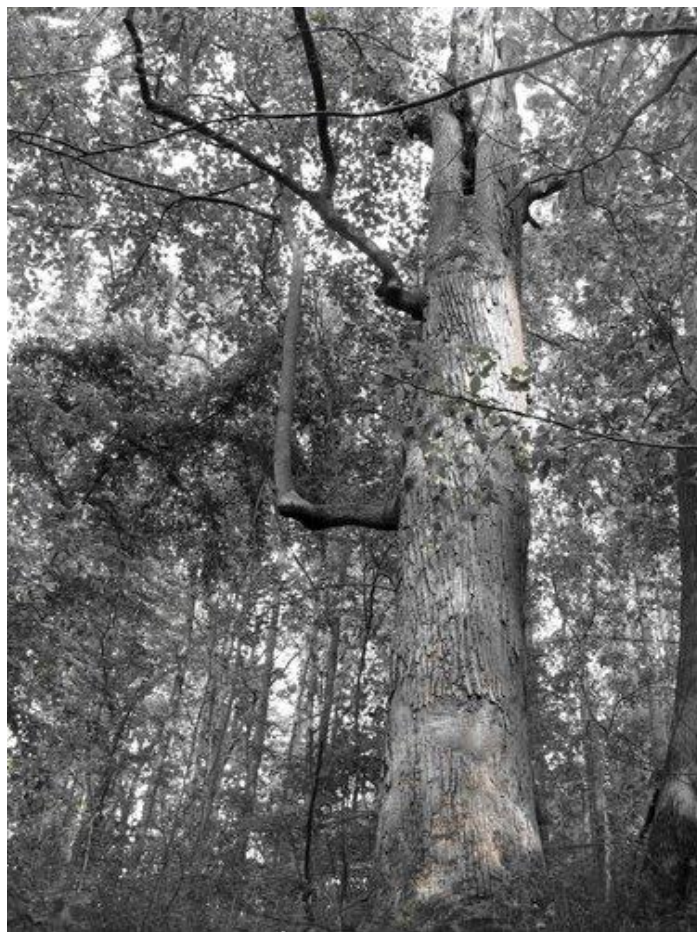




8.5" x 12.7' x 18' City champ bottlebrush buckeye
...gorgeous campus landscape plant



171" x 111.8' *Liriodendron tulipifera* - blown out top.
This is one of the gnarly Tuliptrees in an old growth
north facing cove along Peachtree Creek. Probably
my favorite tree on campus.



Extremely large native vines are abundant beside the creek. This may be Virginia Creeper, not Crossvine. fellow ENTS?



50 YO (+/-) poison ivy





Large grapevine (11" cbh)

Some wildflowers:



Hepatica (early February)

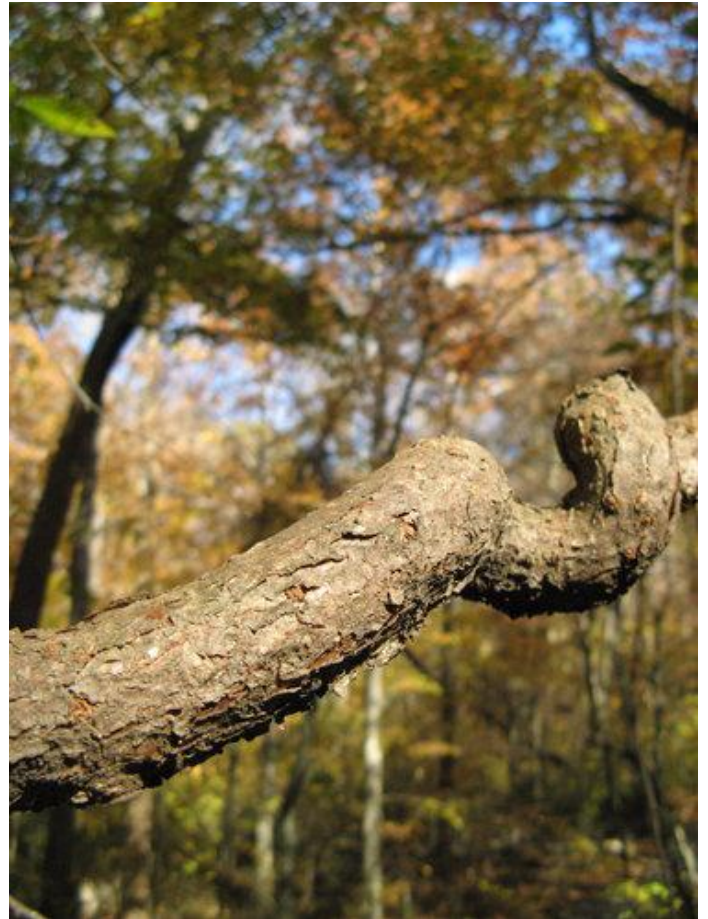


Doll's eyes

and perhaps the most unique organism on campus,
the elusive Bay Starvine - *Schisandra glabra*:



note the alternate leaves- this is the major distinguishing characteristic from the similar looking Climbing Hydrangea



bark of this gracefully draped liana



berries and bower

Some other great finds w/o pictures:

130" x 127.5' *Quercus rubra*

74" x 124.3' *Platanus occidentalis* (one-off tree, probably planted near old homesite)

40.5" x 64.9' *Ostrya virginiana* (city champion)

58.9' *Magnolia tripetala*

17" x 52.7' *Magnolia macrophylla*
113.5" x 153.8' *Liriodendron tulipifera*
120.7' *Fraxinus americana*
129.4' *Fagus grandifolia* (need to remeasure,
currently is tallest in Atlanta by about 3 feet)
88" x 81.1' *Celtis spp. (leavigata?)*
127' *Carya cordiformis*
44" x 50.6' *Carpinus caroliniana* (city champion)
87.1' *Betula nigra*
7" x 24.4' *Aralia spinosa* (city champ runner up)

... and finally the big whopper... Georgia State
Champion Northern Red Oak (beat out previous
champ by 60 points!!)
.....located on a residential property beside campus:



241" x 123.4' x 115' *Quercus rubra* (!)

TrekEast at State College, PA

by edfrank » Fri Jul 29, 2011 5:48 pm

On July 21, 2011, I drove over to the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center in State College, PA to listen to John Davis give a presentation about the TrekEast journey he has undertaken along the Eastern Wildway. He was at this point 4,500 miles into the projected 6,500 mile journey being sponsored by the Wildlands Network. I had hoped to hike or bike with him during part of his journey through Pennsylvania, but unfortunately our schedules did not mesh well.

But I did get a chance to talk to him and videotape his presentation. The video of his talk is broken into four parts and captures the bulk of what he said. The question and answer session after the presentation was not taped.

TrekEast's Davis to take Trail Break in State College at 4,500-mile mark of trek through East's wildlands

See his presentation at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center on Thursday, July 21 at 7 PM in the new Spring Creek Education Building.

ClearWater Conservancy and Millbrook Marsh Nature Center will host wilderness explorer John Davis of the Wildlands Network July 21 as part of TrekEast, Davis's 6,000-mile trip from Florida to Canada aimed at drawing attention to the remaining wild places in the Eastern U.S. and Canada and inspiring people to connect those places and preserve them.

Davis will tour wild places conserved by ClearWater Conservancy for part of the day, then share the story of his travels to with the public at a one-hour presentation and Q and A session at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center at 7 pm. Admission to the event is free.

TrekEast at State College, PA Part 1 of 4



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jw-08jmlOpk&feature=player_embedded

TrekEast at State College, PA 2 of 4

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2g7SSxIF4EQ&feature=related>

TrekEast at State College, PA 3 of 4

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sd9SFIZM_MA&feature=related

TrekEast at State College, PA 4 of 4

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvD9FL-zvRw&feature=related>

The video was edited using Windows Moviemaker version 2.6. (The newer version that is downloadable for Windows 7 is all but unusable, but I did not want to go full out with Adobe Premiere.)

Ed Frank

The Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee

by dbhguru » Fri Jul 29, 2011 5:55 pm

On July 26th, Monica and I visited two sites in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee, or, more properly, Cumberland Plateau. The Plateau runs north-south, smack through the middle of the Volunteer State. It begins in Kentucky and extreme southeastern West Virginia and ends in northern Georgia and Alabama. Farther north, the uplift is called the Allegheny Plateau in West Virginia and northward cross Pennsylvania and into New York. The eastern extremes of the plateau are mountainous, but its center is rolling and hilly. It is a plateau. The length of what is called the Cumberlands is about 130 miles, according to some sources, at least. Sorting it all out geographically, geologically, culturally, and politically can get very confusing, but I'll give it a stab.

Geologically, the Cumberlands are part of a huge region named the Appalachian Plateau, which lies

west of the Appalachian Mountains across a broad system of valleys. The combination of plateau and mountains is called the Appalachain physiographic region. It represents several hundreds of millions of years of land evolution. The Cumberlands, proper, reach their maximum elevation in Kentucky's Black Mountain, at 4,145 feet. The highest point in Tennessee's portion slightly exceeds 3,500 feet, so we are talking mountain-type elevations.

I doubt if most geographically-challenged Americans have even heard of the Cumberlands, although the region does have some historically famous places. For example, a well-known cultural site is Cumberland Gap, of Daniel Boone fame. The gap afforded easy western passage. In terms of mountain culture, the Cumberlands vie with the Blue Ridge and the Ozarks for the number of hilly-billy heavens. Lots to see and sample.

For Monica and me, the Cumberlands offer many outstanding botanical features and scenic attractions, but we only had time to focus on two big ones in southern Tennessee: Savage Gulf and Fall Creek Falls. We first visited Savage Gulf State Park, which carries a distinction. ENTS has confirmed the Gulf as having the second highest Rucker Index in the entire East. That little fact is why I chose the Gulf to visit.

Once at the entrance to the natural area, Monica and I hiked for 3 miles through a dry forest to a small waterfall. Along the way, I identified 22 species of trees. No big stuff in terms of size, because the area is pretty darn dry. I did observe some fairly old trees of a dozen species, and down in the gorge, old growth abounds. However, we had no easy way to access the depths from the path we chose, and the day was hot and muggy. Both of us sweat a lot. Still, the day was nowhere near as hot and humid as we had experienced at Meeman-Shelby SP near Memphis the day before. The temperature in Meeman was 96 and the humidity about the same. It was awful. Just awful! As a brief digression, we visited Meeman to measure tall cottonwoods. I did measure one very tall specimen at 144.8 feet in Meeman, but it would take at least a hundred super cottonwoods to entice me back. We asked the nature interpreter and her supervisor where big, old cottonwoods grew, but they weren't much help. They recognize the existence or

lack thereof of cottonwoods by the cotton cast off. Apparently trees aren't on their radar. I think they equate nature with little furry critters that scurry around.

In contrast to Meeman, the Cumberlands promised to be cooler, and were. We were treated to 85 and slightly lower humidity. It was bearable, but not comfortable. When I started to complain, Monica reminded me of Meeman Shelby, and I immediately piped down. But I had another reason to complain – no tall trees where we were. My native state of Tennessee was bombing. The one good feature of Savage Gulf was the absence of people. We had the place almost to ourselves. One slender, attractive lady with a Tennessee drawl carted to little girls along the early part of the trail. I point this out in contrast to what we were later to see at Fall Creek Falls and Clingman's Dome in the Smokies.

After we left Savage Gulf, we headed straight for Fall Creek Falls, which is stated in the literature to be the highest free fall waterfall in the East. I wanted to confirm that claim with my high-priced lasers. To reach the falls, we hiked about 1.2 miles through an old growth forest dominated by white oak. The weather was hot and sticky. Still, we persevered, and were rewarded. The gorge and falls are impressive. The gorge has a maximum depth of 500 to 600 feet, and is loaded with old growth. The trees are packed so tightly that measuring would have been a real challenge.

In the image sequence below, we first see Fall Creek Falls. They don't have much water now. The small figures in the second image are people, cooling off from the muggy heat.



The above images featuring the falls are followed by a look at the gorge. Monica was quite impressed. However, views of the gorge are generally restricted by vegetation, except at the main lookout.



Next, we see Monica standing next to an old Virginia Pine.



Finally, we take a look up the trunk of an old white oak. There were many such oaks, and I judge their ages to be between 250 and 350 years.



And now to the big story. The falls are stated to be 256 feet high, which includes both plunges – the first is a cascade. However, the full drop of the cascade and vertical plunge is only 208 feet. I used my TruPulse 360 to shoot both drops. At the distance shot, the accuracy is +/- 1.5 feet. I don't know where the 256-foot figure comes from. It is not correct, but is repeated often. Nonetheless, the falls are very impressive, and well worth visiting.

Bob and Monica Leverett

[Yellow Birches Behaving Strangely, NC](#)

by dbhguru » Fri Jul 29, 2011 9:27 pm

These images were taken on Craggy Flats Bald in the Great Craggies of western NC. Altitude of images ranged from 5,220 feet to 5,675.

These ancient yellow birches are all alive, but look at what they are doing.





I've never seen the equal of the gnarled and contorted forms. The forest begins at the picnic grounds and goes to the top of the bald. Other species include Catawba Rhododendron, Yellow Buckeye, Sugar Maple. It is a Tolkien Forest par excellence. Yellow Birch girths range from 6 to nearly 12 feet.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Yellow Birches Behaving Strangely, NC

by dbhguru » Sat Jul 30, 2011 8:42 am

Two shots of grass under beech and birch.



One final YB shot for the road.



Although the old Yellow Birches stole the show, there was much, much more to be entranced by. Here are 3 more images. Gnarled Northern Red Oaks at the edge of the bald, Rhododendron tangle, and Pipe Vine Swallowtail on Turks Cap Lilies. GREAT PLACE!



Robert T. Leverett

[Iowa Black Ash](#)

by Iowa Big Tree Guy » Sat Jul 30, 2011 5:02 pm

Hello Big Tree Enthusiasts:

First of all I want to thank those of you who responded to my introduction and questions concerning range finder accuracy back in April. I have been wanting to make additional posts but spring and summer are a very busy time of year for me. Besides my obsession with big trees, during the warmer months I devote nearly all my time to my other passion which is herpetology.

Now back to the focus of this post which is the big black ash I found in northeast Iowa. I stumbled on to the tree last December while I was searching for a big red oak. A couple of years earlier I heard about a tall red oak from Jon Stravers who is affiliated with the National Audubon Society and teaches kids about the environment by taking them on boat trips on the Mississippi.

Jon told me to contact the local district forester Bruce Blair to find out more about the tree. I made arrangements to meet Bruce and he would be able to take me to the tree. When I called Bruce on the morning of the day we were supposed to meet he informed me that because of his work schedule he would not be able to go with me. He had some maps ready for me so I still went to see him at his office in Elkader, Iowa.

Even though it was the first week in December it had turned very cold with morning temperatures falling close to 0 degrees F. and the area received 6 or 7 inches of snow a few days earlier. I live in Des Moines but my wife Rita and I were vacationing in Galena Illinois which is two hours closer to the red oak so that is why I was planning to go see it at that time. The oak stands on public land but it is surrounded by private land on three sides, the remaining side is bordered by the Mississippi River

With Bruce along there were no worries about trespassing because he knew the owners. Now that Bruce wasn't able to go I had to decide whether to postpone the trip or take my chances. Of course I chose to take my chances. Before too long I reached the point of no return; the place where I had to leave the public road and turn on to a private lane. At the entrance to the lane were several signs stating things such as "private property" and "no trespassing". I hesitated but continued with much trepidation. The lane followed the Mississippi River bluff past several houses which surely must have the best view in Iowa. I decided to stop and let someone know what I was doing. I picked a good spot because someone was home and they were amiable. The man told me he had cleared the lane of snow so I would be able to drive somewhat further before having to walk. I came to the point where the lane was no longer plowed. I saw tire tracks so I followed them, wondering what I

got myself into. I found a place where someone before me had pulled off so I figured that should be a place where I could also park.

The first few hundred yards of the hike are easy with only a gradual descent through an unremarkable forest. At the point where the slope really starts to drop off is an interesting stand of very old, stunted and contorted Chinkapin oaks. I don't think they are true dwarf chinkapins but I don't know how to tell the difference. From here it is a steep slope to the ravine bottom over two hundred feet below. From this vantage point I could see much of the valley and I saw what appeared to be the largest red oak in the area just up from the drainage on the other side of the gorge. Now I just had to figure out how to get down to the tree. While I was snaking my way down the slope I noticed what looked like a large black ash at the bottom of the drainage just a few hundred feet from the big red oak. When I reached the ash I was not disappointed. I continued on to the red oak and thought, that's a good sized red oak but that black ash is by far the largest I have ever seen!

Since it was already 2:00 P.M. I decided to concentrate on the ash and measure the red oak if time allowed. I was all set to determine the height of the ash but the battery in my range finder died. Well all was not lost, I could still use my clinometer for cross triangulation. Some trees are not too difficult to measure and other trees like this one are a pain! I wasn't completely satisfied with my results but I determined it was at least 115' tall. Now it was time for documenting the tree with photographs. After setting up my tripod it was time to frame a shot. Since I had just charged my camera batteries I decided it wasn't necessary to take spares with me. Well my batteries died before I was able to take one shot! I now think the battery failed because of the single digit temps.

By now there wasn't much time for the red oak since the days are so short that time of year. I thought the black ash was difficult. The red oak was even worse. I wasn't able to determine the point on the ground below the highest point but I was estimating the tree was also about 115'. Since I wasn't even sure if I would be able to get my ford escort out of the snow, I needed to start making my way up the slippery slope so I could reach the car before dark.

After making it up the slope and hiking along the bluff top I started to look for my car. Not long after that I could see another vehicle. It was a pickup and there was a big dog. My first thought was, oh no, I've been caught trespassing ! I was preparing myself for the worst but it turned out to be the man I talked to earlier. He was just checking on me.

I finally had a whole day to devote to finding and measuring the big red oak and I wasn't able to get it measured. I was able to get reasonably good measurements of the black ash which was large enough to be a new national champion but I had no photographs. I would have to make a return visit to get photographs before I could nominate the tree.

Well, I returned in late march of this year and came up with these dimensions for the black ash in Clayton County, Iowa:

Black ash cir. 9'1", h. 120'+, sp. 52.5'

Red oak: cir. 12'11", h. 114', sp. 77'

I have more Iowa big tree measurements to submit another time.

Mark Rouw

[Linville Gorge, NC](#)

by dbhguru » Sat Jul 30, 2011 8:55 pm

Today Monica and I went down into Linville Gorge to the Linville River. I was looking for worthy trees to measure, but the rhododendron and laurel made visibility a real problem. Nonetheless, I succeeded in confirming two worthy white pines as heirs to the throne. One measured 142.5 feet in height and the other 147.5 feet. Most of the great whites are in the 120s and 130s, but there is a scattering of taller ones. The old 168-foot monarch fell several years ago. Also, the hemlock skeletons were demoralizing. Why didn't the Park Service react? Linville will not be the same again in our lifetimes...

Robert T. Leveret

[Unaka Mountain Summit Area, NC & TN](#)

by jamesrobertsmith » Sun Jul 31, 2011 2:07 am

On Friday I hiked to the summit of 5200-foot Unaka Mountain. The summit lies just outside the Unaka Mountain Wilderness and the peak itself is shared pretty much 50/50 it seems by NC and TN.

I hiked up from warm and muggy weather into cool and muggy weather and into the cloud mists near the top. I saw the vegetation change from southern cove hardwood/hemlock mix to northern hardwood types to spruce forests at the top 300 feet or so of the peak.

Strangely, the hemlock forests here could largely still be saved if an effort was made to treat them. Some hemlocks were dead from hwa, but many were just sick and some didn't seem affected at all.

I did see that they're treating some of the hemlocks in the Rock Creek Recreation Area, but that's just a tiny drop in the bucket. I think the forest was last logged over 100 years ago, so there are lots of impressive hemlocks all around there. It's sad to see them dying. I never get used to the slow and agonizing death of our hemlock forests. It's especially hard when I see areas where they could still be saved if our nation didn't have its collective head up its ass.

The very topmost reaches of the summit were spruce trees. It was exceedingly quiet up there and I sat down and just soaked in the silence and solitude for about an hour before I headed back down.

It was one of the most silent spots I've been in years. No voices, because I didn't encounter any humans there, at all. No jets were flying anywhere around, no airplane engines. It was just me and the wind and some singing birds.



A blowdown near the very top of Unaka Mountain. Several years old, I think.



Looking up at the treetops through the mist.



Typical view at the top.



Pair of spruce trees blown over. Time for vegetation to sprout up since their fall.



This grass was present from about 4200 feet to around 4800 feet, then (mainly) disappeared.



Lingering rhododendron blossoms. They were almost all gone, even at the summit.



Lots of interesting fungi poking up from the rusty needles of years gone by.

Here's a video I shot in the clouds on the summit. Crank up the volume. Just the sounds of my footsteps, the wind, and the birds:



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uygtb9BZGC0&feature=player_embedded

James Robert Smith

Re: North Chagrin Reservation

by dantheman9758 » Sun Jul 31, 2011 9:44 pm

I've taken my measuring tape, tripod, and camera on the past few hikes.

10' 6" Blackgum (and Dixie the tired basset hound)



12'7" Sugar Maple



Plenty More Updates (or perhaps a new thread) coming soon. Especially after the collaboration on Tuesday to measure heights. Photos below.

Dan Reed

13' American Beech



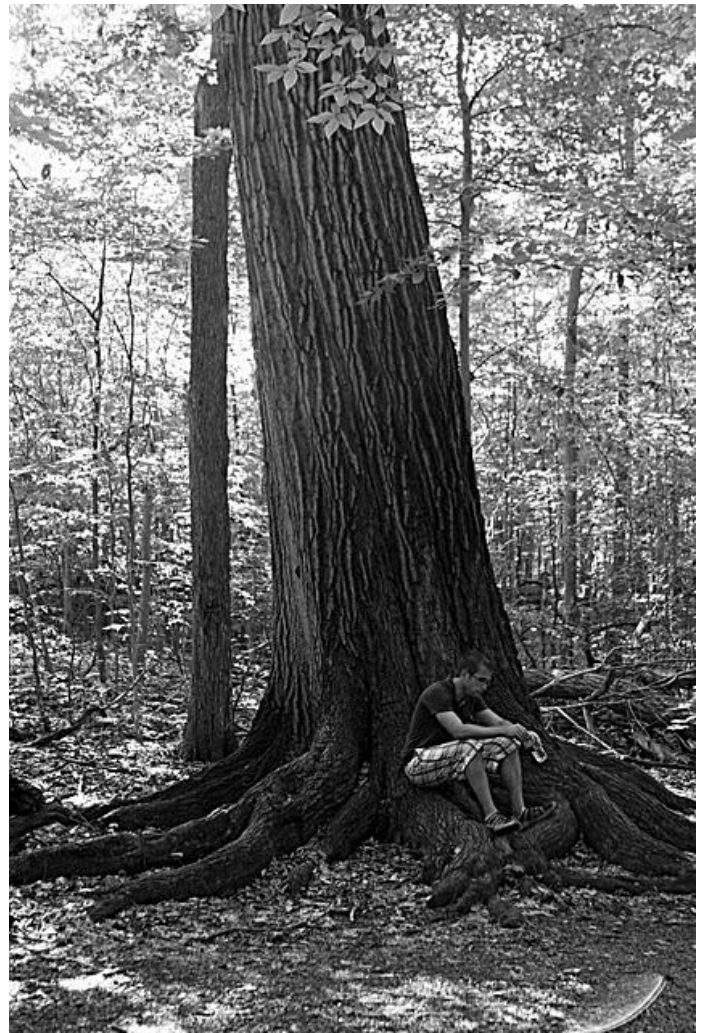
17'11" Red Oak



13'1" Tulip



18' 3" Red Oak





Tracey Ridge Chestnuts, PA

by Rand » Sun Jul 31, 2011 10:41 pm

In 2006 Ed Frank and Carl Harting visited the Tracey Ridge area in the Allegheny National Forest and noted an abundance of young chestnut trees in the area.

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/fieldt...ge_anf.htm

Immediately south along the road we turned into the the Tracy Ridge Campground for a quick drive through on the same ridge for a quick look. The place had hundreds of American Chestnut trees. Most were small, a couple we saw from the car might have reached 50 feet. Given the number we saw, and the fact that we found a 71+ footer elsewhere on the ridge, it would be worthwhile to revisit the campground area for a reconnaissance of chestnuts and other trees present.

...

This had to be the densest population of American Chestnut I had ever seen. Some reports suggested in areas that American Chestnut had made up to 70% of the basal area in given stretches of the forest. None of the trees looked mature enough to produce nuts and were likely root sprouts. If the blight doesn't get them they may produce nuts in a few years. With such a high density of trees there is even a good chance of pollination from other individuals and the production of viable nuts. Keep your fingers crossed.

I was up there with a camping club from Columbus and the abundance of young chestnuts immediately jumped out at me. I think when the campground was bulldozed out of the surrounding forest, it released the young chestnut sprouts all along the margins of the roads and campsites. Two trees on the E loop with 100 yards of each other have burrs on them:



Ed, your wish is granted. You'll probably need to get there within a few days of Oct 1 to beat the squirrels though.

On a more annoying note I twisted some arms to get them to visit Anders Run, which engendered little more than a few glances and shrugs at the huge pines growing there. <sigh>

Randy Brown

External Links

How To Make Better Nature Photos by Rob Sheppard <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/PhotoZone/Archives/2011/Tips-Making-Better-Nature-Photos.aspx>

National Scenic Areas Near and Far—A Path for the High Country? Story by Randy Johnson <http://www.highcountrypress.com/weekly/2011/07-21-11/gnsa-series-near-and-far.htm>

Glow-in-the-dark mushroom rediscovered after 170 years <http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources/stories/glow-in-the-dark-mushroom-rediscovered-after-170-years>

Global Canopy Programme - Canopy World – Video
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGY2NRUp3m8&feature=player_embedded

A glimpse deep into Maine's forested past
http://www.pressherald.com/news/discoveries-made-30-years-apart-give-us-a-glimpse-deep-into-maines-forested-past_2011-07-05.html

Visiting the BIG TULIP, Cataloochee GSMNP by Aaron Morrell - Vimeo Video:
<http://vimeo.com/26156872>

Bark, A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast by Michael Wojtech and Tom Wessels. Info on the book and author here:
<http://www.knowyourtrees.com/>

NTS Discussion: <http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=23&t=2398>

About: eNTS: The Magazine of the Native Tree Society

This magazine is published monthly and contain materials that are compiled from posts made to the NTS BBS <http://www.ents-bbs.org>. It features notable trip reports, site descriptions and essays posted to the BBS by NTS members. The purpose of the magazine is to have an easily readable and distributable magazine of posts available for download for those interested in the Native Tree Society and in the work that is being conducted by its members.

This magazine serves as a companion to the more formal science-oriented Bulletin of the *Eastern Native Tree Society* and will help the group reach potential new members. To submit materials for inclusion in the next issue, post to the BBS. Members are welcome to suggest specific articles that you might want to see included in future issues of the magazine, or point out materials that were left from a particular month's compilation that should have been included. Older articles can always be added as necessary to the magazine. The magazine will focus on the first post on a subject and provide a link to the discussion on the website. Where warranted later posts in a thread may also be selected for inclusion.

Edward Frank, Editor-in-Chief