

INTRODUCING THE *BULLETIN OF THE EASTERN NATIVE TREE SOCIETY*

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Conventional wisdom holds that an organization has really “come of age” when it can offer its membership something a little more tangible than just a sense of belonging. In a sense, the *Bulletin of the Eastern Native Tree Society* has been months in preparation, with many dedicated individuals working hard to create a visual representation of the Eastern Native Tree Society. In reality, this journal has been years in the works, dating back to the earliest moments of the organization as its purpose crystallized from the efforts and interests of its founding members.

So what is the vision for the *Bulletin*? I suppose if you were to ask a dozen ENTS members, you would get a dozen different responses. Perhaps the best way to understand the *Bulletin* is to know the organization and its goals. ENTS was formed not that many years ago to celebrate the forests and trees of eastern North America through a variety of formats. Additionally, the founders intended ENTS to serve as a repository for highly accurate information on large tree dimensions.

ENTS is comprised of a small but dedicated core of devoted tree measurers from many different fields—some scientific, some not. We have writers and weather forecasters, arborists and computer instructors, professors and students, people of all walks of life and all levels of interest. Although

centered around some core principles, the *Bulletin* will reflect the diverse interests of ENTS membership. To this end, a wide range of materials can be submitted for consideration for publication in the *Bulletin*—simply follow the instructions for authors posted in this and future issues. In addition to more technical materials like trip reports and peer-reviewed scientific articles, the editorial board would like to encourage members to submit poetry, pictures, stories, editorials, observations, and other original creations that correspond to the interests of the society.

In many ways, the diversity of material on the ENTS website and the Internet discussion group will be mirrored in the nature of the *Bulletin*. This open and free collection of ideas and passion for the forest has always formed the basis of the organization. The *Bulletin* will serve as a clearinghouse of information in a standardized, distributable, and free format. We hope that our contributions to science are matched by our contributions to art and literature and help to advance the shared goals of the ENTS.

In short, the *Bulletin of the Eastern Native Tree Society* was created to help the membership broaden their horizons, and to help society in general develop a deeper appreciation for the trees and forests we all hold dear. We look forward to serving you, and start sending in those materials!



A remnant grove of ancient baldcypress and tupelo gum in the White River National Wildlife Refuge of eastern Arkansas.

Photo by Don C. Bragg.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SOCIETY ACTIONS

ENTS Rendezvous/Forest Summit Holyoke, Massachusetts October 27-29, 2006

From October 27-29, 2006 ENTS will hold its annual Fall Rendezvous in western Massachusetts. Friday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. will be devoted to lectures at Holyoke Community College, Holyoke, Massachusetts, as part of the broader Forest Summit Lecture Series sponsored by the college, ENTS, and Friends of Mohawk Trail State Forest. The agenda is tentative at this point, but will include lectures on old growth forests, big tree measuring and modeling, and the accomplishments of the ENTS during the year.

Saturday will be devoted to a tree-measuring workshop at the Mohawk Trail State Forest in Charlemont, Massachusetts. ENTS president Will Blozan will climb one of the tall white pines and conduct a tape drop to determine its height precisely. A variety of trigonometry-based methods will then be used from the ground for comparison purposes. Through these workshops, ENTS not only compares measurement methods and evaluates measuring equipment, but works on perfecting standard measurement protocols. The tree chosen for climbing is still tentative, but will likely be the Mirror Tree, which has a trigonometry-based, measured height of 152.6 feet and a circumference of 10.8 feet at breast height. The Mirror Tree is easily

accessible, but presents technical challenges to measurers due to poor concurrent visibility of both the crown and the base. Usually the trees chosen for measurement are clearly visible. The climb will also allow us to obtain accurate girth measurements from aloft to use in testing different methods of trunk and limb volume modeling.

In the evening, ENTS will feature a concert of classical music devoted primarily to the theme of nature. The concert will be held at the United Federated Church of Charlemont and will feature Smith College Professor of Music Monica Jakuc on piano and Dr. Lee Frelich of the University of Minnesota on the violin (as well as other performances—the talent program is still being developed). There will be poetry readings by Ed Frank and possibly participation by other ENTS members who are writers.

On Sunday, Will Blozan will do a climb of the Bryant Pine at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Cummington, Massachusetts. The event is intended partly as a fundraiser for the Trustees of Reservation, the oldest broad-based conservation organization in Massachusetts and one of the oldest in the United States. The Bryant Pine will be modeled for volume at this event.

More details will follow.

Some of the participants of the 2004 ENTS Rendezvous/Forest Summit. Photo by Ed Frank.

