

THE MORRIS PINE

Don C. Bragg

Research Forester, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station,
P.O. Box 3516 UAM, Monticello, AR 71656



A picture of the Morris Pine taken in March of 2006. Standing next to the base is Kirby Sneed, a forestry tech with the USDA Forest Service. Photo by Don C. Bragg.

Few trees are more prominent in southeastern Arkansas than the Morris Pine. This ancient loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) has been a roadside stop for people for over a half-century. An estimated 300+ years old, the Morris Pine is located on the grounds of the Levi Wilcoxon Demonstration Forest (LWDF) a few miles south of Hamburg, Arkansas.

This pine has been known by several names over the years, including the “Monarch Pine” and the “Mattoon Pine” after Wilbur Mattoon, a noted USDA Forest Service researcher and educator. About 1950, the Crossett Lumber Company, who owned the Morris Pine and the lands surrounding it, decided to name this impressive tree after Louis Morris, a long-time company employee who grew up near the tree (Anonymous 1950).

The Morris Pine is one of the largest and oldest living loblolly pines in this portion of the South. In March of 2006, I remeasured this pine and found it to be 14.6 ft CBH and 117 ft tall, not as big as reported on a sign that hangs on the tree, but a large specimen nevertheless.

The Morris Pine is very easy to locate. The LWDF is located about three miles south of Hamburg on Highway 425. The Morris Pine is located on the west side of Highway 425 about 100 yds south of the intersection of Highway 425 and Highway 52. You will need to park along the road (the highway shoulder is wide enough to accommodate a full-sized vehicle). There is a short trail that leads to the pine, which is visible from the highway.

LITERATURE CITED

Anonymous. 1950. Crossett names giant pine to honor L.L. Morris. *Forest Echoes* 10(5):2-5.