

and 3rd show Englemann Spruce growing along or near our path.



Before Monica and I went to Engineer Mountain, we road up Cascade Creek at about 8,800 feet elevation. The spruce appeared stressed, and were not very tall. I got a couple to about 112 feet, but nothing taller, nor of significant girth. We also started down the ridge on the south side of the pass in a somewhat younger area of spruce. Heights were typically between 100 and 110 feet. However, the spruce on the north side of the ridge were a different story. It is on the north side and other side of Route 550 that Don, Rand, and I measured the 141-footer last year. It is the high altitude record for trees at or above 2 miles within the Rocky Mtn region. Yesterday's 126-footer is the record for trees growing above 11,000 feet. WNTS has fulfilled its mission. Everything from here on out this year is gray.

Robert T. Leverett

### [Oddly enough, Iceland](#)

▣ by Don Bertolette » Sun Jul 17, 2011 9:06 pm

Having the opportunity to join my better half (Rhonda) in Iceland, where she had work-oriented tasking, I flew in to Reykjavik the capitol of Iceland. After napping for several hours to shake the jetlag off, I rented a car, and drove to Akureyri where Rhonda's conference was held. Arriving on her next to last day of the conference, the images that follow document the countryside enroute and then of our return to Reykjavik by way of the Western Fjords. I was struck by the similarities between Alaska and Iceland, though immensely different in size (Iceland is about the size of Kentucky), they both are characterized by low population densities, large expanses of wide open spaces. Iceland has few predators (we did see briefly, an Arctic Fox), but a wealth of birdlife.

I started out with a new camera, and I offer my apologies for my bumbling about. The camera, a Sony DSC HX9V, is a point and shoot basically, but clearly complex enough to "grow into". My primary criticism is the lack of a user-friendly instruction manual, as some of the features I wanted to access

the most were somewhat embedded. That said, the journey begins.



One of the first shots I took was of one of the state subsidized tree plantations that presented themselves frequently across the routes I, we chose.



In between my rented car and an interpretive sign, a waterfall and a 1930's road and bridge are visible, especially in the zoomed in image that follows...



Like Alaska, Iceland has both dirt road tracks and paved roads, but comparatively very little compared to the contiguous American states.



Though familiar with Garmin's handheld GPS and that of the iPhone, the Nuvi (Garmin) GPS seen in bottom right was a very helpful auto version. The verbal directions prevented me from having to divert my attention to the graphics...we came to call the female voice directing us, as the Imperial Blonde...

Focused on a timely arrival in Akureyri, most of the images that follow, were taken in Akureyri, or from our return.



Icelandic towns are rather far apart, and try to be self-sustaining. Here beyond the statue of a dairy cow and milking maid, is a fairly large, modern building housing the regional dairy.



Visiting Akureyri's Botanical Garden, I tried my hand (actually my camera) at shooting with a macro setting...



In a lagoon at the town's edge, these swans (locals referred to them as 'whoopers') and their cygnets graced our presence.



Got Geothermal? Iceland has plenty. Here steam vents and bubbling mud pots abound, at the base of a one-time sulphur mine.



Down the road apiece, one of the many "swimming pools" that abound around Iceland offers an enticing opportunity to 'take the waters'. With temperatures that range from 85 to 105 degrees, patrons can find their temp...



The last few images are from the Myvatn area along with Godafoss (Waterfall of the Gods).



Leaving the North, and heading west, we approached the Western Fjords, with our night's stay in Holmavik. Along the way, we observed a gathering of Eider ducks, known for their high quality down, and abundant throughout the region.



Once common, this sod roofed house remains as an example of a previous generations solution to shelter in a wet and cold environment.

Leaving the coast for a bit, we travelled somewhat inland, never far from the sea. Wide open spaces characterized much of our travel here.

I believe the next image is of Djupafjordur, on our way to the ferry at Brjanslaekur.



I have few images of sheep specifically, but must comment that this country supports a surprising number of sheep, seemingly sustainably.



Sheep, did I say something about sheep?



Geothermal springs abound everywhere, here developed and piped to a rather nice enclosed swimming pool, with only one house within miles, perhaps a dozen within 50 miles.



For the paltry sum of about \$4, we luxuriated in this hot spring fed swimming pool until we'd fully relaxed and were ready to continue our journey.

We took a day and travelled inland and upland into an alpine wilderness area in the Djupadalur region, our destination a waterfall of note, but name since forgotten. Nonetheless, a memorable one, after a fog/cloud shrouded drive.



One of the more remote waterfalls we visited, zoomed image follows.



Another fjord, off in the distance...



And another...

With a maximum of twenty images permitted, a second episode to this adventure will follow, later this week.

*Don Bertolette*

[New 370' class redwood to report, CA](#)

by M.W.Taylor » Tue Jul 19, 2011 12:55 am

I was on the phone with Chris Atkins today. He reports the he and Mario Vaden recently re-measured "Orion", coast redwood in Redwood National Park. Using Steve Sillett's ground level tag, this tree is about 370.17 feet - 112.83 meters above the averaged ground level. Orion is a big tree too. It grows on a high perched bench, 1000 ft above Redwood Creek's valley floor. The tree is not growing anywhere near a creek, but there is a small spring that flows through the center of the bench. A few days later, Chris and Mario re-measured Helios, 2nd tallest known tree. Helios has grown nearly 2 inches each year since it was climbed and measured by Steve Sillett in September 2006. Helios is on pace to hit 380' on or about 2017. Hyperion is on pace to break the 380' barrier about the same time. Hyperion's growth is currently about 1 inch per year. Chris and Mario also re-measured some tall trees of different species later that day.

Atkins-MD Vaden Tree summary

COAST REDWOOD:      Height (ft)    Height (m)  
Dbh (ft)    Dbh (m)

Helios	376.18	114.66	16.0
Orion	370.17	112.83	14.1
T7	363.41	110.77	

Miller Creek	359.74	109.65	
T22	359.25	109.49	12.5
Philip Burton	356.74	108.74	
Scar Amber	355.97	108.50	
Big Leaner	354.95	108.19	
T51	352.52	107.45	16.6

Miller Creek#4	351.04	107.01	
Haystack Needle	350.39	106.80	
Trifecta	350.39	106.80	

SITKA SPRUCE:      Height (ft)    Height (m)  
Dbh (ft)    Dbh (m)

Raven's Tower	317.19	96.68	
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Daisy Spruce	315.58	96.19	
Salmonberry Spruce	314.37	95.82	8.2

COAST DOUGLAS FIR:    Height (ft)    Height (m)  
Dbh (ft)    Dbh (m)

Unnamed	308.00	93.88	
5.5			

Michael Taylor

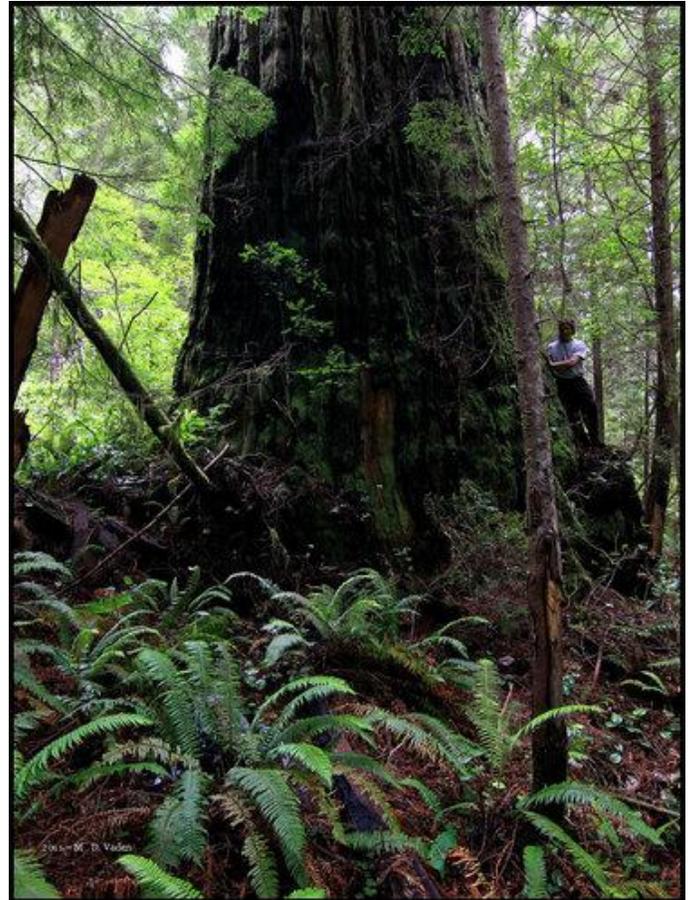
## [New 370' class redwood to report, CA](#)

by mdvaden » Tue Jul 19, 2011 9:59 pm

The forest is some prime habitat near Orion.

It's way the heck up there on the mountain. Now check out these two redwood trunks that Chris and I passed about 10 minutes before reaching the window to measure Orion. Imagine this much BEEF not being next to a brook, creek or river.

Thanks for the numbers Michael. Chris did not have the previous numbers with us, so that's my first view of those final stats since we went. Groovy.



M. D. Vaden of Oregon

**Tons of Redwood stuff ... Use the bottom menu at:**

<http://www.mdvaden.com>

## Blue Ridge Parkway Hawthorn, NC

by bbeduhn » Tue Jul 19, 2011 10:45 am

This hawthorn is near the Glassmine Falls overlook on the BRP. It's most likely a scarlet hawthorn. It's at 5200' with other stunted trees. Sugar maples, yellow birch and mountain ash are common amongst the heath species such as mountain laurel and rhododendron.



6' cbh ~20' tall ~25-27' spread



There are old, stunted sugar maples as well.



## Bear Creek in San Juans, CO

by dbhguru » Mon Jul 18, 2011 11:30 pm

Monica and I tackled the Bear Creek Trail in the western La Platas. Our objective was to scout out some promised Ponderosa Pine old growth. I'll gie a full report later. No records, but nice. Here are some photos.



Here are two more images from Bear Creek.





None of the Ponderosas I saw are exceptional. I got to about 115 feet in height. One or two may make 120. The ridge is too dry. I did get a 130-foot Doug Fir near Bear Creek. The tallest trees in that area appear to be the Colorado Blues near the Dolores River: 141.5, 135.5, 132.5, 129.2, and a number between 120 and 125.

I'm coming to appreciate that the San Juans have tall tree hot spots. Finding them is the trick. Next year we will return and the search will continue. Today, Monica and I leave Durango and head for the Great Sand Dunes NP. We'll probably be out of communication for a couple or three days.

P.S. did measure a Colorado Blue to 141.5 feet in height and 8.5 feet in girth.

Robert Leverett

## [The Dunes, CO](#)

by dbhguru » Tue Jul 19, 2011 11:26 pm

WNTS-ENTS (or just NTS),

Monica and I are once again in the incomparable Great Sand Dunes National Park. We were going to camp tonight, but wimped out. Camping is tomorrow night. It is my 70th birthday present. I get to test my mettle against the Dunes - wilderness camping.

Here are some images of the Dunes taken from our current comfortable place of rest. The first image

shows Star Dune, the highest dune in the NP. The literature says it is 750 feet high, but if you climb it from the southwest, you put on more than 800 feet elevation. If you climb it directly from Sand Creek on the west, you'll put on around 850 feet.



The peaks on the horizon include Crestone Peak and Crestone Needle (on the right). Both are 14,000-footers. Crestone is 14,300 feet based on NAVD88. The highest peak in the range is Blanca at 14,351, again on NAVD88.



This is a more encompassing shot. Star Dune is left of center. The Crestones show up on the right and to their left is Kit Carson and Humbolt, two more fourteeners.



The last shot shows the Dune wall. Monica and I will climb it tomorrow. So this old cowboy had better get his rest.



Here is another image. It was taken just behind the place we're staying. The fence you see marks the boundary of the National Park. The trees are Pinyon Pine. Some appear very old. There are also very old Rocky Mountain Juniper.



Tonight, we'll sleep in the Dunes, if we aren't too tired from our planned climb. We will climb up to Mosca Pass at about 9,750 feet, and then begin a partial climb upon Carbonate Mountain in search of a Bristlecone Pine forest up there. It may be too much. We'll see. Then Monica wants to sleep in the Dunes tonight.

Bob over and out.

Robert T. Leverett

### [Octopus Spruce & Cape Meares Spruce Burl, OR](#)

by [mdvaden](#) » Tue Jul 19, 2011 10:12 pm

Ever seen the Octopus Spruce at Cape Meares in Oregon? I was out there photographing the Cape Meares Spruce today and got shots of both Spruce. Attached here is the Octopus Spruce.

You might find this page I'm putting together to be of interest. It includes some stuff on the Klootch Spruce, the Cape Meares Spruce and the new discovery Falcon's Tower.

[http://www.mdvaden.com/klootch\\_spruce.shtml](http://www.mdvaden.com/klootch_spruce.shtml)

Also provided an explanation for the Octopus Tree. And there is suggested method for dealing with trunk buttress when measuring.

I'm not very fond of Sitka in a landscaped yard. But really dig the species out in the forest where they are indigenous.

Oh ... if you enlarge one thumbnail on the page for the Cape Meares Spruce, it shows how the burl or burls killed a smaller tree. It was previously like two giant wooden boobs that grew and merged together, crushing the small tree trunk in the middle.



Mario Vaden

### [North Chagrin Reservation, OH](#)

by dantheman9758 » Wed Jul 20, 2011 6:23 pm

Firstly I'd like to introduce myself, as this is my first post on this forum! My name is Dan and I'm from Mentor Ohio (30 minutes east of Cleveland).

I've always been an outdoors person and growing up I enjoyed hanging out in the woods behind my house in Painesville Township, and the woods behind my grandmothers house in Willoughby. My family would occasionally take me for hikes throughout the area's local parks, which I enjoyed thoroughly even though I never really had an understanding of what types of tree's and forest I was surrounded by. In recent years I've been revisiting the outdoors that I enjoyed in my youth, by taking long hikes throughout the local Lake Metroparks and Cleveland Metroparks. I really started picking up interest in the ecology of these "natural" area's about 3 years ago. To me, the best definition of natural meant un-impacted by man, something that has remained a

relative constant regardless of our presence. I was really disappointed to find out that Ohio essentially has no "virgin" forests, something that would have fit that bill perfectly.



Two years ago I then discovered that there is such thing as *not so* impacted old growth, and that there are still a few tiny places throughout the state that has managed to survive clear-cutting and heavy development, with little activity of past logging or other impact. I wanted to know if there was anything near by where I lived, because the more I learned, the more I really felt like I was missing something when all I was encountering was immature developing forest. That's when I read about a past naturalist named A. B. Williams, a man very involved in the foundation of the Cleveland Metroparks. This early 20th century naturalist literally wrote the book on southern Great Lakes Beech-Maple forests, and he did so because of one 1,050 acre stretch of land 2 miles north to south, and .75 miles wide - spread out over a collection of deep ravines and plateaus on the west side of the Chagrin River. At the time the Metroparks started, the Squire family (famous for Squire's Castle) donated 525 acre's of this land to what would soon be known as North Chagrin Reservation. Then, at the insistence of A. B. Williams, the rest of this pre-colonial forest was

acquired from the various near by property owners via eminent domain. According to his extensive study throughout the rest of his lifetime, he recorded that there were many examples of tree's in the park over 500 years of age. He focused his studies on a 65 acre section of what he felt was the "least" disturbed of the old growth. He documented ages, distribution, species, and as I said, is responsible for writing the book on Northeast Ohio's original native forest.



Noteworthy information that he documented was the impact on the forest after settlement. The area was once selectively logged in the late 1870's for Red Oak, and at the time he is studying, he comments that most of the red oak are likely underrepresented from what he imagines was once there. The area he chose to study did however contain a few pre-colonial Oaks (and still does today). Another, smaller impact to consider is that some fallen tree's, and some selected white-ash were used to construct the first Nature Center in the late 1920's. In addition, he noted in the 1930's there was a noticeable decline in the old-growth Hemlock. Despite this, there are still quite a few around today, scattered throughout the ravines.

Finally, what we must also consider since his studies, is the impact of the Chestnut blight, and Dutch Elm disease, as well as North Chagrin Reservation's problematic drainage issues. In the past, the roads and trails that are scattered throughout the park have noticeably changed the composition of some of the the old growth, as there are now large area's within the 1,050 acres that contain a larger percent of light loving tree's alongside drowned out Beech, or Sugar Maple. This issue has been noticed by the Park in recent years and they are working to fix the problem

to prevent further impact. On the bright side, the park is now loaded with mature, and very tall Red Oak. I imagine it is quite a bit closer to it's pre-colonial appearance in quite a few area's, because when Williams studied the park, all but a few of the Red Oak were no more than 50 years of age, and today that would make most of those second growth tree's roughly 130 years of age. They still look maybe half the girth relative to the few dozen pre-colonial Oak's that remain, but they compliment the Giant's nicely.



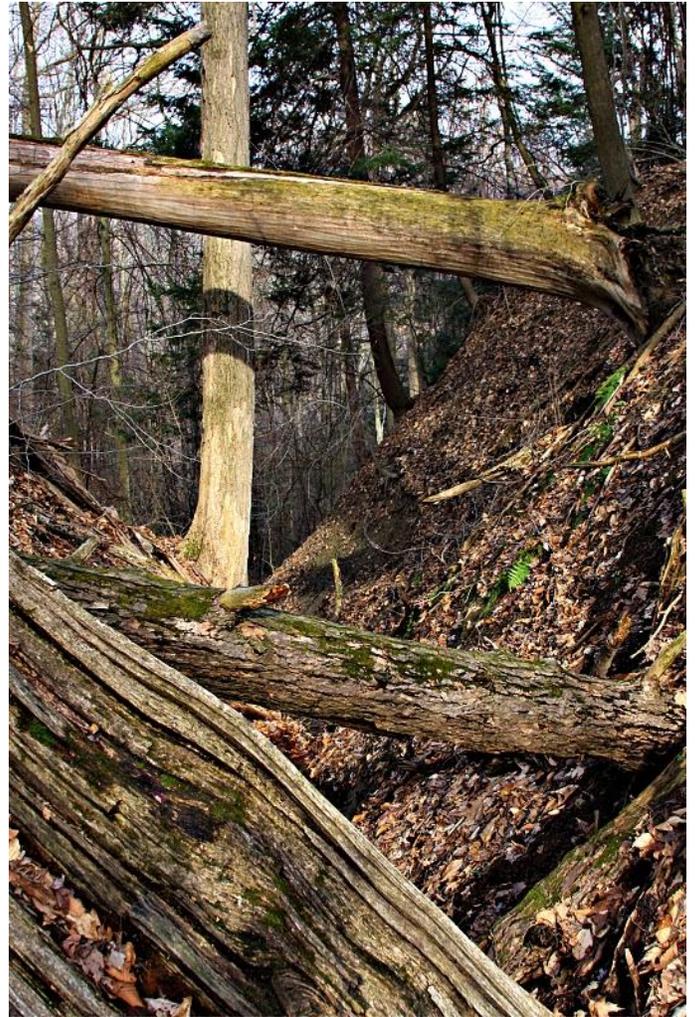
Now to the goodies that I've found throughout the park. A. B. Williams section of woods (in the middle of the park) is by far the most impressive place to see mature Red Oak. One tree has an <18' girth, and another is 17'11". There are at least half a dozen other giant Oaks concentrated in that spot, mixed in with a healthy population of 130 year old second growth oaks. All of the tree's throughout the southern half the 1,050 acre's appear to be unaffected by drainage issues, as there are hardly any trails through this area. There are 3 very large (and hard to access) plateaus stretching about a half mile long that contain absolutely no trails, and are buffered in on all sides by a large tract of second growth, steep ravines, and a massive beaver swamp. I had been exploring that area regularly until I counted about 2 dozen piles of black bear scat scattered throughout the area, and yes, many of them were fresh. The beech tree's in there were the largest I have ever seen, and the canopy height was far far above average for Beech. In the North end of the park there is still some nice patches of old growth, but they are smaller and less continuous than the southern end. In the Northern area, worthy of note is a 300 year old stand of White Pine, completely surrounded by the Beech-Maple forest. According to an information block alongside

the trail the stand averages 148' tall, and more than half of them started growing in the 1790's. This seem's to be consistant with what I've measured because so far 2 tree's I measured were roughly 125' tall, but one of them came in to be 170' tall. However, I do not have a laser, so I can not get precise measurements.

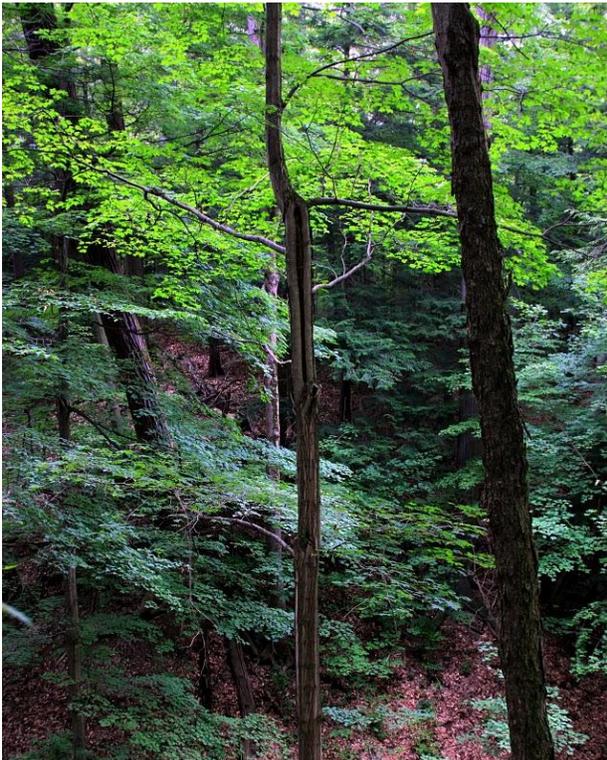
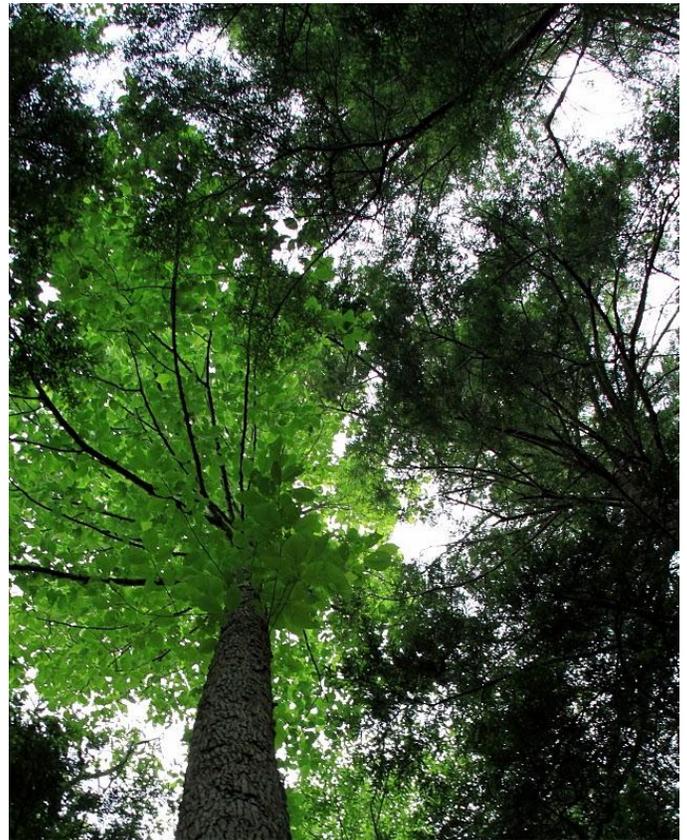
I am starting to document this place to the best of my ability, in the hopes that it will attract some attention from people with better equipment and knowledge of forestry. I feel that this place has been oddly elusive and off the radar of present-day tree hunters, and eastern forest ecologists. 1,050 acres of well-documented old growth, is a heck of a lot more acreage than the 15-50 acres that are more typically studied from Ohio's surviving old-growth.

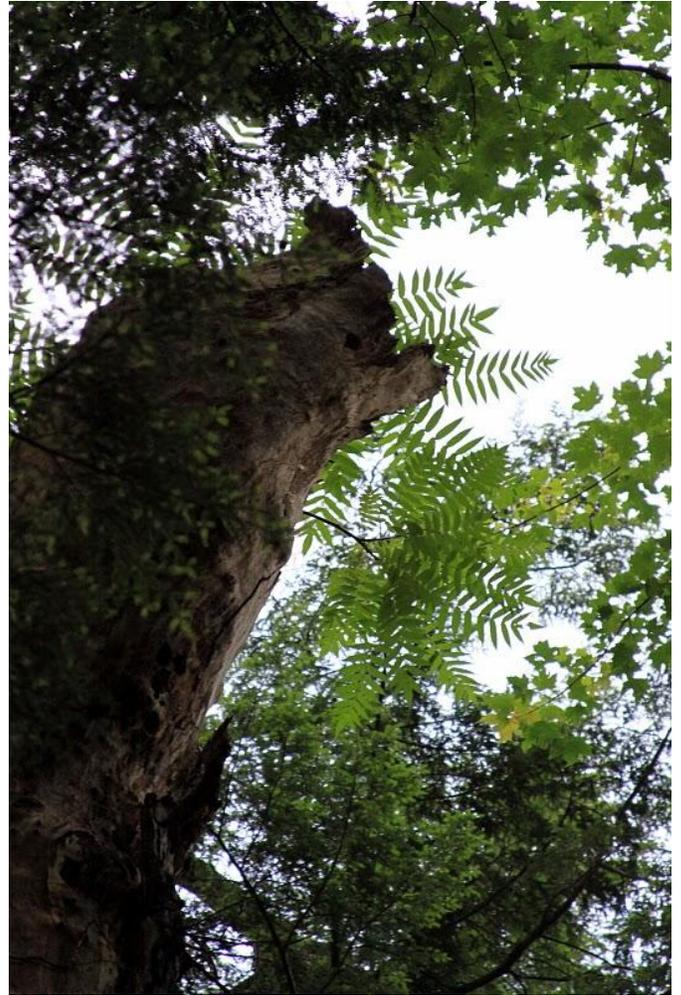
<http://rev215.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/551/Details>

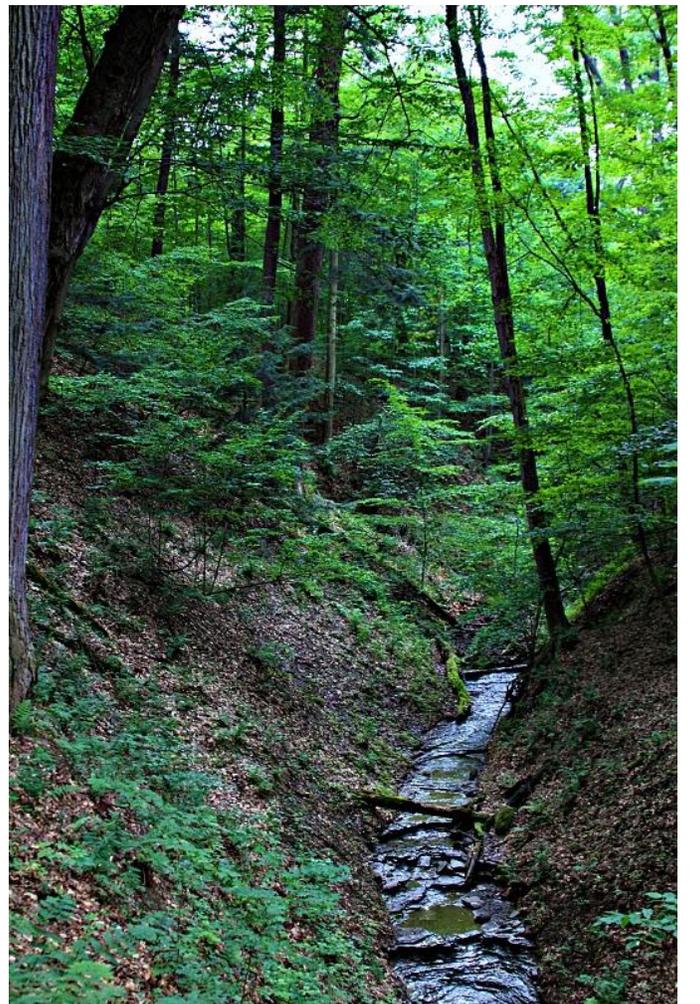
Here is the link to my tree database, please feel free to look at the pictures and you'll get an idea of how special this place is. I will be collecting data the rest of this summer. I hope to get 30 complete measurements of at least 13 species that I recognize as incredibly large relative to all else I've seen at any eastern U.S. locations I've been to. Places like Mohican Wilderness, Cuyahoga Valley, Chapin Forest, and even many places in PA are fresh in my memory and do not contain tree's as massive, and diverse as this place.











relative constant regardless of our presence. I was really disappointed to find out that Ohio essentially has no "virgin" forests, something that would have fit that bill perfectly.



Finally, what we must also consider since his studies, is the impact of the Chestnut blight, and Dutch Elm disease, as well as North Chagrin Reservation's problematic drainage issues. In the past, the roads and trails that are scattered throughout the park have noticeably changed the composition of some of the the old growth, as there are now large area's within the 1,050 acres that contain a larger percent of light loving tree's alongside drowned out Beech, or Sugar Maple. This issue has been noticed by the Park in recent years and they are working to fix the problem to prevent further impact. On the bright side, the park is now loaded with mature, and very tall Red Oak. I This place certainly is amazing, there are quite a few tree's here that are jaw dropping big, and a lot of the park has a canopy height that I haven't seen before, it could be an illusion but to me there are some expansive sections that look taller than the parks 300 year old white pine's. Aside from trunk diameter, i can't really measure with precision, but I'm going to try to get as many rough figures as I can, and most importantly I'll be pin pointing the most promising tree's. I've been exploring the park for two straight years on and off all trails and have a pretty good handle on the largest or tallest specimens of a wide variety of species.

Some tree's I can't Identify because the bark looks like nothing from any book or picture, and the canopy height puts leaves so far away a visual comparison is damn near impossible for me. I suspect the hard to identify bark on the tree's is a result of maturity, as most guides seem to show medium or small tree examples, and in pictures they are branched out like a neighborhood tree, not straight

and tall like a forest one. Anyways I'd be glad to do any meet-ups and lead anyone straight to the big ones if it would help. It might be especially helpful on the vast trail-less area.

Also, It's hard to even hike the length of this park in one day, much less try to get measurements of all the exceptional trees. So if anyone is really interested in looking at this place keenly, it may take several trips.

Below is a composite image of one of the Red Oak's, I couldn't get far enough to obtain an undistorted image but at the base you can see a person sitting on the buttressed roots for scale. This one is 18'3" in diameter, and stays fat and straight all the way up to the first branch. There's another Oak 25 meters away that looks almost identical, but a pinch smaller with a 17'11" diameter.



One of the parks pre-colonial Red Oaks



Old Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)



Daniel Reed



### [Re: North Chagrin Reservation, OH](#)

by dantheman9758 » Fri Jul 22, 2011 5:03 pm

Thanks everyone for all the help! To me that black gum is another great specimen of old growth that can potentially be found at this locality. There are five old-growth forest-types at North Chagrin:

#### **The Beech-Maple forest** (the interior forest)

The tree's here grow tall and straight, with little undergrowth. Because they are in the interior, they seem to suffer less storm damage, and are more limited in age by fungi hollowing out the trunks of tree's. The data here is taken from past study. Distribution percentage, and a few of the known tree ages are listed.

Beech - Roughly 52.6%: *Based on the rings of 4 fallen tree's of various sizes sampled in 1935, Williams estimates the largest specimens to be in excess of 500 years age.*

Sugar Maple - 32.7%: *Same method as above from 13 specimens. Conservative estimates of lifespan is*

250-300 years for larger tree's. These were harder to age due to irregular growth patterns. IE: a 20" tree yielded 200 rings, but a 27" tree yielded only 190.

Red Maple - 6%

Hemlock - 1% Same method as above, from just 1 specimen. Specimen was 22"d, 175 years old. In the study he measured two 30" hemlock, so assuming a consistant growth rate they might be attaining 240 years of age. I have not measured the size of any current specimens

Chestnut - formerly 1% (now locally extinct)

Tulip - 3%



Red Oak - 0.2% (this species seems more common now) About a dozen on this site are over 200 years. The oldest two alive I'm confident are 273, and 275 years of age. Since 1935, they've survived, and both have increased in diameter exactly 19.5". Meaning, 0.2566" average-growth/year. The formula based on

their current 70" and 66" diameters reveals their age estimate.

White Ash - 0.7%

American Elm - formerly 0.5% (now locally extinct)

Hop Hornbeam - 0.5%

Basswood - 0.2%

Shagbark Hickory - 0.5%

Tupelo - 0.1% - A fallen specimen was accurately aged to 486 years in 1935

Cucumber - 0.2%

White Oak - 0.2%

Sassafras - 0.1%

American hornbeam - 0.3%



**Hemlock-Chestnut-Beech-Oak forest** (the forest mictium)

My favorite type even though it is slowly disappearing. There were no less than 5 dominate species here (If you seperate White from Red Oaks). This community made up nearly 20 percent of the land that A. B. Williams studied, secondary only to the Beech-Maple community. The early 1900's

Chestnut blight is perhaps entirely responsible for destroying this system. Chestnut appears to have been a keystone species, as it and the Hemlock made up more than 50 percent of the community. In 1935 no living chestnut remained, but Williams counted all the dead tree's and stumps and did an exceptional job of describing what this forest once was before it's untimely end. At the time of his study he was observing a significant decline in hemlock, counting 85 old growth specimens that, though still standing, had died. The decline is a trend. He noticed little to no re-growth, and none had germinated for many years. This is consistent with what is observed today. There are few remaining old growth hemlock on the plateau's where they were once numerous, and only seem to be doing well in the ravines (a seperate community). Red Maple, Tupelo, and Cucumber were secondary, and well represented here. Today, old growth of these secondary tree's still remains but is not as well represented as in the 1930's. Much like



hemlock, perhaps they are no longer being steadily replaced. A small percentage of Sassafras, Dogwood, Black Cherry, and Pignut were also present, and I've identified all but the Dogwood this year. The space left from Chestnut, and many Hemlock is currently being filled by Red-Oak. Red Oak in these area's seems to have exploded in population since 1935, many fold beyond their original numbers.





### **Beech-Maple-Ash-Elm-Basswood swamp forest**

(Year round shallow swampland surrounded by Beech-Maple forest)

Beech and Sugar Maple were much less numerous here than in the interior (25%, and 25%). Red Maple, Ash, Elm, Basswood all evenly filled up 40% of the trees. Dutch Elm disease obviously wiped out the Elms. Tulip, Red Oak, Hop Hornbeam, Shagbark Hickory, White Oak, American Hornbeam, and Black Ash were all present in small numbers.

This is the community which was affected by the park's drainage issues. Farmers fields, followed by roads and parking lots were built on much of the surrounding landscape. Wetlands were drained, streams were re-routed etc. This affected much of the swamp pools. A massive open field was once directly in contact with the western edge of the studied swamp, causing increased numbers of windblown old growth. As a result of these collective issues, the canopy height is much lower than the interior forest. Today, Tulip are common in the most badly affected areas, a species that was once only 0.7% of the tree's in 1935. The park has now created a buffer of second growth and a wall of field planted pine tree's to block high winds in this spot. They've also re-worked their drainage, and I see they even cut down some of the Tulips (interestingly, they left the felled trees in place, perhaps due to their no-tree-removal policy). This forest area is the only one I have spent very little time in (it's a swamp...). From what I've seen, the low canopy and dead or dying old growth implies a lot of this forest-type is not in the greatest condition. Based on the recent park interventions, perhaps it is now on the road to recovery, minus the Elm of course. There may also be undiscovered patches of this forest-type



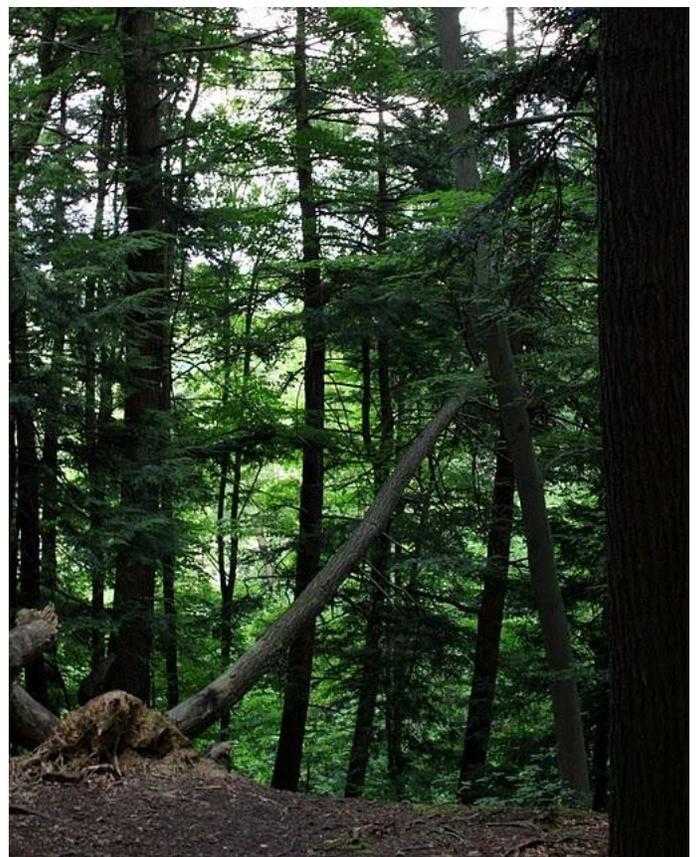
that have remained healthy, I believe I may have passed a few swamp forests on my hikes but I've paid them little attention so far.



### **Hemlock Spurs and Ravines**

So far the only obvious change to this ecosystem is the lack of Slippery Elm, and American Elm which used to comprise 6% and 4.7% of the coverage. As previously mentioned, the forest mictium is no longer sustaining large numbers of Hemlock, however the parks extensive ravine forests still remain a great

place to observe and study the species. In 1935 50% of the tree's in these ravines was Hemlock. Today, the Hemlock still remains the dominate species, but based on observation alone, it is not quite so numerous. Still, no other species has a large enough coverage to compete with, or be considered co-dominate with the Hemlock. Today you can find large and tall examples of Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Tulip, Red Oak, White Ash, Basswood, Black Cherry, Black Walnut, Bitternut, And Butternut tree's in the ravines. If the Hemlock woolly adelgid reaches this climax forest type, I can't imagine the consequences considering Hemlock is the only dominate.





### **White-Pine Hemlock**

To my knowledge, this isolated population of old growth White-Pine is not well-studied. According to a sign posted on the entrance of the trail, there are 14 old growth White-Pine. The pine are sharing almost the entire habitat with dense Hemlock. The isolated tree's are on a tall, and narrow plateau surrounded by deep ravine on 2 sides, and what appears to be a second growth Red Oak forest on the other sides (perhaps formerly the mictium type?). A few beech, black cherry, and perhaps a White Oak are two other species I can recall in close proximity. The park has built an elevated boardwalk around the roughly 8 acre patch to avoid any trail impact. The posted sign also mentions that the tree's average 148' in height, though how they got that number I do not know. The tree's do look tall, and are worth a good measurement. The park sign claims they are "virgin" white pine, and indeed the small plot that they sit on never seems to have been logged. Almost all of the current trees started growing in the 1790's. I've read somewhere that a bad storm wiped out the pre-1790's tree's.

(No pictures yet)

Daniel Reed



**Dunes-New Perspective (Great Sand Dunes National Park, CO)**

by dbhguru » Thu Jul 21, 2011 10:45 pm

When I've shown images of the Dunes in past postings, they usually look like this.



Now for some images of old growth - ala Dunes style.



Ponderosa Pine



Western Cottonwood



Western Cottonwood



Juniper



Juniper



Juniper

And a little wild life.



The forest following the north end of the Dunes is miniature OG that runs for several miles. Here is an image of an OG Doug Fir.



We camped at Zapata Falls in a new campground. It had no running water, so it was free. No noise, no congestion. There were only 4 occupied sites in the campground. The nearby attraction is Zapata Falls. It falls into a crevice, which you wade in to cool and cool.



Explanations will come when I have more time. For now, 70-year old duffers need their beauty rest. Bob over and out

Robert T. Leverett

## Tall Grass Prairie Preserve, OK

by dbhguru » Fri Jul 22, 2011 10:49 pm

Today Monica and I crossed most of Oklahoma. We've settled down in Bartlesville for the night. Tomorrow we head for Fayetteville, AR for a rendezvous with Dave Stahle - the Lord of the Rings. Crossing Oklahoma today was more of a challenge than I'd imagined. The temperature soared to 109 degrees. Whew! We stopped to picnic and I almost croaked. Instead of just Bob, we nearly had shish kaBob. Here are some shots of the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve on the Osage Reservation.



On our return, that herd of bison decide to cross the road in front of us. Riddle. How long does it take a 2000-lb bull bison to cross the road? Answer. As long as he wants it to take.

Robert T. Leverett

## Re: Dunes-New Perspective, CO

by dbhguru » Sat Jul 23, 2011 9:55 am

Here are 3 images of the old Doug Firs that grow on the edge of the Dunes. None are tall nor exceptional in girth, but they are gnarly.





This is the environment in which they grow. Sand!



One does not look for big trees when in the Dunes environment. Age is the focus, and there is plenty of that. Next year, we are determined to make it up to the Bristlecone Pines that grow on Mount Carbonate. At over 12,300 feet, Carbonate is not exactly a cake walk. Gotta be in better shape.

Robert T. Leverett

### [WNTS Gathering for 2011- Summary](#)

by dbhguru » Sun Jul 24, 2011 10:17 pm

A few hours ago, Monica and I crossed the Mississippi at Memphis. We're spending the night just north of Meeman Shelby State Park. Tomorrow, we'll attempt to pick up where Will and Jess left off several years ago. Our hopes are high to find a new champion cottonwood. After Meeman Shelby, we'll head east to Fall Creek Falls SP and Savage Gulf SP, all in Tennessee. We'll then head for the Smokies, visit Will in Black Mountain, NC, and go up the Blue Ridge Parkway, looking for sites for the book.

Last night we were at Dave Stahle's house. Dave is the inimitable Lord of the Rings. He is one of the cofounders of ENTS. UARK provided us with our first website space. Dave is buried in projects, but periodically monitors our progress.

In looking back at what we accomplished on the

WNTS 2011, it wasn't up to the prior year's tree height feats, but we fared better than I realized. Here is a list of what was accomplished by the team of Don Bertollette, Monica Leverett, and yours truly.

1. Measured the tallest known tree of any species in the Rockies growing above 11,000 feet: an Englemann Spruce at 11,040 feet altitude measured 126.0 feet.
2. Measured the tallest tree of any species in the Rockies above 11,500 feet: an Englemann Spruce at 11,505 feet altitude measured 107 feet.
3. Confirmed the 4th site with Colorado Blues that reach 140 feet: Bear Creek with a Colorado Blue at 141.5 feet.
4. Remeasured the Colorado Blues on the West Fork of the San Juan River that reach 140 feet. Four trees meet the criteria.
5. Measured the tallest known tree growing in Grand Teton NP: an Englemann at 131.5 feet.
6. Confirmed important stands of old growth at the following sites:
  - a. Great Sand Dunes NP: OG Narrow Leaf Cottonwoods, Doug Firs, Pinyon Pines, Rocky Mtn Junipers, and Ponderosa Pines,
  - b. Bear Creek in La Platas: OG Ponderosas and Doug Firs,
  - c. Dinosaur NM: OG cottonwoods,
  - d. Theodore NP: OG Cottonwoods.
7. Met with Dave Stahle: Lord of the Rings and laid the groundwork for the 2013 WNTS Rendezvous – in concept. Don and Micael must approve. Details to come later.
8. Confirmed 3 sites in Grand Tetons NP with trees over 120 feet in height: Hidden Falls, Phelps Lake, and Lupine Meadows.
9. Measured a 138.5-foot Doug Fir on Gibson Jack Creek in the Idaho Bannock Range – probably the tallest tree in the watershed.

10. Located an OG Pinyon Pine and Juniper Forest in Black Canyon NP.

Robert T. Leverett

## [“Snow Mom of the Pines”](#)

by James Parton » Tue Sep 28, 2010 12:30 pm

ENTS,

My Mother, Joyce Hayes was diagnosed with Breast Cancer back in January 2007 and has had many treatments concerning it. She nearly died from the chemotherapy back in the spring of 2007. She has had radiation treatments, chemotherapy and mastectomy/reconstruction surgery as well. She had been pronounced cancer free until earlier this year when it was found again, this time in her spine. Unlike the first time it is inoperable and they are treating it with radiation and now experimental drugs. The object is, to keep it from spreading. Especially to her brain.

Anyway, mom has always liked to hike with me and enjoys my exploits on trees. A couple of years back I took her through a wonderful Red Spruce grove on the Mountains-to-Sea trail near Black Balsam Mountain here in North Carolina. A little while back Mom had a very vivid dream about this place. It goes like this. " It was winter and snow covered the spruce trees but it was largely clear of snow under the canopy. It was so still and quiet you could hear the snow fall. She was walking among the trees in the stillness. Calling for me. She found a tree and waited. But I never came ".

Mom has pondered on the dream's meaning for some time but I don't think she has ever come to a conclusion. She mentioned to me a while back that she wanted to go revisit that grove of spruce ( She calls em' pines! ) trees. Since they are located just a little off of Black Balsam rd and the MST I knew they would be easy to reach. In the last 3 years mom's ability to walk has really decreased and she cannot go with me like she used to. But the groves close location to the road proved a plus here. She said the

dream was so vivid she should be able to find the exact spot she saw in the dream! After taking some pictures of the brilliant Mountain Ash trees we entered the Spruce Forest. Mom searched around for a while not being able to recognize anything until she found a familiar path. Finally she found a familiar tree. She broke down in tears and hugged the tree! Then she looked across a small clearing and saw the tree that she waited for me under in the dream. Crying, she went to it and sat under it. My daughter, Sarah was with us and I am pretty sure she did not know what to think of it. We sat there awhile and communed with each other and the forest. We talked of the dream, the forest, life, cancer, me taking a course in druidry, death, and God.

Leaving, I believe that God may have brought us here using the dream as a tool. God was using the forest to help alleviate the psychological pain of the cancer. A release. But it is more than that. He may have been helping her find a resting place for her body after death. See, she is planning on cremation. She hates cemeteries. She had been planning on a much more remote site under a maple on the other side of Black Balsam Mountain. Maybe God was directing her here? At least at this place more relatives could make it in to see her final resting place. Under these wonderful spruce trees. And in the dream she was looking for me. Was that a sign from God for me to attend her in locating this place? Only he knows. By the way, I think the grove is pure Red Spruce. I found not one Fraser Fir here.

I know this is sorta sad. Mom may have years to live. Maybe a normal life length. The doctor has never committed on a " how long she has to live " date. It all depends on keeping the cancer from spreading. While mom's ashes may end up in this grove, she will not be there. Her spirit and/or memory will be with God in Heaven. If paradise is what we make it, she may be walking in a spruce grove in heaven. Calling for me. Awaiting my arrival. Heaven is a happy place!

Mom does love snow and winter by the way. On her Incredimail groups, she goes by SnowMom. So she is " SnowMom of the Pines ".

We afterwards visited Devil's Courthouse but mom

was not able to make the walk up. I did measure a nice Red Spruce there which measurements are, 6' 8" cbh and 89.8 feet tall.

We later visited a pine plantation I remembered from my youth. That is a post soon to come.





James E Parton

[Re: "SnowMom of the Pines "](#)

by dbhguru » Tue Sep 28, 2010 5:25 pm

James,

A most moving account. Thank you for sharing it with us. We will send healing thoughts to your mother. I sense she is a person of great spiritual strength and able to receive them. That is all that matters.

At times after the deaths of both my parents and my

dear first wife Jani, I thought I'd come close to glimpses of the grand design. But the veil between this world and the next remains opaque for most of us. A few blessed souls appear to be able to see a little beyond the veil and a very few well beyond. But visions from the beyond often become entwined with the earthly ego and messages become hard to interpret. As people approach death, many get glimpses of the 'other side' and report what they see. My father did, and he wasn't one to exaggerate or fantasize. Accounts of the other side vary, giving the purely earth-bound opportunities to scoff at the accounts of those who report near-death experiences.

My mother was somewhat psychic and I was aware of enough of her experiences to keep me from drifting into the typical frame of mind of the here-and-now engineer when I made my way through Georgia Tech. My first wife Jani had psychic powers that were respected by her Indian elders. She had a few sobering experiences that I witnessed. Then there are others I have known who have had extraordinary experiences -- but all were non-repeatable in the scientific experimental sense. At the time of Jani's death and thereafter I had my own experiences that I have never accepted as coincidence. Whether these experiences are proof of divinity in the strictly Christian sense or of a much, much more complex structure of energy and matter such as Dr. William Tiller suggests in his extremely difficult to read "Science and Human Transformation: Subtle Energies, Intentionality and Consciousness", I cannot know. But to the extent I can comprehend his research and arguments, I think he has made a contribution to the expansion of our consciousness in a scientifically valid way. A couple of high profile scientists I know, do not except Tiller's work, but I don't think they have given it a fair shake.

Regardless of whether one approaches the other side through religious faith, study of psychic phenomena, personal experiences, or some combination of the foregoing, life has far more meaning than when viewing it all as a one way trip, with curtains at the end. One thing I do accept is that consciousness is a universal force gifted to all, albeit differently manifested among the species. It is not the byproduct of chemical reactions in the physical brain, although the working of the brain is physical and

consciousness expresses itself through brain activity. We are physical beings, but we are also spiritual ones. Ancient cultures probably knew this better than modern people. In the end, there may be many paths to nirvana.

Bob Leverett

*Editor's Note: I want to offer my deepest condolences to James Parton on the passing of his mother Joyce Haines on Thursday July 28, 2011. I am sure I speak for all of the members of the Native Tree Society.*

## [Theodore Roosevelt National park, ND](#)

by dbhguru » Tue Jul 26, 2011 8:48 am

Here are a few miscellaneous images from Theodore Roosevelt NP. I failed to post on Teddy when we were visiting that amazing place.

1. Wild horse. We saw many.



2. Bison. We saw many. They once blocked our path for a while. Unnerving.



Butte.



4. Little Missouri. Undammed.



There are ancient cottonwoods in the Park, although I was not aware of their ages until I later talked to Dave Stahle.

Robert T. Leverett

### [More Mobile Live Oaks, AL](#)

by Larry Tucei » Tue Jul 26, 2011 7:25 pm

NTS, While in Mobile, Alabama on Sunday I measured three Live Oaks in the 21' CBH range. The first tree measured was the Old Shell Road Oak growing at the corner of Old Shell Road and West Drive. This tree is in the 150-200 year old range and is located across the street from the University of South Alabama. It is a beautiful Oak with resurrection fern all about its lower limbs that mostly grow towards one direction. The oak measurements were, CBH- 20' 6", Height-53', and Spread-120' x 123'. On my quest to find more large Live Oaks, after measuring the Oak on Old Shell Road I went searching at Spring Hill College in Mobile.

The college located at 4000 Dauphin St., has numerous beautiful Live Oaks in the 16-18' CBH range but I could find none in the 20' class. Spring Hill College, Alabama's oldest institution of higher learning was founded in 1830 by Michael Portier, Mobile's first Catholic bishop. Spring Hill is also the first Catholic college in the Southeast, the third oldest Jesuit College and the fifth oldest Catholic college in

the United States. They have a beautiful Live Oak lined roadway on one side of the campus planted over a hundred years ago, forming a gateway towards the golf course. <http://www.shc.edu/>

After searching the College for big Live Oaks I walked over to the golf course and spied a larger tree than anywhere on the campus. The Spring Hill Golf Course built in 1930 is adjacent to the college and on the left side of number 16 tee grows another 150- 200 year old class Live Oak. The mighty Oak has been struck by lightning but survived and overlooks the Hillside at the beautiful course. The measurements of this fine tree the Spring Hill Golf Course Oak are CBH-21' 6", Height-72' and Spread-112' x 126'.

I made one more stop next to the college. The Mobile Public Library just south of the college, has a branch located at Four South McGregor St., in the front of the building grows the Spring Hill Public Library Live Oak another 150 year old + Oak that measured, CBH-21' 2", Height-60' and Spread- 112' x 102'. The builders of the Library left a good portion of ground around the tree and took great care in protecting the Oak from damage during construction. That was my tree adventure over the weekend and all of these Oaks are in the bottom of the listing, but are good sizes. The Live Oak listing is now at 170 trees and growing.

 [Live Oak Project.xlsx](#) Updated Live Oak Listing



Mobile Public Library Spring Hill Branch Oak



Spring Hill Golf Course Oak 16 Tee



Mobile Public Library Spring Hill Branch Oak



Spring Hill Golf Course Oak



Avenue of Oaks



Old Shell Road Oak



Old Shell Road Oak

### [Re: Octopus Spruce & Cape Meares Spruce Burl, OR & CA](#)

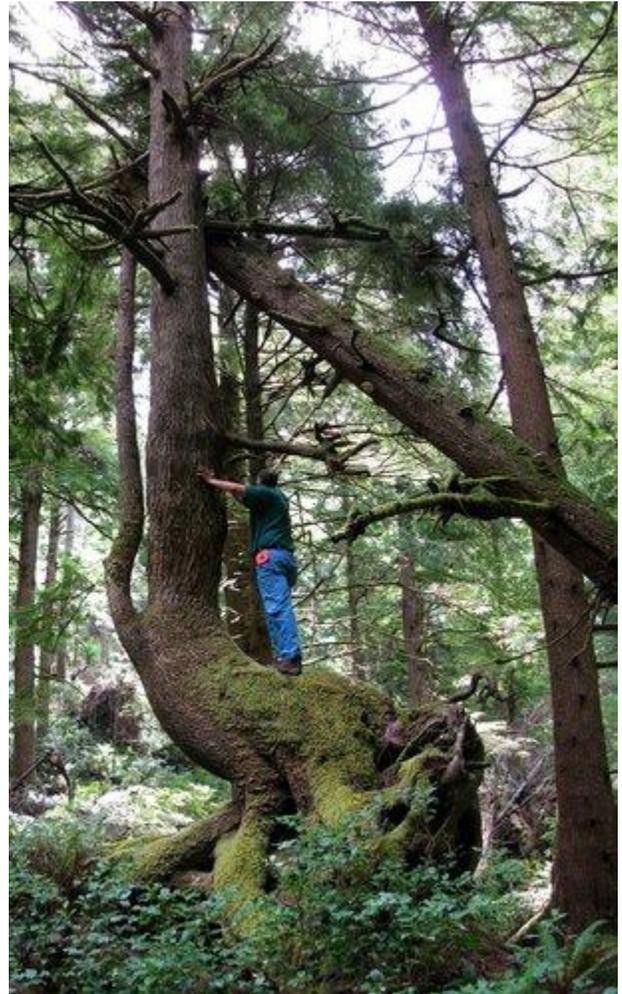
by mdvaden » Fri Jul 29, 2011 12:42 am

*bbeduhn wrote: I found a white pine with some similarities but it's not in the same class as that spruce. That is a tremendous tree which simply oozes character! Please post more trees with unusual character.*

Okay, from a few days ago ... keep in mind this is not Oregon, but a redwood in northern CA. But it is unusual character. Cheers.



Now here's Oregon again. In Oswald West State Park. I call this the Jurassic Tree.



M. D. Vaden of Oregon

Tons of Redwood stuff ... Use the bottom menu at: <http://www.mdvaden.com>

### [Emory University Trees, GA](#)

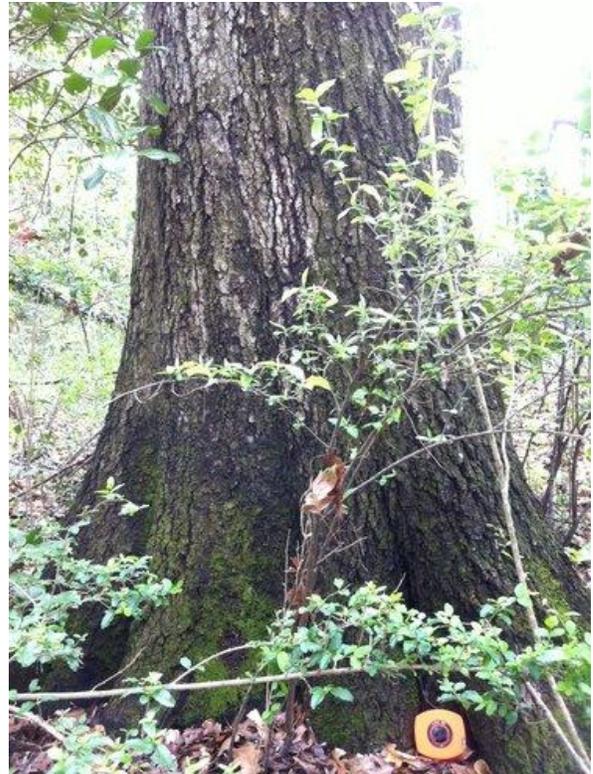
by eliahd24 » Fri Jul 29, 2011 10:54 am

I live and work right down the road from Emory University in Atlanta, GA and have had many forest explorations on their expansive property. They have a strong commitment to protecting and preserving their special forests and have numerous faculty and staff members who see the value of their special wild

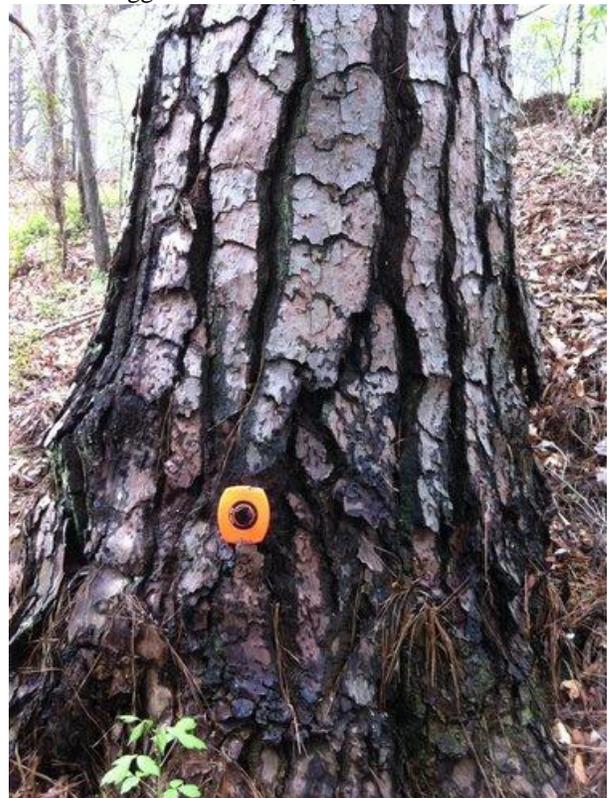
places. I thought I'd share some of the highlights from my adventures in those place from the past 2-3 years: (\*note- measurements are CBH" x Height')



65" x 102.2' Sourwood (2nd tallest in state?)



154" x 133.1' State Champion Scarlet Oak surely there is a bigger one in GA, but for now...



131" x 116.7' City champ Loblolly Pine large flared base, but still impressive