

"Natural forests" in Europe - a very short survey

by **Quercus** » Thu Apr 11, 2013 12:13 pm

survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VQQBRQF>
it will take you up to 3 min

Dear Colleagues,

"Natural forest" is not a clear cut concept in Europe. Putting aside the concept of "climax" we adapt a variety of criteria, according to which we define an ecosystem naturalness. Adapted models of a "natural forest" may differ, among other things, in stand species composition. The present experiment is aimed to assess the model variability within relatively uniform environmental conditions of lowland temperate Europe, rich mesic sites (broad-leaf forest habitats).

Imagine a forest in such conditions (lowland, temperate zone, rich mesic [neither dry nor wet]), which is a result of natural processes. Direct impact of man (including such in detectable past) should be excluded. This will lead to establishment of a certain set of species. The questions are not about the percent share of a species in the canopy, but about the probability with which such processes will allow a species to perpetuate there. [This paragraph was added following the advice of two Czech Colleagues - Thank you!]

This is why I take liberty to ask you to participate in a short 1-3 minute quiz dedicated to professionals and students of advanced forestry, biology or environmental science courses. Please encourage also your students/colleagues to fill this survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VQQBRQF>. Feel free to forward my message further to those to whom it might be of interest.

Thank you for your help and cooperation. As soon as the questionnaire results are collated they will be shared with all who are interested. The survey will be open until April 27th.

Looking forward to feedback from you, with best wishes and greetings.

Andrzej Bobiec, PhD, Ass. Professor

a_bobiec@univ.rzeszow.pl

Katedra Agroekologii i Architektury Krajobrazu

Wydział Biologiczno-Rolniczy

Uniwersytet Rzeszowski

Agroecology and Landscape Architecture

Faculty of Biology and Agriculture

University of Rzeszów

<http://www.univ.rzeszow.pl>

ul. M. Ćwiklińskiej 2

35-601 Rzeszów

tel. 0048-178721785

Re: "Natural forests" in Europe - a very short survey

by Don » Sun Apr 14, 2013 4:49 pm

Andrzej- First, I wanted to say that you have addressed a forum that embraces 'natural forests', and you are among friends here.

Your English is excellent, sad to say my fluency is limited to English. That said, I would respectfully suggest that in a survey request about natural forests, introducing the topic with the phrase "clear cut" might not be the best choice of words. A technique employed by too many loggers, for far too long in our own country, "clearcutting" involved the logging of *all* trees within the boundaries of the sale unit. There are sizes and shapes which have purpose and integrity, but not on the scale historically used. Have you a definition of natural forests that you find complete? I notice that you refer to excluding man, specifically in the detectable past. Was there a level of presence that man *was* a part of the natural forest, prior to him being "detectable"?

Don Bertolette

[Re: "Natural forests" in Europe - a very short survey](#)

by **Quercus** » Mon Apr 15, 2013 8:59 am

Hi Don

Thank you for kind comments. Talking about "exclusion of man" I didn't want to be a purist and exclude occasional visits or even use (such as hunting, picking berries, mushrooms, occasional felling of single trees) - such interference with the natural course usually doesn't change or re-direct it. I have been addressing the intuition rather than strict definitions (actually I am not aware of such) or thresholds. The intuition assuming that internal dynamics of the forest ecosystem is a leading factor. Man, from his very nature, is not a forest species, at least the temperate climate man. I am not an anthropologist, perhaps some primitive cultures in equatorial Africa or America are adapted to live permanently in dense forests, but in Europe and N America we'd always been clearing or adapting forest ecosystems to satisfy the needs of our communities settled outside forests or in heavily modified woods. Such assumption considerably confines "natural forests" to some preserved pockets either by long-lasting legal institutions or by natural barriers (the latter hardly applies to lowland forests in temperate climate...).

Finally, yes, "clear-cut" was not a perfect adjective in that context :)

Andrzej

[AFA Tree Measuring Guidelines Working Group](#)

by Iowa Big Tree Guy » Wed Apr 10, 2013 10:18 pm

Fellow NTS members,

Has anyone else heard about the American Forestry Associations big tree working groups. One of these groups will deal with determining which species should be eligible for inclusion in the national register. The other group will work on modifying the measuring guidelines.

The Measuring Guidelines Working Group is the one that interests me the most. I have applied for a spot on this committee and I thought some of you might be interested as well. This is a chance to make some modifications to the existing guidelines to hopefully improve the accuracy of the tree measurements in the National Register of Big Trees. Another goal of this group is to devise a plan to deal with trees with atypical form, such as low forking and multiple trunked trees.

This may not be the total solution but it is a big step in the right direction. I intended to send this post much earlier but I have been very busy. If anyone is interested in applying for either of these working groups, please hurry since the cut off date is April 15th.

Mark Rouw

[Re: AFA Tree Measuring Guidelines Working Group](#)

by **edfrank** » Wed Apr 10, 2013 10:28 pm

Mark, Yes I have sent in an application and perhaps some others have also. I hope we have many NTS in the group.

Ed

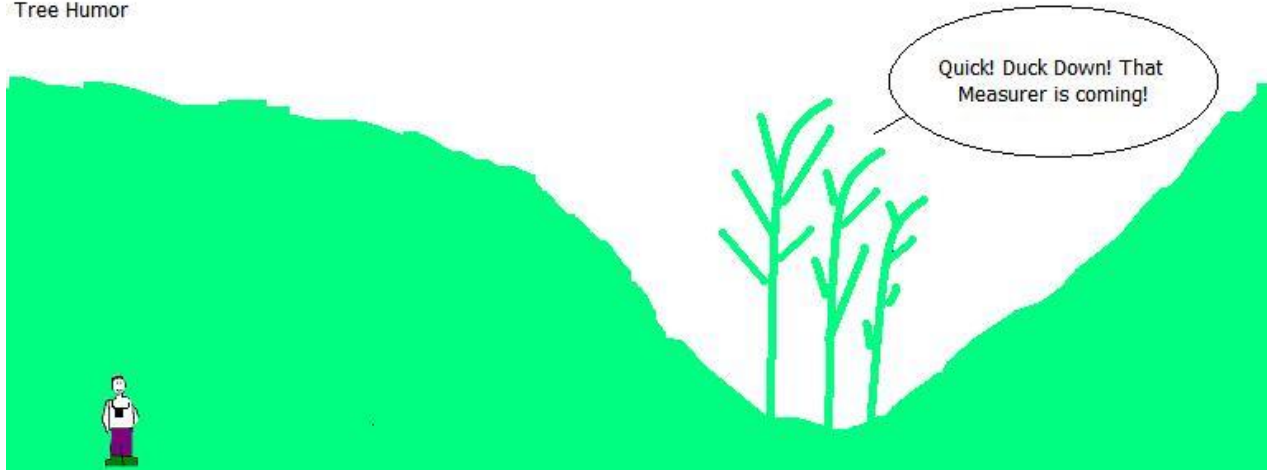
Re: Tree Humor

by **Matt Markworth** » Thu Apr 11, 2013 8:52 pm

Trees have a sense of humor. I don't know how else to explain it.

On a quest to measure a 150 footer in California

Tree Humor



Woods Nature Preserve (Ohio), the last three Tuliptrees that I've measured have been 147', 148', and 149'. Hopefully I'll have the last laugh.

I'll put together a proper report once I gather more data from the preserve.

- Matt

Re: Tall European trees

by **Jeroen Philippona** » Fri Apr 12, 2013 7:50 am

In post 10 of this topic I included an update of the list of tallest trees of the Netherlands. It is only a selection of some species. I have copied it here also. I updated the list for the Netherlands in April 2013. There are few substantial changes found in the three years since I posted this list. Some differences are remeasurements of the same trees, sometimes a taller tree has been found.

For the whole of Europe there have been found many more new record heights.

My own list of tallest trees in the Netherlands measured by Nikon Forestry 550 laser:

Scientific name	- English name	- records
2010 - Update 12-04-2013		
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	- Douglas fir	- 50,3 m
(laser) - 49,75 m (climbing + tapedrop;		
lasermeasurement in 2010 was without direct view		
of the base)		

<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	- European beech	- 43,0 m
- 43,2 m		
<i>Picea abies</i>	- Norway spruce	- 42,1 m
- 42,1 m		
<i>Abies grandis</i>	- Grand fir	- 42,0 m
- 42,0 m		
<i>Populus x canadensis</i>	- Hybrid poplar	- 41,2 m
- 41,7 m		
<i>Quercus robur</i>	- English oak	- 41,2 m
- 41,8 m		
<i>Sequoiadendron gig.</i>	- Giant sequoia	- 41,0 m
- 41,5 m		
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	- N. red oak	- 39,6 m
- 39,6 m		
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	- Western red cedar	- 39,4 m
- 39,8 m		
<i>Populus x canescens</i>	- Grey poplar	- 39,1 m
- 39,1 m		
<i>Larix decidua</i>	- European Larch	- 39,0 m
- 40,0 m		
<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	- London plane	- 39,0 m
- 39,0 m		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	- European white ash	- 38,6 m

- 39,5 m		
Liriodendron tulipifera - Tulip tree		- 38,0 m
- 37,6 m		
Acer pseudoplatanus - Sycamore maple		- 37,0 m
- 37,0 m		
Aesculus hippocastanum - Horse chestnut		- 36,0 m
- 36,8 m		
Tilia platyphyllos - Broadleaved lime		- 35,2 m
- 35,2 m		
Ulmus glabra - Wych elm		- 35,0 m
- 35,0 m		
Salix alba - white willow		- 34,6 m
- 34,6 m		
Tilia x europea - common lime		- 34,6 m
- 36,8 m		
Tilia tomentosa - silver lime		- 34,4 m
- 34,4 m		
Taxodium distichum - swamp cypress		- 34,0 m
- 34,6 m		
Tsuga heterophylla - western hemlock		- 34,0 m
- 34,5 m		
Quercus cerris - Turkey oak		- 34,0 m
- 34,2 m		
Juglans nigra - black walnut		- 33,8 m
- 35,2 m		
Pinus sylvestris - Scots pine		- 33,6 m
- 33,6 m		
Quercus petraea - Sessile oak		- 33,5 m
- 33,5 m		
Quercus palustris - Pin oak		- 33,0 m
- 33,8 m		
Platanus orientalis - oriental plane		- 33,0 m
- 33,0 m		
Alnus glutinosa - common alder		- 33,0 m
- 33,0 m		
Castanea sativa - European sweet chestnut		- 33,0 m
- 34,6 m		
Quercus frainetto - Hungarian oak		- 32,6 m
- 32,6 m		
Metasequoia glyptost. - dawn redwood		- 32,0 m
- 32,8 m		
Pinus nigra - black pine		- 32,0 m
- 34,8 m		
Prunus avium - wild cherry		- 31,6 m
- 31,6 m		
Acer platanoides - Norway maple		- 30,2 m
- 32,0 m		
Betula pendula - silver birch		- 30,0 m

- 32,4 m

Cryptomeria japonica - Japanese red cedar	- 30,0 m
- 30,8 m	
Carpinus betulus - common hornbeam	- 29,0 m
- 32,2 m	

An overview of all species we have reliable measurements of can be seen at:

<http://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/heightrecords/nld/>

The European height record list is at:

<http://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/heightrecords/europe/>

When you are logged in you can change the settings for measurements from Meters to Feet at the settings-page: you can find a link at the right top of the page.

Jeroen Philippona

[Parkway scenes, VA](#)

by dbhguru » Fri Apr 12, 2013 6:42 pm

NTS

A scene from the BRPW. This is at milepost 19. A

perspective seen through the limbs of an old white oak.

Robert T. Leverett



[Tree Maximums - Tree of the Week: Carolina Buckthorn](#)

by Matt Markworth » Sat Apr 06, 2013 10:17 pm



This week's tree: *Frangula (Rhamnus) caroliniana*, Carolina Buckthorn

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=frca13>

Will mentioned a 35-footer and after reading about this species, I don't think it will be easy to top. Please reply with these measurement details if you've measured a tall Carolina Buckthorn or know of other measurements by NTS. Thanks!

Country:
State or Province:
Property Owner:
Site Name:
Species (Scientific):
Species (Common):
Tree Name:
NTS Measurer(s):
Date of Measurement:
Height (ft):
Method of Height Measurement:
CBH (ft):
Average Spread (ft):
Maximum Spread (ft):
Habitat:
Notes:

Tree of the Week Maximums Spreadsheet and
Submission Guidelines: [http://www.ents-
bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=393&t=5221](http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=393&t=5221)

- Matt

Re: Max Height List - Tree of the Week: Carolina Buckthorn

by [Will Blozan](#) » Sun Apr 07, 2013 9:40 am

Matt,

I think this thread needs to be moved to a new topic
under it's own heading each week. That way it is
clear what species is being discussed and they can be
easily searched from the main topic page.

Back to the thread:

Country: United States of America
State or Province: Tennessee
Property Owner: South Cumberland State Parks
Site Name: Foster Falls Small Wild Area
Species (Scientific): Frangula
Species (Common): caroliniana
Tree Name:
NTS Measurer: Will Blozan
Date of Measurement: 3-21-2013
Height (ft): 35.8' (10.91 m)

Method of Height Measurement: NTS SINE
Notes: Large leaning tree 5.5" (13.9 cm) DBH.
Similar tree nearby 5.7" (14.5 cm) DBH X 31.5' tall.
These two specimens may be the only documented
over 30' (9.1 m) tall.



Frangula twigs



Stem of tallest tree



Large tree in Canton, NC 6.25" (15.9 cm) DBH X
23.9' (7.3 m) tall X 18.7' (5.7 m) ABS

Will

[Re: Max Height List - Tree of the Week: Carolina Buckthorn](#)

by **Matt Markworth** » Sat Apr 13, 2013 6:07 pm

Congrats to Will for this amazing find. I doubt that other species maximums will be obliterated on the same magnitude of this one.

And, you never know, there could be another tall one out there lurking. If you find one that is taller, please post it!

Country/State or Province	Property Name	Site Name	Species (Scientific)	Species (Common)	Tree Name	DBH (Inches/cm)	Height (Feet/Meters)	Height (Feet/Meters) of DBH	Notes
USA	NC	South-Carolina State Parks - Foster Falls Small Wild Area	Fraxinus caroliniana	Carolina Buckthorn	W. Wilson	3/21/2013 35.8	NTS Size		Large leaning tree 5.7' (1.7 m) only DBH. Similar tree nearby 5.7' (1.7 m) DBH X 21.5' tall. These two specimens may be the only documented over 30' (9.1 m) tall.

Tree of the Week Max Height Spreadsheet:

<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=393&t=5221>

Tree of the Week Forum: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=393>

<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=393>

- Matt

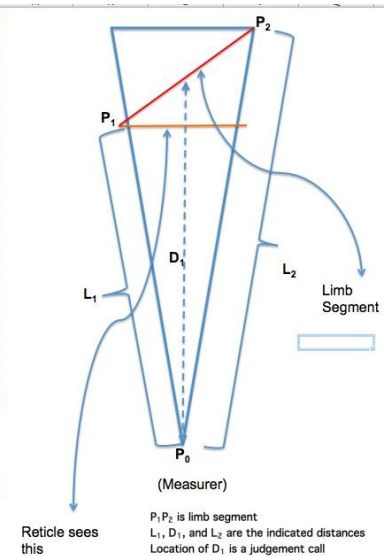
[Trapezoid Method Continued](#)

by **dbhguru** » Sun Apr 14, 2013 8:33 pm

NTS,

I am continuing to test the Trapezoid Diagonal Method for measuring the width or length of an object using a monocular with reticle. The results to date are summarized below.

Case	1000 F is Monocular's reticle factor Vortex Solo													
	D ₁ (Dist to center of limb)	L ₁ (Distance to closest end of limb)	L ₂ (Distance to farthest end of limb)	D ₂	M (Reticle value)	W ₁ (Width of shorter trapezoid base)	W ₂ (Width of longer trapezoid base)	Width (Length of trapezoid diagonal)	Act (Actual length)	Diff-F (Measured versus actual)	Diff-A (Measured versus actual)			
1	24.573	24.420	24.776	0.178	60.000	1.464	1.485	1.517	1.500	0.017	0.200			
2	28.381	28.386	28.386	0.005	49.200	1.365	1.401	1.446	1.446	0.000	0.720			
3	32.844	21.803	23.533	0.872	67.000	1.472	1.589	2.320	2.271	0.049	0.580			
4	25.706	25.693	25.731	0.019	42.500	1.092	1.093	1.093	1.083	0.010	0.110			
5	26.368	25.730	26.925	0.598	31.500	0.812	0.849	1.457	1.469	0.012	0.140			
6	23.571	23.791	23.270	-0.261	60.100	1.432	1.401	1.510	1.500	0.010	0.110			
7	47.375	46.655	48.050	0.698	56.250	2.626	2.704	3.008	3.000	0.008	0.090			
8	25.075	24.985	25.315	0.215	27.000	1.417	1.442	1.492	1.500	0.008	0.008			
9	18.013	18.056	18.258	0.100	58.500	1.048	1.060	1.073	1.042	0.031	0.370			
10	16.784	16.737	16.926	0.094	89.000	1.485	1.502	1.506	1.500	0.006	0.060			
11	57.410	56.750	58.280	0.764	45.500	2.577	2.647	3.026	3.000	0.026	0.310			
12	30.525	30.470	30.633	0.081	52.000	1.583	1.592	1.596	1.604	0.009	0.050			
13	30.692	30.588	30.807	0.109	48.500	1.483	1.494	1.505	1.500	0.005	0.100			
14	31.091	30.973	31.218	0.122	48.100	1.490	1.501	1.515	1.520	0.015	0.180			
15	30.058	29.795	30.599	0.400	12.246	1.279	1.279	1.495	1.500	0.005	0.060			
16	21.941	21.565	22.360	0.397	57.500	1.239	1.284	1.491	1.500	0.009	0.110			
17	23.930	23.734	24.102	0.184	61.500	1.460	1.483	1.517	1.500	0.017	0.200			
18	24.007	24.141	23.867	-0.137	61.000	1.473	1.456	1.490	1.500	0.010	0.120			
19	21.238	21.058	21.406	0.174	69.500	1.464	1.488	1.517	1.500	0.017	0.190			
20	32.000	32.500	32.500	0.000	46.000	1.472	1.472	1.472	1.500	0.028	0.300			
21	50.300	50.800	50.400	0.301	69.500	3.475	3.517	3.478	3.478	0.000	0.070			
22	55.800	55.550	56.350	0.399	27.000	1.108	1.124	1.372	1.411	0.039	0.460			
									Avg	0.021	0.250			



$$D_0 = \frac{L_2 - L_1}{L_2 + L_1} D_1 \quad W_1 = \frac{(D_1 - D_0)M}{F} \quad W_2 = \frac{L_2}{L_1} W_1$$

Note: D_1 is to approximate center of limb segment.

$$W = \sqrt{\left(\frac{W_2 + W_1}{2}\right)^2 + (2D_0)^2}$$

Notice the 22nd trial. The error is 0.467 inches. The next image shows the target from the place of measurement. The target is the orange ribbon stretched across the stump. I used the ribbon to enhance target visibility.



As can be seen in the image, the target is not oriented at a right angle to the line of sight - not even close. But this is the kind of scenario for which the trapezoid method was designed. However, as good as the results look, the three distances have to be very accurate for the method to work. The Bosch red beam

lasers provide the needed accuracy, but regular infrared laser rangefinders don't do the job. I'm hoping that the new LTI TruPulse 200X, soon to be released, will provide the necessary accuracy.

Had I been off a little in my distances, the error for the target would have been large. Additionally, I am unsure of how distance and reticle errors interact. This will be the next phase of the testing.

Robert T. Leverett

Blue Ridge Parkway Tuliptree Search, VA

by dbhguru » Wed Apr 10, 2013 8:14 pm

NTS,

Today Monica and I looked for conspicuous tuliptree sites along the VA part of the Parkway. To cut to the chase, we found a small cove on the lower slopes of Apple Orchard Mtn that had old growth. The spot is approximately mile 68.6. Here is a photo of a very old tree.



This old tulip measures 15.7 feet in girth and is 140.2 feet tall. Another upslope measures 140 feet in height as well. We'll return to this area when we have more time.

So far in the VA section of the Parkway, I'll measured the following tulips to 140 feet or more.

Apple Orchard Mtn: 2 trees at 140 feet

Flat Top Mtn: 2 trees (141 and 146)

Harkening Hill 1 tree (140.5)

Near Roanoke 1 tree (142)

This is it. I've measured a couple near Crabtree Falls, VA over 140, which is about 12 miles from the Parkway. I'm sure there are more in VA, but they are rare. There are many places with 120 to 130-footers, but not more.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Blue Ridge Parkway Tuliptree Search, VA](#)

by **Jess Riddle** » Wed Apr 10, 2013 10:04 pm

Bob, Nice find.

I had a 12.8' x 144.5' tuliptree along the parkway near Highrock Knob. The same cove had northern red oak and white ash to 127.4'.

I get the impression the best conditions for tuliptree in VA are not along the Parkway.

Jess

[Re: Blue Ridge Parkway Tuliptree Search, VA](#)

by **Josh Kelly** » Thu Apr 11, 2013 8:36 am

Bob,

I like the big one! it's always fun to find an old, large-sized poplar. As far as growth of Poplar goes, I agree with Jess. I think that the Blue Ridge does not have the best growing conditions in Virginia for them.

The Blue Ridge escarpment in Virginia is considerably drier than other parts of the range of poplar. From what I've seen, the area around the Grayson Highlands, and especially limestone derived soils in the Holston & Clinch River drainages have the best growth for poplar and red oak in Virginia.

Interestingly, rainfall on High Knob is SW Virginia averages over 60 inches a year to go along with some super rich soil. I think that and the limestone areas of Pine Mountain could have some tall forest.

Josh

[Re: Blue Ridge Parkway Tuliptree Search, VA](#)

by **dbhguru** » Fri Apr 12, 2013 7:57 am

Jess, Josh,

Yes, I completely agree. Most of the VA Blue Ridge is dry and soils seem very thin. I've now scoured much of the range and a few 140s seem to be the top of the pecking order.

BTW, Monica and I stopped by Ramsey's Draft on Monday and I continued measuring trees and paying close attention to growing conditions. According to some source, there was a 170-foot white pine in the upper area of the Draft. Well, the odds of that are in the negative range. No species there shows any signs of being able to achieve large or tall dimensions for that species. It is far too dry and the soils are far too thin. The tallest trees grow at the lowest elevations of the Draft, and I did manage to break 130 on two pines. Tulips just make it to 120. I have no idea how a pine could beat such stacked odds. My assessment

is that the maximums for what pine and tuliptree past or present is 140 for pine and 135 for tuliptree and only very rarely. The area is old growth and trees of several species may push the age limits. So, I'm not putting the Draft down, but tall trees? Nope.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Blue Ridge Parkway Tuliptree Search, VA](#)

by **Ranger Dan** » Sun Apr 14, 2013 3:25 pm

This Virginia boy was trying to think of good places to maybe find tall tuliptrees here...A few years ago, while hiking in Rockcastle Gorge (south of Floyd), I found a very large old-growth tuliptree just in sight of the trail. Six feet in diameter, roughly. It's located down in the valley, so may be pretty tall. The valley is protected from prevailing westerly winds, the soil is rather rich and the annual rainfall there is much higher than Virginia's mountains to the north, so it may be a good place to find some tall second-growth tulips, too. If you hike the loop, the western end is easier. From there, look on the east-facing slope (to your left, across the creek) on a steep slope covered with large rocks that apparently was not logged because of the rockiness. If you come to an old homesite, you've gone too far. The other leg of the loop is more scenic, but has very steep sections.

New Comparison Monocular vs Photo Meas

by dbhguru » Mon Apr 15, 2013 12:02 pm

NTS,

I just completed another comparison of the Monocular and Photo-Excel measurement methods for diameter. The attached Excel Workbook has the results. As you can see, both methods provided good results. In the case of the monocular, the accuracy is spectacular. The image in the spreadsheet was shrunk to fit more into the prime viewing area of the spreadsheet from the larger size of the image originally imported. I used the larger size to take the photo measurements and then shrunk the image to take up less space on the spreadsheet.

When differences between actual and measured results are under an inch, I think we can say that a method has proven itself. Such is the case with both methods for moderate distance and target size. For the target diameter, the photo measurement was off by 0.8 inches, and 0.08 inches for the monocular. However, a difference as small as 0.08 is misleading because the distance and reticle readings have enough play in them that to claim an accuracy of 0.08 inches

(2 millimeters) is not reasonable. However, enough tests have been conducted by Will, Jess, John Eichholz, and myself over years to support the claim of accuracies to 0.25 inches where the target can be seen well and the distance has been very accurately measured (at least to a quarter of an inch), and the object doesn't use up too much of the reticle scale.

These methods are ideal for diameters of trunks and limbs. What might be an alternative? Well, one is LTI's Criterion RD1000. I own an RD1000, which I use to measure diameters at a distance, and the instrument is pretty good within a range of 30 to 80 feet. But the RD1000 does not compare with the accuracy of the monocular over a greater span of distances, and it has other limitations. In addition, using the RD1000 to measure the length of trunk segments requires the trunk to be vertical. The RD1000 is a forestry instrument, and I think works well for the intended targets, but it just doesn't hack it for the kinds of complex tree forms that we measure. We really do need to distinguish tree measuring from timber measuring. They are different animals.

 [PhotoReticlePineComp.xlsx](#)

Robert T. Leverett



NOTE: Image has been reduce in size from original export
Excel numbers below are from original photo size

Photo Measurement							
hgt	width	size	Dist	Act	Meas	Diff ft	Diff in Obj
1570	0.010	1570	34.176	1500			
0.010	1.320	1.320	34.520	1.340	1.274	0.066	0.794 Target

Reticle Measurement					
Dist	MM	Meas	Act	Diff ft	Diff in Obj
34.176	43.600	1.490	1.500	0.010	0.119 Ref
34.520	39.000	1.346	1.340	0.006	0.075 Target

Ra = Act size of ref obj
Rx = Excel size of ref obj
Tx = Excel size of target object
Td = Distance of target obj
Rd = Distance of reference object
Tm = Measured size of target object
mm = millimeter reading from reticle

Photo Formula

$$T_m = \left(\frac{R_a}{R_x} \right) \left(\frac{T_d}{R_d} \right)$$

Reticle Formula

$$T_m = \frac{(T_d)(mm)}{F}$$

Tree of the Week Spreadsheet and Guidelines

by **Matt Markworth** » Sun Mar 31, 2013 10:08 pm



Spreadsheet Updated: 4/27/13

 [Tree of the Week Maximums List.xls](#)

Hi All,

First just want to say that I'm blown away by the lists that have been created by NTS Members. For example, reading Jess Riddle's Maxlist is absolutely mind-boggling and I stand in awe of the measuring feats accomplished by Members past and present.

When reading about tree maximums of various species, I often struggle with knowing what to compare it to. Combine that with the fact that I only truly learn by doing, if you would indulge me in this personal interest of mine, I'd like to keep track of a simple maximums list here. I'll dig around and find what I can, but of course much of the information is scattered in posts and spreadsheets and I would appreciate input from all the measurers out there.

The goal is to document tree maximums (height, girth, spread) for living examples of tree species, focusing on one species per week.

Guidelines

- 1) Must be an NTS member to submit a tree for inclusion on the spreadsheet.
- 2) Must have either personally measured the tree per the standards of the document "Tree Measuring Guidelines of the Eastern Native Tree Society" or have knowledge of the NTS Member that has accurately measured the tree. Older measurements are accepted, but newer measurements are preferred.

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/measure/Tree_Measuring_Guidelines-revised1.pdf

3) If you have knowledge that another person discovered the tree and accurately measured it in the past, please mention that person in the notes.

4) A tree may be submitted if the species is currently or has previously been featured as the "Tree of the Week." If the species that you want to submit has never been the "Tree of the Week," please nominate that species for a future week by replying to this post.

5) To submit a tree, please reply to the NTS BBS thread for that particular species using the following format. The thread for each species can be found in this forum: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=393> I will enter the tree maximums into the spreadsheet at the end of the week. For private land, please list the Property Owner as Private Owner with a Site Name showing the county.

Country:
State or Province:
Property Owner:
Site Name:
Species (Scientific):
Species (Common):
Tree Name:
NTS Measurer(s):
Date of Measurement:
Height (ft):
Method of Height Measurement:
CBH (ft):
Average Spread (ft):
Maximum Spread (ft):
Habitat:
Notes:

- Matt Markworth

[Return to Baxter Creek, GSMNP](#)

by dbhguru » Mon Apr 15, 2013 9:05 am

NTS,

Yesterday, Monica and I took a stroll up Baxter Creek in the GSMNP's Cataloochee District to see wild flowers and for me, naturally, to measure trees. The day was cool and there weren't many insects. I hadn't been back to Baxter Creek since Monica, Ed Frank, and I went there back in 2006, I think. We renewed our acquaintance with a number of large trees. Here is a look at a very handsome N. red oak along the trail.



This lovely person has a girth of right at 14 feet and sports a straight trunk. I didn't measure its height, but is probably around 105 to 110 feet. Another favorite is a big trailside tuliptree. Here is a look.



This tree is around 15-feet in girth by photo measurement. I didn't measure its height because I was intent on the really tall stuff farther up the trail. However, there is more to enjoy on this trail than tree size. For example, there is bark art. This eye-popping yellow buckeye is a case in point.



There are some small silverbells along the way, but I didn't see any standouts. But of course, the show stoppers for most folks are the wild flowers. Here is a white trillium. They were prolific.



I measured many of the tall tuliptrees in the tall tree hot spot zone, but couldn't break any records. The best I could do for the short time period was 173.6, 172.1, 170.9, and 170.1. I didn't find a tree that Michael Davie measured recently, I think to 179. Monica and I may return on Wednesday for another hunt. Finding the tops of these super tall tulips is really difficult. It takes me a while to home in on the highest tips. Will does it in a glance. I'm envious.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Return to Baxter Creek](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Mon Apr 15, 2013 6:07 pm

Bob, Hopefully Mike took a waypoint for the tree or he could describe it. BTW, the big tuliptree by the trail low down is 160'+. Doesn't look it but it is not short. There is a 130' class silverbell to the left as you go up to the Rucker tree. I'd like to see what you get for the 14'-ish beast just up from the sharp turn leaving the creek. It seems to be hovering around 170' for a decade! Also the 155+ white ash on the trail. Also, not far from the big low down tuliptree is a 150' red oak on the creek by an old cistern.

Baxter rules!

Will Blozan

[Porters Creek Ramble, GSMNP](#)

by **dbhguru** » Mon Apr 15, 2013 9:02 pm

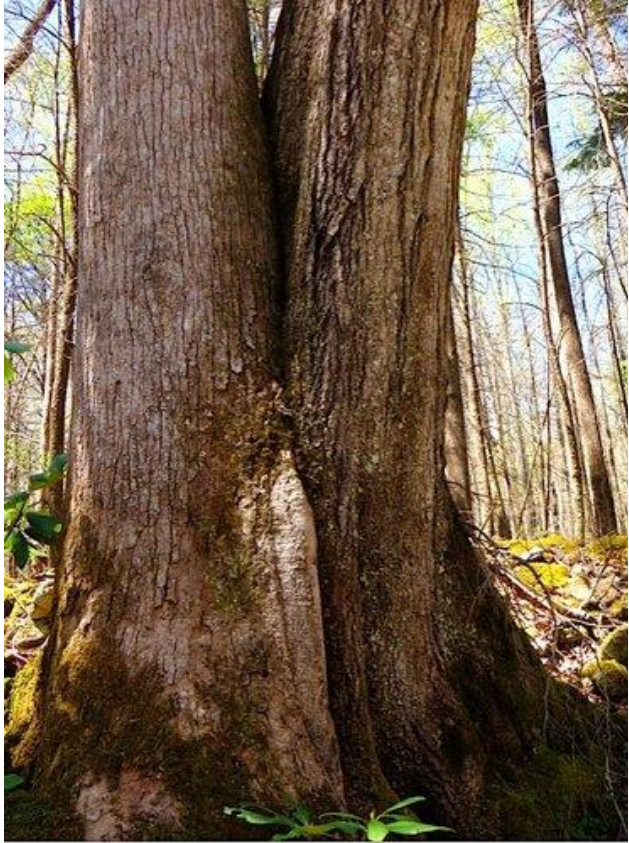
NTS, Today Monica and I took a stroll up the Porters Creek Trail on the Tennessee side of the GSMNP. Porters Creek is not a tall tree hot spot, but it is a wild flower haven. And of course, there are some trees of interest. For example, there is this beautiful person.



The vital statistics are Girth = 12.7 feet, Height = 129 feet. Not shabby for a chestnut oak. I measured the girth with a tape and shot it with the TruPulse 360 using a diameter routine. Tape = 12.72 feet around. Routine = 12.56. But size was not what caught my attention most, but form. Here is a hemlock pretending to be a python, strangling a yellow birch.



And next, trees living is sin. Oh the shame of it. Don't look at this tulip tree wedded to a northern red oak.



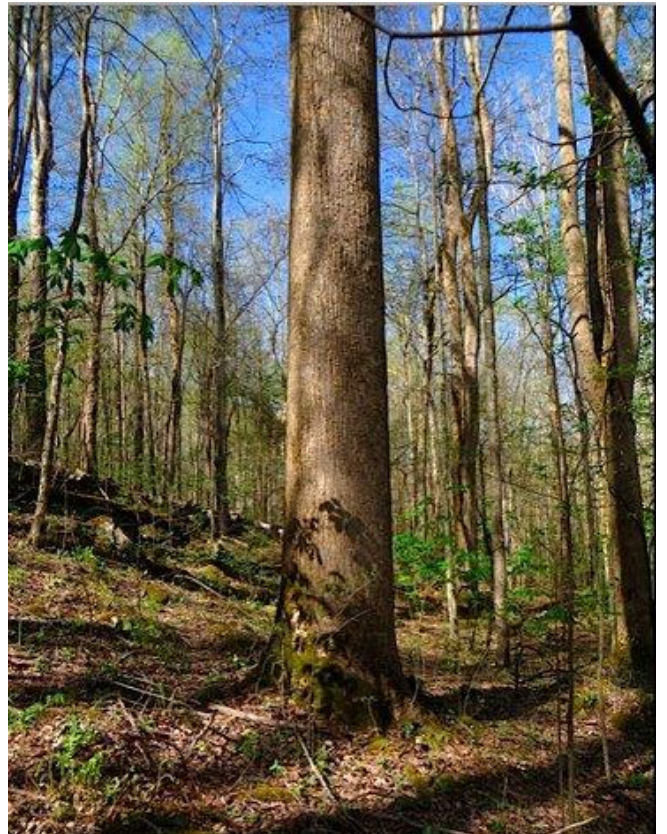
Let's not forget the flowers. Fringed phacelia carpeted our path.



Now, who the @\$% designed this thing. Yikes!



And here was a find. A 11.6-foot girth, 152.0-foot tuliptree growing in an area that was an old homestead.



More tomorrow.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Porters Creek Ramble](#)

by **Matt Markworth** » Mon Apr 15, 2013 10:08 pm

Bob, Congratulations on those finds. My wife and I hiked the Porter's Creek trail last month and we only met two other people the entire time. What a world away from the crowds in nearby Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge! Or, I suppose, they are a world away from it!

Looks like we both captured the python Hemlock . . .



I was in a black and white mood on that day for some reason, a girthy Tuliptree . . .



- Matt Markworth

[Re: Porters Creek Ramble](#)

by **dbhguru** » Mon Apr 15, 2013 10:28 pm

Matt, Great shots. The black and white captures the mood.

It had been years since I had been on the Porter Creek trail. Next year I hope to hike much farther. Yes, Porters Creek, Ramsey's Cascade, etc. are another world compared to Gatlinburg. I was especially pleased to confirm a 150 tulip in the regrowth area. I mostly got heights in the 130s. I got a large sycamore on the other side of the stream to 128, but for sycamores in the Smokies, that isn't much. So many trees, so little time.

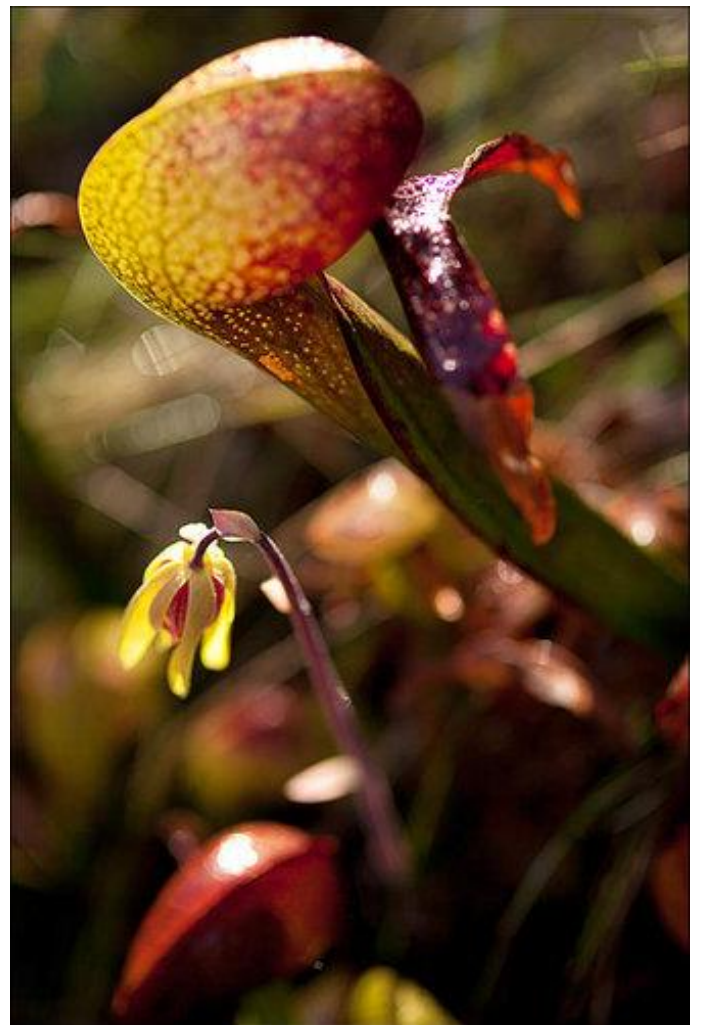
Robert T. Leverett

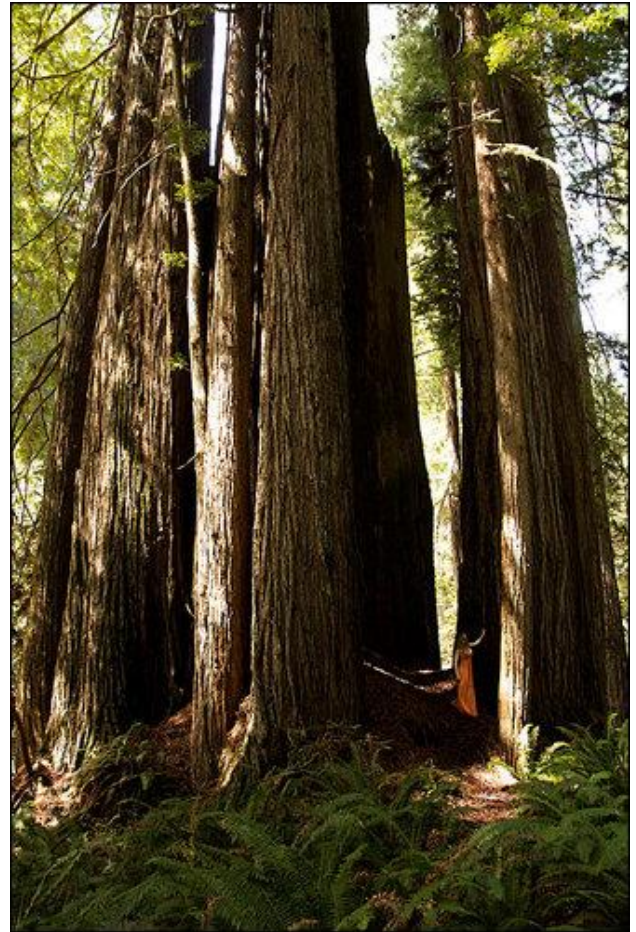
[The "Official" Redwoods Topic :-\)](#)

by **mdvaden** » Tue Apr 16, 2013 12:47 am

Inspired by the other "field report" topic, figured I'd start one topic to add and bump with redwood region photos from time to time. Did that at one arborist forum and it's been practical to consolidate lots of variety in a single package. Here's some photos from this past weekend ... literally "all over the map" for variety. Met with Taylor for a test launch of his drone. There's the Cobra Lily. Also got together with a model from Crescent City for portraiture and some size comparison photos. The orange dress was perfect like with the enormous cathedral tree (aka fairy ring).

BTW ... the woman lost a family member a few weeks ago, and asked if I could add a memorial set. That's what the bench image pertains to.





M. D. Vaden of Oregon

Earth Day at Cook Forest State Park

by **edfrank** » Wed Apr 17, 2013 9:56 pm

NTS,

Tomorrow I will be doing a presentation on "Tree Measurement" at the Earth Day Celebration by the NORTH CENTRAL REGION MATH/SCIENCE EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE at Cook Forest State Park, PA. Fellow NTS member Dale Luthringer will also be doing an educational walk through the Forest Cathedral Area.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION MATH/SCIENCE EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE
232 Ralston Hall Clarion University Clarion,
PA 16214

Telephone: (814) 393-1612 Email:

mathsci@clarion.edu

Website: <http://www.mathsciencequest.org>

Once again the North Central Region Math/Science Education Collaborative and Cook Forest State Park are planning our activities for Earth Day Celebration 2013 to be held at Cook Forest State Park on Thursday, April 18, 2013. Dale (Cook Forest Ed. Specialist)& I are hoping you will be available on that date to do a presentation with the students and teachers.

Teachers, students and presenters commented on the value of this environmental learning experience and I have already received requests from teachers to bring almost 100 students. This number will increase as permission is granted.

The international topic for 43th Anniversary of Earth Day 2013 is "The Face of Climate Change" and the 2013 Pennsylvania Envirothon theme is "Grazing livestock for improved herd health and land management".

The Pennsylvania Envirothon Mission Statement "emphasizes the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, ecological, and economic balance. The learning objectives emphasize awareness, knowledge, and

attitudes through outdoor hands-on applications while addressing the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow.

We will have a variety of activities that will help students develop the awareness and understanding of these issues. As in previous years, learning stations will be set up with hands-on activities related to this year's topics. Students and teachers will rotate through the stations to participate in the activities.

Josie Shirey

EARTH DAY 2013 - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - APRIL 18, 2013				
8:45AM	9:00 AM - 9:55 AM	10:00 AM - 10:55 AM	11:00 AM - 11:55 PM	12:00-12:30 PM (Lunch on the Trail)
Opening	Old Growth Eco-Systems Dale Luthringer, Ed Specialist Cook Forest State Park	2 hours	Old Growth Eco-Systems Dale Luthringer, Ed Specialist Cook Forest State Park	2 hours
	No Farm is an Island Sue Rensel, Ed Specialist Clear Creek State Park	No Farm is an Island Sue Rensel, Ed Specialist Clear Creek State Park	No Farm is an Island Sue Rensel, Ed Specialist Clear Creek State Park	Lunch
	Invasive Plants Dr. Hank Webster Jefferson Co. Master Gardener	Invasive Plants Dr. Hank Webster Jefferson Co. Master Gardener	Invasive Plants Dr. Hank Webster Jefferson Co. Master Gardener	Invasive Plants Dr. Hank Webster Jefferson Co. Master Gardener
	Basic Tree Measurement Edward Forrest Frank Native Tree Society	Basic Tree Measurement Edward Forrest Frank Native Tree Society	Basic Tree Measurement Edward Forrest Frank Native Tree Society	Basic Tree Measurement Edward Forrest Frank Native Tree Society
	Soil Conservation Rayburn Smith Master Gardener	Soil Conservation Rayburn Smith Master Gardener	Soil Conservation Rayburn Smith Master Gardener	Soil Conservation Rayburn Smith Master Gardener
	Liking Lichens Linda McMaster Science Teacher	Liking Lichens Linda McMaster Science Teacher	Liking Lichens Linda McMaster Science Teacher	Liking Lichens Linda McMaster Science Teacher
	Resilient Forests David Cole PA Bureau of Forestry	Resilient Forests David Cole PA Bureau of Forestry	Resilient Forests David Cole PA Bureau of Forestry	Resilient Forests David Cole PA Bureau of Forestry
	Wildlife Health Jesse Bish Wildlife Conservation Officer	Wildlife Health Jesse Bish Wildlife Conservation Officer	Wildlife Health Jesse Bish Wildlife Conservation Officer	Wildlife Health Jesse Bish Wildlife Conservation Officer
	Stream Habitat Assessment Jack Williams Trout Unlimited	Stream Habitat Assessment Jack Williams Trout Unlimited	Stream Habitat Assessment Jack Williams Trout Unlimited	Stream Habitat Assessment Jack Williams Trout Unlimited
Earth Day 2013 focuses on "The Face of Climate Change" & "Grazing livestock for improved herd health and land management". Sponsored by: North Central Math/Science Collaborative & Cook Forest State Park				

I am doing my presentations on tree measurements. I plan to demonstrate how to use the laser rangefinder/clinometer method, but have the students try to use the stick method. This is something low-tech they can do at home at a minimal cost to start exploring their local trees and forests. I have included links to our measurement guidelines and the ones in Wikipedia, and to our website and BBS should they want to pursue more accurate tree measurement. Here is a copy of the flier I am handing out:



[measurement flier.doc](#)

Edward Forrest Frank

[Another future tree of the week: Rocky Mountain Douglas Fir](#)

by dbhguru » Wed Apr 17, 2013 6:01 pm

Matt, Here comes another.

Country: USA
State or Province: Colorado
Property Owner: USFS
Site Name: Hermosa Creek
Species (Scientific): *Pseudotsuga mensiesii* var.
glauca
Species (Common): Rocky Mountain Douglas Fir
Tree Name: Dick White Fir
NTS Measurer(s): Bob Leverett with assistance from
Steve Colburn of Laser Tech Inc. and Laurie Swisher
of the USFS
Date of Measurement: July 2012
Height (ft): 160.2 feet
Method of Height Measurement: sine top - sine
bottom
CBH (ft): 10.8 feet
Average Spread (ft):
Maximum Spread (ft):
Habitat: Moist ravine in La Plata Mountains
Notes: Tree is tallest accurately measured of its
species

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Another future tree of the week: Rocky Mountain Douglas](#)

by dbhguru » Wed Apr 17, 2013 8:18 pm

Matt, There are more trees coming. But I'll wait a while before sending information on the Colorado blue spruce. Interestingly, there may be other species native to the Rockies that could be submitted, such as the southwestern white pine, but I haven't done enough research yet to feel comfortable that my entry indeed is a legitimate height champ for that species. As you now know, the information out there on maximum species heights from otherwise credible sources is not reliable. That's why we can't use

heights from other sources in our lists, but I wouldn't want to submit an entry for a species that I believed might significantly understate its range-wide maximum.

If I haven't said it already, thanks very much from all of us for picking up the ball and running with it. This is what NTS was supposed to be about. New members come aboard, learn to measure trees by our methods and take on a mission for the organization as a whole. Can't get better than that.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Another future tree of the week: Rocky Mountain Douglas](#)

by Matt Markworth » Wed Apr 17, 2013 10:28 pm

Maybe we just need to hammer this BBS list into existence while there is interest and momentum. Why wait? Will Blozan

Good point. We will run out of weeks before we ever run out of species.

If a superlative tree (greatest height, girth, or spread) is proactively nominated in the Tree of the Week forum (<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=393>), then I'll wait one week to give other NTS members the opportunity to reply with a tree of greater proportions and then update the spreadsheet with that species. That will allow us to move onto other Species for future weeks.

- Matt

[Re: Another future tree of the week: Rocky Mountain Douglas](#)

by **KoutaR** » Thu Apr 18, 2013 6:02 am

Bob, Matt et al.,

Rocky Mountain Douglas-fir on The Gymnosperm Database:

The tallest, and largest in the state of Idaho, is a tree near Clarkia 67.4 m tall and 179 cm dbh.

67.4 m = 221.1 ft

The method is not given but the source is "Robert Van Pelt e-mail 2004.02.04". BVP could be asked about the reliability and possible new finds.

<http://www.conifers.org/pi/Pseudotsuga...glauca.php>

Kouta

[Re: Where goats Come From](#)

by **Rand** » Sat Apr 13, 2013 5:15 pm

Here's the logic behind breaking crusts and otherwise disturbing the ground and vegetation:

<http://managingwholes.com/brittleness1.htm>

We talk about invasive species all the time, does it really boggle the imagination that cryptogamic crust might grow in places where a higher productivity ecosystem might exist with the right management? On the other hand I can see it as rather brash to claim you can turn any old piece of desert to grassland, it still seems reasonable that grasslands might need a certain type of disturbance regime to maintain themselves. The posted critiques seem more laden with emotion and appeals to authority than a careful consideration of the subject.

Rand Brown

[Re: Where goats Come From](#)

by **Don** » Sun Apr 14, 2013 4:21 pm

During the time I was in Flagstaff in the late 90's focused on forest restoration and working with others to assemble The Flagstaff Plan, a range conservation effort was forming called The Diablo Trust (http://www.diablotrust.org/projects_list.htm).

They too saw the value of collaboration with regional stakeholders, and community involvement, research and education.

A skeptic of animal husbandry on public lands, I didn't always fall easily into their line of reasoning. I recall one project where they contracted the stabilization of interstate overpass fill slopes, passing through their rangelands, at risk to the rare but active rainfall occurring the monsoon season. Their technique was to seed the slopes with a fast-growing grass seed (native wherever possible and appropriate), then range an appropriate density of cattle over those specific grass-seeded slopes to mix the seed in with the fill slope "soil". Yes, they had to feed cattle on native grasses sufficient that their manure contained no invasives. They had areas showing success with said technique, and invited public and management agencies to view them. It worked, but it was focused and supervised, with a specific outcome. Which is not at all the land ethic employed by generations of ranchers who have abused the public lands, across millions of acres for extraordinarily low per/acre costs. Seldom focused, supervised by a least-effort strategy, the desired outcome was to raise and sell cattle for a profit. Period. Essentially causing 99% of Americans to subsidize .02% of the population that is ranchers, that they continue their lifestyle.

Cryptogamic crusts? For more than a century, ranchers ranged cattle through SW public lands indiscriminantly with neither knowledge nor concern for higher order ecosystem productivity. We have to think in the long run, and I believe that over time, cryptogamic crusts ARE the higher order productivity ecosystem, where NOT managed. No more introduced animal husbandry.

I guess my point is that the least-effort land management system strategies were "functional" only

in the "frontier" era. The "frontier era" is gone. It will take focused management, supervision of the means that implement the strategies, and because it's public lands, a sustainable outcome that is first driven by natural resource constraints, not by profit margin.

In my mind this applies to ALL resource extractions from public lands. With restoration of that land after loss of 'higher order productivity'. Sustainability as defined by constrained use, capable of subsequent restoration.

And it ain't gonna happen. Unless we can control our reproductive urges. The only answer is ZPG...zero population growth...followed by attrition...: >)

Don Bertolette

Videos of Old-Growth Oak Forest on Holston Mountain, TN

by **Josh Kelly** » Wed Apr 17, 2013 7:13 pm

NTS,

On April 15 & 16 I visited the Stoney Creek timber sale on Holston Mountain, TN. I was concerned that the scoping for the project listed three stands between the age of 132 and 164 as being proposed for logging.

The Forest Service folks I talked to indicated that the stand ages were incorrect, as is often the case with Forest Service stand data. I remained concerned, however, because I know that the land on that part of Holston Mountain had been purchased by the early 1920's. By comparison, much of Smoky Mountain National Park, which has the most extensive old-growth in the Southern Appalachians, was not purchased until the early 1930's. Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest was purchased by the Forest Service in 1937. The take home message is, the early a tract was purchased, the more likely it is to contain original forest.

I found an extensive area of relatively stunted, semi-xeric, old-growth oak forest. Tree diameters on these south facing slopes are not large, the trees are not tall, but they have loads of character. As is common,

most of the scarlet oaks, red oaks, and black oaks in the stands I visited dated to the time of American chestnut blight. The white oaks, chestnut oaks, and black gums in the stand are much, much older.

Check out these videos, if you are interested in the scene.

I'm confident with the age data I collect from these stands and the procedures for dealing with old-growth required by the Cherokee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan that I will be able to protect these stands from logging. It is kind of depressing that sites like this come up for cutting at all, but let's face it, most people, foresters included, don't recognize old-growth when they see it. I hope the urls work, if not, I'll try again.

Josh



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHMHDYEHful>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpnLfz1bMf4>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDUh5hR_FV0
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyJU1IZNYJk>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbloVtiKCsQ>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2Gzdc4JbJU>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X58ixac8p4>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYTvgMnuv94>

[Alum Cave - GSMNP](#)

by dbhguru » Tue Apr 16, 2013 8:32 pm

NTS, today Monica and I went to Alum Cave, one of the most popular scenic trails and about 0.3 miles beyond. Monica had never been on this trail, and wanted to experience the richness of an upland cove forest. She was not prepared for the abundance of large, old yellow birches. She is used to seeing the

species in New England's and New York's forests, and we measured some very large ones in the Adirondacks, but the Alum Cave Trail shines for this species. Heights are not great, but girths are. I measured four over 12 feet around (13.5, 12.9, 12.4, and 12.3), all within a corridor of about 1.4 miles. Complementing girth are bizarre old-growth forms. Here is a sequence of images of the yellow birches. I could have taken many more.









Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Alum Cave - GSMNP](#)

by dbhguru » Wed Apr 17, 2013 8:47 am

Robert, I'm not aware of any threats to the yellow birch,

Larry, et. al., If I had to characterize the Smokies relative to other ranges in the Appalachian chain, the Smokies could be considered an over-achiever. If its species diversity, the Smokies go to the head of the class. Big trees? Well, the Smokies have them in abundance for virtually every species growing within the boundaries of the Park. Tall trees? First in the East with no real competition. Pretty Mountain streams? Nope, can't beat the Smokies there either. Elevation? Although Mount Mitchell and Mount Craig in the Blacks are the two highest peaks in the East, the Smokies have more 6,000 footers and more high elevation. For 36 consecutive miles, the crest of the Smokies stays over 5,000 feet in elevation.

I measured a tall red spruce along the LeConte Trail to where I couldn't see its base in the rhododendron. I got 150 feet. Will previously measure that tree by

climbing down to it and putting some kind of a marker above the rhododendron. He got 155. But, my point is that even for a northern species, the Smokies excel. I've hunted the Adirondacks, Whites, Greens, Berkshires, etc, for really big red spruce, all their best offerings are puny compared to the Smoky Mountain giants. In fact, in the Whites, only white pines really make an impression. Other tree species are of ordinary size.

Now back to yellow birch. I have measured large yellow birch in the Dacks, but it is very unusually to find more than one giant in close proximity. I've never come across as many large specimens so close together as I did along the Alum Cave Trail. The statistics have to be compiled and comparisons made for the story to be told. It is true that the Smokies have long been recognized as a big tree haven thanks to the National Register of Big Trees. But for a variety of reasons, the story doesn't end there. It is often the clustering of exceptional trees. For example, in Baxter Creek's tall tree hotspot, there are more 170-foot tall trees than in any area of comparable size in the Northeast - by far. Congaree NP may have a 170 or two, but that's it. And so on.

Part of the problem is that nature writers, journalists, and even naturalists and scientists don't know how to put the big tree hot spots into context. An isolated big tree at a site is often cited as though there might be many of such distinction, when in actuality, there may be only one, and it of the open grown variety. I have yet to read of an account that does justice to the yellow birches along Alum Creek. Descriptions of the area often mention hemlock and yellow birch, but give no other information. The authors are usually clueless about what they are seeing or what the collection represents. This is why NTS is so valuable, and with new members like Matt Markworth who has taken it on to himself to help spread the word. We need lots of lists, comparisons, and a steady presentation of such to the public. Thanks to the Internet and big Ed's tireless exploration of ways to get the word out, I do believe that we are making progress. I'll close with three scenics from the trail. Now, it is off to Baxter Creek again.

Robert T. Leverett





Re: Alum Cave - GSMNP

by dbhguru » Wed Apr 17, 2013 4:13 pm

Joe, the Cherokee did roam the mountains, but lived in the valleys. Much of the mountainous terrain is too steep and choked with rhododendron, laurel, dog hobble, etc. to travel through. Off-trail travel is much easier in the northern Appalachians. So, I expect that the Cherokee established a trail network and stuck with it. Rainfall varies in the Smokies, but the lower coves typically get 60 to 70 inches per year and the upper elevations can average over 80 inches. A few spots may make it to 100. The result is rainforest luxuriance.

The western slopes of the Smokies are really large mountains. Elevations at the base of the range is between 1200 and 1700 feet, and in one area of the Park only about 900 feet. The tops of the Smokies are between 5,500 and 6,600 feet with the tallest spot being Clingman's Dome at 6,643. In places, the western base to summit rise approaches 5,000 feet and in the case of Mount LeConte is approximately 5,300 feet. With such a mountain mass and ample water, the diversity is off the charts. Over 1,700 species of flowering plants have been cataloged. The Smokies are pretty much the salamander capital of the world. The area is an international biosphere reserve.

A lot of science has been brought to bear on understanding the Smoky Mountain diversity, but what has been missing is a good statistical profile of the dimensions of the different tree species, numbering about 131 or 132 in all. That is where NTS is shined. Thanks to Will Blozan, Michael Davie, Jess Riddle, Josh Kelly, and a few others, including yours truly, we have reasonable maximums for the Smokies for between 2 and 3 dozen species. Will can say for sure what the number is, and we can state with confidence that the cove forests of the Smokies are the tallest of all eastern forests. There has been some confusion about that because of a very flawed measurement done in Congaree NP back in the 1990s. But climbs of trees by Will and team and saturation measuring leaves absolutely no doubt that the Smokies rule.

Today Monica and I returned to Baxter Creek. My mission was to remeasure several outstanding trees by request of Will Blozan. I managed to do just a little before the rain showers put an end to the measuring. One of the trees to check on was a mountain silver bell. I settled on 131.7 feet. I have to check with Will on where that stands in terms of the absolute tallest of the species. But, I think the 131.7 is pretty far up there.

I confirmed another 172.0-foot tuliptree, and can't be sure that I found the absolute top. It brings the total number of 170-footers remeasured in Baxter Creek on this trip to five. A huge one that Will wanted me to check on fell short. I got up to 168.5 feet, but couldn't go higher. The rain stopped any further measuring.

Today, Monica and I identified 41 species of flowering plants within a distance of 1.5 miles. A few had finished blooming or were getting ready to. Baxter Creek is a major area for wild flower viewing. Lots of groups come up to see the bloom. However, none are aware of the exceptional stature of the trees, or if they are, they don't look up. Pity. The trees of the Smokies Mountain coves make a heck of an impression on tree lovers. They give one pause to reflect. The surrounding cutover lands look absolutely anemic by comparison. Here are four images from today. Yellow trillium followed by a white, then a look at silver bell bark. Finally, four tulip trees with the nearest being the 172-footer. I think the others are in the 160s.





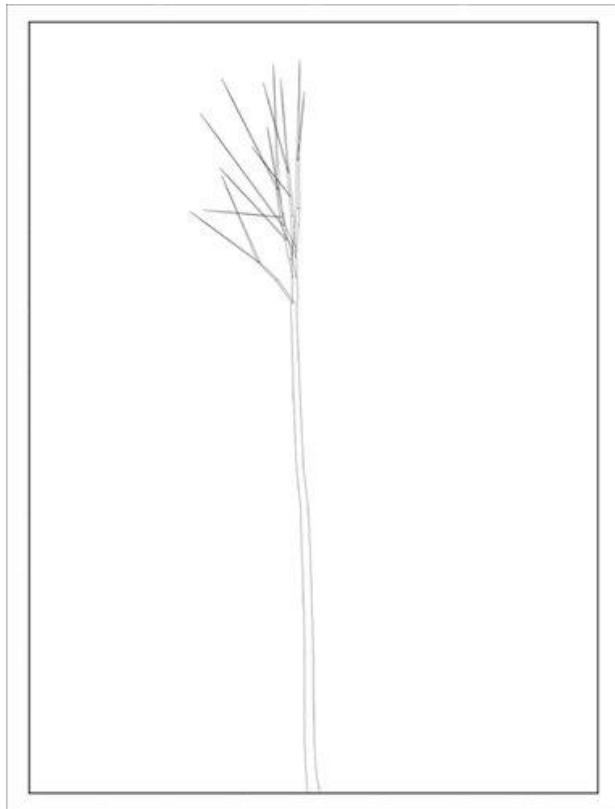
Robert T. Leverett



[Re: Alum Cave - GSMNP](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Wed Apr 17, 2013 9:32 pm

Bob, you undoubtedly measured the silverbell I had previously measured and it is one of only four over 130'. In your photo of the tuliptree clump the smallest tree is one we mapped (Michael Davie, Nich Maidment, Josh Kelly, and I) for the NTS Tuliptree Study. Your tree is not a new 170 footer... sorry. I think all of that group (which is directly across from the Rucker Tuliptree) is at or over 170'. Anyway, the little tree stands as determined via tape drop at 171.5' (52.27 m). It has 354 ft² (10.03 m³) cubes of wood. First branch is at 127.7 ft (38.92 m). Here is rendering of the tree based on the mapping:



Will

[Re: Alum Cave - GSMNP](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Thu Apr 18, 2013 10:01 am

Bob,

9/11/2011. It was selected for a superlative young tree. Here is proof!



Will Blozan

[The Pontfadog Oak, Wales Has Fallen](#)

by **edfrank** » Thu Apr 18, 2013 5:53 pm

The Pontfadog Wales Has Fallen

Rob McBride wrote: Did not ever think or want to be standing here....feels like we have lost a friend...a very old friend.



Rob McBride wrote: One of the oldest oak trees on the planet...the pontfadog oak has fallen after over 1.000 years....



Pontfadog Oak: 1,200-year-old tree toppled by winds
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-22202815>

Ancient oak falls in high winds

One of Britain's oldest trees, the Pontfadog Oak near Llangollen, was recently covered in heavy snow and has now blown over in high winds. <http://www.itv.com/news/wales/story/2013-04-18/ancient-oak-falls-in-high-winds/>

Re: The Pontfadog Oak, Wales Has Fallen

by **jamesrobertsmith** » Thu Apr 18, 2013 9:01 pm

Alas. This is very sad, indeed. I always worry about such landmark trees dying in my lifetime. Such as when the idiot kids burned up the big sycamore in WV. Or when those meth addict intentionally burned down The Senator in Florida. You expect this kind of shit to happen--trees are mortal, after all. I just hate to see it happen.

A giant sequoia Wendell Flint would liked to have measured

by **F.Jakobsson** » Thu Apr 18, 2013 5:10 pm

In the 1987 edition of To Find the Biggest Tree Wendell Flint writes on page 41 that he and Mike Law on the way to measure the Agassiz Tree “spotted the remnants of what once must have been a really big tree. It is now just half a shell of a tree, but we regret not taping it; it looked huge.” The tree isn’t mentioned in the 2002 edition. Having walked the same route looking for big trees I only found one that fitted the above description. If you like me wonder what the giant sequoias Flint writes about looks like, I’ve attached a few photos, hoping it’s not a case of mistaken identity... Has this tree been measured for volume at a later stage?

Fredrik



Above the big base the tree tapers rather quickly



The immense fire scar



Spider hammocks

Biltmore Village, NC

by **bbeduhn** » Thu Apr 18, 2013 1:53 pm

Biltmore Village has a green which contains very big, mature sycamores. The largest one has a cbh of 16+' and a height of 145.5'. There's a two topped dawn redwood on the back of that property and a small forested area beyond.

I remeasured the redwood and came out a bit lower. My laser has a clickover issue when I back up while scanning. this has led to some high figures on some conifers. I discovered it last summer so not too many measurements were affected. Some conifers at Biltmore Estate were listed 2-4' high.

The sycamores were a pleasant surprise. All of these are in a small area in the forest. I'm not reporting on any from the green.

Metasequoia Glyptostroboides dawn redwood
123.9' (previously reported at 127.3'. Laser error)

Pinus rigida pitch pine
100.2' 101.7'

Pinus echinata shortleaf pine
94.5' 110.2' 117.0' (previously reported at 115.7', cbh 8'5")

Pinus strobus white pine
118.0' 123.3' 124.3' 127.1'

Liriodendron tulipifera tuliptree
124.3' 125.9' 129.5' 131.0' 131.3'

132.0' 139.4' 141.2' 142.0'

Quercus rubra red oak
108.2' 110.8' 116.9'

Quercus alba white oak
106.1' 110.2' 111.0'

Quercus velutina black oak
94.6'

Fagus grandifolia beech

96.4'

Tsuga canadensis hemlock
92.2'

Oxydendrum arboreum sourwood
73.2'

Platanus occidentalis sycamore
116.1' 119.7' 121.1' 123.2' 123.4'

124.8' 142.4'

Queens Giant Tulip Poplar

by **Larry Tucei** » Sun Apr 14, 2013 10:37 pm

Bob- The Queens Giant (also known as the Alley Pond Giant or Alley Pond Park Giant) is an old Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) located in Alley Pond Park in the borough of Queens, New York City. It is the tallest carefully measured tree in New York City.[1] It is also probably the oldest living thing in the New York metropolitan area. As of 2005, the tree measures 133.8 feet (40.8 m) tall and is probably 350-400 (and possibly as many as 450) years old.[2]

The Queens Giant is situated north of the Long Island Expressway, west of the Cross-Island Parkway, hidden within a grove. The tree is just visible to westbound vehicles on the Expressway, but without going to the tree itself, the chances of knowing where to look are slight. The tree is near the Douglaston Plaza Mall, and is accessible by foot from Alley Pond Park. There are no signs to it, perhaps because many people want to keep it a secret and protect it from harm. One way to see it is with an Urban Park Ranger tour.[3]

I read where Bruce Kershner measured it back in 2002. It looks like a real whopper!! Have you or Howard been to this great tree?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/27/nyreg...orker.html>

Larry Tucei

Re: Queens Giant Tulip Poplar

by **edfrank** » Sun Apr 14, 2013 11:04 pm

A Rendezvous With 2 Giants

By MICHAEL CREWDSON and MARGARET MITTELBACH

Published: November 10, 2000

<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/11/10/arts/a-rendezvous-with-2-giants.html>

Re: Queens Giant Tulip Poplar

by **Larry Tucei** » Sun Apr 14, 2013 11:40 pm

Ed, Thanks for finding that article on the Queens Giant. It was well written; Bob and Bruce had a great time measuring both trees. I wonder if anyone ever climbed either tree. I like so many others in our group Love the Tulip Poplar. The largest girth on one I measured was at Torreya State Park in Florida back in 06 at 14' 6" but wasn't over a 100' tall. I measured another smaller tree to a height of around 130. My best from Ms. was 10' 10" and 132' at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge back in 09. I'm sure there are much larger Tulips in Ms. and not much taller. I'd estimate max height to 140 on that species given their ages. The exception would be in the Delta National Forest where there are a few pockets of old growth.

Perhaps I can locate a good one there sometime in the future. This year the rain kept me out of that area maybe next fall before the rainy winter season I can get in there.

Larry

Re: Queens Giant Tulip Poplar

by **dbhguru** » Wed Apr 17, 2013 7:17 pm

Larry, Bruce and I measured tuliptrees in Queens, Staten Island, and on Long Island at Welwyn Preserve County Park. I did most of the measuring while Bruce promoted our upcoming book - the Sierra Club Guide to Ancient Forests of the Northeast. We had a great time. We stayed with

Bruce's aunt on Staten Island. It was on that trip that I learned how lousy I was as a book promoter and how good Bruce was. Also, Bruce did all the driving, which was a good thing. We absolutely do not want me driving in New York City.

I recall a trip to the United Nations where my first wife Jani spoke at a committee honoring indigenous peoples. We were accompanied by one of Jani's Indian friends. I drove. Afterwards, they both agreed that were we to all to go to NYC again, they would first tranquilize me, put me in the trunk, and not open the trunk until we were safely in a parking garage.

Robert T. Leverett

Pequannock Watershed old-growth ancient hemlocks

by **greenent22** » Fri Apr 19, 2013 10:03 pm

Finally tracked down a document I managed to discover quite some years ago somewhere on the internet, *not my document*:
"

Vernon's Old Growth Trees

Robert Speiser and Tom Bosakowski had informed John Benzinger, a friend of mine and fellow naturalist, in the winter of 1985 that in the heart of the Pequannock Watershed, there indeed was an old growth forest unlike anything found in New Jersey. A hemlock forest with trees averaging 9-10 feet in girth and towering nearly 100 feet could be found in a remote area of Vernon. In fact, one hemlock tree was measured at 13 feet 6 inches. A mammoth tree whose size easily exceeded anything I had seen until that point in my life. (Continued on the BBS page)

EDIT: a quick google on a sentence from this found the original link:

<http://www.vernonweb.com/godspeed2.htm>

[Tree Maximums - Tree of the Week: Bur Oak](#)

by **Matt Markworth** » Sat Apr 13, 2013 7:08 pm



Tree of the Week: *Quercus macrocarpa*, Bur Oak

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=quma2>

Hi All, For me, there aren't too many things more pleasing to the eye than an open-grown Bur Oak. Its forest-grown counterpart may not be quite as jaw-dropping, however measuring a tall one can be a thrill. I measured a gnarly forest-grown Bur Oak to 122.4' this year and it's one of my favorites.

The 132 footer in Big Oak Tree State Park (MO) appears to be the tallest accurately measured specimen. It was measured by Bob Leverett in 2006 and Larry Tucei in 2009. Here's a link to Larry's post with photos:

https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en&fromgroup=s=#!topic/entstrees/ITHx_t0o0mE

Has anyone measured this tree since 2009 or possibly found one that is taller? I would also be interested to learn about any other Bur Oaks in the 120'+ class.

Please reply with these measurement details for any Bur Oak that can challenge the 132 footer. Thanks!

[Re: Tree Maximums - Tree of the Week: Bur Oak](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Sun Apr 14, 2013 9:51 pm

Beall Woods, Illinois 11/26/2006. Max spread 140.4' on a tree 40.2" DBH and 108' tall, as a start...

[Re: Tree Maximums - Tree of the Week: Bur Oak](#)

by **edfrank** » Mon Apr 15, 2013 9:43 am

That Tree - The life of a Lonely Bur Oak

<http://thattree.net/>



[Tree of the Week: Bur Oak](#)

by **tsharp** » Mon Apr 15, 2013 2:34 pm

Matt: Bur Oak submission as follows:

Country: USA

State or Province: Mason County, West Virginia

Property Owner: Old Oak Camp ground

Site Name: Old Oak Camp ground

Species (Scientific): *Quercus macrocarpa*

Species (Common): Bur Oak

Tree Name:

NTS Measurer(s): Turner Sharp

Date of Measurement: 10/19/2012

Height (ft): 107.7'

Method of Height Measurement: Sine Method with handheld Nikon 440 rangefinder, Suunto clinometer
CBH (ft): 23.2'

Average Spread (ft): 112'

Maximum Spread (ft): 126'

Habitat: Old river terrace above the Ohio River

Notes: Extensive scar in one quadrant of trunk, tree has been entered in Tree database.

Tree has been registered with WV since 1982

Re: Tree Maximums - Tree of the Week: Bur Oak

by **Matt Markworth** » Fri Apr 19, 2013 10:48 pm

Thanks everyone for all the participation for one of my favorite species. I was born in Missouri, so I take special pride that it harbors the tallest specimen of this great Midwestern species.

If anyone ever has the opportunity, please get an updated spread measurement for the Bur Oak on the Collenbrook Homestead in Drexel Hill, PA. The homestead is near the corner of Mansion Rd and Marvine Ave. Looking at Google Maps, I think it's the tree with the big spread behind the mansion. I would also love to be able to measure the Missouri State Champion that is on private property, it looks huge.

(<http://www.waymarking.com/gallery/image.aspx?f=1&guid=136731bc-8f26-4aa7-b844-b94f73daf2d0>)

Larry, Thanks for that great post back in 2009. Do you know the date or just the month you were there?

Turner, Thanks so much for sharing the info on the Old Oak Campground Bur Oak, that's an impressive tree.

Will, for the Beall Woods Bur Oak, can I also ask for CBH, Habitat, and any notes?

Tree of the Week Maximums List: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=393&t=5221>

Tree of the Week Forum: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=393>

Thanks!

Matt

Re: Tree Maximums - Tree of the Week: Bur Oak

by **Will Blozan** » Sat Apr 20, 2013 9:04 am

Country: USA

State or Province: Wabash County, Illinois

Property Owner: Beall Woods State Park, Mt. Carmel, IL

Site Name: White Oak Trail(?)

Species (Scientific): *Quercus macrocarpa*

Species (Common): Bur Oak

Tree Name:

NTS Measurer(s): Will Blozan

Date of Measurement: 11/26/1996

Height (ft): 108.0'

Method of Height Measurement: Sine Method with handheld Bushnell 500 rangefinder, Suunto clinometer

CBH (ft):10.5'

Average Spread (ft):111'

Maximum Spread (ft):140.4'

Habitat: River terrace east side of Wabash River

Notes: Impressive spread for small trunk! This site is in desperate need of NTS remeasurements!



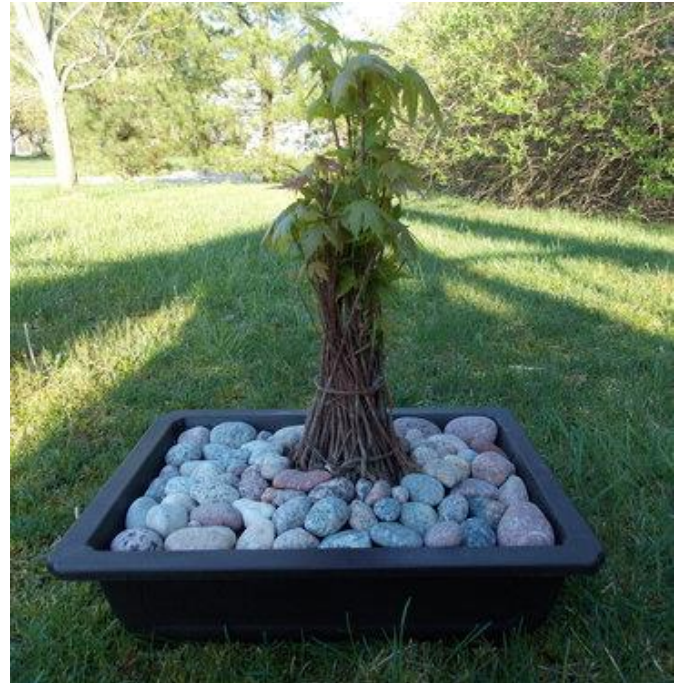
Will Blozan

Bonsai Experiment

by **Matt Markworth** » Sat Apr 20, 2013 7:25 pm

Hi All,

My neighbor has a Silver Maple and the helicopters really fly. I let some seedlings grow in a mulched area in my backyard and have used some of them (152 to be exact) for a Bonsai experiment.



Matt

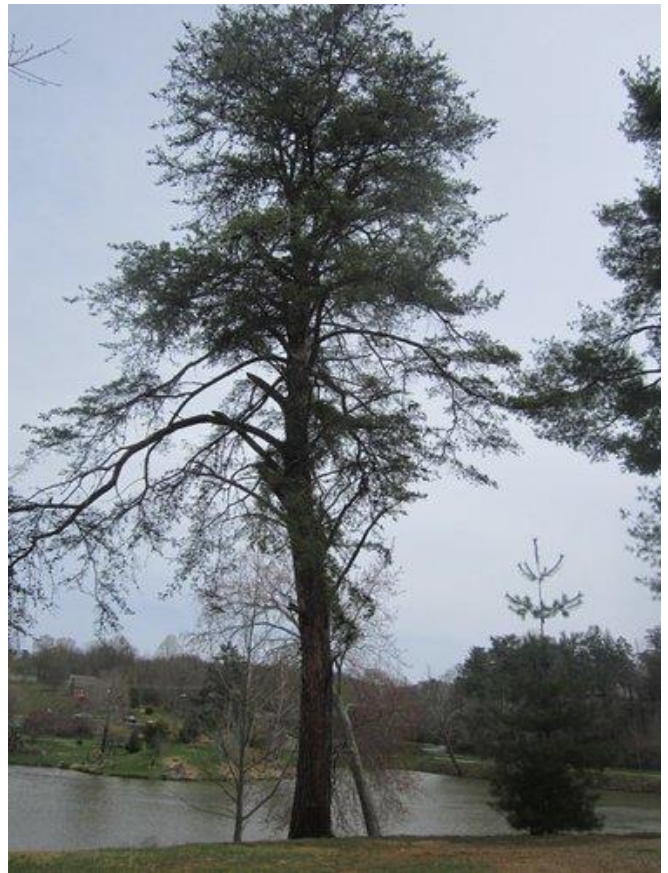
[Thick VA Pine, Lake Louise, Weaverville](#)

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Apr 22, 2013 11:34 am

This VA pine is the fattest I've ever seen and beats what was listed on the 2.1 Maxlist from a few years ago. It's only 74.8' tall but has a spread of 61' and a girth of 91" (7'7"). 181 points.



Seen from across the lake



74.8'



7'7" girth

Re: Thick VA Pine, Lake Louise, Weaverville

by **Will Blozan** » Mon Apr 22, 2013 12:17 pm

Brian, Geez what a fine looking tree! Sorry, but I do have a few larger-girthed ones... one over 9' in Knoxville. I'll look it up. My former TN Champion is 101" cbh and presumed still alive.

Will

Tree Maximums: Tree of the Week: Bigtooth aspen

by **dbhguru** » Mon Apr 15, 2013 7:42 pm

Matt: Bigtooth aspen submission as follows:

Country: USA

State or Province: Franklin Co, MA

Property Owner: Department of Conservation and Recreation

Site Name: Mohawk Trail State Forest

Species (Scientific): *Populus grandidentata*

Species (Common): Bigtooth aspen

Tree Name:

NTS Measurer(s): Bob Leverett & John Eichholz

Date of Measurement: Last Meas Oct 2012 by Leverett

Height (ft): 126.0

Method of Height Measurement: Sine Top-Sine

Bottom with handheld Nikon 440 rangefinder, TruPulse 200

CBH (ft): 5'

Average Spread (ft): 28'

Maximum Spread (ft): 35

Habitat: Slope above Deerfield River

Notes: Part of an aspen grove. Appears to be holding on, but no longer vigorous. One of three aspens in MA over 120 feet.

Robert T. Leverett

Tree Maximums: Tree of the Week: Bigtooth Aspen

by **Matt Markworth** » Mon Apr 15, 2013 8:08 pm

Bob,

Very cool! I love the fact that we're seeing so much geographical distribution. Hopefully we'll see some native West Coast, European, etc nominations in the future too!

Bigtooth Aspen was definitely on the must have list to feature for Tree of the Week. I'm impressed that you have access to all your data while travelling!

- Matt

Re: Tree Maximums: Tree of the Week: Bigtooth aspen

by **tsharp** » Thu Apr 18, 2013 9:17 am

Matt: Here is my nomination of an Bigtooth Aspen:

Country: USA

State or Province: Marshall County, West Virginia

Property Owner: Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge (ORINWR)

Site Name: Captina mainland tract

Species (Scientific): *Populus grandidentata*

Species (Common): Big Tooth Aspen

Tree Name:

NTS Measurer(s): Turner Sharp

Date of Measurement: 3/31/2010

Height (ft): 104.0

Method of Height Measurement: Sine Method with handheld Nikon 440 rangefinder, Suunto clinometer

CBH (ft): 7.9'

Average Spread (ft): 40.25

Maximum Spread (ft): 48

Habitat: Old river terrace above the Ohio River

Notes:

Re: Tree Maximums: Tree of the Week: Bigtooth aspen

by **Matt Markworth** » Thu Apr 18, 2013 5:46 pm

Turner,

Wow, West Virginia flexes its CBH muscle again.

Jess Riddle's MaxList shows a Bigtooth Aspen with the same girth measured by Dale Luthringer in 2007. Here is Dale's original post:

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/fieldtrips/kentucky/dismore_woods.htm

Patches of big tooth aspen were also present. One turned out to be a personal tallest measured at 7.9ft CBH x 121.9ft high.

Dale mentioned he was south of KY 18, so he was in 230 acre Middle Creek Park. Dinsmore Woods Nature Preserve, an old growth forest, is just to the north. The first time I hiked Dinsmore I felt like I had stepped back in time with massive decaying trees and all stages of pits and mounds to be seen.

I'll head down to Middle Creek Park and try to find the tree that Dale measured and see if it has put on any girth.

- Matt

Re: Tree Maximums: Tree of the Week: Bigtooth aspen

by **George Fieo** » Sat Apr 20, 2013 10:03 pm

Matt: Here is a bigtooth aspen I recently measured:
Country: USA

State or Province: Chester Co., Pennsylvania

Property Owner: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Site Name: White Clay Creek Preserve

Species (Scientific): *Populus grandidentata*

Species (Common): Bigtooth aspen

Tree Name:

NTS Measurer(s): George Fieo

Date of Measurement: 11/22/2012

Height (ft): 126.2

Method of Height Measurement: Sine Top-Sine
Bottom with handheld Nikon 440 laser rangefinder,
Brunton clinometer

CBH (ft): 3.7

Average Spread (ft):

Maximum Spread (ft):

Habitat: East facing, upper slope above White Clay Creek.

Notes:

Re: Tree Maximums: Tree of the Week: Bigtooth aspen

by **Matt Markworth** » Mon Apr 22, 2013 11:20 pm

George and Bob - Thanks so much for the submissions! Separated by only .2 ft, I'll enter both of these trees into the spreadsheet for Max Height.

Turner - Thanks again, WV continues to impress!

If anyone has other species in mind, and you think that you may have measured the Max Height, Girth, or Spread, then please don't hesitate to start a topic in the Tree of the Week forum like Bob did with all the details. Otherwise, since I'm only introducing one species per week, it may take awhile to get to your favorite:)

Tree of the Week Maximums List: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=393&t=5221>

Tree of the Week Forum: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=393>

Thanks,
Matt

[Auburn Oaks.](#)

by [jamesrobertsmith](#) » Tue Apr 23, 2013 7:29 pm

The oaks at Auburn that were poisoned by the Alabama asswipe have died. Now they've been removed.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/04/23/us/alabam ...
?hpt=hp_c4](http://www.cnn.com/2013/04/23/us/alabam...?hpt=hp_c4)

James Robert Smith

[Catskill Reunion \(NY\)](#)

by [dbhguru](#) » Mon Apr 22, 2013 8:55 am

Hi Folks,

Yesterday, on our way back to Massachusetts, Monica and I spend a day in the Catskills of NY. Those steep mountains have long been a favored place of mine to hike and enjoy superb scenery without having to drive all the way to the Adirondacks or White Mountains. But, I must caution, one does not go to the Catskills to see big trees. There aren't any, or at least there aren't many. The big stuff was cut by rapacious timber barons back in the 1800s and the rocky soils don't allow the trees growing back to acquire much size. That is just the way it is. However, apart from the scenery, which is abundantly present, there is a story to be told about the Catskills that few people know. Above 2,800 feet elevation, treated as an average, much of what you see is first growth forest. Yes, old growth. According to the research of Michael Kudish, the Catskills harbor approximately 64,000 acres of old growth. The trees are stunted. No commercial value, but oh what character.

Monica and I climbed Giant Ledge and on to Panther Mountain to get the views and reconnect with the diminutive forms of yellow birch, black cherry, American beech, balsam fir, red maple, and red spruce. Here is the view looking north to northeast. The flat ridge is 3,840-foot Plateau

Mountain, one of the 35 Catskill peaks over 3,500 feet.



The next scene is of the Catskill's highest, 4,180-foot Slide Mountain. Actually, 4,180 is the highest contour line on the map. Slide is probably a little more.

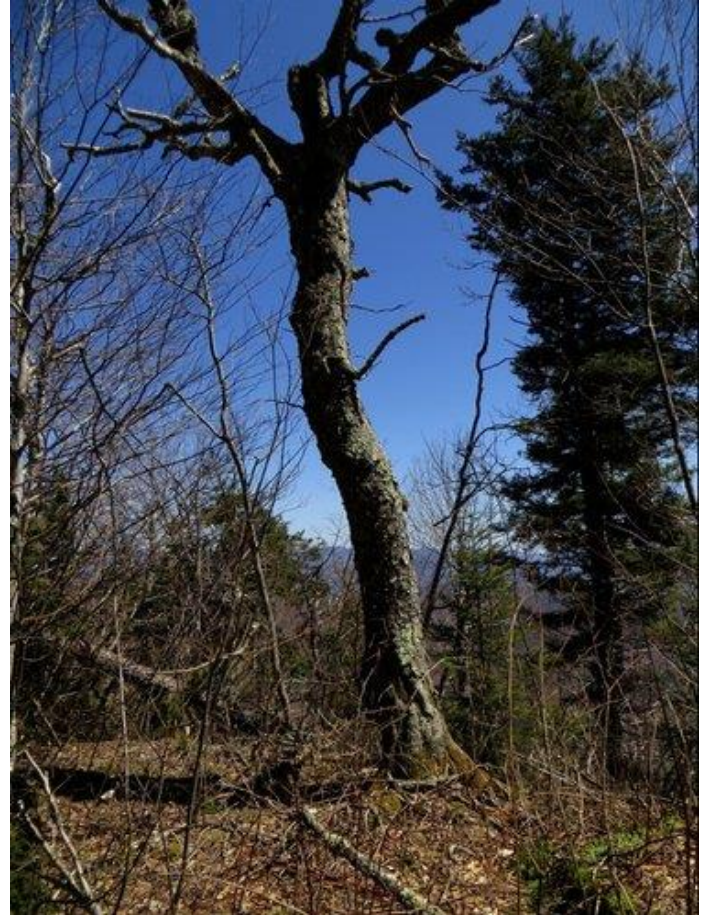
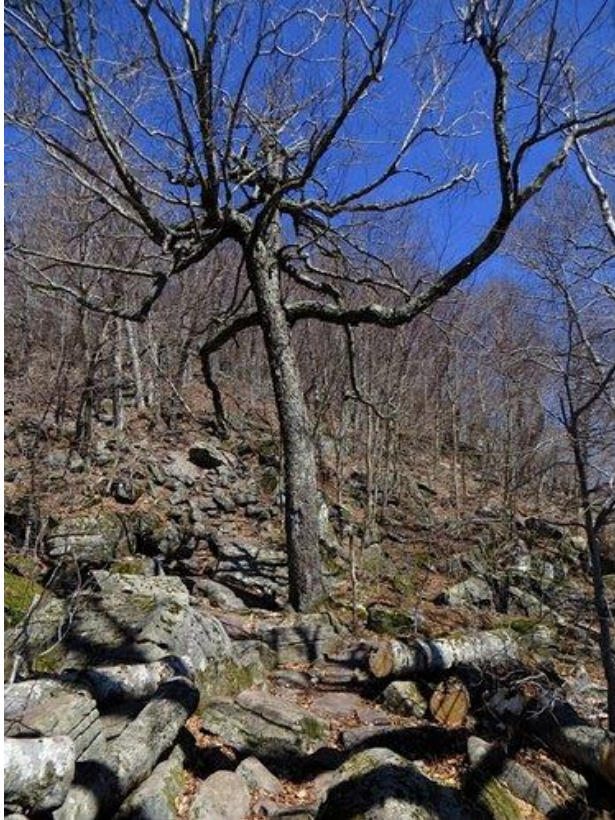


You can see the lingering snow on Slide in the image. A couple of facts about the top of the Catskills. Bicknell's Thrush was first discovered on the summit of Slide. The precipitation on Slide is close to 70 inches annually, which supports a rich community of mosses, lichens, and liverworts. It is a pretty wet place.

What stands out in my mind about the upper elevations of the Catskills is the miniaturized forest

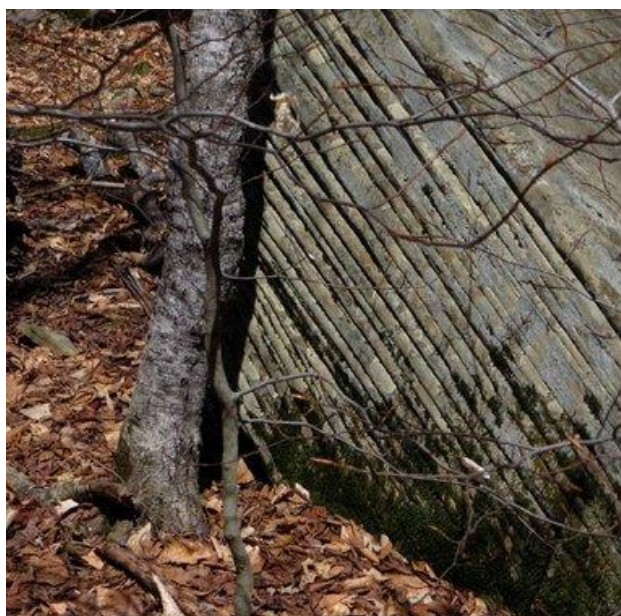
of twisted, contorted forms. One enters a Tolkien realm of magical forms. Here is a sample of these forms, mostly yellow birch and black cherry.





More conventional forms and scenes are no less attractive. Lots of trees have survived the ice and wind better, but still show sculpted forms. Rock formations are intriguing.



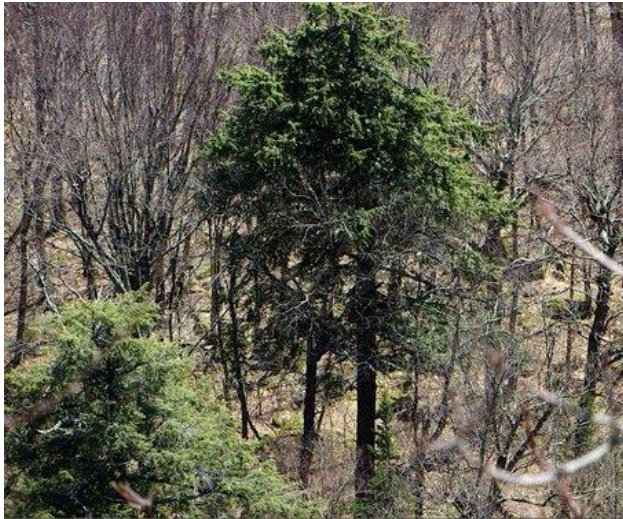


Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Catskill Reunion](#)

by dbhguru » Mon Apr 22, 2013 12:40 pm

One very gratifying experience I had yesterday was seeing the hemlocks at the base of Giant Ledge in good condition.



And one for the road. A scene looking through gnarled limbs out into the void of space from Giant Ledge and toward the distant peaks.



I saw a lot of conglomerate on Giant Ledge along with shale and what appeared to be sandstone to my eyes.

Bob

[Re: Catskill Reunion](#)

by Joe » Mon Apr 22, 2013 10:55 am

just a sidenote- I've always been interested in the Catskills, geologically- I may be wrong, and Ed. Frank will correct me if I am wrong, but the Catskills was built up as a delta deposit way, way back in, I think the Devonian, when western New England had very high mountains- a large river drained westerly into the ocean that made up much of mid America- since the ocean was close to the high mountains, the delta wasn't like the Mississippi Delta, mostly finer material, instead, it's mostly tough stuff like sandstone and conglomerate- ergo, not good bedrock for good soil for farms or forests- further west formed shales and some coral reefs which are preserved to this day...

Joe Zorzin

Tree Maximums - Tree of the Week: Common Hackberry

by **Matt Markworth** » Tue Apr 23, 2013 8:58 pm



Tree of the Week: *Celtis occidentalis*, Common Hackberry

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=CEOC>

Hi All,

Here's a mid-week submission for Tree of the Week.

George Fieo's Hackberry find appears to be a slam dunk for Max Height and possibly Max Girth. Here is George's original post from a couple months ago:

<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=151&t=5090> What a nice looking tree!

Please reply to this post if you've measured a Common Hackberry that rivals the height or girth of this tree, and also reply if you think you've measured what could be the maximum spread for the species. I'll wait one week to see what replies are generated before entering this tree into the Tree of the Week Maximums List.

George - Please let me know if you have anything additional for Habitat, Notes, or Method of Height Measurement.

Country: USA
State or Province: PA
Property Owner: Open Land Conservancy of Chester County
Site Name: Cedar Hollow Preserve
Species (Scientific): *Celtis occidentalis*
Species (Common): Common Hackberry
Tree Name:
NTS Measurer(s): George Fieo
Date of Measurement: 2/17/13
Height (ft): 119'

Method of Height Measurement: NTS Sine
CBH (ft): 12.6'
Average Spread (ft):
Maximum Spread (ft):
Habitat: Forest
Notes: CBH: 12'8"

Tree of the Week Spreadsheet and Guidelines:

<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=393&t=5221>

Tree of the Week Forum: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=393>

Thanks,
Matt

Future Tree of the week: Pinus Ponderosa var. Scopulorum

by **dbhguru** » Wed Apr 17, 2013 5:43 pm

Matt, Here is the information for a future tree of the week. It is the Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine. The Schrater Pine is the tallest accurately measured of its species, not to be confused with the Pacific Coast Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*, var. *ponderosa*)

Country: USA
State or Province: Colorado
Property Owner: USFS
Site Name: Hermosa Creek
Species (Scientific): *Pinus Ponderosa* var. *Scopulorum*
Species (Common): Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine
Tree Name: Schrater Pine
NTS Measurer(s): Bob Leverett assisted by Steve Colburn of Laser Technology Inc.
Date of Measurement: July 2012
Height (ft): 160.7 feet
Method of Height Measurement: Sine Top-Sine
Bottom to marker and tape drop to base
CBH (ft): 9.3 feet
Average Spread (ft):
Maximum Spread (ft):

Habitat: Moist ravine in La Plata Mountains

Notes: Tree and measuring of it were highlighted in Durango Herald article. Laurie Swisher, representative of the USFS was present and assisted in measurement

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Future Tree of the week: Pinus Ponderosa var. Scopulorum

by **Matt Markworth** » Fri Apr 19, 2013 10:09 am

Bob,

What a story!

Thanks so much for this submission. My species knowledge is growing by leaps and bounds. Here's the original thread on Bob's find if anyone missed it like me . . . <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=70&t=4299>

And the story from the Durango Herald . . .

<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20120715/NEWS01/707159873/>

I'll wait one week from submission before entering it into the Tree of the Week Maximums List to see if any Maximum Girth or Maximum Spread submissions come out of the woodwork.

Please keep the big trees coming! I like how Bob started a new topic in the Tree of the Week forum (<http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=393>). Please do the same if you've measured what could be the Maximum Height, Girth, or Spread for a particular species and we'll be able to cover many more species than just one per week.

I updated the spreadsheet with this extraordinary Pinus Ponderosa var. Scopulorum. It's pretty cool being able to put Colorado into the Tree of the Week Maximums List.

Thanks again Bob for submitting it!

Tree of the Week Maximums List: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=393&t=5221>

- Matt

Potential National Champion Carolina hemlock D.O.A

by **Will Blozan** » Mon Apr 22, 2013 11:46 am

NTS,

Way back in 1996 I spotted a grove of Carolina hemlock near Montreat, NC that had impressive trees, but did not go down to see it. As many of you know, Carolina hemlock (*Tsuga caroliniana*) is a diminutive cousin to the much larger eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) with it's global population center in North Carolina. I returned to the grove yesterday to scope it out and am kicking myself for not returning sooner...

The small stand is on a NE running ridge on the east side of Brushy Mountain near the small town of Montreat. The ridge is classic xeric evergreen dominated by pitch and Table Mountain pines with a healthy dose of Carolina hemlock (yes, some were in fact healthy in spite of heavy HWA pressure). The ridge communities are stunted but occasionally a seed gets going in a wetter, more protected area and great things happen. As I approached the grove a large hemlock snag was seen near the creek and at first glance I assumed it was a moderate eastern hemlock. As I got closer the ID changed and expletives flew when I realized it was a Carolina and not an eastern. Man, was I bummed I did not revisit this grove in time to treat the tree in it's prime. Point total for this tree soars to 229 which shatters all previous National Champions to my knowledge (126" CBH X 93.3' tall X ~40' spread). A 200 pointer is hard to find! Regardless, I plan to climb and model it for volume as it likely is the largest specimen any NTS has seen.



The beast

Damn little sucking bastard adelgids!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Will Blozan

[Re: Potential National Champion Carolina hemlock D.O.A](#)

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Apr 22, 2013 12:51 pm

Will,

That girth is simply awe inspiring! and it's got significant height as well. That one we crawled to at Blue Ridge Assembly...was that nearly 9' and 90'+ tall? That was the largest I've ever seen and thankfully, still thriving.

Brian

[Re: Potential National Champion Carolina hemlock D.O.A](#)

by **PAwildernessadvocate** » Mon Apr 22, 2013 6:18 pm

Too bad about the Carolina hemlocks. I hope the same fate does not await the hemlocks here in NW PA.

Went to a conference at Montreat last fall, as it happens, what a beautiful little community nestled in the mountains! Video of a hike up Lookout Mountain in Montreat at sunset:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wa-ouQaHnY>

BRPW White Pine Report

by dbhguru » Thu Apr 18, 2013 9:18 pm

Folks,

Today Monica and I left Cosby, TN and headed back to the BRPW via Black Mountain, NC. We wanted one last look at the big Smokies from a Foothills Parkway overlook. Here is what you see.



Mount Guyot, just left of center has its head in the clouds. At 6,621 feet, Guyot is the 4th highest peak in eastern America. Thank goodness, it does not have a road to its top.

Once on the Parkway, I resumed my documentation of white pines. On the trip down, I measured pines near the VA-NC border that exceed 130 feet in two locations. The tallest measured reaches 132.3 feet. Today, at Linville Picnic area, I discovered a number of pines over 130. Heights obtained were 139.1, 138.9, 137.2, 136.8, 134.4, 132.8, and 130.9. Outside of Linville Gorge, this is the best I'd done for the species along the Parkway. There are 150-foot pines in the gorge, but interestingly not in the stands near the gorge on Parkway land.

Farther north near milepost 229, we stopped at a promising location and I got 131.8 on a pine. I saw another that looked very promising. I got 143.0. Finally! So now, we have at least one white pine visible from the Parkway that exceeds 140 feet. I realize that this isn't very much, but at least we're

determining what the trees along the Parkway achieve in the way of heights.

So, we have a few tulip trees and white pines that break 140 feet in view of drivers on the Parkway. But these trees are proving to be few and far between. The Parkway is not the place to see outstanding trees. I never really thought it was compared to our big/tall tree sitess, but I imagined there might be a few spots hidden from immediate view that would yield some fairly impressive numbers. So far, that has not proven to be the case, with very rare exception. But tomorrow the search continues.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: BRPW White Pine Report

by bbeduhn » Fri Apr 19, 2013 9:53 am

Bob,

In Asheville, white pines along the Parkway exceed 140' in at least four spots.

140.9' 11'9" cbh at Route 74 two small ridges between road and tree. Challenging to spot from road.

144' from 2 years ago near Hendersonville Road 30-40 yards from the road

147.3' between Hendersonville Road and Route 74 30-40 yards from the road

154.7' between Hendersonville Road and Route 74 100+ yards from the road

I'm pretty sure that at least the crowns are all visible from the Parkway.

Brian

[Re: BRPW White Pine Report](#)

by dbhguru » Fri Apr 19, 2013 4:23 pm

Brian, Thanks. You've got the Parkway record. Maybe we can team up and produce a big tree/tall tree profile for the Parkway and submit a report for use by their interpreters who would probably like the information. Are you game?

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: BRPW White Pine Report](#)

by bbeduhn » Mon Apr 22, 2013 10:54 am

Bob,
I most certainly am game for this project. I'll get together a listing of my top measurements along the Parkway, pronto. I found a new 122' shortleaf this weekend to replace the 124' that died.
Brian

[Re: BRPW White Pine Report](#)

by bbeduhn » Wed Apr 24, 2013 12:43 pm

Bob,
Here are my highs for the parkway. All trees are close to the Parkway but not every one is visible from the road. I still have several spots to check and I need to confirm the exact species on some hickories. No sycamores as of yet but I haven't measured at the French Broad or Swannanoa River yet. I'll check out the red spruce on Blackstock Knob as well.

site A between 74 and Sweeten Creek
site B between Hendersonville Rd and I-26
site C between Folk art Center and Craven Gap
site D 191/WNC Arboretum entrance
site E between Headquarters and Folk Art Center

chestnut oak	133.5'	A
white oak	130.9'	A
red oak	127.2'	A
black oak	121.3'	A

scarlet oak	125.4'	A
white pine	154.7'	A
shortleaf pine	122.3'	B
pitch pine	124.8'	B
loblolly pine	134.0'	D
Virginia pine	112.1'	E
red pine	94.2'	D

Tuliptree	142.1'	A
black cherry	114.7'	C
sourwood	98.0'	A
white ash	121.6'	C
black birch	85.5'	C
black locust	110.1'	C
sugar maple	99.7'	D
red maple	113.8'	A
pin cherry?	94.9'	A

walnut	103.0'	C
red hickory	122.6'	C
pignut hickory	129.4'	A
mockernut hickory	107.0'	C

hemlock	103.0'	B
---------	--------	---

Brian

[Re: BRPW White Pine Report](#)

by bbeduhn » Fri Apr 26, 2013 8:47 am

Bob,
I searched a small, rich cove yesterday and upped a few numbers. The full report will be under the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

tuliptree	142.1'
red oak	127.2'
white oak	130.9'
red maple	113.8'
pin cherry?	94.9' (definitely not black cherry)

Brian

Tree Maximums - Tree of the Week: Eastern White Pine

by **Matt Markworth** » Sun Mar 31, 2013 10:09 pm

This week's tree: *Pinus strobus*

Tree of the Week Maximums Spreadsheet and Submission Guidelines: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=393&t=5221>

Tree of the Week Forum: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=393>

Re: Max Height List - Tree of the Week: *Pinus strobus*

by **Matt Markworth** » Mon Apr 01, 2013 8:27 pm

Here's the information I've gathered.

Will - Do you know the last date the Boogerman Pine was measured and also the method of height measurement?

Country: USA
State or Province: North Carolina
Property Owner: National Park Service
Site Name: Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Species (Scientific): *Pinus strobus*
Species (Common): Eastern White Pine
Tree Name: Boogerman Pine
NTS Measurer: Will Blozan
Date of Measurement:
Height (ft): 188.9
Method of Height Measurement:
Notes: Measured at 207 ft tall by Will Blozan and Robert Leverett, prior to losing its top in Oct 1995

Thanks,
Matt

Re: Max Height List - Tree of the Week: *Pinus strobus*

by **Will Blozan** » Mon Apr 01, 2013 8:56 pm

Matt, The last measurement was taken by myself and Brian Beduhn sometime in 2011. If you want a specific date I can look it up later. We used NTS methods (Nikon 440 and clino) with a pole at the base. BTW- the initial 207' measurement was derived from a taped based line with cross-triangulation. First measure after breakage was via a climb and tape drop (186.1').

Good idea- let's see if it catches on. Let's not forget the little ones as well... I measured a 35'+ *Frangula* (*Rhamnus*) *caroliniana* last week which shatters the records!

Will Blozan

Re: Max Height List - Tree of the Week: *Pinus strobus*

by **Steve Galehouse** » Tue Apr 02, 2013 2:24 pm

Matt- Attached is the summary of data entered for white pine from the treesdb.org site my son put together.

 [white pine.xlsx](#)

[Re: Max Height List - Tree of the Week: Pinus strobus](#)

by dbhguru » Tue Apr 02, 2013 3:27 pm

Matt, Steve,

The Jake Swamp white pine, New England's known tallest is now 171.0 feet.

I think New England's MTSF may also have the tallest accurately measured bigtooth aspen that we know of. It is 126.0 feet. I'll put together the full information in a future post.

Robert T. Leverett

[Re: Max Height List - Tree of the Week: Pinus strobus](#)

by Matt Markworth » Sat Apr 06, 2013 10:12 pm

For the debut of "Tree of the Week," the Boogerman Pine takes the top spot for *Pinus strobus* (not that there was ever any doubt). Congrats to all that have accurately measured the tree and it will be interesting to see how long it takes for another White Pine to reach this height.

Country	State or Province	Property Owner	Site Name	Species (Scientific)	Species (Common)	Tree Name	NTS Measure(s)	Date	HT
USA	NC	NPS	GSAMP	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern White Pine	Boogerman Pine	W Blazan/S Beduhn	2011	188

Also, thanks to Ed for setting up "Tree of the Week" with it's own forum. That will make it much easier to search and reply to posts as more and more trees get added to the Tree of the Week Max Height List. Here is the link for the forum: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewforum.php?f=393>

Thanks,
Matt

[Widen, WV Yellow-poplar](#)

by tsharp » Fri Apr 26, 2013 10:24 pm

NTS:

On Oct. 14 2012 I made a spur of the moment visit to the Widen Yellow-poplar mainly because I wanted to see how it survived the July 29 derecho. This is the tallest tree known of any species in WV and was measured by Carl Harting, Russ Richardson, Anthomy Kelly and others in 2006.

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/fieldtrips/west_virginia/widen/west_virginia_foray.htm

Below are a couple of October 2012 pictures.



During my visit the canopy was still pretty thick but I got just shy of 170' height by shooting straight up. I did measure 80.6' to base of first limb and a height of prominent balding to 31'5'. Of course just two weeks later central WV had a heavy wet snow that caused a lot of tree damage so the condition of the tree

remained unknown throughout the winter. Just recently I heard from Dan Cooley who remeasured this tree in April and reports no snow damage and almost no changes in any of the measurement from 2006. The height is still 173'. Dan

is one of the WV state foresters who uses a Nikon 550 and the sine method to determine tree height.

Photos by Angie Rosser 10/14/2012



[Re: Widen, WV Yellow-poplar](#)

by [dbhguru](#) » Fri Apr 26, 2013 11:06 pm

Turner,

Thanks for keeping us current on the Widen Poplar. Great tree! I wonder what else once grew in WV in the way of big trees? Seems to me that WV comes closest to matching the high growth conditions of the GA-SC-NC-TN Appalachian region of very tall trees.

Robert T. Leverett