and measure trees much lately, but I am trying to still be active within the organization. So what have I been doing?

Earlier this month I started of with correspondence with Patty Jenkins of Tree Climbers International concerning the [2013 Tree Climbers International/NTS Event October 9-14](#). We were trying to get the information on NTS correct and the NTS member biographies who are doing presentations at the event. Go to the link above and sign up earlier if you want to attend. It looks like a great event.

I have been working on my list of things I want to see completed for the NTS organization for the next year. I am working on a series of article for Wikipedia on tree measurement. Altogether I have written about thirty pages with a few more to go between the six article series. I hope to get some drafts out Bob Leverett and Michael Taylor to look over within a week or so, then on to the web.

As part of that effort I have been going through various measurement posts and documents on our website and BBS to reference for the articles. Bob Leverett sometime ago published a post on a polygonal method of measuring crown areas. We have gone back over that process, and I have been corresponding with Bob concerning measuring crown spread and other similar features in the field using a compass and tape. This is similar to my previous experience doing cave surveys. I want to see that done and referenced in the Wikipedia article.

After a break for a couple of years I have again brought up the idea of Percent Cylinder Occupation – effectively seeing, given a measured volume of a tree, what percentage of a cylinder of the same size and height as the trunk of the tree would be occupied by the measured volume? The girth needs to be taken above the basal flair of the trunk. The idea is that trees tend to change form as they mature. Bob has suggested that young white pines are more conical in overall form, and approach a paraboloid shape as they age. Other trees may even have forms between paraboloid and cylindrical in form. But we need numbers to test these ideas.

This question was started again in response to a question about the volume of a giant spruce tree found in Michael Spraggon, Kouta Rasanen, and Jeroen Philipona's Balkans expedition. Michael estimated 50 m<sup>3</sup> for the tree. The best guess based on our limited numbers may be around 45 m<sup>3</sup> not counting any branches and the flair beyond the main bole at the base of the tree. So Micaheal's guess seems pretty spot on.

Our friends at Explore: The Ancient Trees of Africa have completed their expedition to South Africa and have some fantastic data we can share as soon as they finish its compilation. One of the members, Drew Bristow is still in Africa in a hospital. He has an infection in his knee from a spider bite, but is doing good and should get out of the hospital in a few days.

I have as always edited the last issue of the eNTS magazine and this one. I have been building our presence on Facebook, and as of this writing we have 3239 Likes on Facebook and a weekly total reach of 38, 625, and friends of friends numbers are just over 1.4 million.

The rest of you can also contribute even if you can't get out in the field. Answer questions posed, participate in the BBS discussions, and welcome new members into the group.

Edward Frank

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## [Re: Hawaii, Looking Back](#)

by **dbhguru** » Tue Jan 01, 2013 10:19 am

Larry, Thanks. My New Year's resolution is to complete several projects that have been moving along at a snail's pace. One major project will be to complete the book on Dendromorphometry, but following a faster process, courtesy of big Ed's design and advice. He'll be significantly involved in the project's later stages.

Do you have any projects on the front burner? What are your goals relative to the live oaks? Larry, on that initiative, you are the only show in town. It really is up to you to decide where to take the project. We're all behind you on it, and Monica and I have been considering a late winter trip to the deep South. If not this year almost certainly next.

I'll close with two images from Volcanoes NP. Both are from a relatively recent lava flow. Notice in the second image the young ohia starting life anew out of hard lava. Long live the ohia - spirit tree of the Islands.



Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: Will's Alaska Adventure](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Tue Jan 01, 2013 12:39 pm

Bob/NTS, My main three targets are black spruce, white spruce and balsam poplar. Unfortunately balsam poplar and black cottonwood overlap along the coast so I can't be too sure what I am looking at and range maps don't offer much help. There are a few eastern trees here like quaking aspen, balsam poplar, white and black spruce, and paper birch (although called Alaska paper birch)- and the mountain hemlock looks like Carolina hemlock.

Today's plan is to head to Valdez to scout some leads from several folks for white spruce and balsam poplar. However with the impending 15+ inches of snow coming we may forego the trip. We will decide in the next hour or so. Black spruce will be hard to spot when mixed with white spruce and covered in snow. I have yet to see the older floodplain terraces where black spruce is said to reach "large size". But I am fairly sure I have seen some big ones at the fringes of permafrost lenses. I have been following another car in a caravan so it was not easy to stop.

It is interesting to have only 5-6 hours of usable daylight. Yesterday the sun rose at 11:20 am and set at 3:45 pm. Fireworks went off at 5...

Indeed Don is out of state but plans to be back in a few days. We intend to meet up in Anchorage where I hope to hand him some new nomination forms! I should have internet most of the rest of the trip so I will post anything I find.

Will Blozan

## [Re: Frozen Forest](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Mon Dec 31, 2012 10:53 pm

I too, am in search of a winter experience and here in Alaska we are having it. Here are some shots from a heavy snow squall yesterday. The shots came out surrealistic due to the long zoom and density of

snow. I am on the hunt for a champion black spruce and have some good leads. If all goes well I should have three Alaska State records before I return in January.



Will Blozan

## [QR Tags - Famous Trees of Texas](#)

by **edfrank** » Tue Jan 01, 2013 5:30 pm

We were discussing QR Tags some time ago. Here is one place they are being used:

"Look for this new sign on the San Antonio Riverwalk. This is the first sign to go up on Famous Trees of Texas that are publicly accessible. Thanks Texas A&M Forest Service and City of San Antonio - Municipal Government"



## [New!! "The Science of Tree Rings" website](#)

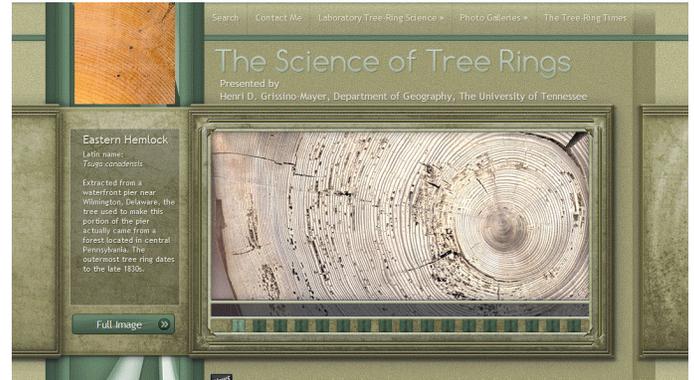
by **edfrank** » Tue Jan 01, 2013 5:36 pm

The Science of Tree Rings Website: The site is now live at: <http://web.utk.edu/~grissino/>

(formerly The Ultimate Tree Ring Website)

If anyone finds a broken link, please let me know so I can fix it. And please let me know what you like or don't like (use FB messages if you'd like). It's a

simple design, but I hope more informative with easier navigation and less distractions. -- Henri



Henri Grissino-Mayer December 26, 2012  
Announcing the  
Science of Tree Rings Web Site!

*Hi Everyone! In the coming days, I'll be releasing the newest rendition of the tree-ring web pages, renamed now "The Science of Tree Rings" web site. The previous version was good these past three years, but times caught up with my coding (and my 10-year old Frontpage software) and the web site was anything but W3C compliant. Gone are the flash-driven graphics, the cool color transitions, all the deprecated html code, and overuse of smaller, non-compliant images. The web site now goes back to its roots and focuses on a content-driven simple design not overwhelmed by graphics and images (any images used are also javascript-driven, not Adobe Flash-driven). The site will operate on a variety of platforms used today (PCs, tablets, smart phones), has been tested across all browsers, and comply for use by all individuals, including the visually impaired (thank you, "alt" fields). I now use Microsoft Expression Web 4 and Adobe Dreamweaver CS5 running on a Macbook Pro with VMWare Fusion 5 for Windows support.*

*I would appreciate feedback, positive and negative, when the web site is released! Please share with others in the dendro community who might be interested! Thanks all!*

*Henri Grissino-Mayer*

## Customary New Years Resolutions

by **dbhguru** » Tue Jan 01, 2013 7:50 pm

Hi All, for the past several years, on each New Years Day, or soon thereafter, I've gone through the motions of setting down my resolutions vis-a-vie NTS. Following this trend, should history hold true, I would violate or fail to fulfill most of the promises by mid-year. By year's end all my resolutions would be on the trash heap. So, this year, I'm going to be cautious. My only resolution is that I'm not going to make any firm resolutions. Instead, I present a hope list that includes what I hope will happen for myself and my fellow and lady Ents during 2013.

1. I hope to finish an Internet version of Dendromorphometry sometime in late 2013. If this happens, a more academic version can then be undertaken in accordance with the original plan - one that has proven too ambitious for an all-volunteer effort. So, I've switched to a quick and dirty version to come first in order to get a product out that can be distributed and referenced.

2. I hope not to set expectations for myself (or NTS) that are impossibly high. I've done that in years past. In particular, I don't want to set high expectations for cooperative ventures between NTS and other organizations or professions, with one noted exception (see 4 below). If positive associations happen, I want to be pleasantly surprised and enjoy the successes without judgment or keeping a scorecard. Naturally, I have some organizations in mind, but am trying not to project past the point of que sera sera.

3. I hope to be able to temper my criticisms of those who mis-measure trees badly. Oooh, did I say that? But even as I express this hope, I have wavering faith that I'll be able to discipline myself sufficiently. I start out with good intentions and then get overwhelmed with the foolishness of people who should darn well know better. So, I sound off, but to what end? Maybe I can program myself to look the other way. Three cheers for trying.

4. I hope to be able to forge a closer alliance between

NTS and LTI in 2013. So far, it has proven well worth the expended efforts, but much more can be done. The joint NTS-LTI events of 2012 included the tree measuring workshop in Cook Forest this past April, the rendezvous in Durango, CO in July, and the second tree measuring workshop in MTSF in October. That's a pretty good start. LTI has promised support of NTS. Let's take advantage of their generous offer.

5. I hope we'll be able to attract some more super performers to fill the geographical holes in our tree measuring coverage and to foster other tree-oriented projects (Michael Gatonska's tree soundscapes is an example of a stellar non-measuring project of the highest order of artistry).

6. I hope that we in NTS can better concentrate our efforts. Please bear with me on this one. There is only so much Ed Frank can do to bring it all together via the BBS. He's already done 10 lifetimes worth of work. Consequently, there's a huge amount of material out there, but alas, even with Ed's best efforts, it remains far too scattered. We need a set of conclusions that we draw and post, as opposed to what others may infer from the many, many posts. As a minimum, we need to establish a set of lists that we collectively maintain for display at the top of the BBS. That's the way the big folks do it in corporate information systems. They often create corporate "dashboards", with a purpose of keeping eyes focused on the important business indicators. The risk is always to overdo it by trying to think of everything and creating a complicated reporting system that few use. This should be simple. We could maintain the top 10 Rucker sites for the world (as we know it) and/or the top Rucker sites for a set of geographical regions we would agree to monitor. The Northeast, Southeast, Rocky Mountain West, and the Pacific realm could serve as a starting point for the USA. Kouta, Jeroen, and Michael could define several European provinces. Bart Bouricius could identify an area in Central or South America or both to monitor, etc.

7. I hope Larry Tucei can raise the number of live oaks reaching 20 feet in circumference to unimagined totals. Larry's persistence reflects the best of NTS. I

also wish comparable success for other standout Ents, including Brian Beduhn, Eli Dickerson, Ryan LeClair, Zane Moore. Naturally, I wish for exciting new discoveries by Michael Taylor and Mario Vaden in the Northwest. And Will in the Southeast is always a given. Aw shucks, I wish great new tree discoveries for everyone.

8. I wish success to all the champion tree coordinators who are in NTS. In particular, I wish my friend Don Bertollette success with his Alaska Champion Tree Program. I can't imagine the challenges a tree coordinator faces in Alaska. Don's up there by his lonesome, the most isolated of the Ents. I often forget what he faces in terms of geographical hurdles, and then there are the brown bears. Need I say more?

9. I hope that we in NTS can come to grips with the tree form challenge and settle on measurements and how to do them for the complex tropical and wetland forms and tree structures. Getting a handle on this problem would move us out of the customary three-tree-dimensions world and its timber origins. I say that is the direction we should take.

10. Lastly, I wish for good health and longevity for all my fellow and lady Ents. I'll stop the wish list at this point. Someone else's turn.

Robert T. Leverett

### [Frelich and Ostuno, 2012: Estimating wind speed...](#)

by **edfrank** » Tue Jan 01, 2013 5:41 pm

Ernie Ostuno wrote:

I am proud to announce that the project that Lee Frelich and I have been working on the last couple years has been published by the Electronic Journal of Severe Storms Meteorology:

<http://www.ejssm.org/ojs/index.php/ejssm/issue/view/42>

Frelich, L. E., and E. J. Ostuno, 2012: Estimating wind speeds of convective storms from tree damage. *Electronic J. Severe Storms Meteor.*, 7 (9), 1–19.

### *Electronic Journal of* **SEVERE STORMS METEOROLOGY**

#### **Estimating Wind Speeds of Convective Storms from Tree Damage**

LEE E. FRELICH

*Center for Forest Ecology, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, Minnesota*

ERNEST J. OSTUNO

*NOAA/National Weather Service Forecast Office, Grand Rapids, Michigan*

(Submitted 31 May 2012; in final form 30 December 2012)

#### ABSTRACT

In much of the central and eastern United States, tree damage is typically the most common damage indicator available to National Weather Service meteorologists estimating wind speeds from convective storms. Unfortunately, most meteorologists have little or no formal training in the susceptibility of trees to high winds, and the Enhanced Fujita scale does not address many of the various factors that affect the wind tolerance of trees. This study attempts to describe these factors and to provide a strategy for integrating them when estimating wind speeds based on tree damage. Several case studies are used to illustrate the problems and possibilities in deriving a more detailed damage scale than currently exists.

Abstract:

<http://www.ejssm.org/ojs/index.php/ejssm/article/view/111> pdf:

<http://www.ejssm.org/ojs/index.php/ejssm/article/view/111/87>

Frelich, L. E., and E. J. Ostuno, 2012: Estimating wind speeds of convective storms from tree damage. *Electronic J. Severe Storms Meteor.*, 7 (9), 1–19.

### [Re: Frelich and Ostuno, 2012: Estimating wind speed...](#)

by **Ernie Ostuno** » Fri Jan 25, 2013 2:24 am

Thanks for posting, Ed. This paper never would have happened without this group. Specifically, without a meteorologist like me having an "in" to the world of forestry research that ENTS provides. Lee Frelich's meticulous studies of wind disturbance from lines of powerful thunderstorms ("derechos") is a perfect background for an interdisciplinary study that helps meteorologists gain an understanding of the many variables that go into estimating wind speeds from tree damage. Even after many field surveys and observing the effects of high winds on different species, I learned quite a bit from researching this paper and reading Lee's works and references.

Ernie Ostuno

## [Re: QR Tags - Famous Trees of Texas](#)

by **eliahd24** » Tue Jan 01, 2013 9:31 pm

I've been brainstorming with Trees Atlanta (local non-profit and keeper of ATL champion tree list) on doing something similar for our champion trees. I have mixed feelings about it. In open grown, park-like settings (such as the river walk) it seems great. I would personally hesitate to place them next to forest champions though. It might take away from the "forest experience" to have signage such as this. I'm often torn between technology/education/signage and other things that give a place a higher profile and the more "hands-off" approach of protection and preservation that strives to have as little impact as possible, and maintain a low profile for the area so that it's not loved to death.... but I digress.

Regardless- the above QR signage project is fantastic and I'd love to see/hear how it works... I guess all I have to do is scan that code though! :)

Eli Dickerson

## [Re: QR Tags - Famous Trees of Texas](#)

by **dbhguru** » Wed Jan 02, 2013 9:24 am

Eli, I hear you on the risk of the public loving a tree to death. But in my opinion, an even greater risk is intentionally defacing a tree. In MTSF, we made the conscious decision to not identify the Jake Swamp tree, New England's tallest, nor any other exceptional trees on DCR lands to protect them. I believe that to be the right course. I'd rather err on the side of protection.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: QR Tags - Famous Trees of Texas](#)

by **eliahd24** » Wed Jan 02, 2013 2:05 pm

It's a delicate balance for sure. I once had a professor from Emory track me down (literally) after he read a post on my personal blog about some exceptional plants and trees in a forest on Emory's property. He was concerned about too many folks finding this place and potentially ruining it. I was careful to not put GPS coord's or specific directions, but apparently not vague enough for him. The QR codes for street trees or individuals that are already heavily visited in public areas seems like it could do more good than harm though. Mainly through education and recruiting new "tree huggers". Always a balance though....

## [Germantown Metropark, OH](#)

by pitsandmounds » Tue Jan 01, 2013 10:53 pm

Hi All,

I never realized how satisfying accurately measuring a tree can be, but now I know! I want to say thank you to everyone that has been involved with writing the various tree measuring guidelines and to everyone that actively posts on the BBS. There are several sites in SW Ohio that I want to document and I think Germantown Metropark will be one of the best. I'll keep measuring and report my findings.

Here is a video of a magnificent Tuliptree, Hgt: 150.3', CBH: 10.5'. I especially enjoyed finding the twisted American Hornbeam next to the Tuliptree. Enjoy the Thoreau quote, all Librivox recordings are in the public domain.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbcouwRVq-8>

- Matt Markworth

## [Re: Germantown Metropark, OH](#)

by pitsandmounds » Mon Jan 07, 2013 9:39 pm

Thanks Larry, I was walking down a small creek bed and was struck by this Tuliptree. Growing straight up to 140' with a slender 7.1' CBH, it's simply stunning. I included photos of my laser rangefinder and clinometer, and also a photo showing the sandy soil.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6-gxgK9Jxs>

-Matt Markworth

## [Re: Germantown Metropark, OH](#)

by pitsandmounds » Fri Jan 11, 2013 9:15 pm

A beautiful American Beech, paired with a Walden excerpt about tramping through the snow to keep an appointment with a Beech, Yellow Birch or a Pine . . .

Height: 109', CBH: 11.2'



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4P2zq5L7r0M>

-Matt Markworth

 [Germantown MetroPark.xls](#)

## [Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms](#)

by **dbhguru** » Wed Jan 02, 2013 10:59 am

Ed, After my Hawaii education, I'll address some of the points you made in your last post on measuring odd tree forms. One observation you made is the need to know how the form of a species changes as it grows into maturity and beyond. From what I saw of the banyans, ohias, koas, ironwoods, acacias, coastal mahoganies, etc. that form gets increasing complex, unruly, and most importantly, unpredictable. However, this observation does not apply to species like the cook pine, the form of which remains largely predictable. So, unfortunately, I see no universal principle at play that we can rely on. It is species specific.

In terms of which serves to reflect over all growth better, crown coverage or basal perimeter, well, sometimes one and sometimes the other. For a tree in a park that has no surrounding competition, I'd go with crown coverage. However, once we enter a rainforest environment, we can throw the rule book out the window. All bets are off. For instance, I have come across photos of ohias on Kauai that are structures of multiple trees that started at different times plus the usual kind of coppicing following injury. The result is a complex form that is irregular and bizarre and offers no clues as to simplification.

When we were just the Eastern Native Tree Society focused on the eastern USA, discussions such as these would have been purely academic, but as we extend our reach to more geographical regions, the academic fades in light of on-ground realities. It's as if we began as zoologists measuring the lengths and girths of eels, and after a period of comfort, ran headlong into a giant octopus. What to do? What to do? The traditional tree measurer simply ignores the

implications of the bizarre new form and tries to force the old system. But we Ents can do better - I think.

Remembering the coastal mahoganies on the Big Island, I am reminded of Larry Tucei's live oaks. Number, size, and length of limbs become the governing attributes. Heights may be relatively to measure, but they don't count for much, nor does girth of the organism at a few feet off the ground. What happens thereafter dictates the form and directs our attention to either a few large limbs or a more or less equal distribution of a larger number of limbs in an upside down octopus like structure. In some cases, a dominant limb thrusting outward, dipping to the ground and rising again is the dominant feature. It is a limb-dominant form as opposed to a trunk-dominant form. One point I must emphasize is that these trees cannot be conceptually extracted from their environment and measured as an abstraction. They are structures that have developed over time in unpredictable ways. Casual observation will not settle the issue as to what is the original part of the structure versus a coppice versus what was a separate seed landing in an area of decay and sprouting as a separate organism. A scientific investigation would solve the puzzle, but we can't turn a single tree into a career. So, do we concern ourselves with such challenging forms through a comparative system or treat each as its own universe?

In 2014, or before, Monica and I will return to the Islands and hopefully, I'll be better prepared to quantify what I'm seeing. All I could do this time was stand with my mouth agape. The very real possibility exists that these tree structures present problems of measurement to solve well beyond my pay grade. I'll end with an image of ohias on the big island. These are tree forms that are easy to deal with. I'll present images of challenging ones in future posts.



## [Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms](#)

by **edfrank** » Wed Jan 02, 2013 3:46 pm

Bob, I appreciate your comments. If you look at what I write when I do trip reports, I always try to include a description of the overall site and of the forest in general, along with what historical context I can find for the site. I have in the past also had a tendency to rail against modelers who tend to ignore things they cannot easily quantify in their model and would simply pretend these factors did not even exist.

At some point we need as a group to do better in our descriptions of sites we visit. I was so impressed, when I first started to participate, by the detail found in the reports published by Will Blozan and Jess Riddle in particular as they gave an impression of the overall forest, instead of just being a tabulation of numbers.

This brings me to the odd formed trees you are finding in the tropics. My multitruck classification here:

[http://www.nativetreesociety.org/multi/index\\_multi.htm](http://www.nativetreesociety.org/multi/index_multi.htm) is meant to be a guideline of how to approach the measurement of some of these odd forms. “The odd forms include those forms that grew because of unusual circumstances that affected the tree, or those trees that simply have an unusual growth form not seen in most other tree species.” They were devised as an approach to the problem of measuring these odd trees and not meant to be a rigid list of this must be done, and that must be done, but a way of looking at them. I suggested what thought were things that could be measured on these forms and put it out there for discussion, but I received few comments and little input on the concepts.

The approach I would take now on these trees is not so much different. Since most of these trees are unique or unusual in their form and not amenable to easy measurement, the best approach, in my opinion, is to write a detailed narrative description of the tree with what measurements we can take used to amplify and better illuminate the descriptions. My general comments above in post #16 still seem to be applicable:

We need to get a handle on what changes in the specimens as they grow from a smaller unit to a larger mass. What changes in terms of defined trunks, crown shape, etc. - how do the larger forms evolve over time and is that something we can breakdown into stages? What can we document, what can we describe, what can we photograph, and what can we measure that better help us describe this growth process? What variations are there between large specimens of a particular species or group of closely related species, and what is the cause of these variations? What differences are there between open grown specimens and those grown in a forested setting with other tall trees? How can we capture those differences?

These are still things we should try to investigate, even if the results are in a written narrative form rather than a collection of numerical measurements.

There are some things we should be trying to consistently measure whenever possible. I think height is something that is measurable. The area occupied by the trunks and the area occupied by the crown are similar values and are generally measurable. The area occupied by the trunks might be easier to measure in some cases. In open areas where the crown area could be measured more easily, maybe both values could be measured. I would still like to see where applicable as idea of how many large trunks are included in the tree complex and the approximate size of the largest trunk if possible.

Other measurements could be taken where they seem to add to the narrative description of that particular tree.

I think there are measurements we should plan on taking, and that should be measurable in most cases.

The maximum height of the complex should be measurable, the area occupied by the multiple trunks should be measurable, and in many cases the crown area should be measurable. GPS locations should be taken whenever possible. We need to know the location of our trees. If you can't use a GPS instrument, the locations should be pulled from Google Maps, or topographic maps where possible.

Beyond this are things like number of trunks larger than x value, the maximum girth of the largest trunk, and whatever seems appropriate for that particular tree. So I would favor narrative descriptions, with

some specific measurements that are included in most descriptions, and other measurements where useful to better describe the tree within the narrative.

I also want to emphasize the importance of photographs of the tree. There needs to be a process or system whereby the photos of a particular tree can be associated with the description of the tree in the researcher's notes. The goal of the narrative and measurements is to document the tree. Photographs can immensely improve the understanding of what is being described, and help readers to visualize the tree.

Edward Frank

### Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms

by **dbhguru** » Wed Jan 02, 2013 4:18 pm

Ed, Your approach is not only reasonable, thinking back on the bizarre forms I saw, it may be our only realistic approach. The combination of narrative,

measurements where they can be taken, a photograph, and GPS coordinates all are needed to do justice to the job. Dealing with the complex tree forms forces us to push the envelope in our thinking, and in the short term, if that is all that comes out of these discussions, our efforts will not have been for naught. In the long run, hopefully we'll add usable measurement methods for crown and basal areas. I intend to revisit my procedure for measuring area using a rangefinder, clinometer, and compass. The protocol I have now is too limited.

A challenge we have is to persuade other Ents to try out Excel worksheets, such as those already developed, that do all the computations from a set of simple inputs. As part of the Dendromorphometry, I will revisit the area calculators. One thing I know, a trip to the tropics has the power to broaden one's perspective on what we consider to be a tree and approaches to measuring and comparing complex forms. And in terms of measuring, we have a long way to go to exhaust the photographic possibilities. Consider the following image and the associated calculations. Pretty darn good, huh?

Robert T. Leverett



	Excel	Excel		
	Hgt	Width		
Actual Reference			5.8	
Reference Excel	1.75	0.03	1.75025712	
Target Excel	0.01	2.7	2.70001852	
Measured Target			8.94731819	28.1088291

Notes:

1. Pinchot sycamore, Simsbury, CT
2. Actual measured girth = 28.0 feet (at time of this photo, probably 27.9 ft)

$R_a$  = Actual width(hgt) of reference object  
 $R_e$  = Excel size of reference object

$T_w$  = measured width(hgt) of target object  
 $T_e$  = Excel size of Target object

$$T_w = \left( \frac{R_a}{R_e} \right) T_e$$

## [Near Redwood size Tulip Poplar, ok "near" small redwood size](#)

by **JohnnyDJersey** » Thu Jan 03, 2013 5:25 pm

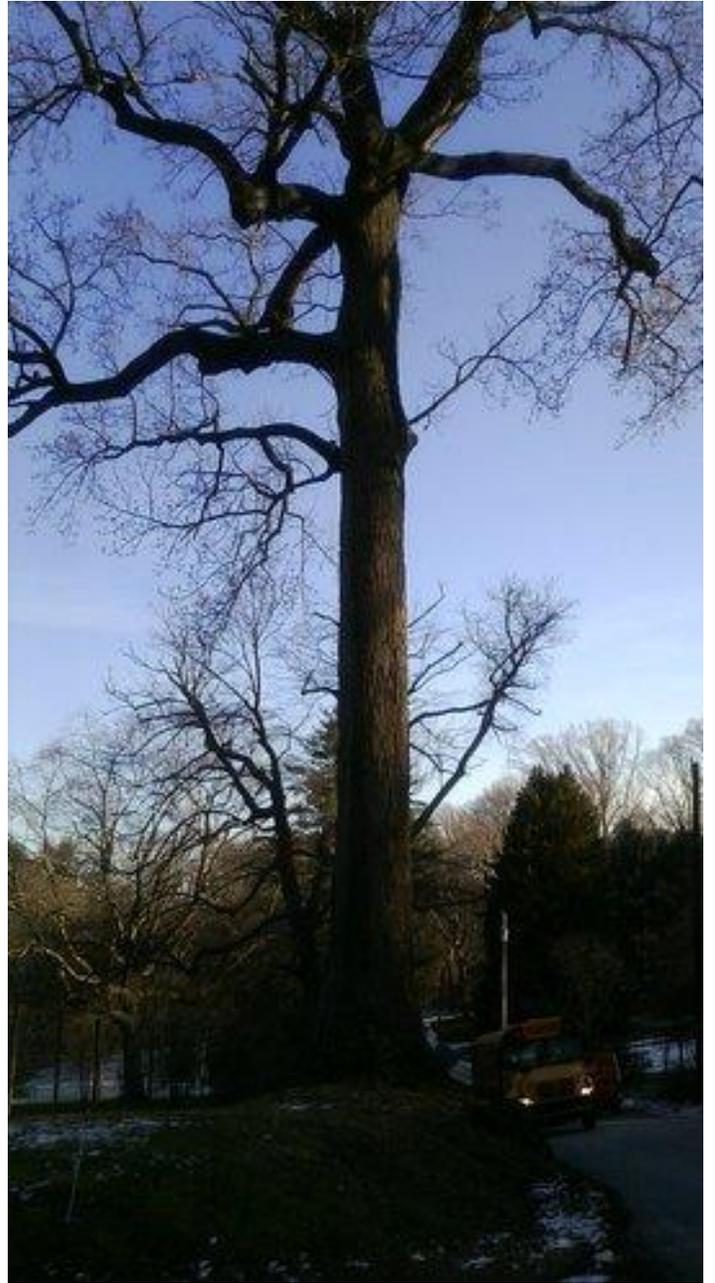
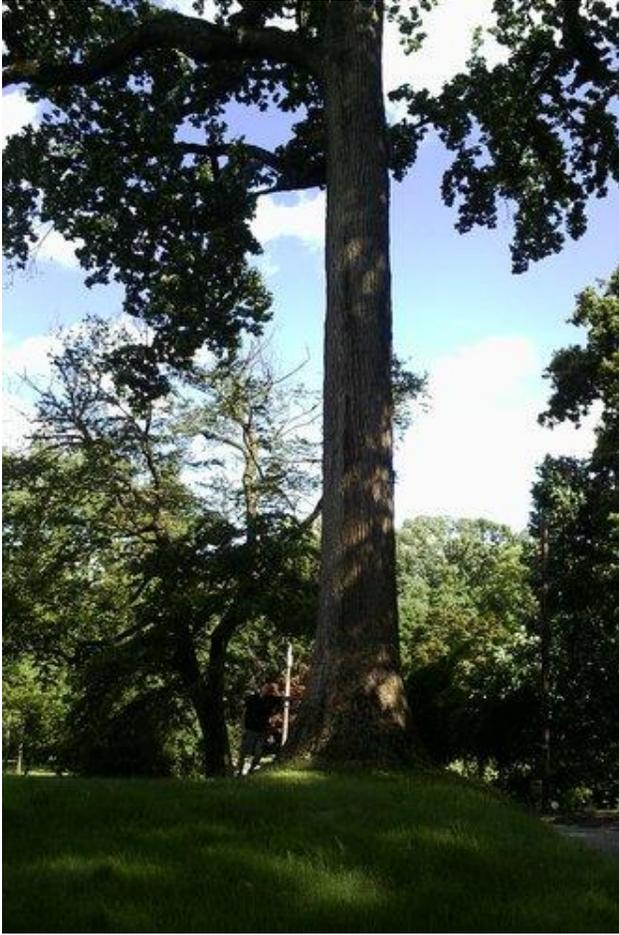
This is a known tree next to the Tyler Arboretum and I believe it to be the largest known Tulip Poplar in the state. ( PABigtrees.com) Ive gone to see the tree twice in the past year and am sharing my observations and a couple bad photos. I measured the tree 22'6" CBH, tree tapers very little then keeps its girth straight up to just under 100' as these trees often do. PA Big Trees lists it at over 132 ft high, spread of 86ft. Impressive.

In March Ill be spending a week in Northern California, I have never seen a Sequoia sempervirens or Sequoiadendron giganteum in the native ranges so it will be a treat. However I think that out of all the large trees I have seen (100s of them) this is the closest tree in comparison. Although not the largest by far, this tree has that sustained girth and impressive circumference. To think that Id have to multiply this tree by three to get large Redwood size is amazing.

Here are some photos.

John Harvey





Two more photos, nice school bus for scale here lol



## [Arizona - north](#)

by **tsharp** » Thu Jan 03, 2013 5:42 pm

### **NTS/WNTS**

I had a chance to spend almost a month wandering around Arizona during February and March of 2012. My itinerary was bracketed with me dropping off some people and equipment at Lee's Ferry on February 12 for a trip through the Grand Canyon and picking up the survivors at Pearce's Ferry on March 9. Other than some family visits in one of the Sun Cities near Phoenix and a week long visit from a brother and sister-in-law, I was free to set my own pace and schedule for some tree ID and measuring. I will break this trip description into three parts- Arizona north, Arizona riparian, and Arizona south. Since it truly was a ramble it will not necessarily be in chronological order.

### **Arizona North:**

First stop in Arizona was at Flagstaff to pick up last minute supplies (mostly beer), some late arrivals at the airport and then to Lee's Ferry for rig day on the Feb. 12th and launch day on the 13th.

After launch day I tent camped at Lee's Ferry for a couple of nights in some pretty rough weather as in wind, rain and the snow level falling to the level of the campsite. I decided to drive up along the Vermillion Cliffs along US 89A to spot some Condors but a bank of freezing fog precluded seeing much of anything.

When I got out of the fog I stopped and took this picture looking east back toward the Vermillion Cliffs. That fog bank stretched for about 30 miles from Marble Canyon to House Rock and the start of a Pinyon/Juniper forest.



Shortly after this I did stop and measure some trees on Kaibab National Forest in a typical Pinyon Pine/Juniper stand. The biggest measured were.

Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) 2.7' x 31.7',  
4.3' x 24.0' (girth @ 3 ½')

Twoneedle Pinyon (*Pinus edulis*) 4.1' x 30.8', 5.2' x  
29.0'

I continued on West toward Jacob Lake which is the  
turnoff for access to the North Rim of the Grand

Canyon. The one inch of snow at Lee's Ferry turned  
into a foot in this area and of course the road toward  
the North Rim is not plowed in the winter. I  
continued on toward Fredonia, AZ, and to Kanab,  
Utah where I took US 89 back to Page, AZ and then  
Lee's Ferry. Turned out to be a beautiful drive mostly  
in the snow and at Marble Canyon I caught the last  
sunlight on the Vermillion Cliffs that I missed in the  
morning.



The Vermilion Cliffs National Monument is 294,000 Acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management. For more information about this site see the following link:

[http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/blm\\_special\\_areas/natmon/vermilion.html](http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/natmon/vermilion.html)

Leaving Lee's Ferry and a cold windy campsite I headed back to Flagstaff via the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. The vistas at the various overlooks were mostly nonexistent because of low clouds and snow squalls. It was also almost impossible to pull over anywhere except a few parking areas that have been plowed. I finally found a spot near the south entrance and measured some trees with the biggest being:

Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa* var. *brachyptera*)  
8.4' x 77.6'

After leaving the park and again on Kaibab National Forest Land I stopped at another typical Pinyon/Juniper stand and measured some trees with the largest being:

Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) 4.6' x 30.2'  
Twoneedle Pinyon (*Pinus edulis*) 5.0' x 36.8'

For a complete list of trees measured on the three previous sites use the links to the Trees database:

Kaibab -  
North <http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1431/Details>  
Grand Canyon - South  
Rim <http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1282/Details>  
Kaibab  
South <http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1453/Details>

The next day after camping in a Super 8 Motel I paid a visit to the Walnut Creek National Monument which is just outside of Flagstaff. It features cliff dwellings along a 600' deep canyon and a small visitor center. The site was last permanently occupied by the sinaqua culture from approximately 1100 - 1300 AD. Later, I sat in the doorway of one of the dwellings for a good hour trying to imagine a time gone by.

Access was limited. Ice buildup on the walkway down into the canyon required that about half the distance was closed. The park was also doing a fuel reduction program on the rim and along the roads and trails where the snow was patchy. But trees must be measured and I caused some consternation with the fire tenders when I wandered into a burn area from an unexpected direction. After a mild admonishment they let me continue. Below is a list of the largest trees of each species measured.

Arizona Walnut (*Juglans major*) 1.7' x 27.7'  
Alligator Juniper (*Juniperus deppeneae*) 3.9' x 23.8'  
Oneseed Juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*) 1.1' x 17.8'  
Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) 5.8' x 28.4'  
Rocky Mountain Juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) 5.9' x 40.2'  
Fremont's Mahonia (*Mahonia fremontii*) 0.8' x 11.6'  
Twoneedle Pinyon (*Pinus edulis*) 4.5' x 47.1'  
Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa* var. *brachyptera*) 8.4' x 77.6, 9.0' x 67.9''  
Gambel Oak (*Quercus gambellii* var. *gambellii*) 3.1' x 36.1'

Below is a picture of Alligator Juniper bark



2.9' x 23.8'

For more information about the Walnut Canyon National Monument follow link below:

<http://www.nps.gov/waca/>

Carl Harting alerted me to a nice arboretum on Woody Mountain Road on the outskirts of Flagstaff. I knew it was closed this time of year but I went anyway and found some people present but they did not let me wander so I went across the road and wandered on some public land and measured some trees with biggest being

Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa* var. *brachyptera*) 11.2' x 107.0'  
Gambel Oak (*Quercus gambellii* var. *gambellii*) 3.1' x 39.8'

Below is a picture of a group of three Ponderosa Pines including the largest one on this site.



From left to right. Ponderosa Pines: 9.9' x 91.4 bent top, 11.2' x 107', 9.8' x 91.0'

The link below to the Trees Database has the complete listing of trees measured on this site.

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1286/1286/Details>

When I exited the property I read the fine print on the signs which indicated that this was State Trust Lands

and one needs a permit to gain access. Apparently the state manages a fair amount of acreage for the benefit of the school systems.

From this site there was a nice view looking north to the San Francisco Peaks.



I decided to get closer to the peaks and the next day paid a visit to the Snow Bowl which is a ski facility on the Coconino National Forest by special permit. It has been a contentious operation especially among Native American groups who consider the Peaks sacred. The weather was good and I had a pleasant drive up to the slopes. I drove past this beautiful Aspen stand along the way with appropriate signage saying "Aspen Corner".



I would have measured some trees in this stand but was ushered away with a pointed reminder that the numerous signs saying "no stopping or parking" along the road means just what it says.

I did get to measure some trees along the Anasazi Trail not far from the parking lot for the ski slopes. I did not make it far along the trail because one needed crampons to safely negotiate the icy trail that was covered by a thin layer of fresh snow. I did get to measure about 15 trees of the following species with the largest being.

Corkbark Fir (*Abies lasiocarpa* var. *arizonica*) 5.8' x 90.0', 6.2' x 66.2'

Engelmann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) 5.5' x 72.1', 6.3' x 67.1'

Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) 5.2' x 72.1',

5.4' x 68.7'

Rocky Mountain Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga mensiesii* var. *glauca*) 9.9' x 101.9'

I was particularly glad to see the Corkbark Firs which has a limited distribution Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico. Three are pictured below.



From left to right 6.2' x 73.8', ? x 86.3', 5.1' x 76.5'

The ski slopes are on the western slope of Mt. Agassiz which tops out at 12,356 feet. The trees were measured at an elevation of 9,200 feet which is about the same elevation as the bottom of the ski runs. The tallest of the San Francisco Peaks is Mt Humphreys at 12,633 feet . It should be noted that the peaks contain the only alpine/tundra environment in Arizona. It is also on these slopes that C. H. Merriam developed his "life zone" concept in 1889 as a means of describing areas with similar plant communities.

Later in the week I spent most of a day hiking the Campbell Mesa trail system on the Coconino National Forest lands near Flagstaff. This was at a much lower elevation (6,800') so icy trails were not a problem. The largest trees measured were:

Oneseed Juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*) 1.7' x 20.8' (girth @ 3 ½' on largest of six stems.

Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa* var. *brachyptera*) 9.7' x 99.8', 12.0' x 96.5'

Gambel Oak (*Quercus gambellii* var. *gambellii*) 6.2' x 36.1'

There had been a recent fire on this site and firefighter activities were still plainly evident such as fire lines, grubbed out stumps, raked areas, etc. The larger Ponderosa Pines were mostly spared and the clonal colonies of Gambel's Oak will re-sprout again but the various Juniper species took a hit.

A full listing of trees measured can be found on the Trees Database:

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1436/Details>

For more information on the Coconino National Forest see:

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

The largest girth Ponderosa Pine encountered on this trip was located at the Pioneer Museum of the Arizona Historical Society in Flagstaff. It was 13.2' x 96.7'. Ironically a steam locomotive used by a logging railroad that hauled the logs to the mill was in close proximity on the same site. For you steam train aficionados the locomotive is a 1929 Baldwin 2-6-6-2. It spent the last nine years of its life in Flagstaff and was retired in 1960.

Close by is the Northern Arizona Museum which is a worthy stop. See following link:

<http://www.musnaz.org/>

## [Re: Final Tribute to the Ohia](#)

by Joe » Thu Jan 03, 2013 3:20 pm

Bob, you say, "the Misslers are trying to save from development" --- is that area under short term threat from development- or just that they want to make sure it never happens? I find it amazing that any old growth there isn't already protected.

Does the state have strong enviro groups- and are they helping?

Joe

## [Re: Final Tribute to the Ohia](#)

by **dbhguru** » Thu Jan 03, 2013 6:17 pm

Joe, the Misslers are battling the current development plan. They've gotten support from individuals and organizations, but I don't know how much. They've stretched themselves very thin for the cause. On a more general theme, I don't have enough experience to judge the overall effectiveness of environmental organizations in the islands. I'm told that they don't wield that much influence. By contrast, the developers have enormous influence. What saves lots of Hawaii is the incredible ruggedness of the landscape. As a consequence, there is still lots of old growth in the islands. The Big Island, Maui, Oahu, Molokai, and Kauai have areas that defy penetration.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: Final Tribute to the Ohia](#)

by **dbhguru** » Fri Jan 04, 2013 10:15 am

*Kouta Räsänen wrote: The canopy appears to be quite open. Is it storms that keeps it open?*

Kouta, Ohias have fairly narrow crown and grow in sterile, incredibly rough lava fields. The mature forests are uneven-aged. There are weather events from time to time, but my current sense of the role of the weather in shaping the canopy is that it is minor. The other factors create ample space between the crowns. In contrast to the upper anopy, the first 20 to 40 feet above the forest floor is a nightmarish tangle. Where more Koa trees are present, I think the canopy is more closed. But I have lots more to learn before I can draw any firm conclusions.

*Joe Zorzin wrote: "Wasn't it the ruthless developers who wanted America to take over that island from a free people? Of course it's a fabulous addition to the Great American Empire- but maybe the natives didn't appreciate it.*

Joe, to say that the native Hawaiians got royally screwed would be the understatement of the

millenium. As with Native Americans here on the continent, what was done was done. There are local movements to regain some of the lost culture to include teaching the Hawaiian language in schools. All for a good cause.

When we weren't staying with friends, Monica and I avoided the big resorts with their manicured lawns, golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, and expensive gift shops. They create that totally artificial world that some many mainlanders seem to need. What is soooo delightful are the areas along the coasts that are far to rugged to develop. Kauai and Molokai, in particular, are noted for their incredible sea cliffs, but the Big Island and Maui have them as well. The only way to see the coastal areas where the cliffs drop out of the clouds and into the ocean is from the air or by boat. Some of the sea cliffs are between 2,000 and 3,000 feet in height. And if you start from the tops of the peaks only slightly farther inland, the drop can be as much as 4,000 feet. It is a sight that causes one to stand with mouth agape uttering phrases like HOLY !@#\$. There are a few hikes across the faces of the lava cliffs to get to these remote spots, but they are death-defying. As a consequence, there are 1,000-foot waterfalls that have never been officially measured. One on Molokai is purportedly 2,953 feet in height! Most of these unbelievably tall waterfalls have fairly small catch basins, so the size/width of the falls is not great (More on waterfalls and their measurement in a future post). Nonetheless, the high rainfall results in continuous waterfall activity. These thin silvery ribbons don't dry up. To my eye, streaming down near vertical cliffs, they create some of the most stunning scenery on the planet. BTW, some people believe that Kauai is the most beautiful place on Earth, but I don't see much to separate Kauai, Molakai, Maui, and parts of the Big Island. They are all island paradises except where the developers have destroyed them.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms](#)

by **KoutaR** » Thu Jan 03, 2013 8:48 am

Bob & Ed, Perhaps a very rough volume estimate for trees like in Bob's message #1 could be obtained in the following way:

1. Measure the CBH of the whole trunk-aerial root complex.
2. Take a sample area inside the complex, e.g. 1m x 1m in the case of the first tree and perhaps 2m x 2m in the case of the second tree.
3. Measure the circumferences of all the trunks and aerial roots in the sample area.
4. Calculate cross section areas for all the trunks and roots from the circumferences and divide the sum by the whole sample area (e.g. 1m<sup>2</sup> or 4m<sup>2</sup> above). You get a "wood/air" ratio.
5. Use (("wood/air" ratio) \* (CBH of the complex)) as a substitute for CBH.
6. The rest as with "normal" trees.

Kouta Räsänen

## [Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms](#)

by **dbhguru** » Thu Jan 03, 2013 9:53 am

Kouta, Some of the banyans have such tightly packed aerial roots that you can't penetrate the mass. However, I think there might be a photographic solution to arriving at a wood to air ratio. More on this in a future post, but I think you are correct that a wood to air ratio would be a useful measurement to use for comparison purposes. Where there is a will, there is a way.

I think that if we put our heads together, we can establish a measuring protocol for these odd-comple forms. We're at least making a start. With respect to the Cook Pines, one could almost calculate a conical volume as a standard statistic of comparison. They are amazingly conical in trunk form, much more so than white pines.

Now that I'm back in Massachusetts, I'm paying more attention to the Norway Spruces and their possible role as a competitor to the white pines for the region's tallest species. They don't rival the great whites now, but could in the future. The Norway is a great species and the fact that it is a non-native doesn't detract, in my mind, from the species now the way it did when ENTS was officially launched. Hawaii has influenced me in the way I think about the mix of native and non-native species. At some point, we have to make room for introduced species, especially if as in the Hawaiian example, they comprise about 98% of all species encountered in the settled regions.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms](#)

by **Joe** » Thu Jan 03, 2013 10:18 am

Especially now that so many of our native tree species are threatened, we need to adapt non native tree species that have qualities we like. I only wish that Norway Spruce would "escape" into the surrounding forests.

Joe Zorzin

## [Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms](#)

by **dbhguru** » Thu Jan 03, 2013 11:58 am

Joe, from a private consulting forester's perspective, which non-native species are viewed favorably and which ones aren't here in Massachusetts? How does that translate to public forestry? So far as I could tell, the state forestry apparatus in Hawaii continues to view species such as Eucalyptus and Cook Pines very favorably. There just aren't that many native species that are highly valuable as commercial crops.

In clearing their property for their new house, Richard and Patricia Missler are making excellent use of the native Ohia. If property dried, a process that

takes about two years, the wood is incredible for both construction and furniture. It is beautiful, durable, and incredibly hard. Since Ohia grows naturally in all kinds of environments, it would seem natural for foresters to encourage its use. But it has a significant disadvantage as a timber source. It grows very slowly. Nonetheless, it is now one of my favorite species on the planet.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms](#)

by **Don** » Fri Jan 04, 2013 1:30 am

Bob/Ed/Bart/Joe- Thought provoking stuff! Some of my thoughts ran to simpler solutions, and I liked the idea of (Ed knows this) a column for single stemmed trees and another for multi-stemmed...but that is also problematic for the Southeasterners with multi-stems thinking they have apples and tropical regions thinking their multi-stems are oranges...for which I pretty much agree.

Backing up to our ideas of "pith-centricity", and this shows my ignorance of tropical species, do they have a central pith, and do the "adventitious" branching that banyans and such, have pith.

If so, I'm kind of looking at four columns, the first single pithed, the second multi-pithed, and the third single-stemmed no-pithed (palms, for example), and the fourth multi-stemmed no-pithed.

Back to the apples and oranges thing, clearly crowns such as the banyan are a significant feature of their bigness, and for them, rather than quartering the crown-weighting in the current AF formula, establish a tropical AF formula that gives the impressive banyan crowns their due, say  $H + G + 5/4C = AF$  Tropical Score...

Of course, it won't be long before Bob and Monica are off to Figi, where there are trees of uncommon shape and size beyond belief, and a GNTTS forum

starts up (Gender Neutral/Native Tropical/Tree Society)...

Don Bertollette

## [Re: Measuring Odd Tree Forms](#)

by **dbhguru** » Fri Jan 04, 2013 12:32 pm

Don, you may be on to something. A 5/4 factor makes more sense by far than a 1/4th factor for forms that attract attention primarily through their crown spreads. We've been wedded to the one size fits all for so long that it seems unnatural for us to even talk of deviating, but that is what we need to do. A tree that features a 120-foot crown-spread, branches at 4 feet off the ground into a whorl of large limbs creates its impact through crown coverage and limb expansion. Then we have the banyan forms where crown coverage and root extensions create interior tree space that has little to do with a central trunk and distant crown. Then we have forms like the Cook Pine that make their impact mostly from their very narrow, upward stretching forms that direct our eye in one continuous upward sweep. They bear no resemblance to the prior forms. And let's not forget the form that has evolved into an unruly structure with plants growing from every crevice and a base that is obscured by vines and divided into trunks with no clear origin in terms of what came first. These forms attract attention to compare with soaring trunks 10 feet thick at eye level. I could go on, but the point is for us to be serious about the wide range of tree forms if we're going to be a player on the world stage. One size does not fit all.

Ed, points us in the direction of a thorough vetting of the form through narrative, measurements, and photography. At this point, we don't have a realistic alternative, but taking each dominant form and thinking about what features make the most impact and giving those features the proper weighting is a darn good direction to pursue.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Deodar Cedar \(Cedrus deodar\), MS](#)

by **Larry Tucei** » Fri Jan 04, 2013 3:39 pm

NTS, On my annual winter hunting trip to Noxubee Wildlife National Refuge in Central Ms., I made a visit to an old friend in Columbus. The largest Deodar Cedar that I know about. On Friday Dec 28 the weather was nasty with rain showers all day. So after hunting a few hours that morning I drove up to MUW Mississippi University for Women.

<http://web2.muw.edu/index.php>. My cousin attended the MSMS campus,

<http://www.msms.k12.ms.us/campus>: a High School for gifted students located at MUW back in the late 90's and that was my first encounter with Deodar Cedar.

I've always wanted to go back and measure this great specimen and so here it is. It rained the whole time I was there but luckily it wasn't heavy. It turns out that Ms. does not have a Deodar champion so this tree would be the State Champion. After further research this tree might also be the National Champion. The measurements were 51' tall, CBH 14' a multi-trunk, 8' 6", 6' trunks and Crown Spread of 66' x 66'. The Cedar scores 225 points. The Campus was built in 1884 so this tree although not native to the United States was most likely planted around this time period. I loved this species the moment I saw it and still hold it as one of my most favorites.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedrus\\_deodara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedrus_deodara). A few Loblolly Pines and one White Oak I measured in Noxubee will be posted later. Larry



Next to the Administration Bldg



Needles



Deodar Cedar

## [Re: Will's Alaska Adventure](#)

by **edfrank** » Fri Jan 04, 2013 4:41 pm

Will and Bob,

To a larger degree these trips to Alaska and Hawaii can be thought of as scouting trips to assess what you are dealing with in the field. Any measurements are a big plus and a win for both of you. Congratulations, you have adventures to share with the rest of us.

Ed

## [Re: Will's Alaska Adventure More Hawaii](#)

by **dbhguru** » Fri Jan 04, 2013 7:38 pm

Ed, Thanks. Our Hawaii and Alaska explorations make me wonder what is on Puerto Rico and other far flung American possessions. To be honest, I'd never given Hawaii a thought, but that has certainly changed. The big tree, exotic tree, complex form tree possibilities there are endless. And as you point out, every bit helps. We start out with no idea at all and from small beginnings our knowledge flowers.

This coming summer I hope to expand what we know about the Sangre de Cristo old growth as well as extend big tree searches in the San Juans. I also hope to get down into New Mexico and expand our knowledge base there. That humungus Rio Grand Cottonwood near Villa Neuva opened my eyes to possibilities in the greater Santa Fe area.

One more Ohia photo showing Richard Missler and yours truly.

Robert T. Leverett



## [Re: Customary New Years Resolutions](#)

▣ by **bbeduhn** » Fri Jan 04, 2013 10:09 am

Bob,

As a general rule, I don't make New Year's resolutions but...I do plan to continue ongoing projects at Biltmore, with Metasequoias and on and off the Foothills Trail in SC and NC. I also hope to get to the Smokies a couple of times. I want to get into spreadsheets to track annual or somewhat annual measurements on outstanding and some instanding trees.

Brian Beduhn

## [Re: Customary New Years Resolutions](#)

▣ by **Larry Tucei** » Fri Jan 04, 2013 6:30 pm

Bob, . 1. The Live Oak Project is ongoing although I didn't post as many trees last year as in the past there will be more coming soon. 2. A volume on the Ms State Champion would be a good start. I will contact the owner and get the ball rolling on that with some help from you Bob of course. There are lots of Live Oaks still to measure in Louisiana, Florida, Georgia with a few left in Ms., and Alabama. 3. I plan on getting up to Delta National Forest to measure the Virgin Sweet Gum and Pascagoula Mgt Area to record the big Cypress and others before spring. The water level is a factor in some locations but I have a small boat now so the sky's the Limit Bob!! 4. Jasper Co. Ms. has a 2.5 acre tract of 300-400 year old tract Long Leaf with the National Champion tree; I'd like to verify that aging. 5. Durango this summer with you Monica and others will be exciting. 6. To help others to appreciate our Trees and Forests. I would like to thank Ed for the fantastic job he does with BBS. I also want to thank Will, Don, Don, Michael, Mario, Eli, Brian, Ryan, Zane and all the other NTS members who help make this the best tree forum on the web!!!! Larry

## [Re: Customary New Years Resolutions](#)

▣ by **eliahd24** » Fri Jan 04, 2013 10:00 pm

What a great post Bob. And timely. I have a tradition of scribbling my resolutions on a napkin, but they tend to be more general. I need and want specific goals relating to my role with NTS. I've said before that I would be thrilled to compile a "max-list" for Georgia. Between Jess Riddle and myself, we have a mountain of data. Jess has found a few record breakers in the past few months that he has yet to post about as well (including a 151' White Ash!... sorry Jess, I couldn't resist). What I need from Bob/Ed/Will is a desired format for such a list. Even better would be a template with a few samples to get me started. I know we tend to go heavy on the data fields, but we should probably keep it fairly simple so that it's digestible and brings in newcomers and seasoned NTSers alike. Personally, I think we should have this for every state (which would require coordinators for every state as we have discussed in the past).

Other projects I want to FINISH in 2013 include the following:

- Updated Rucker10 for major sites in Atlanta (probably 20 sites more or less)
- Tally of Atlanta tuliptrees over 155' with GPS coord's (there's just too many to have a threshold lower than that)
- Tally of all the tuliptrees I've measured over 13' CBH in Atlanta (a list about 60 trees deep now including our first in the 16'x150' club)
- Tape drop of the 4 tallest trees in Atlanta, all of which are tuliptrees over 160' (this will be a challenge as I don't have the talent, experience or tools... maybe I can entice Will or other regional NTSers to take a road trip to Atlanta...)
- Update the Atlanta Rucker 10, R20 and R50 (no, that's not a typo)
- Continue to update Atlanta and Georgia Champion Tree Lists with new champions (and replace recently deceased champions)

....what else is there?? thoughts? anyone wanna help? ;)

I also want to second Larry and Bob's words- this really is the best board around and it's because of the great leadership, Ed's tireless work, and all of our wonderful members. Cheers and let's keep challenging ourselves and sharing our knowledge and passion with others!

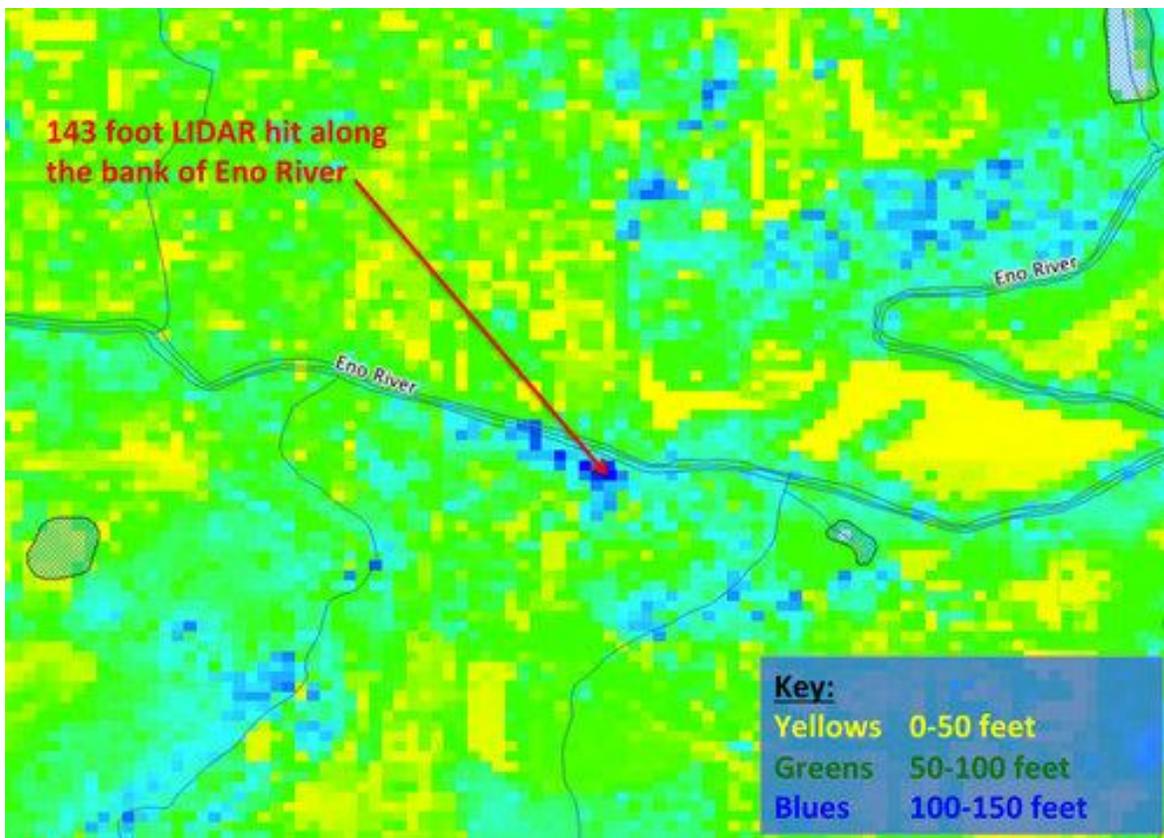
Eli Dickerson

## [Re: Eno River Tulip Tree - Hillsborough, NC](#)

by **pdbrandt** » Sat Jan 05, 2013 12:19 am

I revisited the Eno River Tulip Poplar recently to test out my new (to me at least) Nikon 440 rangefinder.

A Suunto clinometer is in the mail (also an ebay purchase) so I'm not official quite yet. Another reason for revisiting the tree is that I recently got access to NC's LIDAR data set, which suggests a height for this tree of 143 feet.



The "key" in the screen shot above gives a general idea of the color coded height values. I can click on each pixel and get the exact height read out, which is where the 143 foot LIDAR hit comes from.

Last year I measured this tree (as reported in the first post of this thread) via tape drop/pole extension to be 132 feet but I am not that confident in that measurement since it is very hard to do a tape drop measurement alone (someone needs to hold the tape at ground level to keep it taught). On this latest visit I climbed to 38 yards (114 feet) as confirmed by a rangefinder pulse directly to the ground. Then I measured the highest twigs directly above me at an additional 11 yards for a total tree height of 147 feet. Once I have the clinometer and have calibrated the Prostaff 440, I will measure the tree using the sine method from the ground and will post an update.



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

In case you're interested, here is a video report of this most recent climb.

Patrick Brandt

### [Re: Eno River Tulip Tree - Hillsborough, NC](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Sat Jan 05, 2013 12:40 am

Patrick, Thanks for sharing the update and video! Very nice tree. Since you have climbed the tree it will be a good one for you to hone your laser/clinometer skills on. Try different angles, distances and straight-up thru the crown (should be getting 45.5-46 yards standing underneath at midslope). Since you know the highest point your practice will let you know what works and what doesn't. Also, if all is going well you will never have a reading higher than your

tape drop.

Good luck and come up to Asheville for some climbs. You need to experience a 180' tuliptree.

Will Blozan

### [Re: Eno River Tulip Tree - Hillsborough, NC](#)

by **pbrandt** » Sat Jan 05, 2013 3:21 pm

Thanks, Will. I will definitely be coming to the Smokies again in late April 2013 (I visited the Sag Branch Tulip Poplar with your help last spring) and I'd love to see a 180'+ tulip tree this time around. Do you have any modeling climbs planned in the Smokies this spring that I could tag along for?

As far as this Tulip Poplar in Hillsborough. I am more confident in my most recent rangefinder height of 140+ feet than my initial tape drop measurement of 132 feet due to the fact that on the first climb I didn't go as high in the tree and I had to guess the pole extension height based on a 17 foot painters' pole that only reached about halfway to the highest branches even when fully extended. There are higher branches that could probably hold me just fine, but I didn't want to push my luck -- gravity can be very unforgiving.

### [Re: Eno River Tulip Tree - Hillsborough, NC](#)

by **Bart Bouricius** » Sun Jan 06, 2013 11:56 am

Beautiful Tulip. Being an arborist, I have spent a lot of time in trees that Sap Suckers have visited, and it seems to me that I have seen a preference for fruit trees, but especially Bass Wood or American Linden

where the holes are so frequently found that I use their presence to help me identify the tree when ID is not immediately clear. Tulip trees do not seem to be a favorite in this part of the country (Massachusetts).

### [Re: Eno River Tulip Tree - Hillsborough, NC](#)

by **pdbrandt** » Wed Jan 16, 2013 5:07 pm

Update: I revisited the Eno River Tulip Tree in Hillsborough with my newly calibrated Nikon 440 LRF and Suunto clinometer. The tree is quite challenging to measure because of thick undergrowth and overlapping crowns. I had to measure the upper portion and lower portion of the tree from 2 different locations. Adding the heights, I got a measure of 141.4 feet for the tree. The NC LIDAR data suggests a measure of 143' for this tree. Prior to calibrating the LRF I took it into the tree with me on the climb described in post #15 above. From a point within the crown I measured 38.0 yards to the mid-slope base of the tree and 11.0 yards to the highest sprig above me. Applying my calibration correction to those numbers and estimating the angle of each measurement at 85 degrees gives a value of 143.4. Despite the mild discrepancy in my two LRF measurements, I am confident that I have found my first 140+ foot deciduous tree. Another nearby tulip poplar is 122.1 feet tall.

The NC LIDAR data suggests a handful of additional 140 foot groves within a 30 mile radius of home on public lands - most of them in evergreen forests. I plan to visit all of them before leaf out so hopefully I will have another 140 footer to report on soon.

Patrick Brandt

### [Re: Customary New Years Resolutions](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sat Jan 05, 2013 11:58 am

Eli, Congratulations. Very impressive list. You, Will, Brian, Larry, Jess, and Michael Davie have boosted the South as the region of the country that is currently most active in terms of tree measuring. Not too surprisingly, the region of greatest activity shifts around. There was a time when New England, and Massachusetts in particular, was the most active area. Then Pennsylvania enjoyed a long period in the sun. We talked about the Pennsylvania A Team. George is keeping PA in the news these days. Ohio gained prominence thanks to Steve and Rand. With Matt in southern Ohio, that region could rise again. But not to overlook others. Tom Howard in New York does yeoman duty for us, and there is Ryan in CT.

I could go on, but there is an interesting dynamic at work here. Someone in a region comes forward to take the lead and that encourages others to follow. The unpredictability of who's going to be next makes the game all the more exciting. And now we're seeing geographical regions for which we've previously had little or no data starting to be represented. Picking up the West Coast experts, we now have direct access to the measurements for the Redwoods and Sequoias, and lately other species that nobody previously reported on. Michael Taylor, Mario Vaden, and Zane Moore are constantly rewriting the record books out there. Not to be too modest, I'll accept a pat on the back or two for the Rocky Mountain region and Hawaii. But both these areas have vast untapped potential, and a once per year visit just doesn't do the job. However, with Eric Morgan now located in Arizona, I believe we're going to start getting some good coverage in the Southwest - hopefully Eric can scout out Arizona, New Mexico, and southern California as his time permits. Comparable to the Marines, NTS is looking for a few good measurers. I think Eric well fits the requirement.

In terms of format for reporting trees on a max list, I well understand where you are coming from. We tend to go overboard. If the format doesn't work for the measurer, then it isn't going to be used. As a

minimum I believe we need the following columns in an Excel spreadsheet. Not all columns would be filled in for each tree.

Country  
State or Province  
County or Township  
Property Owner  
Site Name  
Subsite  
Latitude  
Longitude  
Species (Scientific)  
Species (Common)  
Measurer  
Date of Measurement  
Height  
Method of Height Measurement  
Girth  
Height at which girth is taken  
Maximum Spread  
Average Spread  
Area of Crown Coverage  
Trunk Volume  
Limb Volume  
Comments

Again, I stress, not all columns would be filled for a tree. For example, volume will seldom be measured. But these would be the columns in the order shown. No extra or stray columns. We need standardization. Columns with numeric entries would be entered as pure numbers (no text) to allow for aggregation, automatic selection of maximum and minimum, and averaging, where appropriate. If the format is absolutely standardized, consolidations become relatively easy and can be automated. Maybe the ENTS database could be tweaked to accept Excel data in the above format. That would be a huge step forward in our data organization.

I'll close with a reinforcement of our measuring mission. We pride ourselves on having a big tent to cover diverse tree interests. That will not change. However, the one activity in which we unquestionably excel is in locating and accurately measuring trees and documenting sites to a new level of quantitative completeness not elsewhere available.

In terms of documenting the superlatives and exploring species maximums, nobody can realistically dispute this. Our calling positions us to make contributions to scientific research if we so choose - and I do wish that we'd choose more often. It is true that many other people could enter the field and perform just as well as we do, but to this point in time, they haven't. So we have a very important role to continue playing if truth in the numbers is to be important, in the least. It would be satisfying if there was more recognition from outside sources of our role without our needing to toot our own whistle, but alas, self-promotion continues to be required. Ed Frank is presently working on a Wikipedia post on tree measuring for non-commercial purposes. He and I had discussed it at length months ago. Obviously, Will, Michael, and I will help Ed. But courtesy of Ed's initiative, things are moving fast. Ed's initiative, my determination to complete Dendromorphometry (keep your fingers crossed), and the indispensable bread and butter contributions of the rest of you could make 2013 our banner year. All we'll need is a symphony to and by the trees by Michael Gatonska to herald our accomplishments.

Robert T. Leverett

## [Rain Tree, U. S. Virgini Islands](#)

by **pbrandt** » Sat Jan 05, 2013 1:31 pm

*dbhguru wrote: Our Hawaii and Alaska explorations make me wonder what is on Puerto Rico and other far flung American possessions.*

Bob. I will be in Puerto Rico next month on business and may have some time to measure trees on the northeast side of the island. I'm hoping to get away for a couple of hours to explore El Yunque National Forest. Does anyone know of other areas of arboreal

interest in the NE quadrant of Puerto Rico?

Here are a couple pictures of a monster Rain Tree (*Albizia saman*) I located on a trip to the US Virgin Islands. I didn't have any means of measurement with me on that trip so I don't have any stats on the rain tree.

The rain tree is on St John Island in the US Virgin Islands. More precisely it is off North Shore Rd in Virgin Island National Park at Cinnamon Bay.





## [Re: Rain Tree, U. S. Virgin Islands](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sat Jan 05, 2013 3:29 pm

Patrick,

From photographic analysis, I think we can conclude that the Rain Tree is around 18.5 feet in girth at breast height. At this point, you hold the record for a tree in U. S. Virgin Islands. Congrats.

Robert T. Leverett

Patrick Brandt

## [Re: Richmond: Hollywood Cemetery](#)

by **adam.rosen** » Sun Jan 06, 2013 9:53 am

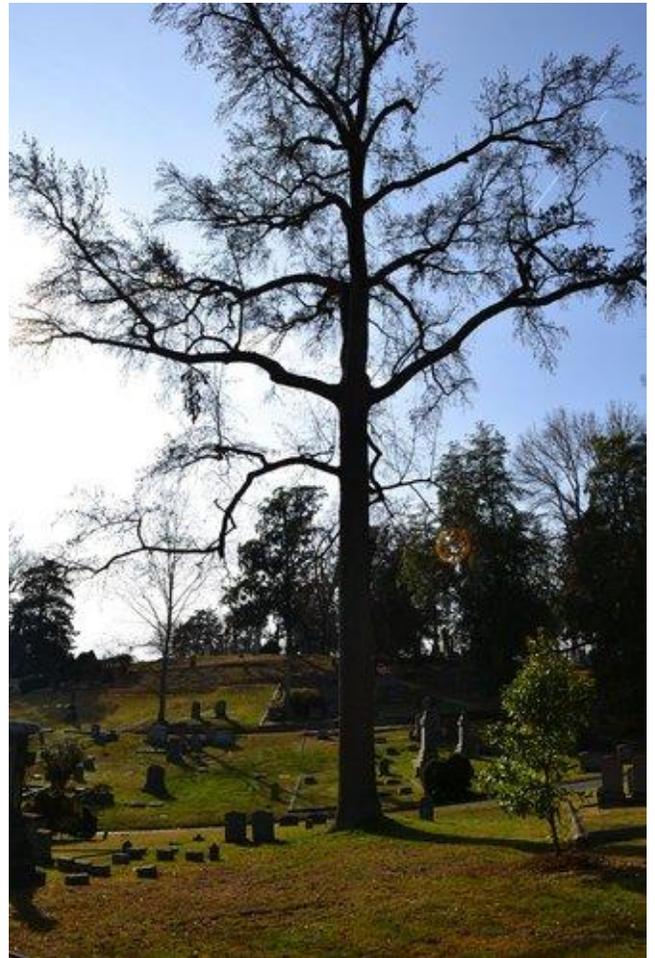
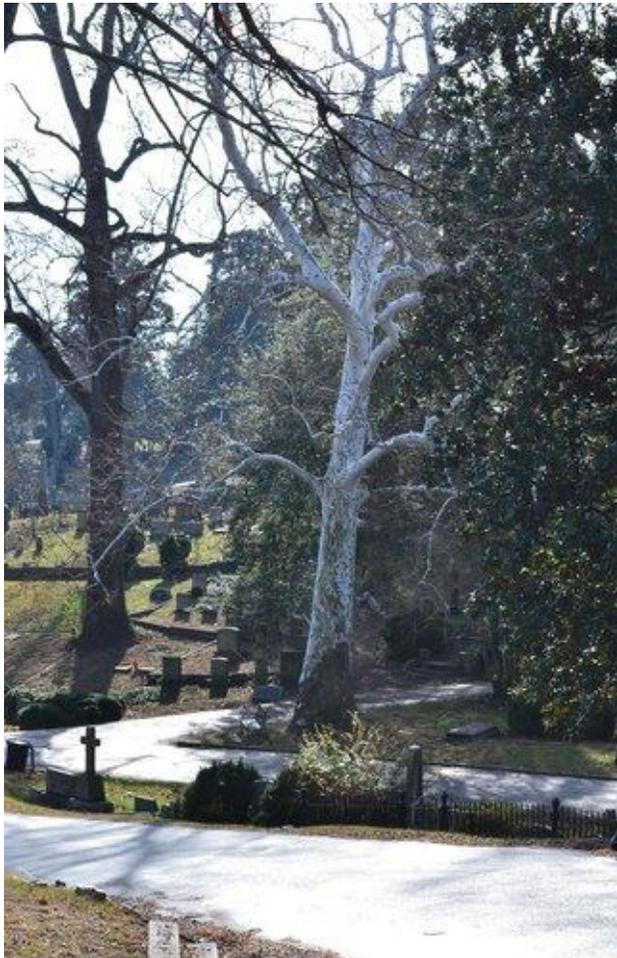
*On Decemebr 28, 2012 Adam Rosen wrote: I went there on Christmas day, will post my photos in a few days. Beautiful trees in this park. Here's what I think, not a one of them was planted/seeded prior*

*to1849. Great examples of how large a tree can grow in 160 years. Tulips, Bald Cypress, one really phat sycamore.*

Here are some photos, of the southern pine species that I can't identify, tulip poplar, sycamore, and bald cypress. Nothing spectacular, just nice trees in a beautiful spot, about 150 years old. Really, an amazing scenic spot, overlooking the James River. A must see for Ents visiting Richmond VA.







## [Re: Brazil Nut Harvesting](#)

by **pbrandt** » Sun Jan 06, 2013 8:58 am

So as to not totally derail Will's Alaska post (<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=65&t=4825&start=8>), which took a turn to the tropics, I'll share a couple of links here that I found concerning Brazil Nut harvesting. In a nutshell :) Brazil nuts fall from the tops of the 150 foot tall trees when they are ready and they are harvested from the ground.

Wake Forest University students study sustainable Brazil Nut harvesting techniques in the Amazon. <http://news.wfu.edu/2010/10/04/brazil-nut-harvesting/>

Video of Brazil Nut harvesting practices. [url]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtbnfLxbB4E&sns=em>[/url]

I wouldn't want to be under the tree during harvesting season! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZYmkd2FGUc&sns=em>

Patrick Brandt

## [Re: Suriname 1992](#)

by **Bart Bouricius** » Sun Jan 06, 2013 11:08 am

Great Stuff Will,

I have used Miles Silman, the professor that the two graduate students in this post were working under for valuable information. He measured a 58 meter (190 feet) Dipteryx species (wild almond) in Peru on a survey of formerly disputed and little studied land on the border of Peru and Ecuador. Several times I have been to the Southern part of the Peruvian Amazon in the area where the graduate students were working, and unfortunately in part of this area a transcontinental highway through Brazil and Peru was just finished, as the final link, the bridge over the

Madre de Dios River was just opened about a year ago. This road has facilitation illegal logging nearby though there are still large areas of relatively well protected land where Illegal Brazil nut tree logging is not taking place. Near the new road, even though the timbering is illegal, and produces much less revenue in the long run than nut harvesting, the wood is quite valuable and if the timber processors and sellers can buy wood that was illegally harvested, they are happy to do that. Often the laws in Peru are quite good, however resources for enforcement are not always sufficient.

Land adjacent to a reserve on the bank of the Madre de Dios where we built a canopy walkway a few years back has been particularly hard hit by loggers because the road was put through near there.

Regarding the Rain Tree or Monkey Pod Tree, this tree and the two giant Ceiba trees can produce crown spreads in excess of 200 feet. I have measured them in the case of *Ceiba pentandra*, and have gotten measurements over 160' spread in the case of *Ceiba samuama*. On the Rivers in the Northern part of the Peruvian Amazon where I spend more time, the Brazil nut tree does not grow, but a truly massive tree the Wyra caspi, probably *Cedrelinga cateniformis* does, and I have measured it to, I believe just over 190' as I was able to get a measurement of 188' with a straight up shot with the Nikon 440 rangefinder, which as aficionados here know, is only the minimum, not the true maximum height of a tree, which is generally at least a couple of feet higher, especially when it is hard to see the top twigs. I have a list of 74 trees that I believe are true emergent trees, and at least 5 of them, I believe have the potential to exceed 200' in exceptional individuals.

One more tidbit on Monkey Pod Tree, here is an image from [http://forestry.about.com/od/treephysio...\\_trees.htm](http://forestry.about.com/od/treephysio..._trees.htm) It is the 4th image down.

Bart Bouricius

## [Re: QR Tags - Famous Trees of Texas](#)

by **edfrank** » Sat Jan 05, 2013 11:52 am

Bob and Eli,

*Bob Leverett wrote: I hear you on the risk of the public loving a tree to death. But in my opinion, an even greater risk is intentionally defacing a tree. In MTSF, we made the conscious decision to not identify the Jake Swamp tree, New England's tallest, nor any other exceptional trees on DCR lands to protect them. I believe that to be the right course. I'd rather err on the side of protection.*

The trees with the labels do not need to be the most spectacular trees. They can be trees that people pass along a trail, or a tree growing between the sidewalk and the street. They can be trees that the public might encounter anywhere. If you want to protect the biggest trees or special trees, you don't need to label them. In many parks there are informational signs, or numbered posts keyed to a guidebook. In those parks where you have cell phone access (Cook Forest doesn't have cell service for example - so it would not work there) a QR-tag could be added to the sign to allow someone to obtain more information about the subject of the sign. Many of the environmental specialists seem to be taught that an informational sign cannot contain anything more than a handful of words of pabulum explaining anything the viewer might see. This is a piece of a planning outline for a guidebook for an auto tour between several forest sites:

5. Text per stop – 200 to 250 words
6. Text per transition area – 100 words

This clearly is not going to provide enough information to anything but the most brain dead of visitors. A QR-Tag could link to a webpage that actually provides useful information about the scene before them, or the ecology of the area. It could provide some detail about a particular species that might be the focus of the display. On a more mundane level, if QR-Tags were added to trail signs

periodically people could scan them and figure out where they were, how far they have come, and how far to where they are going. They could provide links to weather advisories. There are uses for them even if you decide not to label the biggest, best, and perhaps most sensitive trees or environments.

Edward Frank

## [Loblolly Pines Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, MS](#)

by **Larry Tucei** » Sun Jan 06, 2013 8:44 pm

NTS, I spent four days the week after Christmas hunting on NWNR and looking for big trees. The Noxubee, Octoc and other rivers were all out of their banks due to the heavy rains we have been receiving throughout this winter. I was not able to get into the area where the largest hardwoods were located so I stayed in the hills on the western side of the refuge. The 42,000 acre refuge contains some of the largest and tallest trees in the state of Ms. Most of the trees were I was in the 120' tall range and less than 8' CBH. The Forest mostly contains Loblolly Pine with White Oak, Shumard Red, Southern Red, Pin, and Northern Red Oak, Hickory, Sweet Gum, and Tulip Poplar mixed. I found witches broom in a Loblolly so I'll post a shot of it. The Loblolly Pine in the photos are as follows, 1. CBH- 9' 7", H- 108', 2. CBH- 10' 4", H- 117' and 3. CBH- 10' 10", H- 129'. I also did one larger White Oak in the last photos CBH- 10' 7", H-93'. Although these were not the tallest Loblolly's I've measured which was 138' tall in Noxubee in 2010, the 10' 10" turns out to be the largest CBH to date in the state that I have. The 9-11' CBH range is the largest I have found in the last several years of research. It may be possible to find some with larger in Bienville, Desoto or Homochitto National Forests of Ms. that remains to be seen.

Larry Tucei



Witches Broom



2nd Loblolly Pine



1st Loblolly



Loblolly Pine CBH 10' 10" H- 129'



White Oak



[Re: Redwood NP, CA Big Honkin Douglas Fir Trees](#)

by **mdvaden** » Sun Jan 06, 2013 9:45 pm

Here's a photo of Ol' Jed in Jedediah Smith redwoods, the Doug fir that Taylor and Sillett discovered back in the late 90's. Since I'm not set back next to it, the trunk may seem smaller.



M. D. Vaden of Oregon

**Re: Loblolly Pines Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, MS**

by **Chris** » Mon Jan 07, 2013 1:30 am

Are they doing anything with Red-cockaded Woodpecker in that part of the refuge? Around the HQ, they were actively "thinning" and making artificial nest holes [well, when I passed through in 2010), but I don't remember any of the Loblollies big as big as those guys. Nice!

**Re: Loblolly Pines Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, MS**

by **Larry Tucei** » Mon Jan 07, 2013 10:06 am

Chris, I talked to one of the game wardens about who decides when, where and why the timber is cut. He told me the main objective for the refuge was to make habitat for Ducks and Birds. I know they make nests for the Woodpecker and Wood Ducks. The area Manager would be the one to contact for details. I would like to get someone in our stupid Govt. to get involved and protect the timber from future cutting. They should only cut timber when a Tornado, Beetle infestation etc. comes through. I think our Govt. has enough of mine and your money to run these places and plenty more! The trees here in another 50-100 years would be similar to Congaree. These Refuges and National Forests in our country belong to the people for recreation and its time the idiots in charge wake up and protect these special places before they are no more!!!! My goal is to become more involved in my state to help make this happen. Hell I'm starting to sound like Joe and Bob!!! Haahhahahah!

Larry Tucei

**Re: Biltmore Estate Trees**

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Jan 07, 2013 4:38 pm

Ticket Center 1/5/13

These trees grow in the open around the ticket center. I've measured some of the trees before but skipped some because of not being able to ID them. I think I got most of them correctly.

ID#		
Quercus palustris	pin oak	94.5'
42		
Quercus macrocarpa	bur oak	117.7'
1091		
Quercus laurifolia	laurel oak	107.9'
41		
Carya ovata	shagbark hickory	99.3'
1090		
Carya glabra	pignut hickory	97.4'
46		
Ulmus glabra	Wych elm	97.4'
1098		
Ulmus laevis	Euro. white elm	105.7'
1107		

Garden along entrance road between arch and ticket center 1/5/13

Zelkova carpinifolia? Caucasian elm 116.7'  
 not certain on the id but have pics coming  
 ??????? English walnut? white basswood? little leaf linden? 127.9' pics coming soon. I found a walnut under the tree but that doesn't prove anything. The branches appear to be too small but am not familiar with English walnut. This tree is covered almost head to toe with thick vines.  
 Quercus macrocarpa bur oak 83.0'  
 Ulmus laevis? Euro white elm 124.0'  
 not as obvious as the white elm above but there was a 124 foot white elm measured at the ENTS gathering several years ago.

Brian Beduhn

## Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Jan 07, 2013 5:10 pm

Ticket Center to I-40 1/6/13

This area was less impressive than most I've seen, with the exception of the finest Norway spruce grove I've ever seen.

Picea abies	Norway spruce	114.2'	118.7'
119.8'	121.2'	122.4'	123.0'
	123.4'		
	previously measured in the grove		
113.1'	114.7'	120.6'	122.0'
Oxydendrum arboreum	sourwood	75.1'	87.3'
	and many smaller ones beneath the Norways		
Pinus echinata	shortleaf pine	101.9'	107.8'
quercus velotina	blk oak	111.7'	
pinus rigida	pitch pine	89.6'	
pinus strobus	white pine	137.8'	141.1'
quercus alba	white oak	101.0'	
Prunus serotina	blk cherry	105.0'	

This next area is a small ridge by a horse trail. This was pointed out by Bill Hascher last fall when I visited with him. It has thick underbrush so I waited a while before tackling it. It was worth the wait.

pinus echinata	shortleaf pine	101.1'	101.1'
103.0'	107.1'	107.3'	116.0'
	117.0'	117.9'	
Pinus virginiana	VA pine	88.1'	
Lirio. tulip	tuliptree	131.0'	

There's a series of trails by the hotel and Antler Hill Village. I just spent a matter of minutes there.

quercus alba	white oak	118.5'
pinus virginiana	VA pine	83.0'

Finally, I found a few VA pines. White oak and shortleaf pine increased, along with several exotics. The number of species topping 100' has risen to 42, and some of the richest areas have not yet been measured.

Current Rucker Indices

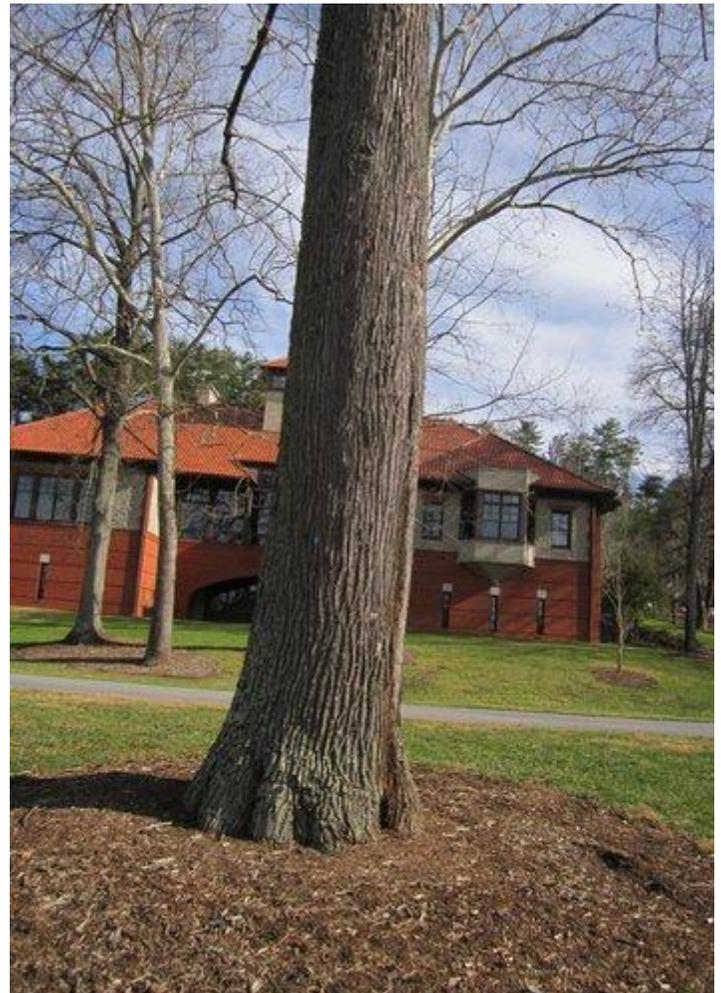
R5 = 145.74'

R10=139.25'  
R15=134.40'  
R20=130.40'  
R30=125.20'  
R40=120.60'  
R50=115.33'

Brian Beduhn

## Re: Biltmore Estate Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Thu Jan 10, 2013 10:48 am



Mystery tree. Bark looks like pignut hickory. May be a European tree.



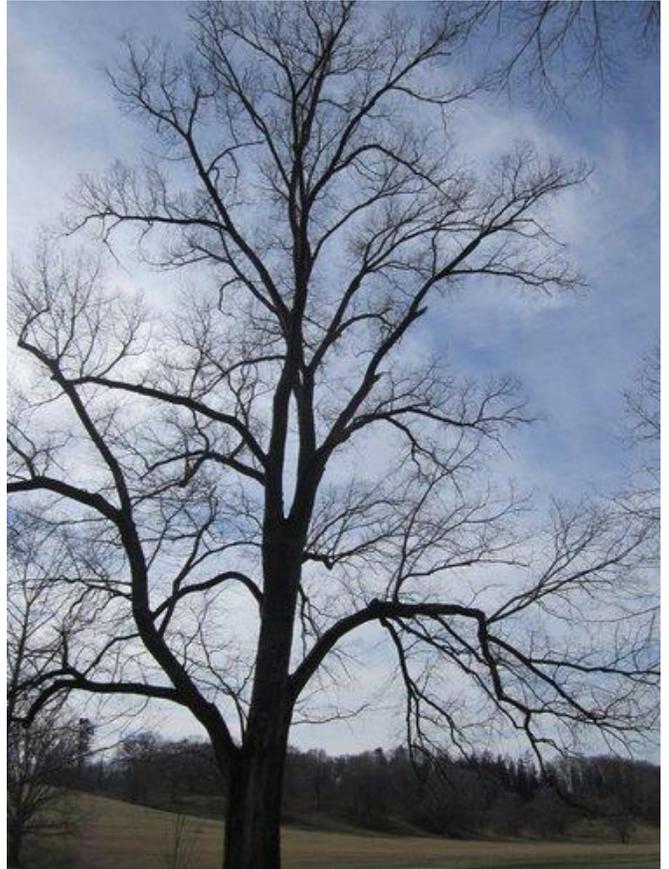
crown



ulmus minor field elm?



European white elm



ulmus minor crown



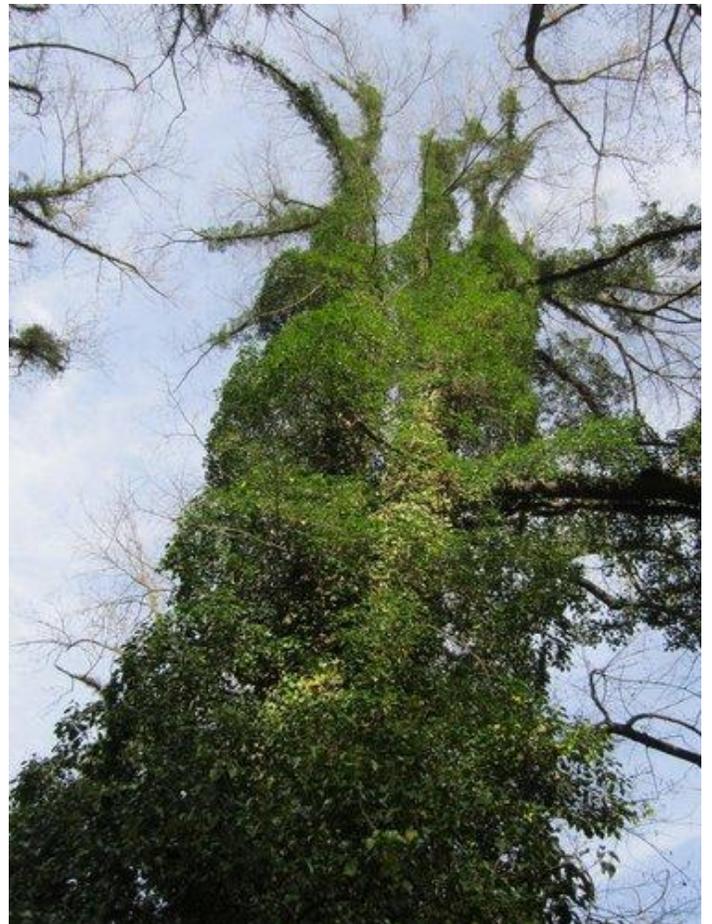
Caucasian elm?



Mystery tree (basswood, linden, English walnut?)



Caucasian elm crown?



Mystery tree crown 127.9'



Norway Grove 1

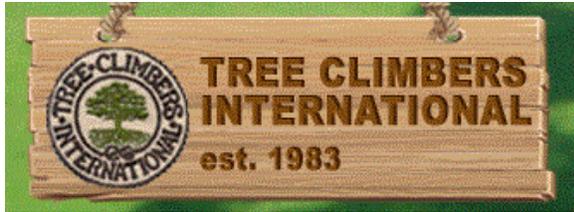


Norway grove 2



Norway grove 3

**2013 Tree Climbers  
International/NTS Event,  
October 9-14, 2013**



**The 2013 Rendezvous**

October 9-14, 2013

Hosted by Tree Climbers International  
Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross,  
Georgia

TCI <http://treeclimbing.com/> is thrilled to announce and invite you to the 2013 Tree Climbers' Rendezvous. This five-day event is going to be unbelievably fabulous. We have BIG TREES to climb and GREAT THINGS planned for when you're on the ground. You don't have to be a tree climber to attend. This Rendezvous will excite anyone who is interested in trees and/or the research being done in and about them.

**NEW!** This year, the Annual Tree Climbers Rendezvous is being combined with the annual Rendezvous held by the Native Tree Society. Can you imagine? The "big tree hunters" and others — some of the most knowledgeable people in the world of forestry, tree science, and tree preservation — will be with us. Some will bring presentations; most will have equipment and expertise to teach special workshops. What an exciting and extraordinary opportunity for learning and collaboration.



*5 folks in treeboat Tree Climbers Rendezvous, 2008  
How many people are piled up on this treeboat?  
If you think six, look again!*

See more pictures from the 2008 Tree Climbers Rendezvous at Simpsonwood in our "Rendezvous Gallery" <http://treeclimbing.com/index.php/galleries/rendezvous>.

**"Citizen Science for Tree Climbers"**

During any Tree Climbers' Rendezvous, there is usually a variety of excellent workshops taught by climbers with special skills. The 2013 Rendezvous will be no different, and we expect many of those classes which are always enjoyed by Rendezvous participants — including Basic Doubled- and Single-Rope Technique Climbing Classes (these held before the Rendezvous starts) — to be taught this year, too. However, the presence of Native Tree Society (NTS) members also makes it possible for us to create an expanded educational program around a central theme. The 2013 Tree Climbers Rendezvous will have a special focus on tree science in general, and tree measurement in particular. We call it "Citizen Science for Tree Climbers".

"Citizen Science" makes it possible for non-scientists to contribute to scientific research of all kinds. For example, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has an extensive data collection system to which amateur and professional bird watchers from all over the

world can report their sightings. People in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network measure local precipitation and report to a national database daily. We want tree climbers to be able to collect data about trees. We're up there climbing around anyway, so why not? All it takes is the inspiration, know-how, and a place where the data can be stored.

Among the following invited speakers and workshop presenters are respected scientists and tree experts from the Native Tree Society, the Old Growth Forest Network, and other institutions. They will teach us about trees, tell us about how and where they do their own work, and then show us how anyone can become a citizen tree scientist. These people (in alphabetical order) will be at the Rendezvous:

**Will Blozan:** Co-founder and President of the Eastern Native Tree Society (forerunner of the NTS) <http://www.nativetreesociety.org> and of Appalachian Arborists <http://www.appalachianarborists.com/>; author of "Tree Measuring Guidelines of the Eastern Native Tree Society" <http://www.ents-bbs.org/download/file.php?id=5066>. Will was the director of the Tsuga Search Project aimed at documenting the greatest of the eastern hemlocks before they succumbed to the hemlock wooly adelgid. He is currently part of the research team mapping the canopy structures of the giant sequoias, including the President Tree featured in the December 2012 National Geographic Magazine <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2012/12/sequoias/quammen-text>.

**Kim Coder:** Professor at the Warnell School of Forestry, University of Georgia [http://www.warnell.uga.edu/warnell\\_bios/app/Public/ViewBio/9](http://www.warnell.uga.edu/warnell_bios/app/Public/ViewBio/9); internationally recognized expert in community forestry, forest ecology and tree health care; Past President of the International Society of Arboriculture. Dr. Coder's frequent lectures to the Georgia Arborist Association are always lively, very informative, and a big hit.

**Robert Leverett:** Co-founder and Executive Director of the Eastern Native Tree Society (forerunner of the NTS). Bob has been called an "Evangelist for Old

Growth. He is the Co-founder and President of the Friends of Mohawk Trail State Forest, a non-profit environmental organization; principal architect of the Ancient Eastern Forest Conference Series; and co-founder of the Forest Summit Lecture Series at Holyoke College, MA. Bob is also co-author of The Sierra Club Guide to the Ancient Forests of the Northeast <http://www.amazon.com/Sierra-Guide-Ancient-Forests-Northeast/dp/1578050669>.

**Meg Lowman (invited):** Director of the North Carolina Nature Research Center (NRC) <http://naturesearch.org/>; Executive Director of the Tree Foundation <http://www.treefoundation.org/>; author of Forest Canopy Methods. "CanopyMeg" pioneered the science of canopy ecology. For over 30 years, she has designed hot-air balloons and walkways for treetop exploration to solve mysteries in the world's forests, especially insect pests and ecosystem health. Recent activities have included documenting and working to preserve the unique church forest of Ethiopia.

**Joan Maloof:** Founder and Director of the Old Growth Forest Network <http://www.oldgrowthforest.net/>; author of Among the Ancients: Adventures in the Eastern Old-Growth Forests and Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest.

**Richard Preston (invited):** Author <http://www.richardpreston.net/> of The Wild Trees, The Hot Zone, and other books and New Yorker magazine articles too numerous to name. Was a member of the four-person climbing team which made first ascent into "Hyperion," the world's tallest tree.

**Michael Taylor:** Big tree hunter featured in Richard Preston's "The Wild Trees", co-discoverer of "Hyperion"; American Forests Champion Tree Coordinator for California; owner of Landmark Trees <http://www.landmarktrees.net/>.

Members of the NTS are in the process of creating a program by which people can be "credentialed" in accurate tree measuring techniques. TCI would like to help them recruit a new army of climbers and non-

climbers to use those techniques.

We will publish a schedule and details of Rendezvous evening presentations and daytime workshops as they become available.

## Simpsonwood



*This is the main lodge at Simpsonwood, where we'll eat and meet. For other pictures of Simpsonwood, see their website.*

Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center <http://www.simpsonwood.org/> is a perfect place for a Rendezvous. It's easy to get to from major freeways and is only about 45 minutes from the Atlanta Airport. However, it's also isolated enough to feel like you are out in the woods. The property is bordered on one side by the Chattahoochee River. Its trees are typical of a mature forest in the Southeast: big and tall red oaks, white oaks, poplars, hickories, loblolly pines ... all these and more are plentiful.

Simpsonwood's dining room is huge, and the buffet-style meals are wonderful for any type of diet. There is a big conference room for evening presentations; small meetings and indoor workshops can be held in break-out rooms. Participants can camp in or under trees, or stay in motel-style rooms onsite. We couldn't ask for a better venue close to Atlanta.

## Essential Information and Registration Details

### • Dates

The Rendezvous starts on Wednesday, October 9 at noon (lunch) and ends on Monday, October 14 after breakfast.

### • Participants

The 2013 Rendezvous is open to anyone who wants to attend. If you are going to climb, you must supply your own climbing gear. All climbers are required to wear a helmet and to use branch protection at all times. There are trees suitable for doubled-rope and single-rope technique climbing (DRT and SRT, respectively), so bring a 150 to 200 foot rope. For safety purposes, climbers will be encouraged to use TCI's "Climber Above" banners on the tree that they are climbing. [People who are taking the Basic Tree Climbing Course immediately prior to the Rendezvous will be able to borrow gear from TCI.] All participants will be required to sign a Waiver of Liability and other forms.

Children are welcome if they are able to climb on their own. However, children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. There is special pricing for adults with children; please read the registration options carefully.

Pets are not welcome! We'd love to meet your doggie or kitty, but another time, please!

### • Food and Lodging

Participants can either camp onsite or stay in a room at Simpsonwood. There's plenty of room for everyone.

Camping: Participants at the 2008 Tree Climbing Rendezvous will remember the big campground with a firepit. This year we will also be able to set up tents in the large athletic field meadow. For people who want to camp in the treetops, the grove of white oaks behind the campground is perfect for numerous "tree villages" which can easily accommodate dozens of

hammocks! Showers and restroom facilities for campers are available, but limited.

Rooms: For people who want to stay indoors, there are lovely rooms for one, two, or three people. Each room has its own bathroom and two queen-size beds. Wi-fi is available, but phones and TVs are not.

#### • **Transportation**

Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center is located in Norcross, Georgia, northeast of Atlanta and outside the I-285 Atlanta Perimeter highway. If you're driving, pay close attention to the directions, as you pass through a residential neighborhood to get there. We suggest you print out GoogleMaps directions to find it easily. Parking at Simpsonwood is limited, and we ask that you help minimize the number of vehicles onsite by traveling with others.

If you are flying in, come in to the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. TCI will be arranging shuttles from the airport. You can also use our Rendezvous Forums thread to arrange with others to rent a car or van.

#### • **Weather**

Atlanta weather in October is usually ideal for tree climbing. Average temperatures are in the '70's during the day and in the '60's at night. But just to make sure you're prepared, we suggest that you check the weather before you come.

#### • **Pre-Rendezvous Classes**

The following classes will be offered prior to the start of the Rendezvous:

Basic (Doubled-Rope Technique) Tree Climbing Course for participants with no climbing experience. Two days, tuition \$450.

Single-Rope Technique Climbing Course for people who can climb using doubled-rope technique. Two days, tuition \$450.

Both courses will start at 1 p.m. on Monday, October 7 and run through noon on Wednesday, October 9.

Single- and Multi-pitch Rescue Course. 1-1/2 days, tuition \$300.

This course will start at 1 p.m. on Monday, October 7 and run through Tuesday the 8th.

All three courses will be taught by TCI-trained instructors. If you register for one, be sure to add room and board costs for two additional days. Course tuition also includes membership in Tree Climbers International.

#### • **Pre-Rendezvous Course Cancellation Policy:**

Registrants must cancel by September 9 in order to receive a tuition refund. This will give students who want to take a course time to make travel arrangements.

#### • **Price**

The price of this year's Rendezvous includes a fixed registration fee of \$100 plus a per day (combined) food and lodging fee. Unfortunately, we have to include a hefty 13% sales tax to food and lodging costs. Registrants will have a variety of "packages" to choose from on the Rendezvous Registration Form.

We are trying to keep the price of the Rendezvous as reasonable as possible for everyone who attends. We will also be supporting some participants who cannot afford the cost on their own. For these reasons, we will not be able to offer an early-bird registration discount.

Deposit: We require each participant to pay at least half of their total Rendezvous fee by August 1 unless you make different arrangements with us. We prefer payment by check (made payable to TCI) or money order (in U.S. dollars equivalent, please!) and sent to PO Box 5588, Atlanta, GA 31107, USA), but Paypal is also acceptable. (An account is not required for use of Paypal.) The balance of your payment will be due at Rendezvous check-in.

Cancellation Policy: Simpsonwood has a strict room guarantee policy. After August 7, we will be charged for unoccupied rooms that have been reserved. Therefore, if you must cancel, please let us know as much in advance as possible. The following applies:

*If you cancel prior to August 7, we will refund your entire deposit minus a \$35 administrative fee.*

*After that and until September 22, we will have to deduct an additional \$50 per night from your deposit.*

*Cancellations received on or after September 23rd will forfeit your entire deposit.*

In the event you must cancel, we will do our best to refund more of your deposit if we are able to fill your slot from a waiting list or last-minute request to attend.

The Registration Form for the 2013 Rendezvous will be available shortly. •

## [Photo Measurements](#)

□ by **dbhguru** » Mon Jan 07, 2013 5:35 pm

NTS, my primary camera is a Canon Powershot SX260 HS. I've been testing it as a means of measuring diameter at a distance. So far, it has worked. Here is an image taken outdoors. You see two rulers in the image. One ruler is 12 inches and the other 18. I used the 18-inch ruler as a reference object. The 12-inch ruler is the target object, i.e. the object to be measured through photographic analysis.

I first pull the image into Excel. Using shape objects, I then mask the reference and target objects with line objects and set their colors to yellow so they will show up clearly. By going to the format option and size sub-option, I can take the Excel size of each object. With my laser rangefinder, I take the distance of each object. Using the formula shown, I

then calculate the actual size of the target object using the Excel size and the other quantities. So far, the system has worked well and is independent of the how much of the telephoto capability I use. I'll show the results of more tests in the coming weeks. Note in the image, I was sloppy in orienting the reference and target objects and still came within 0.4 inches of the actual length of the target.

This method works for circular/cylindrical objects at varying distances. You have to have the distance to each target, the actual size of the reference object and its distance. If you have those quantities, you could measure diameters and corresponding girths of all the trees in your photograph. At least, I can with my camera. What you can do for the trunk of a tree, you can do for a limb. So basically, if you identify the points on a trunk and its limbs that you want to measure and record their distances, vertical angles, and azimuths, so long as you have your reference object and its distance in the photo, you can model what you see in the photograph. This method provides us with an alternative to using a reticle focused monocular, which can be time consuming, and in addition to the rangefinder and clinometer requires a tripod to steady the monocular.

With Visual Basic for Applications, the process could be partially automated. It would require a rigidly followed measuring protocol, but isn't beyond the realm of possibility. Michael Taylor is better at this kind of sophisticated graphics programming than I am, but Michael has his hands full. If he doesn't take it on as a project, I may give it a try.

But we don't have to wait on an automated solution. Members can use the method described above to some advantage.

Robert T. Leverett



Object	Type	Excel Size	Actual Size	Dist	Measured Size	Diff
Ruler 12"	Target	2.929	12	41.5	12.385093	0.385
Ruler 18"	Reference	4.362	18	40.5		

$$T_m = \frac{R_a}{R_x} \frac{T_d}{R_d} T_x$$

**R<sub>a</sub>** = actual diameter, reference object

**R<sub>x</sub>** = Excel size, reference object

**T<sub>d</sub>** = distance, target object

**R<sub>d</sub>** = distance, reference object

**T<sub>x</sub>** = Excel size, target object

## [Bushwhacking in Big Ivy, NC](#)

by jamesrobertsmith » Mon Jan 07, 2013 12:12 pm

Big Ivy has been on my to-do list for ages. Many years, in fact. I've hiked all around it, but had never ventured directly into the area. So my hiking pal Andy Kunkle and I decided to head over there on Sunday. I rarely bushwhack in new areas. When I do, I like to have Andy along. He's exceptionally good at map-reading and has an excellent sense of direction. He's never steered us wrong when plunging into the brush to find a way through.

Our main goals were to try to find some groves of exceptional trees, which I know are present and to find new waterfalls. But we were just blundering around in there, so if we found any good sites, it would have been by chance. The secondary purpose was to find undocumented waterfalls. This was the more scientific of our adventure as we were going to check the Walker Creek watershed along topographic locations that indicated prime spots to find waterfalls. In this latter goal we did succeed, locating several waterfalls that are not in any literature (online or in print) that we have encountered.



Andy Kunkle, and his dogs Boone and Kona. (And lots of exceptionally huge and sadly dead hemlocks.)



Trying to get down to a series of waterfalls we did stumble upon a serious grove of big poplars. One poplar I wanted to get to was much larger than this one, but to get to that tree would have been exceedingly difficult, so I'll leave that for another day.



One of the new waterfalls we encountered.



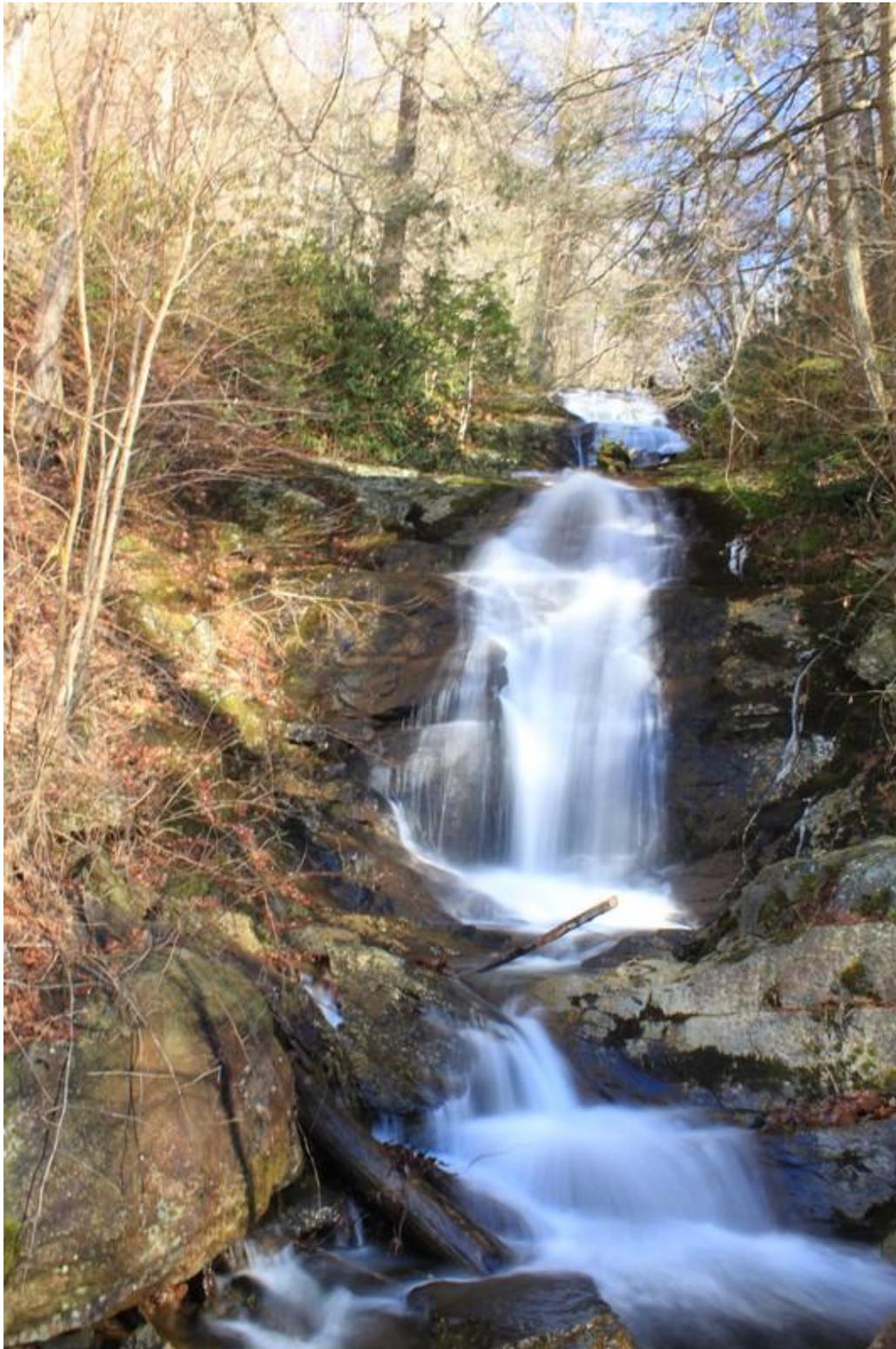
Andy and I were both surprised at how open the forests were. I took this one as we were bushwhacking up from the Walker Creek watershed toward Forest Service Road 74.



Long shot of a series of undocumented waterfalls and cascades on Walker Creek.



This poplar was big, but not enormous. Probably 12 feet in circumference. However, I was impressed with the bark features and so snapped this shot.



The road accessible and often-photographed Walker Falls.



Looking toward the 5400+foot ridgleline leading up toward Big Butt Mountain.



One spruce tree in a grove that has to be one of the lowest stands of spruce trees that I've encountered. The slope was north facing, so maybe that has something to do with it.