

(Central NY is defined here as follows: Onondaga, Madison, Oneida, Cortland, Oswego, Cayuga (north of Thruway and on shore of Skaneateles Lake) Counties)

PRIMARY OLD GROWTH FOREST

Green Lakes State Park Hemlock-Hardwood, Hemlock-Tuliptree Cove
 Onondaga Co. Lakeside White Cedar
 about 1000 acres old growth
 UPLAND, LAKESHORE

Tuliptree Cathedral - possibly only Hemlock-Tuliptree Cove in upstate NY and tallest forest in central NY with Tuliptrees to 145 ft. The Tuliptree Cathedral covers about 6 acres; the bulk of the old growth is dominated by Sugar Maple, and is one of the largest old growth forests in the Northeast outside the Adirondacks, and one of the largest old growth Sugar Maple forests near any major city in the USA, and this old growth forest contains 2 unique meromictic lakes.

Wizard of Oz Memorial Oak Grove (North Syracuse) Oak
 Onondaga Co. 6 acres old growth
 LOWLAND owned by North Syracuse Central School District, canopy trees to 200+ years old. This forest is the most likely inspiration for L. Frank Baum's world-famous Great Forest of Oz as Baum grew up near this oak grove.

North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove Oak
 Onondaga Co. 1.5 acres
 LOWLAND owned by North Syracuse Cemetery Association, Oaks to over 200 years old, extremely high density of large trees

Liverpool School ~~Maple~~ Maple Grove (Clay)
 Onondaga Co. 11 acres Northern Hardwood
 LOWLAND owned by Liverpool Central School District
 Exceptionally large old growth Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Beech, Shagbark Hickory

Selkirk Shores State Park Northern Hardwood
 Oswego Co. 8 acres old growth
 UPLAND between Day Use Area + Campground, only original old growth forest known in Oswego Co.

Nelson Swamp White Cedar Swamp
 Madison Co. owned by NYSDEC contains White Pine to 470 years old
 LOWLAND

S.U.N.Y. Morrisville Hemlock Grove Hemlock-Hardwood
 Madison Co. 3? acres Hemlocks over 300 years old
 UPLAND

Hemlock Island Hemlock acreage uncertain
 Cayuga Co. LAKESORE SW shore Skaneateles Lake

SECONDARY OLD GROWTH FOREST**Sacred Grove, Von Steuben Memorial State Historic Site**

Oneida Co. 5 acres Northern Hardwood, highly disturbed
 UPLAND with nearly all big trees removed over past
 100+ years

Brewerton Oak Grove Oak 1 acre site destroyed by owner 1998
 Onondaga Co. used to be magnificent stand of White Oak-Red Oak -
 UPLAND big trees but few other old growth signs, yet some
 of these trees could have been from the original forest.
 The largest tree, a forest-grown Red Oak 53.1" dbh was spared
 (at least as of 2003).

Camillus Maple Forest Northern Hardwood 38 acres
 Onondaga Co. owned by NYSDEC, core of Camillus Unique Area,
 UPLAND dominated by Sugar Maple

Pratts Falls County Park Hemlock-Northern Hardwood
 Onondaga Co. acreage of older forest uncertain
 UPLAND

Beaver Lake Nature Center Hemlock-Northern Hardwood
 Onondaga Co. acreage of older forest uncertain, owned by Onondaga Co.
 LOWLAND, LAKESORE at least 2 areas of older forest, including
 Beech Grove

Curtiss-Gale State Wildlife Mgmt. Area Hemlock-Hardwood
 Oswego Co. 10 acres older forest owned by NYSDEC south of Fulton
 UPLAND established after most likely natural disturbance after
 1800, possible site of opening scenes in J. F. Cooper's Pathfinder

CLIFFSIDE OLD GROWTH

Chittenango Falls State Park White Cedar Madison Co.

Clark Reservation State Park White Cedar Onondaga Co.

OPEN COLLECTIONS OF OLD GROWTH TREES (not forests)

Hamilton College, Clinton mixed species, some old growth Oneida Co.

Shackelton Point (Oneida Lake) Sugar Maple, few Red Oak Madison Co.

Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse White Oak, Red Oak, ^{Black Oak} Onondaga Co.

Long Branch Park, Geddes White Oak, Red Oak, Black ^{Oak} Onondaga Co.

Open Collections of Old Growth Trees continued:

Recreation Park, Fulton Red Oak Oswego Co. (on Lake Neahtawanta)

North Bay Campground, Fulton Red Oak Oswego Co.
(on Lake Neahtawanta)

Mt. Adnah Cemetery, Fulton huge Black Oak, some White Oak, White Pine
Oswego Co.

Tom Howard
Central NY Old Growth Survey
1/20/2008

Tree Age Data

Cored Trees (with increment borer)

	Dbh(in.)	Core Age	Tree Age as of 12/2007
White Oak 1	29.8	111	199 (1808)
White Oak 2	27.9	124*	147 (1860)
White Oak 3	31.2	102	161 (1846)
White Oak 4	22.6	111*	132 (1875)
Red Oak 5 fell 9/98	56.5	77	230 (1770)
Red Oak 6	47.7	104	147 (1860)
Black Oak 7	34.7	62	137 (1870)
White Oak 8	24.9	120	187 (1820)
Black Oak 9 dead 2007	19.3	120*	137 (1870)
White Oak 10 dead 2007	18.9	110*	127 (1880)
White Oak 11	26.2	139	179 (1828)
Black Oak 12	29.2	101	142 (1865)
White Oak 13	28.3	94	194 (1813)
Red Oak 14	31.6	80	127 (1880)
White Oak 15	25.2	61	160 (1847)
Tupelo 16	18.9	183	237 (1770)
Black Cherry 17	14.3	82	134 (1873)
Sassafras 18	12.3	96*	112 (1895)
Red Oak 19	38.4	41	142 (1865)
White Oak 20	36.5	123*	147 (1860)
Black Oak 21 dead 2007	30.9	55	132 (1875)
Red Oak 22	25.6	77	139 (1868)
White Oak 23	18.5	134#	152 (1855)

* = core reached pith or center of growth. Tree ages are based on extrapolations from short cores, due to short length of increment borer and extractor. Trees were cored from Feb. 1997 - Jan. 2002.

Trees felled or salvaged Feb. 1999

	Diameter(in.)	Rings	
White Oak	20	130	log
Red Oak	26	130	log
Red Oak	25	130	log
Red Maple	18.5	125	log
Red Oak	33	100	stump
red Maple	19	105	stump
red Maple	13	105	stump
Red Maple	23.5	115	log
Red Maple	23	142	log
White Oak	26	130	log
Black Oak	30	72	log
Black Oak	30	87	log
Red Oak	30+	98	log

Red Oak	30+	105	log
White Oak	20+	115	log
Red Maple	20+	105	log
White Oak	30	140	log
Red Maple	24	121	log
Black Oak	29.5	81	stump
Sassafras	15.2	132	stump + log
Sassafras	15	95	stump
Sassafras	15	110+	stump

Other Age Data:

		Rings
5/5/2002	White Oak branch from fallen snag 3.5" radius	110
	Red Maple snag stump	115
3/25/2003	Red Maple stump 5.5" radius	150
	White Oak snag stump	150+
5/6/2003	Black Cherry sapling 2" radius	85
5/7/2003	Red Maple long-dead log 2" radius 40 ft. above base	80
5/25/2003	Red Maple pole size	70
	Tupelo stump radius 3.5"	154
8/17/2003	Chestnut stump radius 2.5"	83
10/28/2003	White Oak long-dead log radius 6"	144
10/28/2003	Black Oak cross-section fallen dead branch from Poe Tree radius 4" (tree is still alive, Onondaga Co. Camp champ. 49.6" dbh)	100
11/27/2003	Red Maple radius 7"	80
	White Oak snag stump radius 10"	220

Age Estimates for Living Trees:

	average	Max.
White Oak	160	200+
Red Oak	135	150
Black Oak	135	170 (Poe Tree)
Red Maple	150	200
Tupelo	180	240
Sassafras	115	150
Black Cherry	130+	190+
White Pine	150	150

Tom Howard
 Friends of Wizard of Oz Memorial Oak Grove
 Central NY Old Growth Survey

**Wizard of Oz Memorial Oak Grove, North Syracuse, NY
Tree Height Update**

5/7/2006

Heights measured 4/29/2006 by Robert Henry and Tom Howard with clinometer and 100 foot tape measure - great pains were taken to make sure that these measurements are as accurate as possible and that the topmost twigs were seen and measured correctly.

Tree	Dbh(in.)	Height(ft.)
Baum Red Oak tallest tree in North Syracuse, possibly tallest of its species for so far north	47.7	124
Poe Black Oak Onondaga County champ, possibly tallest NY, Possibly tallest of its species for so far north	49.6	110
White Oak	29.6	111
White Oak #2 (on brochure core list)	27.9	106
White Oak	20.2	110
Gage White Oak	32.8	104
Muir White Oak	36.5	112
Red Maple possibly tallest NY, possibly tallest of its species so far north	17.0	119
Sassafras Onondaga County champ	18	74
Shakespeare White Oak	28.3	96
White Pine	31.2	96

Summary of Height Measurements of 4/25/98 (by a team led by old growth expert Robert Leverrett), **5/5/2002** (by a team led by Fred Breglia of NY Old Growth Forest Association - heights 4/25/98, 5/5/02 taken with laser rangefinder and clinometer), **4/24/2004** (by Robert Henry and Tom Howard with clinometer and 100 foot tape measure), **4/29/2006**

Tree	Dbh	Cbh(ft.)	Height	Date
White Oak #11 #11 brochure core list, possibly tallest White Oak Upstate NY	26.2	6.9	114	5/5/02
White Oak	21	5.5	108	5/5/02
White Oak	28.3	7.4	109	4/24/04
White Oak	24.8	5.5	110	"
White Oak#4	22.6	5.9	105	"
White Oak #15	25.2	6.6	111	"
White Oak	22.9	6	112	"
White Oak	29.6	7.8	111	4/29/06
White Oak #2	27.9	7.3	106	"
White Oak	20.2	5.3	110	"
Gage White Oak	32.8	8.6	104	"
Muir White Oak	36.5	9.6	112	"
Shakespeare White Oak	28.3	7.4	96	"
Einstein White Oak	24.9	6.5	102	4/25/98

Baum Red Oak	47.7	12.5	124	4/29/06
tallest tree North Syracuse, possibly tallest of its species so far north				
Red Oak	44.4	11.6	103	4/25/98
Red Oak #5	56.5	14.8	88	4/25/98
tree fell 9/7/98				
Poe Black Oak	49.6	13	110	4/29/06
possibly tallest NY, possibly tallest of its species so far north				
Black Oak #21	30.9	8.1	103	4/24/04
Tubman Black Oak	32.6	8.5	100	"
JFK Red Maple	35	9.2	104	4/25/98
Onondaga County champ				
Red Maple	17.9	4.7	119	4/29/06
possibly tallest NY, possibly tallest of its species so far north				
Red Maple	25.4	6.6	110	4/24/04
Mandela Red Maple	24.7	6.5	103	5/5/02
Mother Teresa Red Maple	20.5	5.4	103	4/24/04
Black Cherry	21.4	5.6	97	4/24/04
possibly tallest of its species so far north in USA				
White Pine	31.2	8.2	96	4/29/06
Beech	14.2	3.8	83	4/24/04
Sassafras #18	12.3	3.2	82	4/24/04
possibly tallest Upstate NY, possibly tallest of its species so far north in USA				
Sassafras	18	4.7	74	4/29/06
Onondaga County champ				
Anne Frank Tupelo	18.9	4.9	80	4/24/04
possibly tallest NY, possibly tallest of its species so far north tree est. 230+ years old				
Yellow Birch			62	4/24/04

Tallest of each species:

Red Oak	124
Red Maple	119
White Oak	114
Black Oak	110
Black Cherry	97
White Pine	96
Beech	83
Sassafras	82
Tupelo	80
Yellow Birch	62

Possibly tallest in NY -

Black Oak	110
Red Maple	119
Tupelo	80

Possibly tallest Upstate-NY -

White Oak	114
Sassafras	82

Possibly tallest of species so far north:

Red Oak	124
Black Oak	110
Red Maple	119
Tupelo	80

Possibly tallest of species so far north in USA:
(there are taller in Canada)

Black Cherry	97
Sassafras	82

Nowhere else in the world do so many major tree species reach latitude height records on such a small site.

Trees greater than or equal to 30 in. dbh:

1. Poe Black Oak	49.6	
2. Baum Red Oak	47.7	
3. red Oak east	44.4	
4. Red Oak south	42.3	
5. Gandhi Red Oak	41.5	
6. Red Oak #19	38.4	
7. Muir White Oak	36.5	
8. Disney Black Oak	36.1	
9. JFK Red Maple	35	
10. MLK Black Oak	34.7	
11. Red Oak southwest	34.1	
12. Red Oak northwest	33.9	
13. White Oak cathedral north	33.5	
14. Gage White Oak	32.8	
15. Red Oak north edge	32.7	measured 4/29/06
16. Tubman Black Oak	32.6	
17. Red Oak southwest	32.2	
18. Red Oak southwest	31.8	
19. Red Oak #14	31.6	
20. White Pine northeast	31.2	
21. White Oak #3	31.2	
22. Black Oak #21	30.9	
23. Red Oak #22	30.4	trunk not cored
24. Black Oak west edge	30	

It is significant that this grove which most likely inspired L. Frank Baum to create the Great Forest of Oz has, as its tallest tree, the Red Oak dedicated to him.

Tom Howard

Friends of Wizard of Oz Memorial Oak Grove

5./7/2006

dbh = diameter at breast height

cbh = circumference at breast height

On Nov. 25, 2007, Jack Howard and I visited the spectacular old growth forest on this cold sunny day. This is the oldest forest in the northern suburbs of Syracuse and its core is 11 acres of Old Growth Northern Hardwood Forest dominated by Sugar Maple, Beech, and Red Maple. On this day the air felt pure, permeated with the delightful scent of freshly-fallen leaves. Sugar Maple and other species average over 200 years old with the oldest Sugar Maples possibly 350 years old.

We examined the following trees:

Beech filled with golden leaves 35" dbh

Sugar Maple - largest tree in Grove, ancient, craggy, with shaggy bark, spiral grain, est. 122 ft. tall, one of the largest forest-grown Sugar Maples in Northeast 51.3" dbh (13.4 ft. cbh) most likely Onondaga County champ.. 2 large most likely ancient scars could have been made by Indians in 18th cent. to mark trails ("Indian Paint Tree"), and could have been a "witness tree" scarred by Military Tract surveyors c.1790 as a Sugar Maple witness tree stood at this spot. This tree is possibly 350 years old.

Sugar Maple 39.2" dbh, massive all the way up

Bitternut Hickory, possibly 120 ft. tall, 26.9" dbh

Beech 27.9" dbh

Sugar Maple 45.6" dbh, massive buttress roots, burls, spiral grain

Basswood arching over paved path 21.4" dbh

Onondaga Co. Champion Red Maple 36.4" dbh (co-champ with JFK Red Maple in Wizard of Oz Oak Grove, North Syracuse)

Shagbark Hickory, northwest edge, 40.5" dbh, possible Onondaga Co. champion

Also at north edge cross-section of fallen Shagbark Hickory branch 156 rings, radius 5", 70 ft. above base of tree
tree est. 200-250 years old

This old growth grove is a priceless educational and ecological resource in the midst of the crowded northern suburbs of Syracuse.

Tom Howard
Central New York Old Growth Survey
1/20/2008

Liverpool School Maple Grove, Wetzel Rd. Elementary School,
Clay, NY

Tree Age Data

		Rings
11/18/98	Sugar Maple stump of fallen tree	133
2/26/99	34.4" dbh	
	Sugar Maple stump radius 6.1"	100
	Sugar Maple stump 3.3 ft. diameter	200+
4/13/2001	Sugar Maple stump of dead tree	210
4/14/2002	1.2 ft. radius	
8/17/2002	Beech cross-section from 40 ft. up	145
8/20/2002	8" radius	
	Red Maple branch cross-section from	150+
	40 ft. up, 5" radius	
	Sugar Maple cross-section of fallen branch	176
	7" radius	
4/26/2003	Beech log cross-section from high in tree	110
	Basswood log cross-section 40 ft. above	170
	base, .6 ft. radius	
	Basswood log cross-section 38 ft. above	242
	base, .55 ft. radius	
11/25/2007	Shagbark Hickory branch cross-section	156
	70 ft. above base, 5" radius	

Tom Howard
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1/20/2008

Oldest Trees of Onondaga County, NY.

(this doc. modeled after AFER website Ontario's Oldest Trees)

* = extrapolated age

White Pine	dead	290*	North Syracuse Cemetery
Hemlock	living	500*	Green Lakes State Park
Hemlock	dead	392	"
White Cedar	dead	180	"
Basswood	dead	350*	Liverpool School Maple Grove
Basswood	dead	242	"
Beech	dead	240	Green Lakes
White Ash	dead	210	"
Black Gum	living	240*	Wizard of Oz Oak Grove, N. Syr.
Black Gum	living	183	"
Black Oak	living	165*	" (Poe Tree)
Black Oak	<i>dead</i> <i>2009</i> living	125	" (Robinson Tree)
Black Oak	living	185*	North Syr. Cemetery Oak Grove
Red Oak	dead	215	Green Lakes
Red Oak	living	180*	North Syr. Cemetery Oak Grove
White Oak	living	270*	North Syr. Cemetery Oak Grove
White Oak	dead	240	Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse
Red Maple	dead	200*	Wizard of Oz Oak Grove, N. Syr.
Sugar Maple	dead	266	Green Lakes
Sassafras	living	150*	Wizard of Oz Oak Grove, N. Syr.
Sassafras	dead	137	"
Tuliptree	living	200+*	Green Lakes
Tuliptree	living	160	Green Lakes

Tom Howard
 Central NY Old Growth Survey
 1/21/2006

Tallest Trees in New York State
(heights in feet)

2/19/2007

White Pine	160.00	Elders Grove, Adirondacks
Red Pine	110.0	Floodwood-rollins Pond, Adirondacks
Red Spruce	105.0	Peavine Swamp, Adirondacks
Balsam Fir	95.6	Elders Grove, Adirondacks
Larch	100.0	Peavine Swamp, Adirondacks
Hemlock	126.0	Kaaterskill Falls
Tuliptree	156	Zoar Valley
White Ash	140.8	Kaaterskill Falls
White Oak	121.6	Vanderbilt Estate, Hyde Park
Red Oak	140.3	Zoar Valley
Black Oak	110	Wizard of Oz Oak Grove, North Syracuse
Black Oak	106.3	Welwyn Preserve, Long Island
Beech	130.1	Zoar Valley
Sycamore	155	Zoar Valley
Black Locust	126.6	Old Maid's Woods, Schenectady
Pignut Hickory	129	FDR Estate, Hyde Park
Bitternut Hickory	136.4	Zoar Valley
Mockernut Hickory	103.1	Vanderbilt Estate, Hyde Park
Black Walnut	124.1	Zoar Valley
Sugar Maple	127.6	Zoar Valley
Red Maple	119.1	Zoar Valley
Red Maple	119	Wizard of Oz Oak Grove, N. Syracuse
Black Cherry	131.1	Lily Dale Grove, Chautauqua Co.
Cucumber Magnolia	115.5	Long Point State Park
American Basswood	128.7	Zoar Valley
American Elm	120.6	Zoar Valley
Red Elm	120.4	Zoar Valley
Cottonwood	134.4	Zoar Valley
Sassafras	107.3	Welwyn Preserve
Black Tupelo	80	Wizard of Oz Oak Grove, N. Syracuse
Black Birch	107.3	Welwyn Preserve
Yellow Birch	101.1	Zoar Valley

All heights except Floodwood-Rollins Pond, Peavine Swamp, Wizard of Oz Oak Grove are from Eastern Native Tree Society website. Floodwood-Rollins Pond and Peavine Swamp are from championtrees.org. Heights in Wizard of Oz Oak Grove were measured by Robert Henry and Tom Howard using clinometer; great care was taken to make these height measurements as accurate as possible.

Tom Howard
Friends of Wizard of Oz Memorial Oak Grove
Central NY Old Growth Survey
2/19/2007