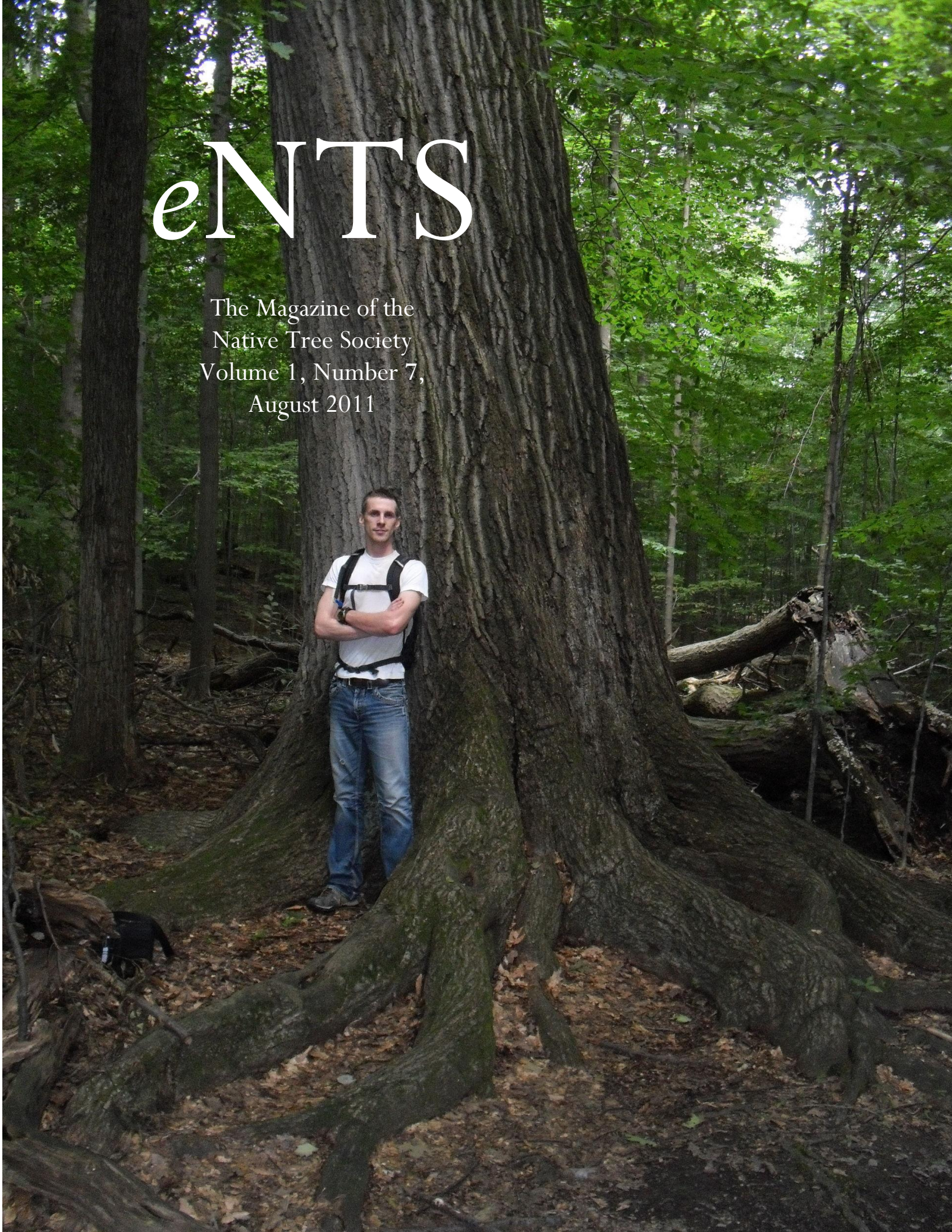
# eNTS

The Magazine of the
Native Tree Society
Volume 1, Number 7,
August 2011



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

The Native Tree Society and the
Eastern Native Tree Society
http://www.nativetreesociety.org
http://www.ents-bbs.org

Volume 1, Number 7, August 2011

**Mission Statement:**

The Native Tree Society (NTS) and its parent organization the Eastern Native Tree Society (ENTS) are a cyberspace interest groups devoted to the documentation and celebration of trees and forests of the eastern North America and around the world, through art, poetry, music, mythology, science, medicine, wood crafts, and collecting research data for a variety of purposes. ENTS is the premiere tree measuring group of the eastern forest of the United States. This is a discussion forum for people who view trees and forests not just as a crop to be harvested, but also as something of value in their own right. Membership in the Native Tree Society and its parent organization the Eastern Native Tree Society is free and open to anyone with an interest in trees living anywhere in the world.



**Membership and Website Submissions:**

Official membership in the NTS and ENTS is FREE. Simply sign up for membership in our bulletins board at http://www.ents-bbs.org Submissions to the website or magazine in terms of information, art, etc. should be made directly to Ed Frank at: edfrank@nativetreesociety.org The *eNTS: the Magazine of the Native Tree Society* is provided as a free download in Adobe© PDF format through the ENTS website and the ENTS BBS. The editorial staff of *eNTS: the Magazine of Native Tree Society* are solely responsible for its content.

*COVER: Dan Reed with red oak at North Chagrin Reservation, OH. Photo by Steve Galehouse.*

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## Editor's Corner: Why Aren't Women More Active in ENTS?

By Edward Frank

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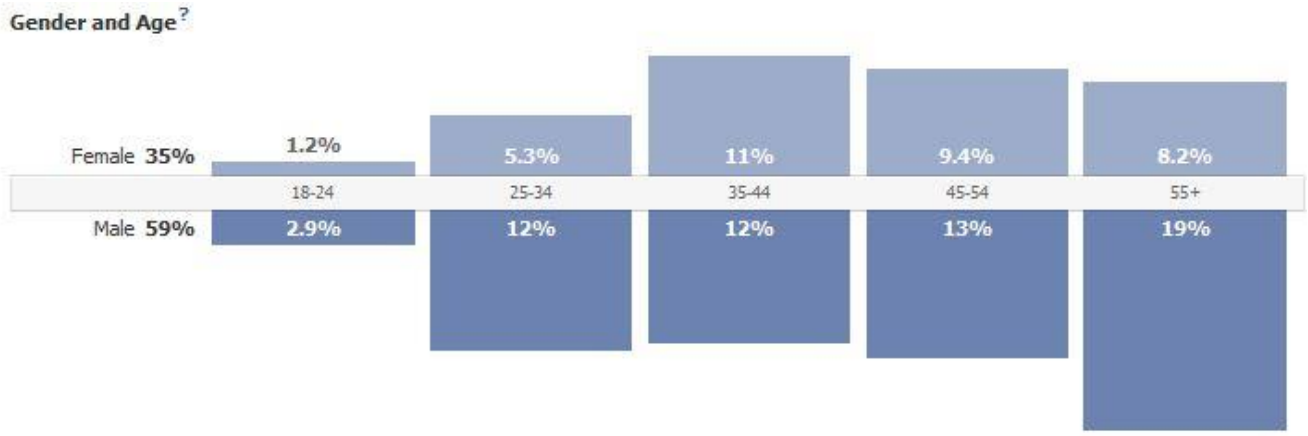
A perplexing question that has remained unanswered among the membership of ENTS and now of NTS is the lack of participation by women in the organization. This question was again raised by Robert Leverett on the NTS BBS in July: *"How can we move the measuring boat forward to attract a much wider audience? And where are the lady measurers? Why is this almost exclusively an old boy occupation? Just wondering."*

The entire discussion thread can be followed here: http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=2705 I really have no idea of how to answer the question. There is limited participation or posting even in the non-measurement forums. I am not sure what we could do to spur participation by the female contingent. On the NTS Facebook page the ratio is 56% Men, 36% Women and 6% Other (maybe groups or other pages.) We certainly do not have nearly that high of a percentage of women posting to the BBS. There have been a variety of responses by members, but no real answers at this point. Here are a selection of the responses:




Facebook age and gender statistics for the Native Tree Society Page from August 15, 2011

Robert Leverett writes:

*We value our female members enormously, and encourage them to post. I'm unsure why their BBS participation in terms of posts doesn't match their percentage of membership. Maybe some of our valued female members will cast light on the subject. What have we been doing wrong? ENTS is absolutely not an old boy's club. But maybe it appears that way. If so, what do we need to do to reverse the appearance?*

Larry Tucei writes:

*The reason for lack of women on ENTS maybe because it's not their cup of tea. Men hunt, hike, fish, explore more than women do and it has been that way forever. Our ancestors had to survive in the wilderness and struggled to do so. Only the strong survived back in the old days. Women bore us and rasied our offspring, which kept them real busy. I've brought my Mom, girlfriend, cousins and daughter to big trees many times. I've also taken them into Forests. They enjoy them but not like I do. I'm not saying it's because I'm male, maybe I'm wrong but most women enjoy nature but just don't get out into it*

*like men do. One more note some of the younger generation doesn't seem to think of trees like the older. They seem to have forgotten our natural heritage. This is just one point of view to think on, I hope I did not upset anyone by giving my thought on this topic.*

Robert Leverett writes:

*Pursuing the female Ent discussion, over the decades, women have been some of our top conservationists. They are often sensitive to the beauty and importance of an area when all the men want to do is go after its natural resources. Maybe what it comes down to is that women are more into the qualitative aspects and less so in the quantitative. From a public perspective, people like John Muir were the ones who got the attention, but I keep coming across out-of-the-way places that were recognized and preserved by some small, determined woman, who was only locally known, but prevailed against a lot of opposition.*

Releena writes:

*Larry, I don't often have the time to reply to posts (I am a graduate student in forestry/forest ecology), but I do read them. I was surprised to see your post that women just don't get into nature the way men do. I respectfully have to disagree. Yes, there are women with no interest in being outside in a forest, just as there are men with a similar lack of interest in the outdoors. I don't think its fair to say that women don't enjoy forests as much as men- even at a general level. Just my thoughts.*

*To the group generally, There could be a lot of reasons why women aren't posting to the group as much, perhaps they feel more observational rather than conversational. It is through conversation that we are able to share knowledge and ideas, but it is through observation first that we can have informed conversations. This is just my take on the situation, I am only one woman's voice. I don't think ENTS in an old boys club, and never got that impression, even if men are the primary discussion posters. This may be a reflection of my worldview and upbringing: people are people (I was raised as a person rather than as a girl if that makes sense). The main reason I don't post more is I am at a stage in my career when I don't have the time to devote to group as actively as other members. I know some very passionate and devoted tree-loving women are out there, just maybe not able to post here on ENTS very often.*

Andrew Joslin writes:

*I believe that in general women are less interested in posting on BBS forums online no matter what the focus of interest. This is true in the tree climbing BBS forums, the ratio of male to female forum participants is heavily skewed to the male side of the climbing community even though there are many female tree climbers out there. Note that Facebook in general has much higher active female participation. I suspect that Facebook creates a safer feeling online environment since members can control who are their "friends" and who can see their posts. It's arguable whether or not Facebook actually is a a safer online environment but there are enough ways for users to control privacy etc that it feels that way. The BBS environment is a relatively simple interactive format, kind of like speaking to an empty room, or maybe a full room, sometimes it's difficult to know. Using the Facebook model again as an example, it does a better job providing a range of feedback cues that makes the participant feel like they are actively participating in a conversation with people they are connected to rather than speaking to a group of mostly unknown (to the poster) individuals.*

*I'm not a big fan of pointing out behavior differences between genders, any generalized statement is going to be wrong for many individuals. There are behavior averages per gender then there is reality: there is huge variation across individuals of either gender. That said it's clear to me that males are more comfortable in the BBS forum format.*

Ryan writes:

*I'd like to think women are interested in trees just as much as men are. When primitive humans lived in the woods, the women were right there alongside the men. Maybe as gender roles become increasingly less distinct, females will be in the woods just as much as their male counterparts. Maybe we could contact the Sociology BBS for an answer...?!*

Greenent22 writes:

*But BBS can be anonymous while Facebook is not and it's more Google+ that allows you to easier control who sees what. But it is true that FB does seem to have more female posting than BBS for almost anything.*

James Parton writes:

*The OBOD Druid Grove Forum uses the same BBS format and provider that ENTS does and female participation is common there. I don't see the BBS format intimidating women.*

Robert Leverett writes:

*I think the answer goes deeper than Internet media format or presentation. Not being a women, I hesitate to theorize too much. But, heck, I'll throw caution to the wind for a while and speculate. First, let me make clear that I hold our women Ents in the highest esteem. I think the ladies provide critical balance and depth to ENTS. This said, I do have a feeling that women are less compulsively about reducing everything to a set of measurements and numbers with announced winners and losers. I believe the competitive instinct is so much a part of the male personality that we're unconsciously competitive when we'd swear that not to be the case. This leads to lots of measurements, and in our case, the an incessant drive to up the Rucker.*

*I believe that women go in more for the qualitative as opposed to the quantitative. They can be quantitative, if they so choose, but often see less reason for it than we do for the reasons we proclaim. Hunting down big and/or tall trees IS hunting. Still, I'd like to have more women into measuring, for a more important reason. We need the data. It is often through the data that we are able to distinguish a forest as special, and get others on board with us to help protect it. That is really the bottom line story, the most important reason for going to great lengths to document the biggest and tallest through numbers.*

*The active forest management paradigm invariably reduces forests to a young age. People who believe otherwise are deluding themselves. The biggest and oldest trees disappear, and trees are reduced to human-sized numbers. Consequently, our efforts are constantly needed to remind people of what forests once were and should be again. I use this justification for my numbers frequently in pointing out the differences between the old growth and mature second growth forests that I move in relative to the younger forests of properties like the huge Quabbin reservoir in central Massachusetts. Lots of people have grown up hiking in Quabbin and have come to see those forests as the standard. When they walk in Monroe SF with me, they are blown away. What, trees like these in Massachusetts?*

Adam Rosen writes:

*My wife and daughters are always up for little detours to see trees with me, and my kids like to help me measure or estimate (provided they are in a good mood), but this business of quantifying, measuring, comparing, seeking champions--well, isn't all that stuff pretty masculine? (like, think Freud). What else can be done when we see an awesome tree?*
*Measuring it is one way to experience it.*
*Photographing is tricky, though some of you guys are getting really good (Bob!). I think that there are other ways to experience a tree, that don't translate well into this forum. For example, Sometimes I try to think--what was happening when this tree started growing? Who was here? For large urban trees, garden trees and yard trees, who planted it? Who tended it?*

*One of my favorite trees is a Swamp White Oak at Naumkeag, a Gilded Age Mansion in Lennox, MA.*
*The man who commissioned the house picnicked with his family under this tree in the 1860's, and decided to build their summer home on the spot.*
*Sure, my energy could go into measuring the tree--maybe it's in the state top five, maybe not--but I could also imagine the story of how that tree touched a life--maybe that's a prompt for a journal entry (private entry--not a blog post!). There's lots to ways to deepen our understanding of trees, but I suspect the measurement orientation of ENTS is more appealing to men. Relena? What do you think?*

Robert Leverett writes:

*Good points. Yes, absolutely, there are lots of meaningful ways to relate to trees. From a big*

*picture standpoint, measuring their dimensions is a lesser important one. I have considered the Freudian explanation of our measuring obsession. Embarrassing, but probably closer to the underlying forces at work. This said, you'd think we'd get a few female measurers to participate. Maybe after our initial sales pitch, they sense it is a Freudian thing and shy away. We understand, ladies.*

Lisa Beluzo writes:

*I have been following this post and have been giving it some thought. I don't have a simple answer and certainly could not speak for all women. For myself, however, I am less interested in the exactness of the height measurements (and all the instruments used to obtain them) and more interested in things like the ecosystem, health of the trees or new findings. I have felt intimidated by the effort and documentation involved in obtaining the measurements and do not feel qualified to comment on them. With that said, however, I do have a deep appreciation for the attention brought to certain trees and stands based on the measurements obtained. I recognize that it is a way of paying attention to and honoring the trees. It's just not a way that I feel connected to .*

Robert Leverett writes:

*I certainly understand where you are coming from. Monica feels just as you do, and she's very connected to the trees, as are you. However, Monica gets overloaded with my deluges of numbers, and so I have to turn off the spigot when were on walks together to give her breathing room. I just don't want the lady Ents to ever feel excluded, or think that the good old boys think they have a monopoly on tree measuring skills. In past battle of the sexes, men often asserted that their sex was superior in math skills. I think that is pure baloney, regardless of where primary interests may lie. It is true that we began ENTS primarily as a group of tree measurers, and there continues to be a heavy focus on measuring. But whether it is intense measuring, broader questions of science, photography, art, mythology, etc., we just want the women to play a major role in NTS, ENTS, WNTS, whatever we call it.*

The question still remains unresolved and I am still looking for a magic bullet or explanation that would allow us to better recruit women into the organization and encourage their participation. If you think of the history of the subjugation of women in terms of education and career choices, the real loss is in the intellect, discoveries, and advancement that were lost by not allowing the participation of half the population.

Photograph of the Green Man at the Custard Factory, Birmingham, England, the work of sculptor Tawny Gray.

## Craggy Flats, NC - full write-up

by **d**bhguru » Mon Aug 08, 2011 2:29 pm

Blue Ridge Parkway Adventures-Part I.
Craggy Flats Bald
By Bob Leverett

Introduction

As part of the planned itinerary, Monica and I saved the Blue Ridge Parkway, our shared southern mountain Mecca, as the final leg of our 8,700-mile trek. We were looking for a way to stave off the depression that can accompany the end to a magnificent journey. We also wanted to begin collecting information, in earnest, for our book project, "In Search of the Gnarled and the Majestic – A Guide to the Exceptional Forests and Trees of the Blue Ridge Parkway". The NPS has granted us a research permit so we can collect data more freely. We'll share all results with the Parkway staff and give them the say on what shouldn't go into the book, e.g. information they deem sensitive that could put a resource at risk. What we hope to accomplish with the book is providing a more detailed look at the forests and trees along the Parkway to foster a greater appreciation and sensitivity to our eastern forest legacy.

At present, we're struggling with details of book organization, prioritizations, and even overall content. We've decided that those details will ultimately sort themselves out provided we have enough material. So, we just aimed our Subaru for the southern end of the Parkway, and once there, starting clicking our camera and jotting down notes. By the time we had exited the Parkway at milepost 46, we had made seven major stops: Craggy Flats, Crabtree Falls, Linville Gorge, Smart View, Falling Water Cascades, Peaks of Otter, and Otter Creek. We will present individual descriptions of these six spots in separate reports. We normally include lots of images in our reports, but will hold down the number to keep each document to around a megabyte. We apologize in advance, if the file size is still too great. Please let us know. We will now turn to our first stop, Craggy Flats Bald and Craggy Gardens.

Craggy Flats Bald

Our first significant stop along the Parkway was Craggy Flats Bald north of Asheville. At 5,680 feet, the bald is one of the high summits of the Craggy Mountains, a sister range to the massive Blacks. But, unlike the Blacks, the Craggies are covered in solid deciduous forest, although the peaks are high enough to support Red Spruce and Fraser Fir, the two high altitude species that impart the dark color to the upper elevations of the Blacks. Right now, we don't know the reason for this, but that will become a research project for our book. Although they stand in the shadows of the hulking Blacks, the Craggy Mountains are still an important range to the peak baggers: they boast one peak over 6,000 feet elevation, Craggy Dome at 6,085.

The Dome is an imposing sight up close or from a distance. From nearby, it is hard to judge its altitude, but from Tomahawk Lake in the town of Black Mountain, the Craggies stand out boldly on the horizon, and the Dome marks a distinct point on the skyline, rising over 3,700 feet above the level of the lake. Will and Heidi Blozan had taken us from their house down to see the small lake. It was mostly about surveying the trees on the way, but for me, the walk provided a fortuitous opportunity to view the Craggies from a distance and to contemplate what it means to be considered a separate range of mountains in what is otherwise a confusing jumble of summits stretching for mile after mile.

First, let's take a look at the Craggies from the Parkway as we saw them driving up from Asheville. Their pleasing shades of blue reflect the dense covering of hardwoods.

For folks interested in mountains, their formation, their fauna and flora, their human culture, their highest summits, and their unforgettable vistas, the southern Appalachians provide a plateful. Visitors to the region are confronted by a long list of range and place names, and if serious about their geological understanding, at some point must tackle the task of comprehending what constitutes a separate geological area of uplift as opposed to a local range name. For example, are the Great Craggies geologically distinct from the adjoining and roughly parallel Blacks? Since the respective summits of the Craggies are vegetated quite differently from those of the Blacks, are the two ranges composed of different rock types?

The Parkway runs across one shoulder of Great Craggy Dome on its way to a rendezvous with the Blacks. Passing through Balsam Gap, at around 5,200 feet, one hardly notices that one has passed over the dividing line between the two ranges. We were curious as to what significance we could attach to the passage. Here is a look at the Blacks from the sides of the Craggies. They are two distinct mountain ranges, each with its distinct set of charms.

trail to the flats where one can catch the best of the Catawba and Carolina rhododendron bloom. From the Pinnacle, visitors can look down into the Big Ivy watershed. It is old growth forest par excellence. I expect more people take the Pinnacle trail to see the combination of view and bloom, because the Pinnacle also offers opportunities to sample the rhododendron spectacle.

For us, the Craggies offers two major hiking trails – a trail to Craggy Pinnacle for a stupendous view, and a However, according to the brochures, the trail to the flats is THE hike to take to see Catawba and Carolina Rhododendron when in full bloom. It is one of the great natural flowering spectacles in the country. Unfortunately, we arrived too late for the bloom, which usually is at peak during mid to late June, but we were serendipitously treated to a surprise that for us rivals floral displays. We were to experience a high altitude, stunted old growth yellow birch forest, with trees shaped by wind, ice, and snow in a climate similar to lower to central Quebec.

For people whose passion is avian life, a particular species may be of interest because of showy colors, graceful flight, or an interesting mating ritual. There are many possible reasons to find a species attractive. And so it is with tree lovers. The graceful arching limbs of the American Elm, the stature of the Redwood, the unsurpassed ages of the Bristlecone Pine are understandable draws, but the charms of the old birches we observed on the trail are less obvious, judging by the scant interest they attract. However, these venerable old trees deserve an extra portion of respect. They have fielded the most challenging weather that the Craggies can deliver and have survived. After a walk up the trail a couple hundred feet, the show commences.

It is interesting to determine the ecological niche filled by a species of interest. Yellow Birch is common in the cool New England woods. The

species reaches significant proportions in New York's Adirondacks and in the Great Smokies of Tennessee and North Carolina. The species is intermediate in tolerance of shade and often colonizes rocky areas where it wraps its roots around rocks of various sizes to create tree-rock sculpture that attracts the photographer and painter. Yellow Birch usually shares space with Sugar Maple, American Beech, and Eastern Hemlock. But here we were observing it as king of the mountain. The Yellow Birch was expressing itself, as only it could, in its mountain top competition with the tangles of rhododendron.

The elevation at the start of the trail is a respectable 5,220 feet according to my GPS. On the day we took the hike, the air was humid, but the temperature was not too high, probably around 75 when we started our hike. Once under the dense canopy, the humidity increased even more, but the temperature dropped some, so we stayed sufficiently comfortable as we began to observe the chief attraction. Here is a look at what we encountered fairly early. Monica sits on the trunk of a prostrate birch, still very much alive and growing. The tree is probably between 200 and 300 years old, perhaps older.

The questions that repeatedly occur are: how old are these trees, and how did they develop such contorted forms? The prostrate trunk shown above is only one of many odd, if not grotesque, forms we observed. I had never seen the like of it before, not even in the Adirondacks. But before answering the two posed questions, let's look at three more birch images. Remember, all trees shown are very much alive.

And now to the questions, the climate is the answer to the bizarre forms. Wind, ice, and snow break limbs, and the Yellow Birches refuse to give up. Instead they continue to re-sprout. The main trunk often rots, but new roots and branches are constantly growing and replacing decaying parts. As the seasons pass, trees take on progressively more Tolkienesque forms. Some old birches appear to pop straight out of a fairy tale.

In terms of ages, I would guess many to be in the 180 to 250-year range, while others likely make it to between 300 and 400. We have datings elsewhere of Yellow Birches that old, so we know the species can do it. And from personal experience, I propose the above age distribution based on the age-dating Harvard Forest did on the old Yellow Birches on Wachusett Mountain in central Massachusetts. There, an unlikely, dwarfed prostate birch yielded 379 annual rings. Other birches were considerably younger, but still old.

We'll never know the exact ages of the Craggy Mountains birches, because the trees are hollow inside, and one can not determine the age of the tree by dating limbs (where rot may not exist) and applying the derived ring density to the main trunk. So, for the present, we can only guess, based on a general knowledge of species longevity.

As Monica and I walked up the trail observing more and more contorted forms, we found the forest floor enchanting. In places, lush grasses form a carpet beneath the birches. The openness of the woods allows one to see farther into them and discern more twisted forms. For us, it did not matter that the trees were not tall and cathedral-like. I'm attracted to trees of that form, but the appeal of the birches was in their lack of straightness, in their bizarre shapes. They were pushing the envelope, and I came to think of them as forest enchanters, each harboring a distinct spirit and with a story to tell. Children with undiminished imaginations could find much to enjoy by walking through this enchanting forest of birches.

As a matter of recollection, some years back a lady from Alexandria approached me about partnering with here on a children's book on old growth forests. She was extremely successful, and I feared she was out of my league. I procrastinated and lost contact and the opportunity. In retrospect, I believe the Craggy Flats Yellow Birch forest would have made a heck of a subject around which to weave children's tales. I can't think of a better place - alas, lost opportunities for lack of courage.

At the summit, blackberries, grasses, shrubs, and various wild flowers made the trip very worthwhile. We identified 7 species of trees along the path. Wild flowers included Green Cone Flowers, Wild Bergamot, Oswego Tea (Bee-balm), Phlox, Morning Glory, Fleabane Aster, Early Goldenrod, Heal-all, and Common Yarrow. We would recommend this hike any time just for the flowers and the butterflies.

In the midst of the bald, an enchanting glade of scrub oak, complete with a wooden bench, drew us to its shade. Oh yes, we saw plenty of Mountain Ash. When their berries turn red, another color spectacle will ensue. We also saw views of the summits of the Craggies and the nearby Blacks, but they were not the main attractions; we were mesmerized by the romance of the grassy bald.

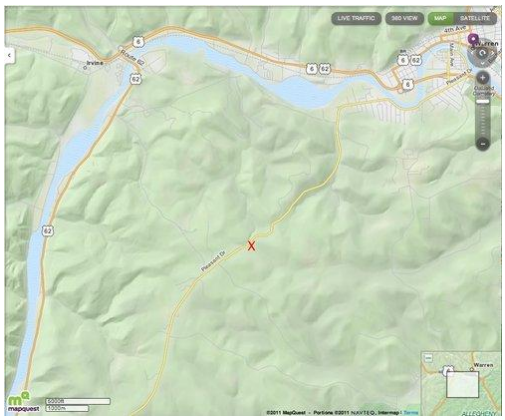
We'll close with two more images. The first shows a tangle of rhododendron at the edge of the bald, and the second provides a final look at the contorted shape of yellow birch. It appears to have outstretched arms signaling or calling to passersby. We leave it to the imagination of the reader.

*(Some of these yellow birch images above appeared in an earlier post included in the July 2011 issue.)*

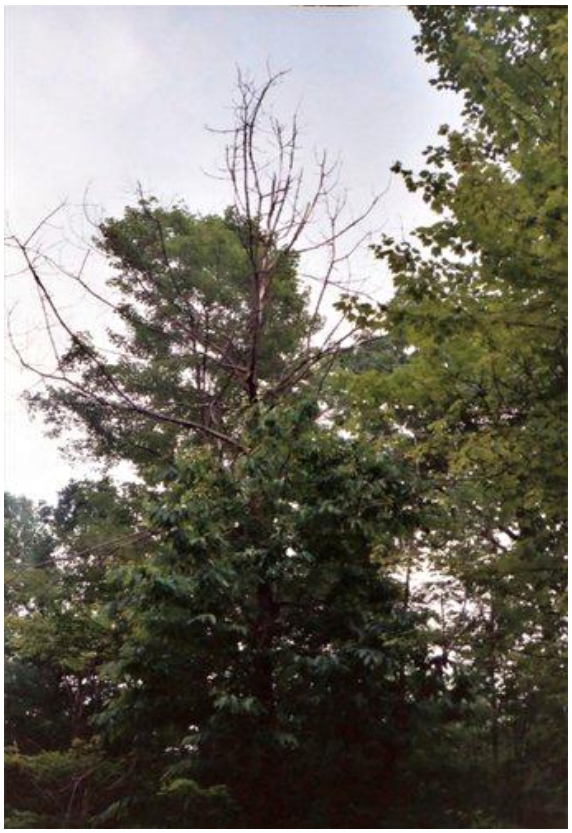
## Chestnuts South of Warren, PA

by Rand » Mon Aug 01, 2011 12:07 pm

Route 3005/Pleasant drive south of Warren, PA has a decent chestnut hot spot on it too:




There is a gravel pull off there and an interpretive sign explaining the cutting of trees defoliate by gypsy moths. You'll see a lot of young chestnuts trying to grow in along the road right-of-way. These trees were decent sized but had a lot of blight on them. These pictures are from 2006 so there might not be much left by now:



Randy Brown

## North Asheville, NC Trees

by bbeduhn » Tue Apr 19, 2011 11:35 am

I'm new to measuring heights of trees and will share some measurements that I've made in the past week. There's nothing extraordinary in this list but soon I'll get out and get to more promising locations. I measured some white pines while at the Biltmore Estate and came up with some figures in the 140's and one over 150, but I had to guesstimate a bit as I couldn't measure the exact bottoms so I left them off my list.
Brian

UNCA Botanical Gardens Height Girth CBH

Sycamore 11' 1"
Platanus Occidentalis 123' 10' 9"
126' 10' 11"
12' 9"
Tuliptree
Tulipfera Liriodendron 12' 1"

Richmond Hill Park

White Pine 115'
Pinus Strobus 112'
116'

Tuliptree 116.5'
Tulipfera Liriodendron 125.5'
112.5'

Red Oak 113'
Quercus Rubra

White Oak 104.5'
Quercus Alba

Reynolds Mountain

Pignut Hickory 108' 7' 9"
Carya Glabra 115' 7' 0"

White Oak 85' 10' 0"
Quercus Alba 118' 8' 0"

Tuliptree 125' 8' 0"
Tulipfera Liriodendron

Black Oak 102' 8' 11"
Quercus Velutina

White Pine 105' 6' 7"

Pinus Strobus

North Asheville

White Oak 15' 7"
Quercus Alba 14' 4"
14' 0"

Sycamore 15' 5"
Platanus Occidentalis

Brian Beduhn

## North Asheville, NC Chestnut Trees

by **bbeduhn** » Mon Aug 01, 2011 10:35 am

These chestnuts were planted not too long ago but I didn't realise they were chestnuts until this past weekend. The tallest is ~17'.
I can't tell if they're hybrids or Chinese. They don't look American and I doubt they'd fool with planting Americans anyway.

These are at Beaver Lake along Merriman Ave. in north Asheville.

Brian Beduhn

## Foothills Trail Southern Section, SC

by bbeduhn » Mon Aug 01, 2011 10:06 am

I had run this portion of the Foothills Trail a month ago. I noticed how tall the pines looked. The white pines seemed to go up forever. The pitch pines reached almost as hig. The shortleaf and virgina pines grew tall as well. The anticipation to measure was strong.

The area I measured is between Morton Mountain and the Chattooga. It is clearly second growth, for the most part. The pines absolutely rule here. Hardwoods are present but do not even challenge the mighty pines. I was hoping for 160's for the whites. That turned out to be a bit optimistic but considering the ages here, I'd guess 70-90 on the large, second growth whites, I shouldn't be disappointed. The pitch pines are fantastic and I thought a new record was in store. Unfortunately, I couldn't penetrate the crowns with my rangefinder and could only get a few tops at a distance. I'm not convinced there is a record here but they certainly come very close to the magic 135.4' figure. I'd guess there are 130'+ pitch pines here. I really need a 440. The Virginia pines didn't disappoint. No record but they came close.

P. Strobus White pine girths 6-8 ft.
123.5' 125.5' 126' 128' 129.5' 131' 132' 133'
138' 138' 141' 152'

P. Virginiana Virginia pine
75' 83.5' 85' 85' 87.5' 91' 91' 92' 102.5'
107' 109' 110' 114'

P. Echinata Shortleaf pine
91.5' 105' 112' 114'

P. Rigida Pitch pine
108' 110'

Tsuga Canadensis Eastern hemlock
84.5' hanging on 138' 139' both skeletons

Mystery Tree formerly assumed to be Am. hornbeam
87.5' 89'

I didn't bother to measure many hardwoods. Tulips competed in a few spots but the pines dominated overall. Along the Chattooga, the hardwoods exerted themselves. There is some old growth along the river. There is one healthy, mature hemlock. I want to get a picture of it but didn't make it that far up the trail. It was stunted long ago when most of the top fell. It recovered and is doing well, in part because it is very short and squat. It may have been treated as well and made it due to its short stature.

These pitch pines appear to have been bludgeoned by Paul Bunyan or one of his descendants.

Brian Beduhn

## Falling Waters and Flat Top Trail, NC

by dbhguru » Tue Aug 02, 2011 8:02 am

A couple days ago, Monica and I returned to an old favorite along the blue Ridge Parkway, the Falling Waters and Flat Top Trail. This time we returned with a specific mission. The Trail will be one of those featured in our planned book. I first wanted to measure the girths of the larger trees, and secondly, photograph them. We now have a research permit from the NPS to collect data wherever we have not been expressly forbidden. So I can wander around off trail as I like.

Here are 5 images of the Tuliptrees visible from the trail, or nearly so.

The biggest trees in this area measure from 10 to 13 feet in girth, with one tree reaching 14.3 feet around. I judge their ages to be between 160 and maybe 220 years of age. I have measured two tulips down the ridge side to over 140 feet, with the tallest around 146. Most of the tulips directly along the trail are 105 to 120.

There aren't many places directly off the Parkway where a visitor can see lots of 10 to 12-foot girth trunks. Lots of places have one or two, but clusters of them are rare due to the history and type terrain of the Parkway. So this site will figure prominently in our book project.

Robert T. Leverett

## Saying Goodbye to the Parkway

by dbhguru » Tue Aug 02, 2011 8:30 am

Well, the time had to come, and it did yesterday around 11:30PM when Monica and I exited the Blue Ridge Parkway near Buena Vista, VA. We always feel saddened when we exit the Parkway, although the motorcycle traffic this time, made or journey a lot less pleasant. Here are 3 views from yesterday.

Abbott Lake from Peaks of Otter Lodge

The James River

Apple Orchard Mountain

I'll have more to say about the quality of a Parkway experience today versus the 1950s. In general, quality has declined by a lot. James Robert Smith understands very well what I mean.

Robert T. Leverett

## Re: Saying Goodbye to the Parkway

by dbhguru » Wed Aug 03, 2011 4:10 pm

Mario, the big white globe is an AF radar station, or was. I'm unsure of what its function is now. Regardless, it is off limits, so you cannot go to the tippy top of Apple Orchard Mountain. However, the forest more than makes up for the inconvenience. There is a long swath of old growth northern red oak that follows the ridge crest. The oldest known white oak grows on an adjacent ridge, dated by the one and only Dr. Edward Cook of Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory back in 1984, I think. Dr. Neil Pederson recently rediscovered the core. Lots of treasures on the mountain.

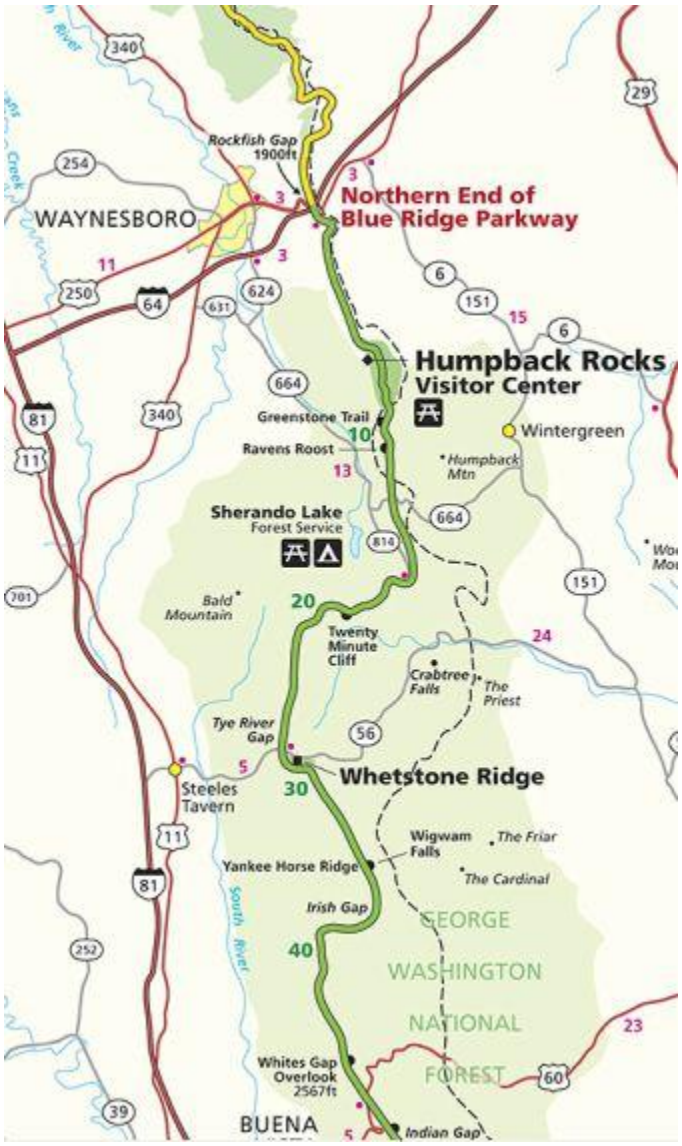
James, yes, you are correct about many of the bikers. I regularly observed the behavior you describe. I also passed quite a number who were conscious of traffic and did their best to keep over as far as they could. Actually, the Parkway is losing its function to motorcyclists, bikers, commuters, and tuned-out motorists who drive the Parkway like it was a regular road. Additionally, the great views are deteriorating due to haze/smog. It is discouraging. I'm trying to stay focused and write this book for those souls who can still walk a trail and relate to it because it has elements of nature to observe step by step. Information on forests and individual tree species is very limited in the literature from both the Park Service and from private sources. Here is an example. We hiked the 2.7 miles of the Crabtree Falls Trail. The Park Service description calls the forest along the way oak-hickory. Well, there are quite a few white and chestnut oaks and some red oaks. But altogether, we documented 31 species of trees and closer to the falls, it was an Appalachian Cove Forest. There is an abundance of old trees including very large and old laurel and rhododendron. Near the falls, I measured an astonishing Cucumber Magnolia to 123 feet in height. That is a Parkway record for me. Here is a look at it.

Oh yes, the waterfall. It is a beauty, but hard to photograph to capture what the eye sees. I measured the drop at about 95 feet. It could be 100. The Park Service gives 85. That is not correct.

Looking up the trunk of the big Tuliptree on the Flat Top Mountain trail. It is 14.3 feet around at the base. There was too much foliage to re-measure height. As I recall when I first measured the tree in April, I think I got 108 feet.

The Crabtree Falls Trail is much, much more than a hike down to a waterfall. I hope Monica and I are up to the task of revealing all the charms of the trail.

Robert T. Leverett

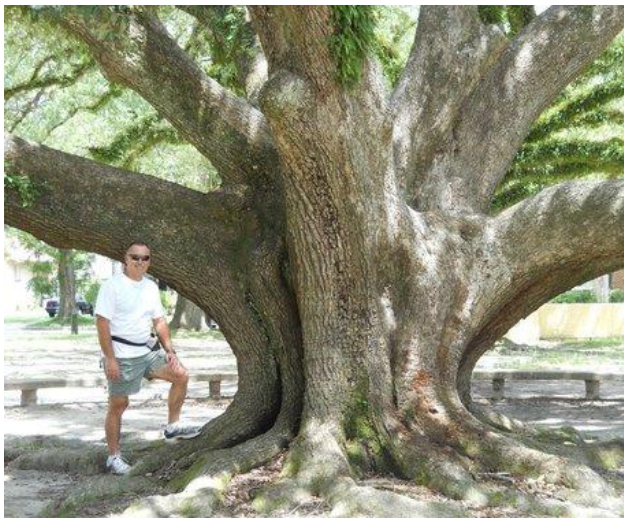


## Mobile Ala., Murphy High School Oak

by Larry Tucei » Tue Aug 02, 2011 8:34 am

While in Mobile on Saturday I located another big Live Oak growing in the front of Murphy High School at 100 South Carlen Street. The tree is very similar to the Wallace Oak in Biloxi; they both have the same limb patterns, only this tree is much smaller. The tree measured CWH-20', Height-51', and Spread-94.5' x 127.5'. The Oak is near the bottom of the listing but still is a beautiful tree with lots of character in the 150-200 year old range. Murphy high was built in 1926 and is still in use today. The Campus has several Oaks in the 16-18' CBH range but this was the largest tree. The listing is now at 170 trees.

Larry Tucei



Murphy High School Oak Trunk

Murphy High School Oak

## Preliminary report: North Chagrin (OH) visit

by Steve Galehouse » Wed Aug 03, 2011 5:06 pm

Yesterday, Aug. 2nd, Will Blozan, Rand Brown, Dan Reed, Seth Werronen and myself paid an all-day visit to North Chagrin Reservation. Dan Reed, a new ENTS member, recently described this area in detail in an earlier thread: viewtopic.php?f=111&t=2756 . Dan and Seth served as the "tour guides", with an extremely well organized itinerary based on LiDAR data and Bing Birdseye maps.

I think it is safe to say that none were disappointed and all were impressed by the forest. It will take us a while to organize all the data, but it looks likely we found new state height records for six species:

**Slippery elm- 128.6', American elm- 125.7',**
**White ash- 139.3', Sugar maple- 122.7',**
**Red maple- 120.3', Sassafras- 122.5'**

The tallest tree recorded was a tuliptree at 153.5'. The Rucker 10 index for the site will likely be in the mid 130's once all the information is gathered and processed. Some of us will definitely return after leaf drop to get height for more trees and species.

Steve Galehouse

The first out of the four Tulips we encountered that were over 150' – photo by Dan Reed

## Re: Trees Database site now active

by dantheman9758 » Fri Aug 05, 2011 10:41 pm


For any ENTS hesitant to use, or unaware of the usefulness of this tool,The ease with which you can compare any and all sites with this Database *with visual photographs and maps* is its core strength. After you submit your tree data all of the formulas and algorithms for determining any sets of points or Rucker indexes are automatically solved and displayed for you and everyone else to see. Your collected data can be viewed by anyone, and you can choose to view specific trees, or view specific sites. If you view your own, or others tree sites - the "widest" and "tallest" of the sites species are displayed right on the main page, along with all of the calculated rucker data. Or you can expand the data to display the largest specimens in the entire State, or the entire eastern U.S. to get a glance at how your site stacks up and if you measured any champion specimens! If your computer ever kicks the bucket all of your hard work, collected data, and captured photographs will not be in vein - the server keeps all the data, and it can be downloaded back to your own computer to be saved again or downloaded to be printed. The more data that is fed into this system the more helpful and invaluable it will become.

I cannot emphasis enough how extremely cool this is!

Drawbacks? This brilliant system created by Mitch, and Steve Galehouse is currently limited by just one problem. Not enough data! I can't yet compare my data with say, all of the known data about Cook State Forest, or GSMNP. I can't see which States of the northeast are harboring the biggest trees, or how the state champions of PA would stack up to say, OH. If anyone has tree site data just sitting idle on their hard drives, or jotted down on scratchpads, please take the time to familiarize yourself with, and enter some data into the Big Tree Database and see how nice the system is! You'll quickly want to add more data once you see how easy and fast analyzing and comparing the data becomes!

Dan Reed

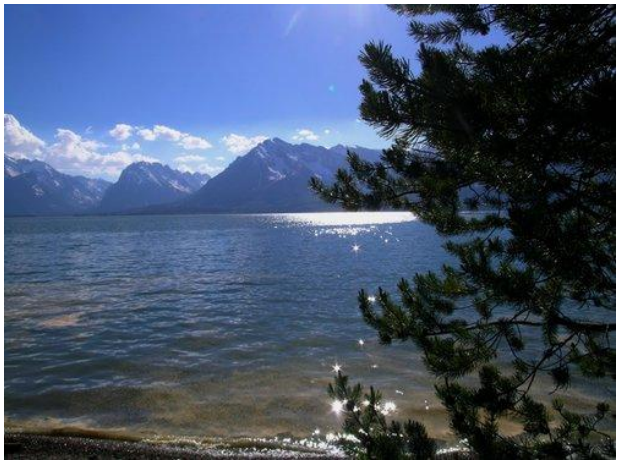
## Bob and Monica's Westward Expedition 2011

by dbhguru » Thu Aug 04, 2011 1:30 pm

I plan to write a full trip summary, focusing on not only the physical aspects of the special places and land features, but on the emotional impacts of the places on us. How does one stand at the edge of Lake Superior with the Porcupine Mountain wilderness to one's back and not get shivers. Then there are the vast open spaces of the Great American West. From a country road, one can amble out into a sagebrush flat, stand silently, and maybe get an inkling of the feeling that the pioneers must have had facing the challenges with its unknowns and dangers. There is much to admire about their spirit and much to contemplate, even today, when engulfed by the space of the Great Plains. For me, the expanse of earth and sky induces a transcendental state of the highest order. To have the wind blowing in my ears, no blaring radios, no asphalt or concrete - just the sun, wind, the calls of passing birds, and the distant horizon is nirvana. It takes big country to fully engage me, and the West is big country.

I have come to understand that to fully appreciate these great places is a test of imagination. One must attempt to connect on many levels. One can never absorb all the detail, but one can drink of the essence. It is not always clear to me what to do when one of our trips is complete. There are the trip reports, but there is also the realization that many battles remain to be fought to preserve the great places. The forces of exploitation are always close by. However, when I'm in a place like Dinosaur National Monument, I sense not only the spirits of the place, but the spirit and goodwill of those stalwart individuals who struggled to save a priceless natural treasure from commercial exploitation. They remind me of the goodness we have inside us. It is in this spirit that Monica and I have taken on the Blue Ridge Parkway book. If we can remind enough caring souls what we collectively must protect as a scenic and forest heritage, maybe the tide will turn toward a gentler treatment of our great places. One can always hope.

Perhaps beneath the surface, there is a greater purpose than just a tug between opposing forces. Sometimes I get a glimpse or feeling that this is the case. I got such a feeling when standing on the shores of Jackson Lake in July and looking at the spectacle of light reflecting off the surface. The water was slightly choppy and the dance of light seemed more etherial than worldly. Here is a hint at what I was looking at. You need to enlarge the image to get the effect. Double click on it.



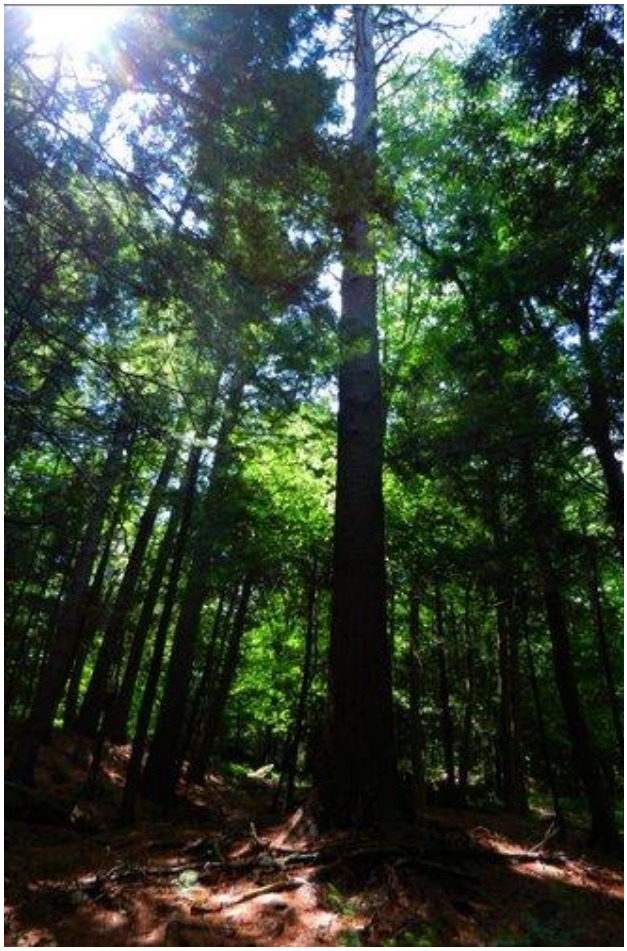
Robert T. Leverett

## Jake Asserts His Dominance, MTSF, MA

by dbhguru » Sun Aug 07, 2011 8:29 pm

Today I returned to MTSF to re-measure New England's flagship tree, the Jake Swamp white pine. I'm pleased to report that Jake grew quite nicely this summer in Monica's and my absence. After 3 measurements, I settled on 169.6 feet. Here are

several images from today. The first three feature the Jake tree. The last shows Monica in the upper meadow.



Even though Monica and I saw many scenic wonders on our 8,700-mile trek, Mohawk has not lost a thing. It weaves its magic through the rustling of its stately pines. I have a lot of measuring to catch up on.

Robert T. Leverett

## Other Scenes in Mohawk, MA

by dbhguru » Mon Aug 08, 2011 8:23 am

Here are some additional images from yesterday.

Robert T. Leverett

## Historical Accounts of Trees in Northeastern Ohio

by edfrank » Sat Aug 06, 2011 9:35 pm

**Ohio in 1788.**
A Description of the Soil, Productions, Etc., of
THAT Portion of the United States Situated
Between Pennsylvania, the Rivers Ohio
and Scioto and Lake Erie.
Translated from the French
with notes and introduction by
John Henry James.

COLUMBUS, O. :
A. H. SMYTH E. J888,

http://www.archive.org/details/ohioin1788descri00cutl

*...The great level plains which one meets with here and which form natural prairies, have a circumference of from twenty to fifty miles, they are found interspersed almost everywhere along the rivers.* These plains have a soil as rich as can be imagined and which with very little labor can be devoted to any species of cultivation which one wishes to give it. They say that in many of these prairies one can cultivate an acre of land per day and prepare it for the plough. There is no undergrowth on them and the trees which grow very high and become very large "only need to be deprived of their bark in order to become fit for use. *The kinds of timber fit for the purposes of the joiner which grow most abundantly in this country and the most useful of trees which are found here are the sugar-maple, the sycamore, black and white mulberry, black and white walnut, the chestnut, oaks of every kind, the cherry tree, beech tree, the elm, the cucumber tree, ironwood, the ash tree, the aspen, the sassafras, the wild apple tree, and a great number of other trees of which it is impossible to express the names in French.*

*General Parsons has measured a black walnut near the Muskingum, of which the circumference, five feet above the ground, was twenty-two feet. A sycamore measured in the same way had a circumference of fortyfour feet.* One finds on the heights white and

black oaks as well as the chestnut, and nearly all the trees we have just named, which grow there, very large and to a proportionate height. One finds both on the hills and on the plains a great quantity of grapes growing wild, and of which the inhabitants make a red wine, which suffices for their own consumption. They have tried the experiment of pressing these grapes at the settlement of "" Saint Vincent,^* and the result is a wine which, by keeping a little while, becomes preferable to many of the wines of Europe. Cotton of an excellent quality is also a product of the country.

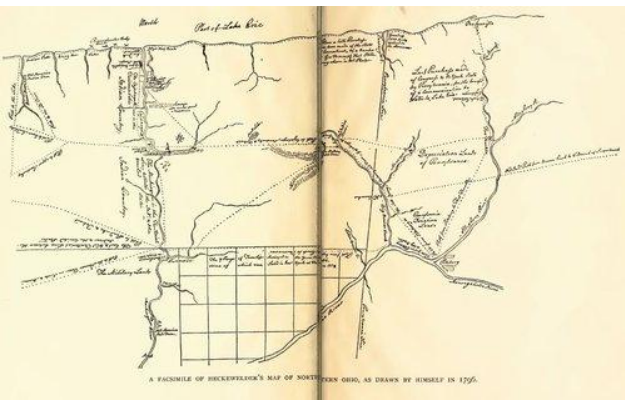
*The sugar-maple is of great value to a region situated as this is in the interior of the country.* It furnishes enough sugar for the use of a large number of people, and for this purpose a small number of trees are usually kept by each family. A maple tree will produce about ten pounds of sugar per year, and it is produced with little difficulty. The sap of the tree flows in the months of February and March ; it becomes crystalized after being boiled, and the sugar is equal in flavor and whiteness to the best Muscavado.

All parts of this country are abundantly supplied with excellent springs, and one finds everywhere both small and large creeks, on which mills may be established.' These brooks, useful for so many purposes, have the appearance of being disposed by the hand of art in such a manner as to contribute towards procuring every advantage which can make life desirable.

**Map and Description Northeastern Ohio**
Rev. John Heckewelder. 1796.
Reprintedfrom the Magazine of Western History, Cleveland, Ohio., CLEVELAND, O.
William W. Williams, 145 St. Clair Street, 1884.

http://www.archive.org/details/mapdescriptionof00heck

Among the many manuscript treasures of the Historical Society at Cleveland is a description of Northeastern Ohio, by Rev. John Heckewelder, the famous Moravian missionary, accompanied by a map also drawn by him. They were presented to the society by the daughter of General Moses Cleaveland. Father Heckewelder was born in England in 1743. His father was born in Moravia, and went to England in 1734 as an exile in the service of the Moravian Church.



I will now endeavor to give an account of the Quality of the Soil of this Country : and will begin with the Land on the Cujahaga River itself. Next to the Lake the Lands in general lay in this part of the Country, pretty high, (say from 30 to 60 feet high) except where there is an opening by a River or Stream. These banks are generally pretty level on the top, & continue so to a great distance into the Country. *The Soil is good and the Land well Timbered either with Oaks & Hickory, or or with lofty Chestnuts. On the Cujahaga River are, I verily believe, as rich Bottoms, or intervals, as in any part of the Western Country. The Timber in these are either Black Walnut, or White Thorn Trees, intermixed with various other Trees as Cherry, Mulberry, &c. The ground entirely covered with high Nettles. In such Bottoms, somewhat inferior to the above, the Timber is principally lofty Oaks, Poplar, or Tulip tree. Elm, Hickory, Sugar Maple yet intermixed with Black Walnut, Cherry, Mulberry, Grape Vines, White Thorn, Haw-bush &c &c Ash &c Wild Hops of an excellent quality grow also plentifully on this River.*

The richest Land on this River lieth from where the road crosseth at the old Town downwards. Within 8 or 10 miles of the Lake the Bottoms are but small, yet the Land rich, from here upwards they are larger & richer. At the old Moravian Town as marked on my Map, they are exceedingly rich. *Some low bottoms are covered with very lofty Sycamore Trees.* The Land adjoining those Bottoms within 10 or 15 Miles

of the Lake, is generally ridgy, yet level & good on the top, excellently Timbered. Thro' these ridges run numbers of small Streams, & sometimes large Brooks ; the water always clear and with a brisk current. I have traced small Streams to their Sources, where I have found a variety of excellent Springs lying off in various directions, (see the run at the Moravian Town).

From these Lands upwards towards the old Town, & along the path towards the Salt Spring ; the Country is in general pretty level ; just so much broken as to give the Water liberty to pass gently off. There is a remarkable fine Situation for a Town, at the old Cujahaga Town ; & there can be no doubt of a large Trading Town being established here, as both a Road to Sandusky & Detroit crosses here : as also the carrying place between the two Rivers Cujahaga & Muskingum must be at this place. Some miles above this Old Town there is a fall in the River. The Rock which runs across may be about between 20 & 30 feet high. No Fish can ascend higher up, or get over this Fall, tho there are Fish above it. Just under the Falls the Fish crowd together in vast numbers, & may be taken here the whole year round. At the more Easterly Crossing of this River as the Path runs ; (the distance of which I do not exactly recollect, but think it between 15 & 20 miles) there is a most remarkable large Square Rock in the Middle of the Stream, which may at a future day, well answer the Pier of a Bridge, (see A this mark on the map) at this place there is a pretty large Plain on the Northwest Side of the River and in several other places in this Country there are similar Plains or Flatts. On these the Iand is rather thin in comparison to the other: yet not so that it would not bear good (irain. There are also some Swamps in this Country, yet I have not seen one, which might not be cultivated, and make good Meadows.

*Here and there I observed small groves of Pine, but never went to see of what kind they were.* I supposed them only to border on some small Lake or Pond. There are some beautiful small Lakes in this Country, with water as clear as Chrystall, & alive with Fish. In these Lakes as well as in Cujahaga River Water Fowl resort in abundance in Spring & Fall. Between the head Waters of Beaver Creek & the head Waters of Cujahaga, the Country is rather more broken, yet not too much for tillage. The Land is good.

From the big Deer Lick on Beaver Creek to the Salt Springs (a distance of about 16 miles) the Country is rather of a colder Nature ; but thinly Timbered, & much of a wet Clay ground. A comp'y of gentlemen have obtained some Years ago a Title to this Tract of Country comprehending the Salt Spring. I cannot leave Cujahaga without mentioning one Circumstance, viz. That when I left the Moravian Town on that River which was the Eighth day of October 1786, we had not then had one Frost yet, whereas all the Weeds & bushes had been killed by the Frost some Weeks before, on the dividing Ridge. Ind'n Corn, this year planted at the above mentioned place on the 20th day of June ripened before the Frost set in. The Cujahaga Country abounds in Game, such as Elk, Deer, Turkey, Raccoons &c In the Year 1785, a Trader purchased 23 Horseload of Peltry, from the few Indians then Hunting on this River Of the Country to the Southward of Cujahaga & between the dividing Ridge & Tuscorawas. where the line strikes across, I cannot give a precise description, having only seen this Country in part, yet what I have seen has been pretty generally good, except it be some barren Plains, and large Cranberry grounds. Otherwise off the River, and on the path from thence to Mahoning Old Towns, I saw vast bodies of very rich Upland, well Timbered, sometimes level Land, & then broken, especially the latter on the head Waters of the Beaver Creek towards Mahony.

From Tuscorawas Northerly for 12 or 15 Miles I thought the Land very good, & observed extensive Meadows on the Banks of the Muskingum. But I think near the dividing Ridge the Country is rather Colder. The Country is in some places off the River interspersed with round Nobs or Hills, with short yet thick Trees upon them. The water of this Country is also clear & good. I will insert the description the late Geographer to the United States gives to this part of the Country, copied from a Pamphlet he had printed in London in the Year 1778, which runs thus :

" The Muskingum is Navigable with large Batteaux or Barges to three Legs and by small ones to a "Lake at its head. From thence, (namely from three Legs) to Cujahaga, (the Creek that leads, to

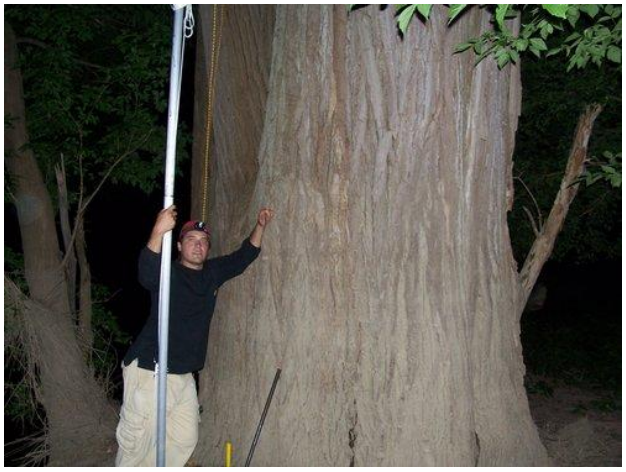
" Lake Erie) the Muskingum is muddy, and not very swift, but no where obstructed with Falls or Rifts. "Here are fine uplands, extensive Meadows, Oak and Mulberry Trees fit for Ship building, and Walnut, "Chestnut, & Poplar Trees suitable for domestic service Cujahaga furnishes the best portage be- "tween Ohio and Lake Erie : at its mouth it is wide enough to receive large Sloops from the Lake. It "will hereafter be a place of great importance."

John Heckewelder.
Bethlehem Jany. 12th 1796.
Mr. John McNair Esqr.

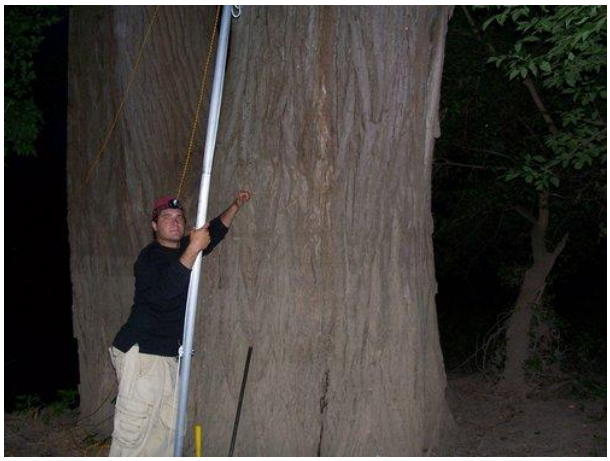
## Eastern Cotonwood in southern Michigan

by Dan Morris » Fri Aug 05, 2011 5:37 pm

I love your website! I have browsed through many of the selections that you have on tree data. I have a strong background in forestry and recently while doing work with an organization called MNFI, I found a large tree that I wanted to show to you'all. Its a picture of an eastern cottonwood, by far, the biggest tree I have seen of this species, also known as populus deltoides. It was growing in far southern Michigan, on alluvial soils, within 15 feet of the raisin river. Take a look at the photo below.



Anyway, there is very little trunk taper from the base to the top. It would have taken about 5 or 6 people probably to stretch arms and touch around it. I realize that it is a double tree, but the split comes above breast height DBH. It's probably about 90 feet tall, and the trees leaf area, or the amount of total tree volume is very high. I did not take time to determine circumference, or height.. I believe that it is the biggest cottonwood in this county for sure, and maybe in all of southern Michigan? Show it to your guys and see if they are interested in measuring. I can GPS the site for you, so that it is easy to get to.
I hope you guys like this, and hope that you are interested in looking at closer. Its truly a huge tree for this specimen! I hope to hear back from you.



Dan Morris

## Saheda remeasured, MTSF, MA

by dbhguru » Wed Aug 10, 2011 5:16 pm

Today I tackled the task of re-measuring Saheda, the second tallest tree in New England. Saheda is located in the Elders Grove of MTSF. First a look at the big pine.

Today's mission was almost aborted when I couldn't find a peephole in the dense canopy. However, I persisted and luck eventually was with me. I planted myself in the lone spot where I could see the top and an orange reflective marker that I had put on the truck 6 feet above mid-slope. I would have been totally dead in the water without the Nikon 440. Shooting to the crown, I got multiple laser returns, some of 66.5 and some of 67 yards. I eventually elected to use the average of 66.75 yards at an angle of 43.6 degrees. The distance to the reflective marker was a constant 47.5 yards at -9.3 degrees. So the two components plus the 6.0-foot distance from the marker to mid-slope yields 167.1 feet. I'll take it. The girth is 11.75 feet based on where will placed the pin for 4.5 feet above mid-slope when he last climbed the tree. Saheda is a great tree. Its crown looked healthy from a distance. Long live Saheda. As I get the time, I'll re-measure the tall trees in Mohawk and Monroe in descending order of height.

It had rained in night before and the forest had a fresh look. Saheda is truly one of New England's great trees. Its radial growth is slow. It may never fully reach 12 feet in girth, although I expect it to, but not for another 8 years.

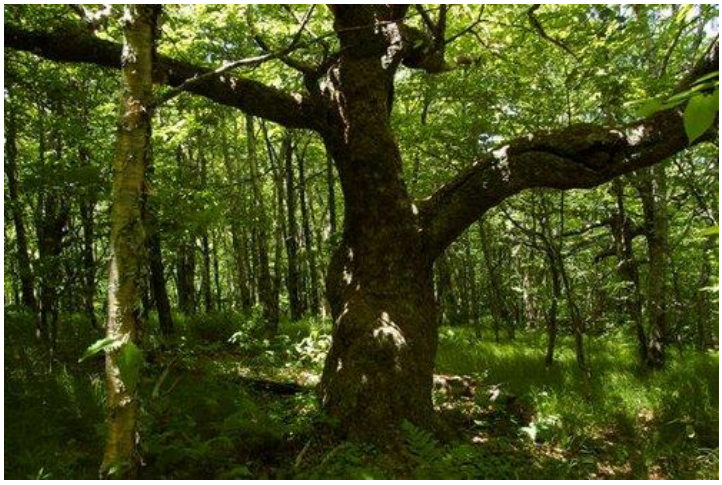
Robert T. Leverett

## Craggy Flats, NC - Photos

by James Parton » Tue Aug 09, 2011 12:10 am

I have quite a collection of pictures taken from the Craggies. Here are 10 of them. I also sent you several high-rez ones by email. I just hope your connection is good enough and fast enough to handle the data load. Feel free to use any of them in your book.

I have quite a few pictures taken from the Parkway or trails off the Parkway.



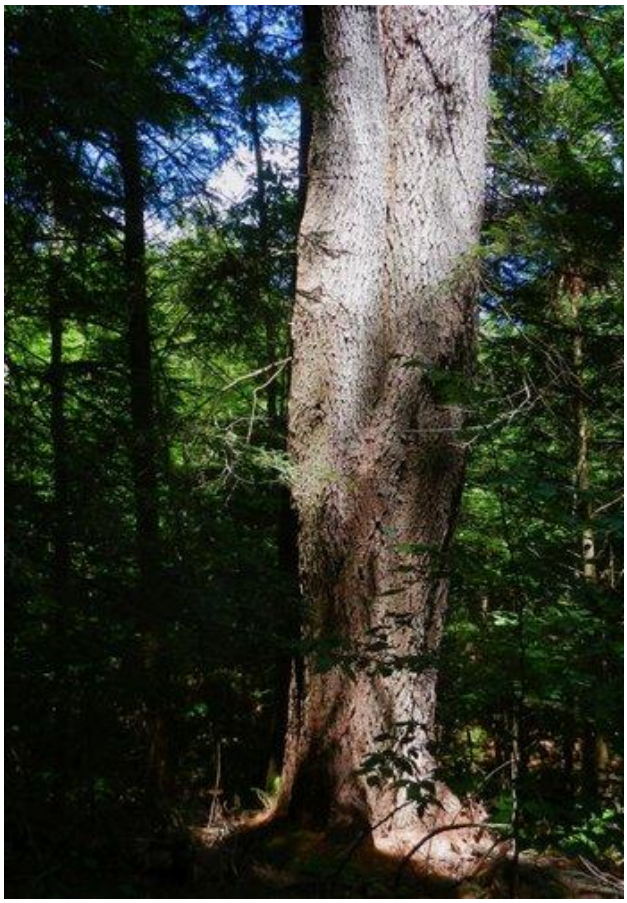
The Mountain Ash pictures were taken on nearby Craggy Pinnacle, across from the Heath Balds ( or Craggy Flats ). I find something special about the Hawthorns, Mountain Ashes and evergreen Hollies. They are my very favorite trees. And, yes those White Pines score high too.

James E Parton

## Windsor State Forest. MA

by dbhguru » Thu Aug 11, 2011 5:17 pm

Today Monica and I went to Windsor State Forest, about 30 miles away from Florence, to check on the Sobon Pine. It isn't an attractive tree (weevil pine), but it is large. Its stats are: Girth = 13.5 ft, Height = 140.3 ft. Let's take a look.



After measuring the Sobon Pine, we went to the Crows Nest Pine. Oh Boy, it is one weird pine. Here are some images. It is a single tree.

It is around 120 feet in height. I couldn't get a real good shot of its bizarre crown. Its smallest girth between breast height and the ground is 12.9 feet.

Robert T. Leverett

## Recent photos in MA

by sam goodwin » Thu Aug 11, 2011 5:24 pm

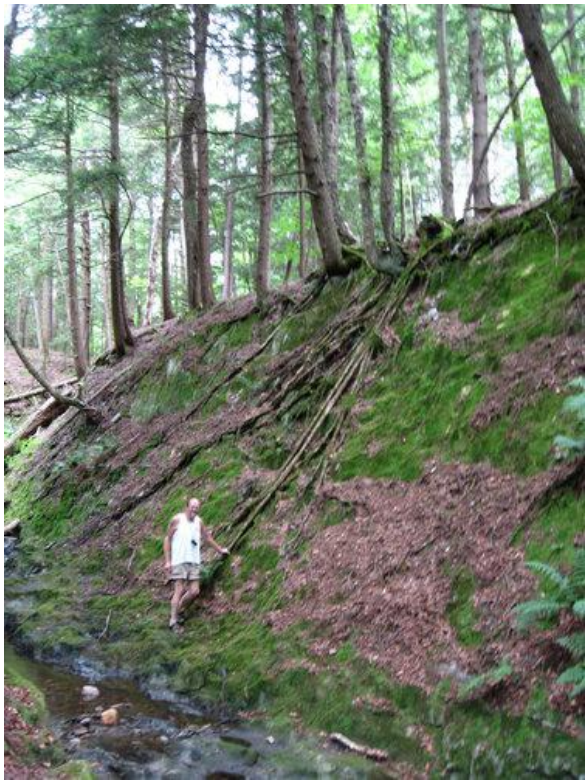
Last June Ed asked if I had photos of the Amostown Road W. Springfield, MA 19'9" cbh X 85' high ash. viewtopic.php?f=86&t=2564 Yesterday I took a couple.

I also measured 2 pines in Southwick. One of them was the biggest pine of this type I have seen. I took photos of this multi trunk pine. I measured the base at ground level, 18'9" and 105' high. The nearby pine was 12'8" cbh X 80' high.

Picture of another side of the pine that shows its a fusion. I will try and post it. The owner of Whalley Computers is building a number of playing fields off Powder Mill Road in Southwick. There is 3 levels of fields. The third level is about 15 feet above where

the pine is located in the marsh connected to Powder Mill stream.

Last week my neighbor took us up to Tannery Falls in Savoy. On the way back from the base of the falls I saw these silver birch roots growing down the ravine to reach the water. In the photo one group of the roots end at the base of my feet. There is another set behind me.



Sam Goodwin

## Smokies Challenge Adventure Run/Hike, NC & TN

by bbeduhn » Fri Aug 12, 2011 10:52 am

*In July, 2009, I climbed up to Clingman's...from Fontana and then continued to the eastern end of the Smokies. In 29 straight hours, I went the entire length of the Smokies on the AT for 71 miles and 37,000 feet of elevation change...and I weigh 225 pounds. Size doesn't have to stop you but it may slow you down a bit.*

I started out about dusk on a Friday in late July, with three other friends. We're all ultrarunners but I do as much hiking as I do running. They quickly lost me so I trudged up from Fontana dam by myself. The owls were magnificent and eerie. They're voices carried for miles. I surprised a bear just off the trail and for the first time ever, I was stalked for about 30 seconds. It kept its distance but I heard it creep behind me.

I continued through the night, up and down and up and down relentlessly. Eventually, I hit the balds. Views were incredible! I could see many towns in both NC and TN. The air was nice and cool but comfortable at ~5500'. The sun came up and I was still quite a way from Clingman's. The climbing became more steep and Clingman's seemed just as distant. I finally made it by late morning as the day was heating up.

More than half of climbing was done, 15 hours in. The next several miles had primarily red spruce and fraser firs. This segment was my favorite. It was primarily downhill and incredibly lush. I ran much of it after hiking almost the entire way to Clingman's. Shortly before Newfound Gap, I turned to my left and did a double take. There was a mama bear sitting on a shrub tree. I stopped for a quick gaze and she snarled at me. I then saw why she did--there were two cubs behind her and I was just ten feet away.

At Newfound Gap, I had sustenance waiting for me. I found out that one buddy had called it a day but the other two had continued. I felt fantastic and revived and was still a little jazzed from the bear encounter, so I continued, fighting traffic on the trail for about a

mile. I took my time, thinking it would be much easier for the last 30+ miles. It wasn't much easier.

Night fell again with 18 miles to go. The dense forests in the Smokies become ominous at dusk and beyond. Surprisingly, there would be no more bear encounters. My feet were hurting so I had to stop and rest more frequently. Up and down, up and down, ad infinitum. Finally, the final descent was reached. I was ready to be done, my body beaten up from the trail. Some energy kicked in and I was able to run most of the downhill, descending 3,000 feet.

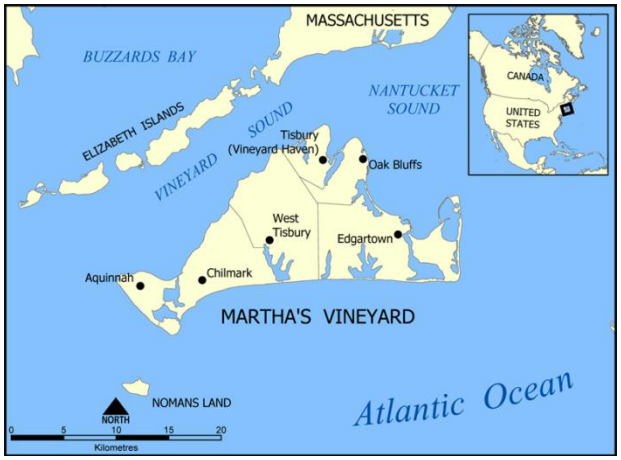
The trek took 29 hours, just a little longer than the 27 I'd anticipated. One friend made it in 18, a bit shy of the speed record. I wasn't concerned with speed, just finishing it without stopping for any more than a few minute rest. 71 miles, 18,500' of climbing, 18,000' of descent, 4 bears, 2 very beat up feet.

Brian Beduhn

## Martha's Vineyard, MA

by bbeduhn » Fri Aug 12, 2011 1:43 pm

I was fortunate enough to visit the island of Martha's Vineyard. It is not a site for tall trees. I doubt there's a tree on the island that can even crack 90 feet. It is dominated by pitch pines in most areas and an assortment of oaks in others.



Map of Martha's Vineyard from Wikipedia

The hilltops have stunted oak growth, dominated by white oak, black oak, red oak, scarlet oak and hybrids as well as another oak I couldn't positively id. These 250-300 foot elevation trees look much like the trees on the 5,000 to 5,500 foot ridges in the southern Appalachians.

The first photos are from Menemsha Hills.


Red maple

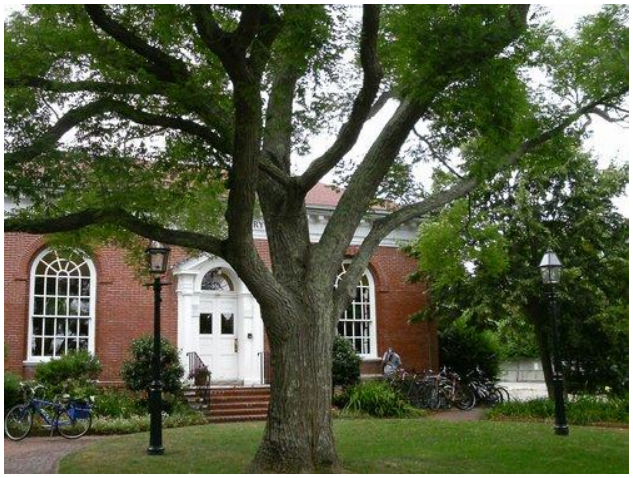

Red maple

Black oak or hybrid

white oak

The towns have some large trees but they are mostly exotic. I was amazed at how few sugar maples and tuliptrees were present.

Japanese Zelkova

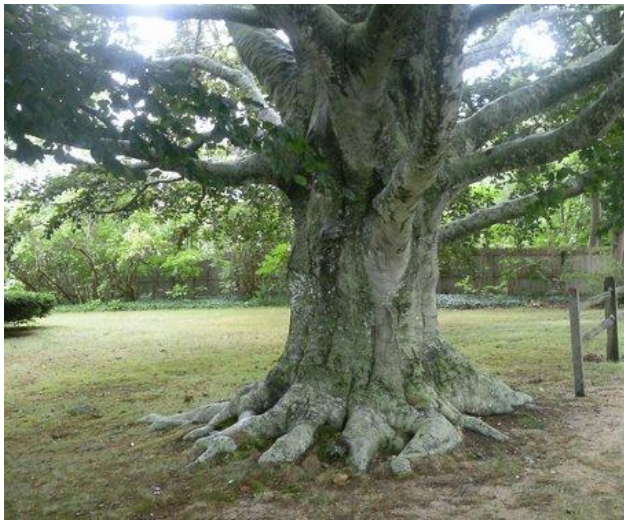


Chinese Pagoda from 1837

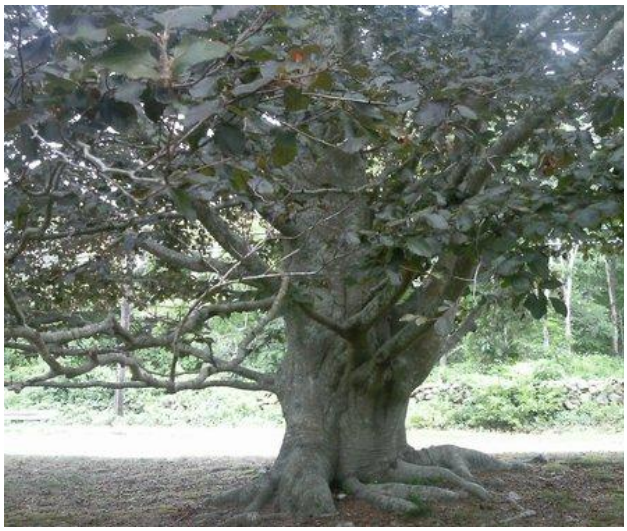
This next pagoda is also from 1837, just a half mile away, and it's a whopper, most certainly the largest tree on the island, perhaps the tallest at ~80-85'. It appeared to top 18' cbh.

Chinese Pagoda from 1837

Copper beeches are beautiful trees. This one looks like 17' cbh.



Copper beech



Copper beech

This is the largest native tree I saw. It's not tall but very stout with a nice spread.

white oak

Here's the rare hybrid lighthouse/baobab

lighthouse/baobab

White pines were only present in two locations and were planted and still very young. They hadn't topped 70 feet. Norway spruce and Norway maples are common. The spruce may be the tallest trees...either the spruce or the pagoda. An exotic maple is common as well. My pictures didn't come out on that species.


view from 308'


white oak


white oak


white oak

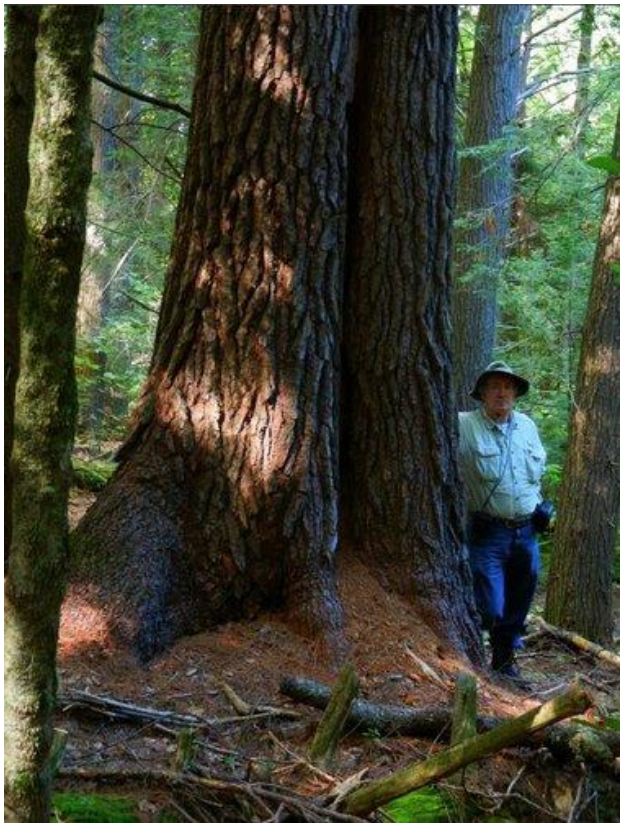
## Bryant and Centurion Pines, MA

by dbhguru » Fri Aug 12, 2011 8:19 pm

Today Monica and I went to the Bryant Homestead in Cummington, MA. It was time to check on the flagship tree of the TTOR property, the stately Bryant Pine. I also wanted to check up on the Walt Whitman Pine and the Centurion. I'm pleased to report that all are doing swimmingly. Here are some images. First the Centurion, which I re-measured. Girth = 12.05 feet, Height = 150.4 feet.

Next comes the Bryant Pine. It grew well this year. I got 157.1 feet, repeatable. Girth is stagnant at 10.3 feet. Here is the flagship.

I couldn't currently see the top and bottom of the Walt Whitman Pine. I'll return in the fall. Here is a look at its 13.3-foot girth. Its height is around 143.1 feet. It is one of the 10 white pines in Mass that are in the 13 x 140 Club. The big area of decay bodes poorly for Whitman.



And now for a surprise. The Bryant Black Cherry tree is doing fine. It has recovered well from the horrible ice storm of several years ago. Girth = 9.1 feet, Height =101.5 feet. Here is what you see looking directly at the trunk.

Bryant black cherry

Here is what you see looking up the trunk. The sun is on the upper twist, but quite a sight.

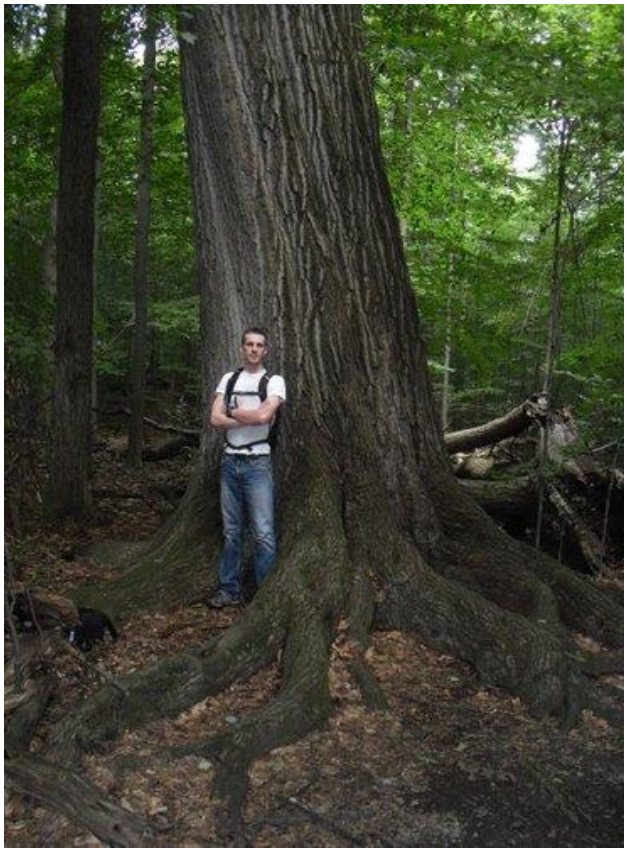
As of this moment, the Bryant Pines is the tallest tree in Massachusetts outside of the towers in Mohawk. The two trees that compete with Bryant are the Ice Glen Pine and the Henry David Thoreau Pine. Perhaps they match or exceed Bryant. I'll confirm later in the year.  So many tree. So little time.

Robert T. Leverett

## North Chagrin Reservation, Ohio: Follow-up Trip

by Steve Galehouse » Sat Aug 13, 2011 7:15 pm

Dan and I returned to North Chagrin today to fill in species' heights we missed on the first trip, especially eastern hemlock and white oak. We found an eastern hemlock at 131.7', which brought the Rucker10 above 133---not bad for a northern site in an urban area. A photo of Dan with the largest girth red oak:



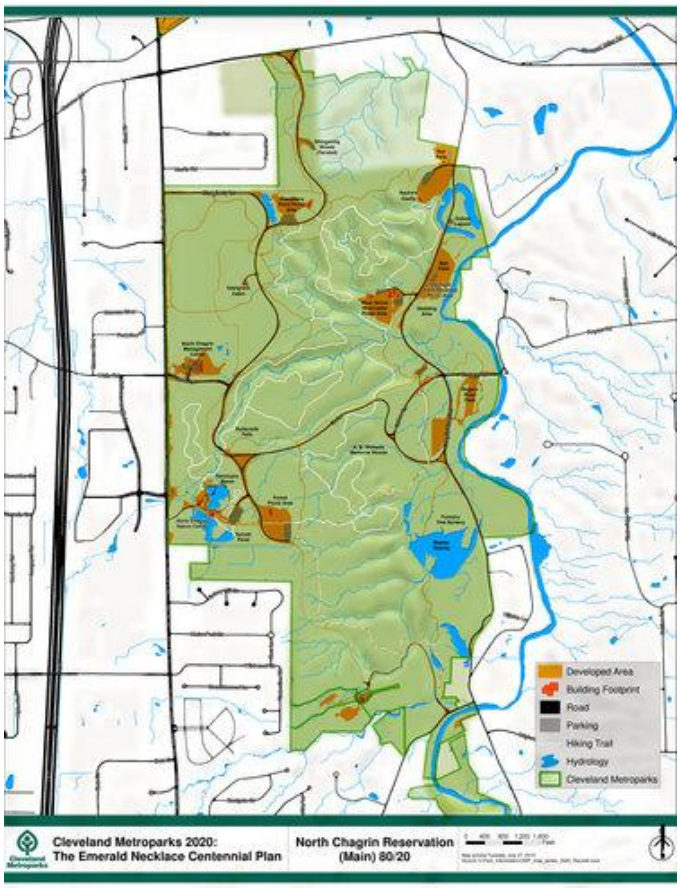
After leaf drop this autumn I'm confident we'll push the Rucker10 past 135.

Steve Galehouse

## North Chagrin Reservation, Ohio: Cumulative Forest Data

by dantheman9758 » Sat Aug 13, 2011 5:50 pm

The North Chagrin Reservation




Park/Terrain/Trail Map

### Height Index

153.5' Tuliptree
139.5' Northern red oak
139.3' White ash
133.0' Bitternut hickory
131.7' Eastern hemlock
128.6' Slippery elm
127.7' American beech
127.7' Sugar maple
125.7' American elm
125.7' Eastern cottonwood
123.3' Black cherry

123.2' Black walnut
122.7' Sassafras
120.7' White oak
120.3' Red maple
119.0' Pignut hickory
118.8' Eastern white pine
116.0' American sycamore
115.7' Blackgum
110.5' Shagbark hickory
107.5' Cucumber-Tree
106.8' Black ash
103.8' Mockernut hickory
097.0' American basswood
079.3' Yellow birch
**RHI05: 139.40**
**RHI10: 133.24**
**RHI20: 126.12**

## Girth Index

18' 03" Red oak
13' 01" Tuliptree
13' 00" American beech
12' 07" Sugar maple
12' 02" White oak
10' 11" Red Maple
10' 08" Cucumber-Tree
10' 08" White ash
10' 07" Blackgum
10' 06" Eastern cottonwood
09' 01" Eastern hemlock
08' 08" Eastern white pine
08' 08" American elm
08' 04" Black walnut
08' 02" Black cherry
08' 01" Slippery elm
08' 01" Shagbark hickory
07' 11" Sassafras
06' 10" Mockernut hickory
06' 08" Black ash
06' 07" American basswood
06' 07" Pignut hickory
04' 06" Yellow birch
02' 01" Northern fox grape *Vine
**RGI05: 13.82500**
**RGI10: 12.24583**
**RGI20: 10.22292**

**Blue** denotes a single specimen for height and girth

**Omitted data**

11' 10" American chestnut **stump*

## State Champion Trees

*Height*

139.3' White ash
133.0' Bitternut hickory
128.6' Slippery elm
127.7" Sugar maple
125.7' American elm
122.7' Sassafras
120.3' Red maple
119.0' *Pignut hickory
115.7' *Blackgum
110.5' Shagbark hickory
106.8' *Black ash
103.8' Mockernut hickory
079.3' Yellow birch

*Circumference*

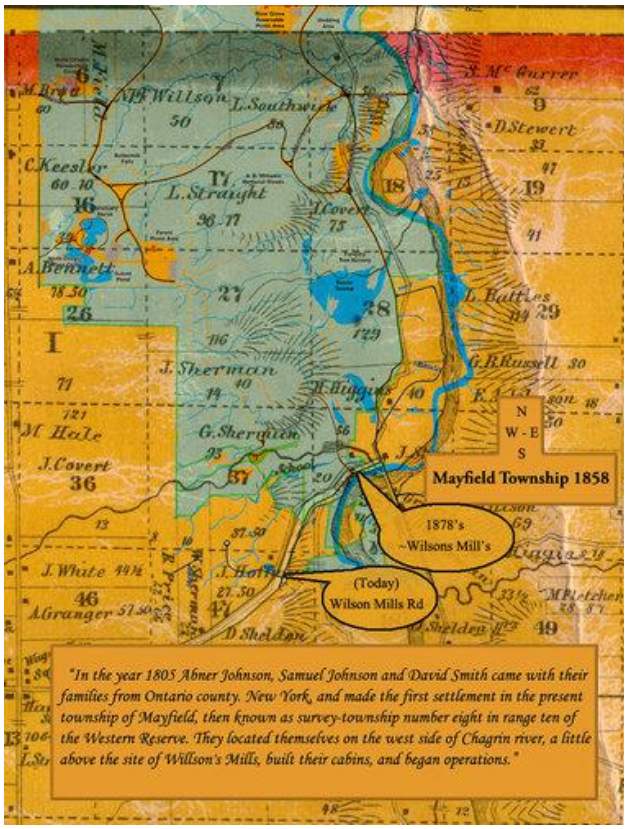
18' 03" Northern red oak
13' 00" American beech
12' 07" Sugar maple
12' 02" White oak
10' 07" Blackgum
08' 08" American elm
08' 01" Shagbark hickory
08' 01" Slippery elm
07' 11" Sassafras
06' 10" Mockernut hickory
06' 08" Black ash
06' 07" Pignut hickory
06' 07" American basswood
02' 01" Northern fox grape *vine

Green denotes a single specimen for height and girth

## Additional Information:

North Chagrin History.rtf

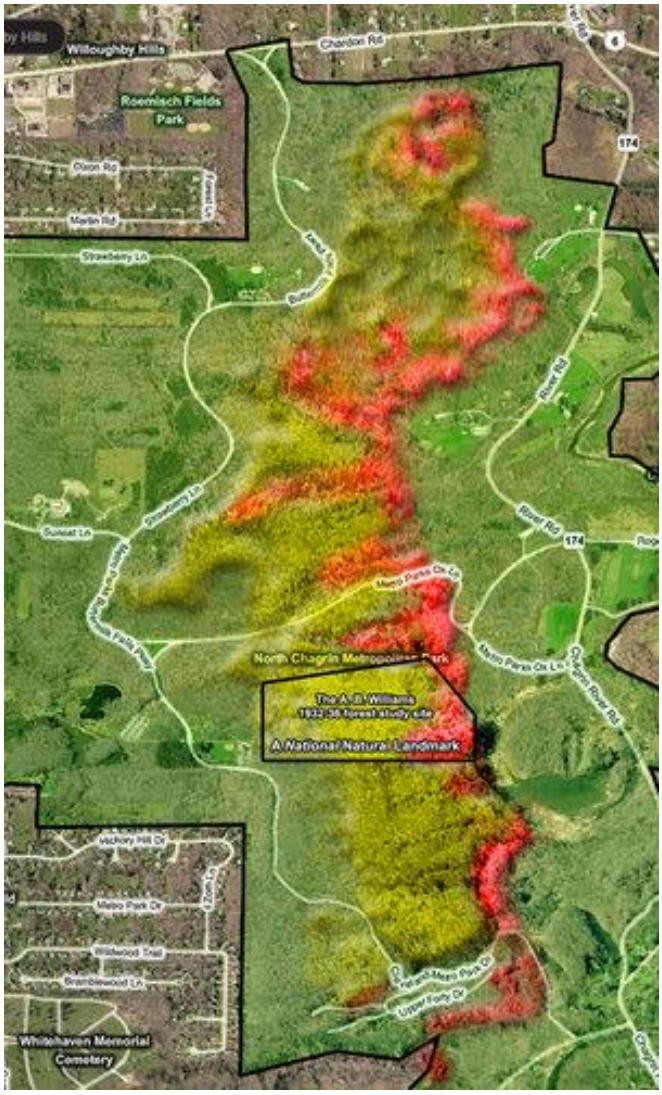
*Wilderness Descriptions of the North Chagrin Reservation site and its Immediate Surroundings via The First Settlers*




Map to go with Wilderness Descriptions - They are quite literally describing the southern portion of "North Chagrin Reservation"

1943219.pdf

*The Composition and Dynamics of a Beech-Maple Climax Community - 1936 study of N. Chagrin old growth*




Bird's Eye Map, with most of the parks boundary. Old growth is highlighted (currently an estimate). The shading is not terrain, the shades of yellow is of the Beech-Maple association and shades of red are of Mixed-Forest association

V095N4_281.pdf

*Distribution and Persistence of American Chestnut Sprouts in Northeastern Ohio Woodlands - 1995 study, references to N. Chagrin*

**Damaging changes and ongoing problems within the forest:**

*Chestnut blight - *chestnut, once a dominate in the parks mixed forest - is now locally extinct in this*

*forest*
*Dutch elm disease - *prevents the parks elm from establishing large numbers, and mature sizes*
*Emerald ash borer - *northern half of the forest is currently decimated from EAB*
*Invasive earthworms - *duff layer damage*
*Overpopulation of white-tail deer - *diversity and density of undergrowth suffering - Undoubtedly due to predatory extinctions via ecological isolation*
*Invasive plant species - *The park has planted many decorative non-native species in the fields, now establishing themselves in the forest. Birds and deer have further spread non-native species*
*Extinction and extirpation of forest wildlife - *Especially large mammals, but also birds, amphibians, and reptiles*
*Drainage problems - *mainly this is due to poor trail design*
*Lack of formal protection - *Invasive species will not be intervened by the Cleveland Metroparks*

**Problems present in the local area, but unconfirmed in the park:**

*Beech bark disease

**Definite, or potential problems in the near future:**

*Hemlock woolly adelgid
*Overpopulation of american beaver - *3 swamps are now present, one is 25 acres, and stands of tree's have died - their presence is refreshing, but they were once 30% of the native timber wolves diet*

**Re-establishment of wildlife diversity in the forest**

Black bear - *Extirpated since the 1830's, recently seen in Ohio, at least one survives almost exclusively within North Chagrin Reservation*
American beaver - *Extirpated since the 1830's, beaver recently re-established their presence in the floodplains below the forest*
Eastern coyotes - *Perhaps non-native. Today's population originated from the west and had been spotted in the area since the mid 1940's. A pack of three coyotes with pups holds territory to the north, and two coyotes with pups is established to the south. Alpha pairs with three or four subordinate adults are not uncommon in the local area.*
White-tail deer - *Another animal extinct since the 1830's, sightings occurred in the late 1930's. Though, the historic population was never this high. Until the unlikely return of large predators the parks deer are annually culled, but it was once, and is now again a part of the ecosystem*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRayUjTYQs4&feature=player_embedded

**This post will be continuously updated with information. Please inform me of any errors on State Champion trees. I based the initial data on the BTD* http://rev215.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/601/Details
Big Trees Database

Dan Reed

## Why do people print so much incorrect stuff about trees?

by dbhguru » Sat Aug 13, 2011 6:56 pm

Bob, Why do you people print so much incorrect stuff about trees? I guess just to get some kind of recognition, to bad. So many things are not accurate, along comes NTS. Larry

Larry,

I think there are a number of reasons, which would apply to other statistical uses of numbers, as well, such as weather or climate data, mountain heights, baseball stats, etc.

1. First, sensitivity to numbers, especially numerical ranges and magnitudes in a measuring sense may be a special aptitude. I routinely hear people use numbers in very inexact ways, which suggests a lack of comprehension or sensitivity as to the meaning of the numbers or how to employ them in comparisons. Additionally, politicians and the news media contribute to the trivialization of numbers. So, there is little discipline in the use of numbers by the general public. This is the big picture look. Malaise at the top.

2. Continuing at the big picture level, Americans are poorly educated in mathematics. Even when math is a part of a curriculum for a technical degree, the math is often suffered through by the student with limited absorption of what is being taught. I often hear people relate unpleasant memories of their math classes. Once away from math, they never return to it unless their job requires it in some mechanical way.

3. Third, Americans are shortcut artists. As a people, we always assume there is an instrument or gadget that will return an answer that we can read directly off of a screen without having to think about the result in any meaningful context. The clinometer is a case in point. The percent scale purportedly returns the height of an object from a baseline of 100 feet.

4. Fourth, the professions that historically have dealt with tree measurements haven't needed to be particularly accurate, nowhere near to the degree that we advocate in ENTS. A short-term, economic view of trees has promoted ignorance of the absolute maximum dimensions and ages. It is rare that I ever meet an individual in the timber-related professions who exhibits a good feel for species maximums, let alone where they are achieved, or how to recognize extremely old trees. However, timber professionals may be quite good in understanding growth rates for a species and under what conditions maximum growth is achieved in the first 60 years or so of the life cycle of a species.

5. Judging girth or diameter versus height of a tree are two different skills. One does not automatically produce competence in the other. Forester friends of mind show great skill in just looking at a trunk and guessing its diameter quite accurately, often amazingly accurately. However, they can be off by tens of feet when judging height, especially on tall trees. I am reminded of an old forester from Virginia who worked on the Montpelier project. He was age-dating downed trees, many of them oaks and tuliptrees. He measured the lengths of prostrate trunks as often as he could and got a maximum of around 142 feet on one tulip. The remains of others log he measured were in the 120s or less. He concluded that the Montpelier tulips maxed out at around 140 feet, and his word carried weight. His conclusion is reasonable based strictly on what he observed and measured on the ground. He knew the crowns of the tulips had broken up, but assumed he could reasonably reconstruct them. However, over his head, literally everywhere stood 150-footers. Not fewer than a dozen were over 160. I expect the 160s number a good dozen and a half, and the 150s around three dozen. But his timber trained eye gauged none of that added height. He was spot on in everything else - except tree height. He had the good judgement to recognize that he couldn't accurately measure standing tulips in the terrain accurately with just a tape and clinometer. So, he didn't try. Consequently, he had no direct measurement data. I spoke to him over the phone and he is plenty sharp. But, most of his professional work has been done in much younger forests. So despite his considerable expertise in his profession, he had developed no real experience in determining or judging maximum tree heights for even the species he commonly deals with. You can apply this scenario across the timber profession.

6. Tree aficionados have been inordinately slow in coming to understand what sources of information on tree dimensions is reliable and which ones suspect. The National Register of Big Trees hasn't helped in public education, yet it is often cited by otherwise noted tree or forest professionals.

7. Forest mensurationists, the traditional tree measuring professionals, have been slow to embrace the latest measuring technologies. They are stuck in justifying or rationalizing what they did in the past. Human nature. That picture will slowly change. The older generation needs to lay low and let younger, more flexible minds take over.

7. There is no penalty for being wrong. If forest and tree professionals can get by without penalty for promulgating misinformation, then the value of accurate information falls to zero, except among the measuring elite.

8. In the sporting arm of tree measuring, outside of ENTS, we are swamped with mediocrity. And it doesn't seem to be getting any better. Here is an extract form New Hampshire's champion tree list. Notice the Hillsborough entry for American Elm (160 feet). Need I say more?

| Species | Latin Name | Nat'l Champ | Total Points | CBH (in) | VH (ft) | ACS (ft) | Champ Status | Co Champ | Year | Cond | City |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Elm | | | | | | | | | | | |
| American | *Ulmus americana* | 403 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 374 | 219 | 126 | 115 | State | | 2006 | Fair | Milford |
| | | | 325 | 144 | 160 | 83 | Co | | 2007 | Fair | Antrim |
| | | | 267 | 159 | 91 | 69 | County | | 2006 | Good | Walpole |
| | | | 255 | 143 | 88 | 97 | County | | 2005 | Good | Farmington |
| | | | 248 | 155 | 70 | 93 | Dead | | 1975 | Dead | Barnstead |
| | | | 243 | 163 | 60 | 78 | County | | 1990 | Fair | Lancaster |
| | | | 226 | 131 | 75 | 81 | County | | 2009 | Excell | Concord |
| | | | 222 | 130 | 68 | 94 | Dead | | 1984 | Dead | Durham |
| | | | 208 | 110 | 82 | 64 | County | | 2006 | Excell | Portsmouth |

Well, this is what comes to mind. I expect Ed, Will, and others have thoughts on the subject.

Robert Leverett

## Art studio in the woods

by AndrewJoslin » Mon Aug 15, 2011 4:00 pm

I had the pleasure to spend an afternoon in woods near Boston making bark rubbings and drawings with local artist Nancy Aleo. We focused on an American Beech that had fallen over a few years back (not sure exactly when it fell) but remains alive. We made bark rubbings using a thin mulberry paper and also tried rice paper. The smooth barked species worked best, I tried working on a white pine but the bark texture was too rough for the paper. More experimentation is needed to figure out the best papers for different bark types. We made rubbings from Black Gum, Yellow Birch, White Pine and American Beech. Nancy also made rubbings from the upper surface of large Ganoderma applanatum (Artist's Conk).

The most enjoyable part was simply working in the "woods studio".

Nancy looking over the work

A. Beech rubbing, the date "1901" is captured (vertically) on the upper left

Drawing on Ganoderma applanatum with a twig

More photos

Video showing the rubbing process on the beech:


Using a thin sheet of mulberry paper and an oil pastel to transfer the bark texture of an American Beech (Fagus grandifolia) to paper. The process leaves no trace on the tree.

The tree is uprooted and down on the ground but remains alive. The trunk has many carvings on it, one says "1901".

## More Yellow Birches Behaving Strangely

by Will Blozan » Sat Aug 13, 2011 2:37 pm

Here are some photos from Craggy I took in 2004. Most are digital composite stitches.

Will Blozan

## Hemlock Springs Overlook, Shenandoah National Park,VA

*from hlfallison in re: to Google list post about Shenandoah NP, VA - April 19, 2008*
*08-13-2011*

Hello, great research! I used to hike Hemlock Springs Overlook from top to bottom in 1990-1994 when the Hemlocks were still vibrantly healthy!! I know it was against park regulations to do it since there were no trails, I was in my early 20's and was big into Eastern Old growth so I had to risk it and see it firsthand. My friend and I did the hikes in the winter to avoid the Timber Rattlers. A extremely treacherous gorge/ ravine full of dangerous rock fields and ancient Lichen colonies the likes of which I have never seen since! Let me attest to you right now, the specimens we saw back then were amazing!

We encountered specimens at least 12-14 feet in girth and one long dead fallen mammoth was about eight feet across and had obviously been lying there for a very long time. Also noteworthy were the Yellow Birch we saw. I wish I was not a dumb youngster at the time because I NEVER took a camera to document the explorations... UGH!. I have been to many old growth areas in my day, however I must admit Hemlock Springs was the most remarkable and treacherous of places. There is one spot midway down where you would go through an area ( like a Hemlock nursery full of 8' tall babies) and you would reach a 10' wide cliff where you could touch the tips of Hemlocks that were at least 80' tall! One false move and you would be mince meat on the rocks below. We went to Corbin cabin at the bottom of the Overlook one time, and met a park Ranger who was staying there. We told her what route we took and that we were ascending back up the Hemlock Overlook Gorge that evening.... she was pretty impressed... she did not say anything about being off trail... I was so angry when I saw they were dead 10 years later!! anyways great work!! Hemlock Springs Overlook in it's day, put Limberlost to shame.

## SW Oregon Expedition #9 Yields More Tall Douglas Fir

by M.W.Taylor » Sat Aug 13, 2011 8:38 pm

I just came back from a 3 day bushwhack in SW Oregon (Douglas and Coos Counties) looking for tall douglas fir. The 4 man team consisting of Mario Vaden, Mike Hanuschik, Chris Atkins and myself was able to locate 2 more extremely tall trees. The 1st tree is an 8' dbh specimen growin on a bench in Tioga creek on BLM land. The height to the live top of this tree was 97.25m or 319.1ft. We have named the tree "Memnon 332". It is the 4th tallest known living douglas fir. On the next day we located an even taller tree. Dbh was 7ft and height was 98.12m, 321.9 ft to a vigorous live top.

Top of "Memnon 332" taken just prior to sunset

The tree grows in a very remove location and takes an entire day to reach. We have named this tree "Black Thorn" due to the massive blackberry brambles one must endure to get to this tree. It's a serious bushwhack and the terrain rivals the worst we ever encountered at Redwood National Park. I have attached pictures of the tops of both new tall douglas fir. I will have more reports from SW Oregon later this year. It's the new hot spot for tall trees. A new frontier.

Michael Taylor

## Douglas Fir: The Tallest Twelve Trees

by M.W.Taylor » Sun Aug 14, 2011 11:43 am

You are correct that any douglas fir over 300' is quite rare. The tallest 12 douglas fir I know about are mostly new discoveries and are as follows:

327.3 ft (99.76 m) 13.2 dbh Brummett Fir. Coos County, Oregon
322.8 ft (98.34 m) 8.6 dbh Noname, SW Oregon. Tripod mounted Impulse 200LR
321.9 ft (98.12 m) 7.0 dbh Black Thorn, SW Oregon. Vigorous Live Top.
319.1 ft (97.25 m) 8.1 dbh Memnon 332, SW Oregon. Live Top.
317.6 ft (96.80 m) 8.5 dbh Hunewell Honey. Prairie Creek SP. Live Top.
317.5 ft (96.79 m) 7.0 dbh Edge Fir, Coos County, SW Oregon. Site Altitude 900'
317.4 ft (96.77 m) 6.5 dbh Noname. SW Oregon. Site Alititude 2300'.
317.2 ft (96.68 m) 10.1 dbh Noname. SW Oregon. Two tops, the other 95.5m.
314.0 ft (95.70 m) 9.9 dbh Noname. SW Oregon. Dbhhigh side of ground
310.7 ft (94.70 m) 7.5 dbh Noname. Redwood National Park.
310.0 ft (94.48 m) 8.0 dbh Noname. SW Oregon. Dbh high side of ground
309.3 ft (94.27 m) 8.5 dbh Coyote Gulch Tree, Park Creek, Coos County

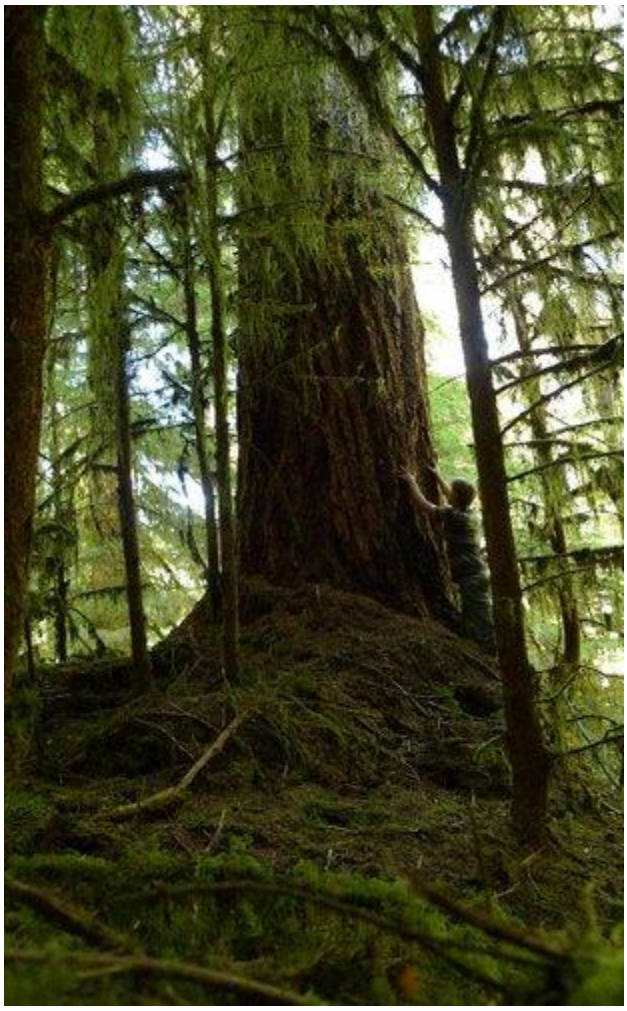
Nearly all these measurements are taken with Impulse 200LR and should be accurate to within (+,-) 6 inches. As you can see, Oregon now has considerably more known tall douglas fir than California, especially in the elite 310+ class. Despite our intense search efforts for tall douglas fir in NW California (Redwood National & Prairie Creek SP), the tallest we have found so far is 317.5 ft, a tree I located in 1990. After 21 years of searching between Steve Sillett, Bob VP, Chris Atkins and myself, still nothing taller has been found in California. And we are always looking for tall douglas fir everytime we explore the redwoods. They are hard to find.

Have we reached a barrier in Cal at 320 ft or are these 320 ft+ douglas fir hiding somewhere in the redwoods ? And what about Olympic National Park ? A 326 ft douglas fir was cut down near Smith Place, an abandonned homestead withing Olympic National Park.

The top of Brummett Fir is rotten and about to fall off. Brummett once stood 100.1m tall when in its prime. It's the only other species of tree on Earth proven to surpass 100m in modern times. The attached pictures are of Black Star, 3rd tallest known douglas fir and it has a vigorous top. This tree will likely surpass Brummett Fir in the coming years.

So far, 100m still elludes us.


"Memnon 332" with high crown in sunglow



Base of Black Thorn

3rd tallest known douglas fir, Black Thorn.

## Tecumseh Pine, MTSF, MA

by dbhguru » Sun Aug 14, 2011 8:41 am

Yesterday Bart Bouricius, Brian Hawthorne (prof at Hampshire College), Monica, and yours truly went to the Elders grove in MTSF. I had one objective and that was to re-measure Tecumseh, the largest and second tallest of the big pines in the grove. With my buddy Bart to help, we had a good chance of re-measuring Tecumseh. Under the thick summer canopy, one doesn't have much chance seeing the top and bottom of Tecumseh, but with two people, the picture changes. Bart established himself at the base and gave me a target to shoot at. I found a peephole to the top. I had to shoot from 84 yards. However, when through, the calculations support and end of growing season 166.0 feet. I didn't remeasure the girth. It won't be but about 0.04 feet more. Tecumseh is doing most of its growing aloft. The height measurement may be a slightly liberal determination, but I'm going with it until the fall.

When we got to the Elders Grove, a couple was sitting at the base of the Sitting Bull tree. The husband of the couple asked me if I was looking for the big trees and I explained that we measure them. He asked me if I knew about a group called the eastern Native Tree Society. The rest is history. You can imagine who burst forth with details aplenty. But the story goes further. It turns out that the wife had been Bart's father's nurse at one point. Also, Bart had just made a telephone arrangement to work on one of the couple's trees the following day. Small world.

Ed, Your fabulous Internet creations are doing the job. We are reaching more and more folks.

Oh yes, Tecumseh was happy to be remeasured. How do I know? Well, ya gotta speak white pine to get the message. But it came through loud and clear in my ear. I'm sure I heard correctly.

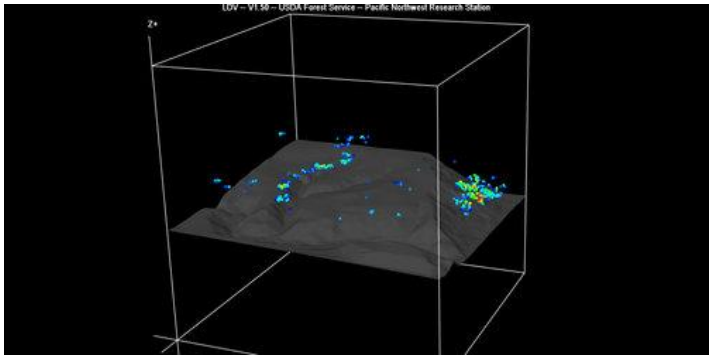
Robert T. Leverett

## #10) Re: North Chagrin Reservation: Cumulative Forest Data - LIDAR

by dantheman9758 » Sun Aug 14, 2011 12:40 pm

WV *and* OH are well represented in the Big Trees Database! Wow! This is excellent! Check out that WV RGI - And I thought the oaks in Chagrin were big, jeeeeeze

I think Ohio's RHI will climb more, chagrin needs measured after leaf drop. - and there are more sites all over that have yet to be explored. Just one mile north of N. Chagrin is Hatch Otis sanctuary - It's 81 additional acres of Chagrin-River old-growth. Check out the 130+ lidar on It's southeast slopes:




Blue = 130-135, Cyan = 135-140, Green = 140-145, Yellow= 145-150, Red=150+

From the sheer diversity of tree's we've found in North Chagrins slopes, my gut says most all these 130's-140's are not Tulip tree's, and we may strike some gold in the 140's-145's. I've got to get some measuring equipment.

## More Big Trees To Report From The Sierra Nevada

by M.W.Taylor » Sun Aug 14, 2011 1:48 pm

In late July, Mike Hanuschik and I visited the Central & then Southern Sierra Nevada for a weekend in search of extreme trees. We explored the El Dorado National Forest , Freeman Creek Basin and Dorrington-Calaveras area. We also checked out the Whelan Sugar Pine. This tree is unbelievable !

Whelan is 20% bigger than its closest rival in terms of volume with about 9,000 cubic feet of trunk volume. At 50 feet off the ground, Whelan Tree is still over 9.4 ft in diameter.

Also, this tree was rumored to be dying from bark beetle attack but I saw no such evidence of this. I counted only 1 possible bark beetle "pitch tube" on the entire lower trunk surface. The top of Whelan is looking vigorous as well. New height is 208 ft.

John Muir was the original big tree hunter and he considered Whelan to be one of the largest sugar pines, if not the largest...see attached pictures of John Muir under Whelan on or about 1900, Camp Sugar Pine Administrator Megan and Mike Hanuschik under the Whelan.

In the same general area we located a gigantic ponderosa pine that was 7.7' dbh and another sugar pine that was 9' dbh in the Northern rim of Calaveras Grove.

On day 1 we also explored the El Dorado National Forest for big pines and we found a few. We also checked out the new AFA champion ponderosa pine in El Dorado National Forest. The top of this tree just died recently...see attached pictures. This tree is a co-champino to the big ponderosa in Trinity County in terms of AFA points. The Trinity ponderosa has a bulkier trunk and is a little bigger in volume at about 5,100 cubic feet vs. 4,650 for the El Dorado Ponderosa. Towards the end of Day 1, we measured another large sugar pine at 8.7' dbh and 5,200 cubic feet of wood...big enough to make Bob Van Pelt's Forest Giants Book.

On Day 2 of the expedition we explored the Freeman Creek Basin in Sequoia National Forest in search of tall giant sequoia. We found no giant sequoia over 300ft, but we did manage to find a super sized specimen off the beaten path that has no apparent name. Its dbh was 26.5ft and this was taken on the high side ! The volume of this tree is surely over 30,000 cubic feet. Nearby is another giant of near equal size.

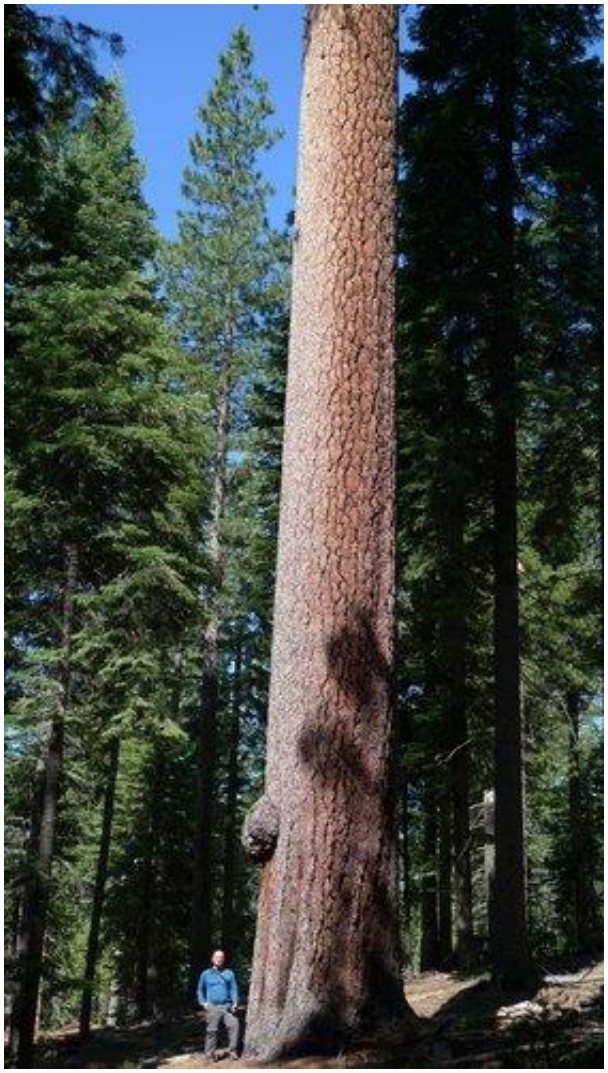
No world records were found in our last Sierra expedition, but we did find some notable trees. See the photos that follow.

Mike Hanuschik under the new AFA champion ponderosa. Volume of trunk above buried base is 4,650 cubic feet. Dbh is 8.6 feet

*Bob Leveret asked: From your searches, how would you rate the Sugar Pine relative to the Ponderosa in volume. I realize this is a judgement call, but I've always assumed that in terms of potential, the Sugars can grow substantially larger than the Ponderosas.*

Michael Taylor replied: The Trinity County ponderosa near Forest Glenn was AFA champion from 2007-2011 and has a little over 5,000 cubic feet of trunk volume, dbh of 8.3 ft and height about 232'. The biggest sugar pines I have found in Trinity County and the Klamath-Syskyous intermediate ranges are also about 5,000 cubic feet. It would

appear Trinity County's intermediate ranges represent a nexus for having the largest ponderosa pine.

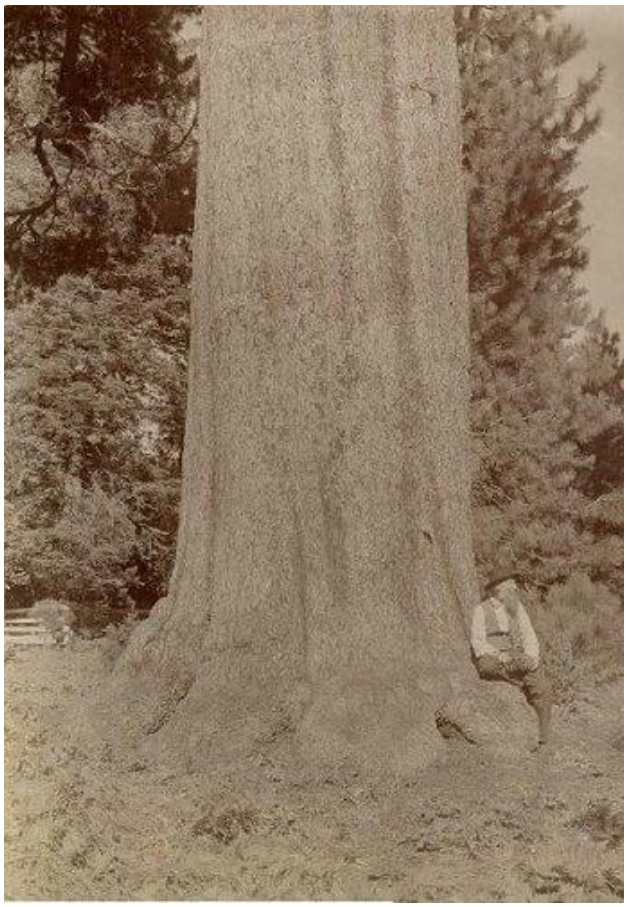


5,250 cubic feet of wood in this Sugar Pine shaft near IceHouse Lake. dbh is 8.7'.

The ridge-line of South Fork Mountain(longest ridge-line in the USA) is where the ocean influence effectively ends and giant ponderosa and sugar pine country begins. The threshold of this marine layer boundary is where the sugars and pondys seems to get the biggest. The coastal influence still cools these ranges to a greater degree than in the Sierra, especially at night. I hear rumor of a 11' dbh sugar pine on the backside of South Fork Mnt, but so far have not been able to locate this tree. It may have been logged in the 1980s or 1990s.

Giant 7.7' dbh ponderosa in Camp Sugar Pine

In the Central Sierra, sugar pine reaches its nexus with the largest ever recorded being still alive and growing in Dorrington California. There is just more snow in the Sierras (16ft in Dorrington last year) to supply more water for later in the growing season. Also there are much taller and bigger mountains above the mid-elevation mixed montain forests in the Sierra. These mixed conifer forests consist mostly of sugar pine, jeffrey pine, ponderosa pine, white fir, red fir, douglas fir and incense cedar and segi. This mixed montane forest's best sugars and ponderosa grow in the altitude band of 4,000'-5,000' in the Klamath intermediates, 2,000'-3,000' in Oregon's Syskyous and Western Cascade ranges and 5,000'-6,000' in the Central Sierra foothills.

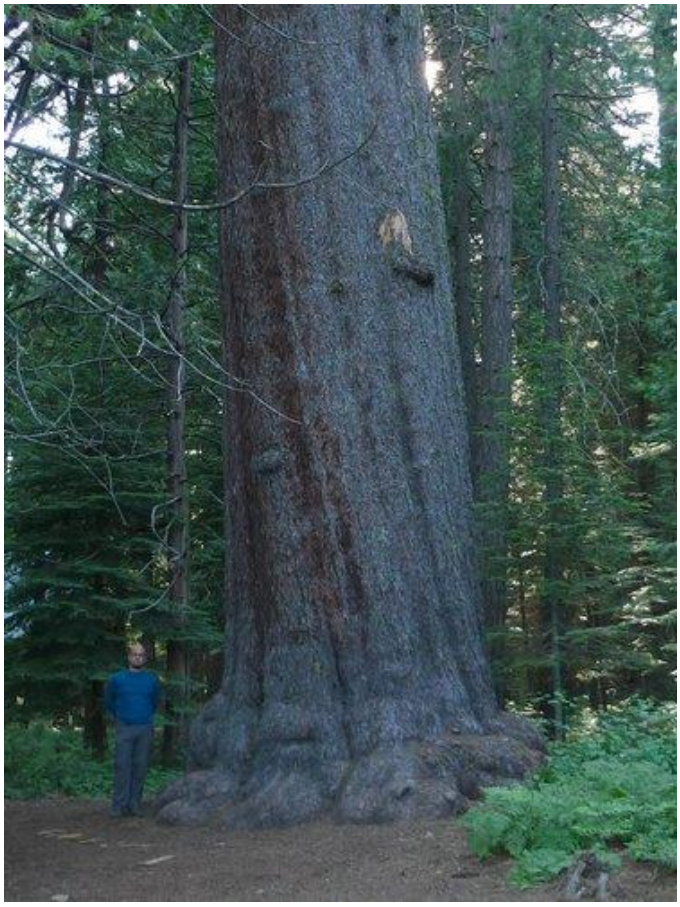


John Muir under the whelan which is now bigger. Sugar pine was Muir's favorite tree

The prime altitude band for sugar pine and pondy extends to even 7,000 feet in the Southern Sierra.

Nearby the 11' dbh Whelan Pine is a nearly 8' dbh Ponderosa Pine with a volume of perhaps 4,000 cubic feet. Both are tapping the same spring and soil and are perhaps about the same age. They grow in the prime altitude zone of 5,100 feet. Ponderosa is usually a slightly longer lived species to sugar pine. The Whelan suar pine is 9,000 cubic feet and growing. In the same basin are giant ponderosa and super giant sugar pines. Sugar pine clearly wins, no contest.

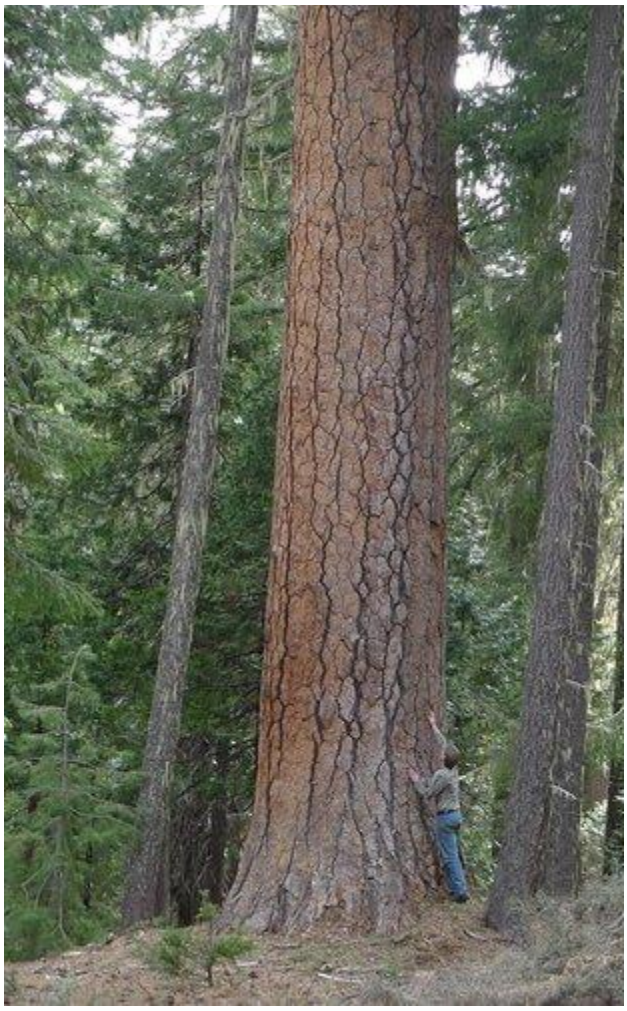
With that said, it would appear sugar pine nearly doubles the ponderosa in volume potential and rivals or even surpasses it in height. The tallest sugar pine, Yosemite Giant, died a few years ago. It was 269.2' tall. The tallest known sugar pine now is 255' in SW Oregon. Will Bloznan found one about 250' in Giant Forest. Sugar pine is historically both a larger and slightly taller tree than the ponderosa. The Whelan is the largest ever recorded at 9k. The Forest Glenn Ponderosa at 5k+ is the largest ever recorded for the species.



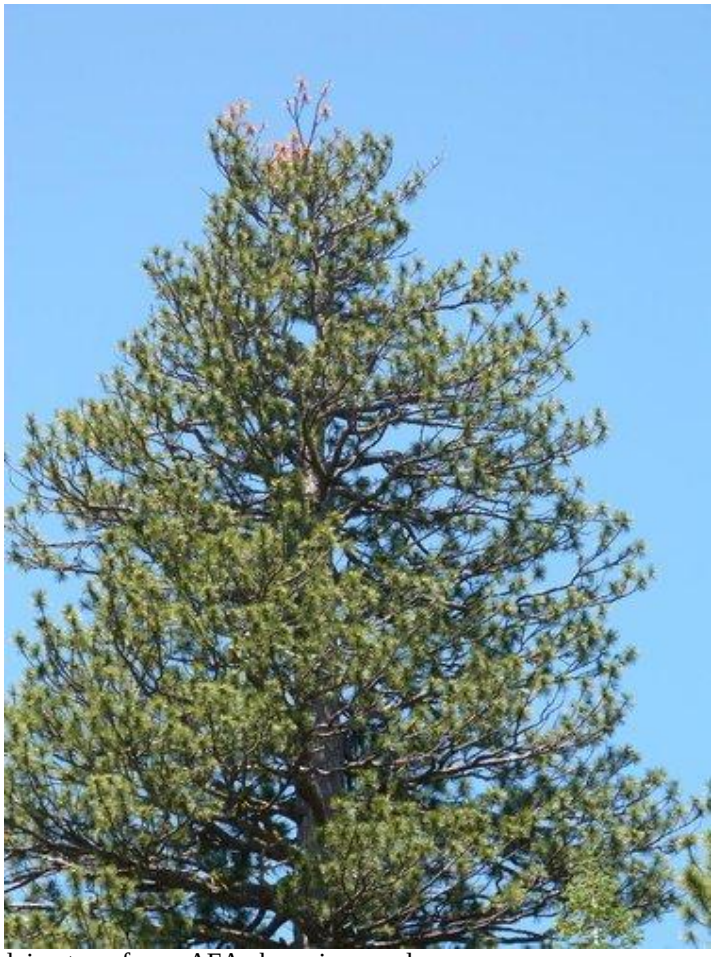
About 9,000 cubic feet of trunk volume according to Robert Van Pelt

Therefore I would conclude sugar pine is a larger species in the Central and Northern Sierra and sugar pine is equal in size and height to ponderosa in the Klamath-Siskyous and SW Cascade ranges to the mighty ponderosa.

We are aggressively searching for tall sugar pine. So far, 250' or taller is surprisingly is elusive. A 268' that was 13' at the base was cut a few years ago near Prospect Oregon, which is basically the foothills of the Southern Cascade ranges.

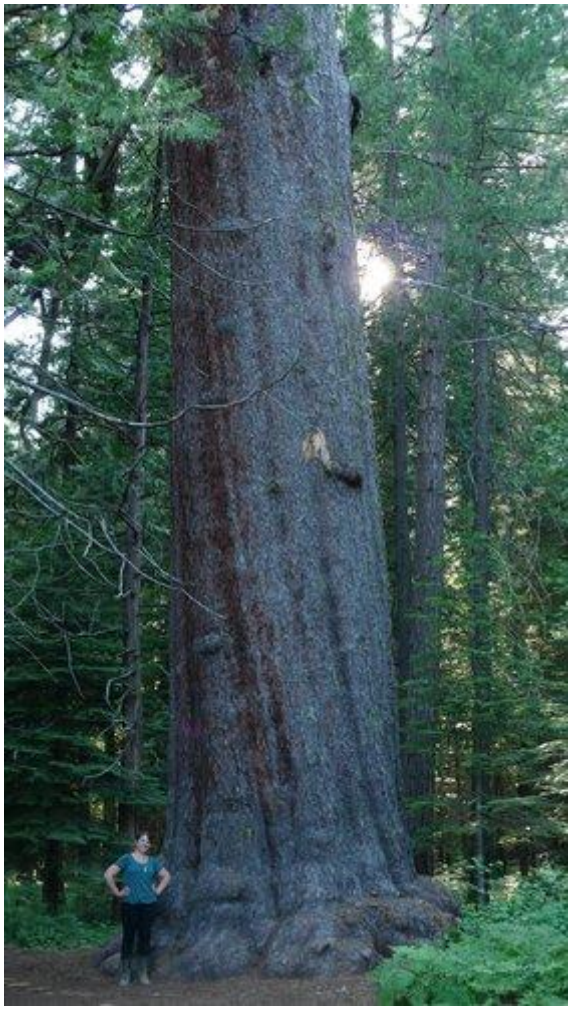


largest known ponderosa by Volume in Trinity County. Co-Champion to El Dorado ponderosa



dying top of new AFA champion ponderosa

close-up of dying top of new AFA champion ponderosa



Megan under Whelan Pine which resembles a Parthenon Column more than a tree.

Michael Taylor

## Oak tree featured in "Shawshank Redemption" badly damaged

by Kirk Johnson » Fri Aug 05, 2011 12:51 am

Has this news been posted yet on the ENTS forum? I couldn't find anything:
http://www2.nbc4i.com/news/2011/aug/02/ ... ar-656809/

http://www.npr.org/2011/08/04/138986482 ... k-industry

Even made the TMZ news of all places:
http://www.tmz.com/2011/08/01/shawshank ... torm-ohio/

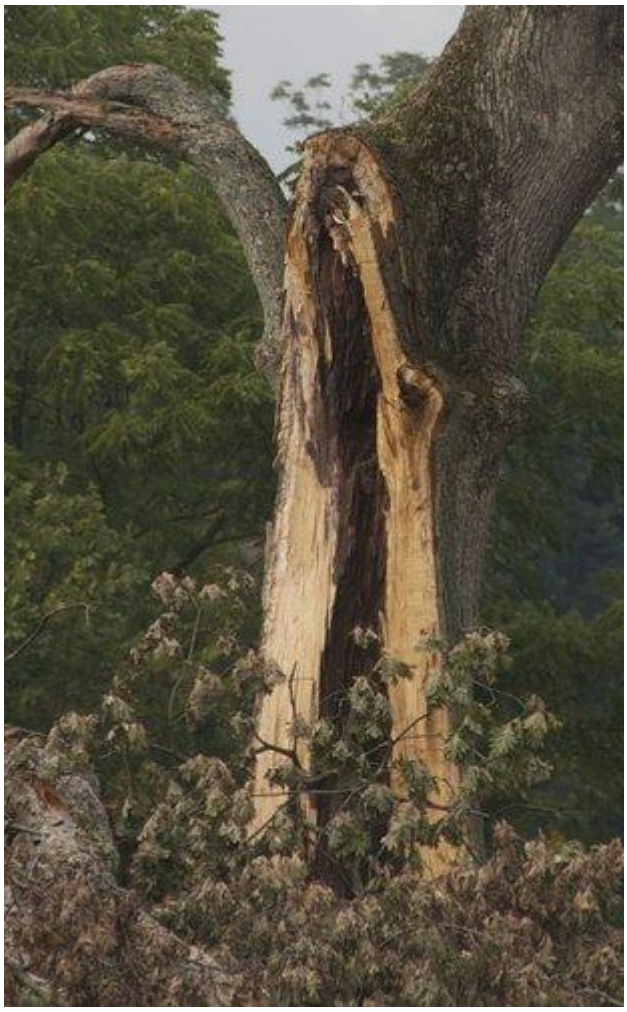
## #7) Re: Oak tree featured in "Shawshank Redemption" badly damage

by Rand » Sun Aug 14, 2011 6:54 pm

I was by there this weekend and got some higher res pictures of the poor specimen and can confirm it is indeed a white oak:

The tree sits roughy 100 yards off the road at the peak of a short spur (I suspect the filming occurred on the back side of the spur). The half dozen 'No trespassing' signs strewn along the 300 yard length of the roadside fence made the ignorance defense a little weak so I stayed on the legal side of the fence. Still a zoom lens erases a great many evils:

And the hollow:



Randy Brown

## Raven Nature Trail near Woodruff, WI

by DonCBragg » Mon Aug 15, 2011 1:09 pm

The last week of July I took my family to the 1.5 mile long Raven Nature Trail loop, which is on the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest just south of Woodruff, Wisconsin. It was a gorgeous day, and I had an urge to dust off the TruPulse 200 while enjoying the fine weather. A quick internet search for trails near where we were staying soon noted the Raven Nature Trail, with tall pine and hemlock mentioned. A short drive to this trail, and we weren't disappointed!

Raven Nature Trail trailhead

This stand of timber is typical of the more mesic morainal forests of this area, with northern hardwoods common in the hills, eastern hemlocks dominating the waterfront and swamp fringe areas, black spruce-tamarack pocket wetlands, and eastern white pine and red pine towering over all others. The hardwood forests also had a considerable fraction of northern red oak, suggesting a fire-disturbed past. Most of this stand was mature timber, with the hardwoods seeming to be about 80-100 years old. The pine were likely older than that, probably 100-150 years old, and many of the older hemlock probably exceeded 200 years. The white and red pine were probably remnants of individuals to young/small to harvest in the big cuts of the late 1800s, thus they are somewhat larger than many other mature pine stands in the area.

Large eastern white pine along Raven Nature Trail

Most of the pine are near the trailhead and paved parking lot, but decent individuals can be found all along the 1.5 mile long trail. I did not measure many trees other than white pine, but decently tall (for northern Wisconsin) eastern hemlock, northern red oak, and sugar maple can be found.

Species.

....DBH (in.).....CBH (ft.)…..Height (ft.)
Eastern white pine
.....28.5.....7.5.....101.0
Eastern white pine
.....31.6.....8.3.....113.0
Eastern white pine
.....22.1.....5.8.....121.0
Eastern white pine
.....34.8.....9.1.....120.0
Eastern white pine
.....38.1.....10.0.....124.0

Sugar maple
.....21.3.....5.6.....80.0
Eastern hemlock
.....27.3.....7.1.....91.0
Eastern hemlock
….....19.8.....5.2.....89.0
Eastern white pine
.....32.6.....8.5.....98.0--hilltop
Eastern white pine
.....36.3.....9.5.....112.0--hilltop
Northern red oak
.....21.3.....5.6.....75.0--hilltop
Red pine
.....18.8.....4.9.....88.0
Eastern white pine
….....29.2.....7.6.....116.5
Red pine
.....18.6.....4.9..... 107.5
Eastern white pine
.....29.6.....7.7.....120+

This is a target rich environment for eastern white pine! Unfortunately, with my 3 young kids on the trail as well I couldn't linger long. If I get a chance, I'll try to go back during a winter visit, as hardwood leaf-off should also help find the big pines. The biggest of the eastern white pines at this site are probably 35 to 40 inches DBH, with heights between 120 and 130 ft. It may be possible to find some taller individuals in the moister, richer kettles and other protected valleys in this moraine (similar to what you can find at Cathedral Pines in the Nicolet National Forest). Given the relative youth of these trees, plus some signs of storm damage (many tops without distinct leaders), I'm not expecting to see 150 footers here--at least not yet.

Here's some more photographs taken along this trail:


Pine and hemlock along lake shore


Eastern hemlock with some hemlock regeneration


Hemlock rings (note hemlock needle for scale)

Tall eastern white pine along distant shore

Note the tight inner rings on this hemlock prior to its release...

## " Conkers "

by James Parton » Thu Aug 18, 2011 11:46 am

Check out the game of Conkers. Hey, this could be the official game of eNTS, that is if you don't consider tree measuring a game...

Now to find me a conker ( Buckeye ).

http://www.worldconkerchampionships.com ... about.html

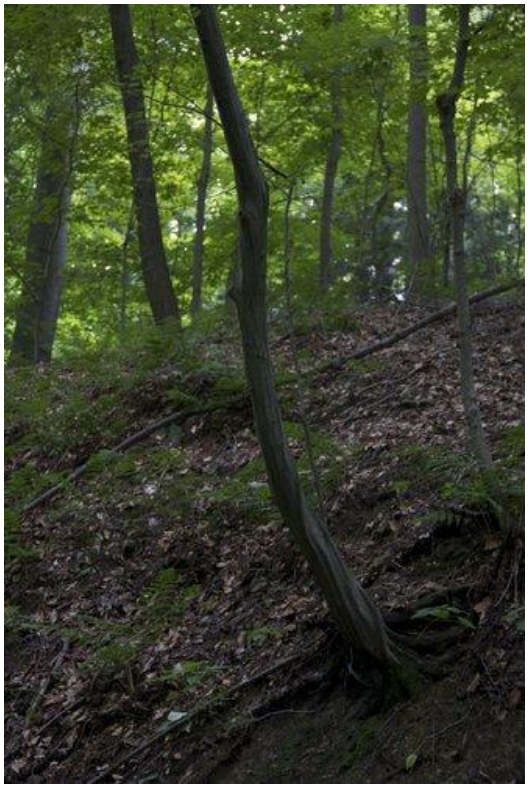
## Re: North Chagrin Reservation – More Photos

by Rand Brown » Thu Aug 11, 2011 11:21 pm

Here's some of the pictures I took:

125.7' American Elm

127.7' Sugar Maple



Elegant looking Hornbeam growing in the shade of the 127.7' sugar maple

Sleeping Ent (Beechbone?)

photo by Rand Brown

*Doug Bidlack reports the insect is a horntail. It is in the order Hymenoptera along with all bees, wasps, ants etc. the species might be Tremex columba, a rather large and common horntail*

Randy Brown