

## Nature Abounds Forest Summit - Ed Frank

by **edfrank** » Tue May 22, 2012 6:46 am

On Saturday May 19, 2012 I was invited to speak at the Forest Summit Event for the Group Nature Abounds held at S. B. Elliot State Park in Clearfield County, PA.



*Melinda Hughes-Wert from Nature Abounds*

I talked back and forth via email and Facebook with the organizer Melinda Hughes-Wert. There was a fair number of people in attendance. I was the second speaker. I was doing a talk on old growth forests, a modified version of my Pockets Full of Forests article. I cut and pasted, made an outline, and went over the talk several times. In this case I would just be talking to the audience about old growth forests without the aid of slides or a Power Point presentation. I thought I was prepared. In hindsight, maybe it went better than I thought it was going at the time. Without the help of the Power Point, I kept finding myself going offtrack, or doing parts of the talk out of order. Overall I suppose the audience did not notice the deviations from the plan as I would always get back to the point eventually.

I never like watching myself on video after a talk, but a kind of masochistic streak forces me to watch to see

how it appeared to the audience. My voice is much higher pitched on tape than what I hear in my head when I talk. I sound much more authoritative in my own head. Perhaps it is the echos inside the great hollow space there. My laugh is hideous, so I try to avoid laughing during a presentation. In reviewing the tape I find that I talk much faster than I should and much faster than I think I am talking in the moment. Another problem I have is frequent pauses and silences in the middle of a sentence. A few of them are pauses to collect my thoughts, but most are not. I am not sure if these other pauses are within my control if I am not doing talks on a regular basis.

When I was teaching labs and sections while in Grad school, I know my words flowed much more smoothly. But it is a struggle. It is like a case of stuttering. I pause because the words get stuck.

They are there in my mind, and I know what I want to say, but my mouth just doesn't seem to be able to form the words and to set them free.

Here is some information about the Nature Abounds organization:

[http://www.natureabounds.org/Home\\_Page.html](http://www.natureabounds.org/Home_Page.html)

The home page reads: "Nature Abounds™, a national 501c3 non-profit organization, brings people together for a healthy planet. Nature Abounds™ serves as a center where people can connect with like-minded people interested in protecting the environment and in taking action for a healthier planet.

For more information about our programs and volunteering please email... [info@natureabounds.org](mailto:info@natureabounds.org)

As for the Forest Summit itself:

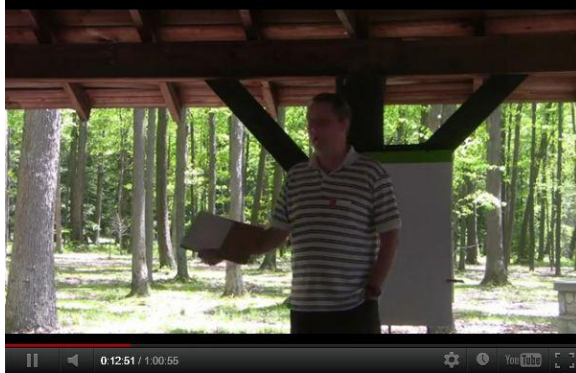
"Join Nature Abounds on Saturday, May 19th, 2012, for the first annual Forest Summit for education, inspiration, and networking in Central Pennsylvania! The event will be held at the SB Elliott State Park (I-80 Exit 111) from noon until 6 PM."

[http://www.natureabounds.org/The\\_Forest\\_Summit.html](http://www.natureabounds.org/The_Forest_Summit.html)

I was not able to stay for all of the presentations

because of other commitments, but it was well organized and the speakers I did hear were excellent. Much of the first talk and conversation dealt with gas development in the Marcellus Shale and hydraulic fracking on state forest lands, a serious concern for citizens of the state.

Below is a video of my presentation. It is an hour in length.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcsxbF-VTGw>

Here are a couple of accounts from the local papers. The first is better because it mentions me!

<http://gantdaily.com/2012/05/21/nature-abounds-presents-first-forest-summit/>

<http://www.theprogressnews.com/default.asp?read=31083>

Edward Frank

## [Tree Height measurement Explanations](#)

by **edfrank** » Tue May 22, 2012 3:05 pm

Bob,

Perhaps we need to take another with respect to explaining the problems with the tangent method.

For you the diagrams and formulas illuminate and elucidate the point you are trying to make. For many people even a touch of math causes their eyes to

glaze over and their brain tune out whatever message you are trying to present. We should try in some publications and presentations a math-phobic approach to the situation.

## Measuring Tree Heights Using a Clinometer and Laser Rangefinder

A common method to measure tree heights is for the person doing the survey to measure the distance to the trunk of the tree with a tape or laser rangefinder, and then to measure the angle to the top with a clinometers. The left handed scale in the rangefinder viewfinder is a percentage scale. Using this method simply multiply the distance taped to the tree by the percentage scale and the result is the height of the tree. Several rangefinders with built in clinometers have this routine programmed into their electronics and will do this calculation automatically. The newest model of the Nikon 550s has a modified version of this process programmed into the instrument as a 3-point height calculation. This is called the **tangent method**. The problem is:

Unless the top of the tree is directly over the base of the tree, this method will give you the wrong tree height!

Using this process the person doing the measurement is estimating the distance to the top of the tree from his position and using that guess to estimate the height of the tree. The top of the tree is rarely directly over the base of the tree, so the heights calculated using this process are almost always wrong. Because of tree configurations and sight lines in most cases the top of the tree when measured tends to be on the side from which the measurement is taken. This results in the tree height being overestimated. In skinny conifers trees the true height is typically overestimated by a few feet, on trees with broad canopies, like many deciduous trees, the heights are typically overestimated by several feet to tens of feet. If the top that was measured is actually a forward leaning branch, as is often the

case, the errors can be many tens of feet.

If you have a laser rangefinder, it is just as easy to measure the true height of the tree as it is to do a bad measurement and get a wrong height.

Why estimate the distance to the top and calculate a wrong height, when you can measure the actual distance to the top of the tree with your laser rangefinder and get a true height? Using the laser rangefinder a person can scan the top of the tree and determine which top is the highest, rather than just guessing. As a rule of thumb when choosing among several sprigs that may be the top, if they are all within a few degrees of the same angle, the sprig that is the farthest away is the tallest of the group. Measuring the height of the top of the tree above eye level is really simple. Find the tallest sprig with your laser rangefinder and measure the distance. From the same position, measure the angle to the top using a clinometer. The height of that top above eye level can be calculated using a \$5 scientific calculator.

The formula is:

$\sin(\text{angle to the top}) \times \text{distance to the top} = \text{height above eye level}$

This is called the **sine top- sine bottom method**, or **ENTS method**. It doesn't take pushing any more buttons on the calculator to calculate the true height than it does to do the calculation using the older incorrect tangent method.

In both methods, a surveyor must measure both the height to the top of the tree above eye level and how far the base of the tree extends above or below eye level. This can be measured by finding where a level line hits the tree using a clinometer and measuring the distance to the base using a tape measure, or by repeating the laser rangefinder clinometer methodology described above. If the base of the tree is below eye level and the top of the tree is above eye level, the distance below eye level is added to the height above eye level to get a total height for the

tree. If the top of the tree is above eye level and the base of the tree is also above eye level, the height of the base above eye level is subtracted from the height of the top above eye level.

The person measuring the height of the tree does not even need to understand the trigonometry involved to do the measurements and calculations,( but it does help). The Nikon 550 hypsometer has a two point routine programmed into the instrument that will do the calculations for you automatically. Use it to measure the top of the tree and bottom and add or subtract the two values. Do not use the three point method, because you will get wrong numbers.

If you are going to go to all the trouble of buying the instruments, hunting for the tall tree, finding the true top, and doing the measurements, you might as well do it right so that an accurate height is obtained.

Some people have told us that they prefer to use the older tangent method to measure tree heights because they get taller heights. These heights are taller because they are **WRONG!**

It is dishonest to knowingly use bad numbers simply because they will falsely inflate the tree height values.

Good Luck and Good Measuring.

Edward Frank

## Re: Tree Height measurement Explanations

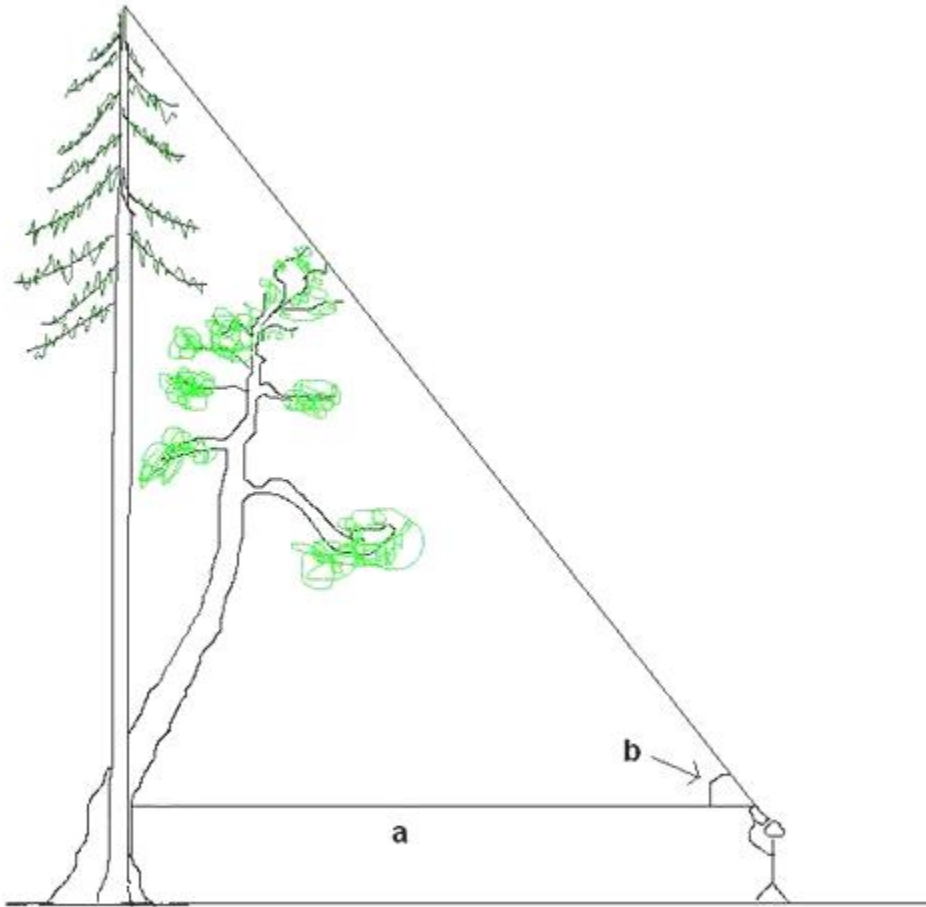
by **KoutaR** » Wed May 23, 2012 4:49 am

Ed, I think this like image could help to understand what is wrong with tangent methods. Because only the angle (b) to the top is measured (and not the

distance), and that angle is the same for the two trees, tangent methods give the same height for the two trees.

Images must not be too complicated for general public. Not too many angles, lines and no formulas.

Kouta Rasanen



## Re: Tree Height measurement Explanations

by **dbhguru** » Wed May 23, 2012 9:10 am

Kouta, Elijah, Ed, et al.,

I am most appreciative of simple, elegant diagrams

that lay out a measuring situation in such clarity that one immediately sees the elements of the problem. This kind of joint participation and brainstorming is what we've needed for a long time. Thank, guys. In terms of the mathematics, I'm not expecting that every NTS member will wade through the diagrams and formulas. I submit them to the BBS mainly to put the solutions to problems on a sound theoretical basis. There is no way to do that other than through

the mathematics. But from the point of a new derivation, maybe with our heads put together, we can come up with simple diagrams that clarify the problems we are tackling. The two tree diagram is a perfect example. Couldn't be clearer.

The above having been said, the Excel spreadsheets that do calculations automatically are presented for use by the many. The last one I submitted was devised to compute the crown-offset and direction. I do believe it has significant value if we all use it on at least a sample of trees. The gap in understand of that separates the sine-method measurers from those who stick with the tangent method is that measuring the height of a tree has always been a two-baseline problem. Tangent measurers are stuck with the common baseline approach. Diagrams such as the one provided in Kouta's last post are just what the doctor ordered.

Robert T. Leverett

*The discussion is appears as a long interesting thread that can be read on our BBS, but can't be dealt with properly in this magazine format.*

## **Management of Forests for Deer?**

by **Jenny** » Tue May 22, 2012 8:19 am

Read this interesting Op-ed piece. The writer claims that management of forests for deer is causing the # of migratory songbirds to plummet.

Is this type of forest management really the policy in the eastern US?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/19/opinion/why-bambi-must-go.html?ref=birds>

Jenny Dudley



Andrew Joslin writes: I still thrill at deer encounters during my woods activities, it's not their fault that humans continue to mess up ecosystems. Speaking of which here is a white-tailed deer that visited me as I was preparing to climb a tree last weekend...

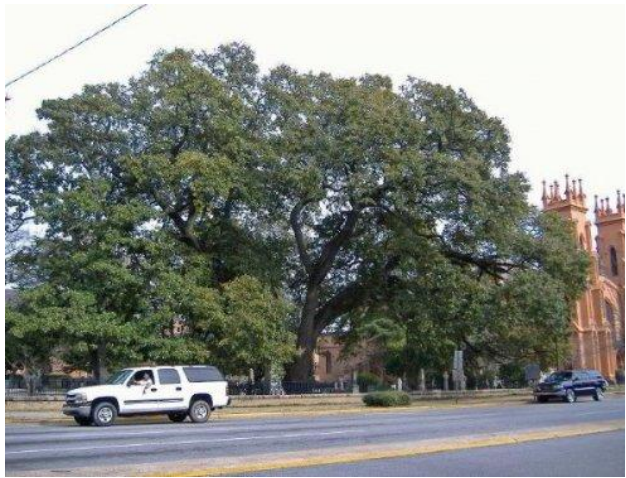
## Sire oak major limbs broke off!!

by **Marcas** » Tue May 22, 2012 12:16 pm

Tuesday May 14 again the massive lovely live oak we have by the state house hit a low note when one of her major limbs broke off in the storm. Here is the photos of the broken limb from our state newspaper in the link below:

<http://www.thestate.com/2012/05/15/2277412/trinity-episcopal-cathedral-tree.html>

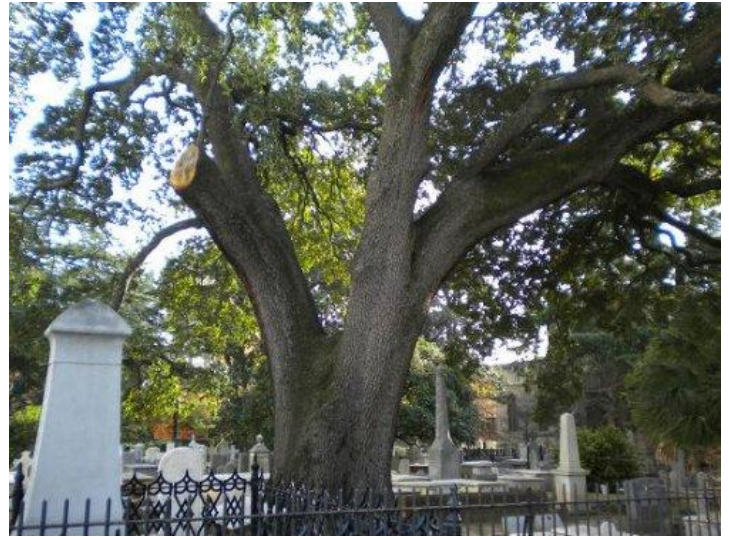
2007 Crown



2011 Crown



2011 First broken sire oak limb



This is the massive limb before it broke this May 2012



I'm glad Larry got to see her at her best when he came to Congaree shown link below:

[http://www.nativetreesociety.org/fieldtrips/south\\_carolina/2009sireliveoak/sire\\_live\\_oak\\_sc.htm](http://www.nativetreesociety.org/fieldtrips/south_carolina/2009sireliveoak/sire_live_oak_sc.htm)

About the church and history:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity\\_Episcopal\\_Cathedral\\_%28Columbia,\\_South\\_Carolina%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity_Episcopal_Cathedral_%28Columbia,_South_Carolina%29)

I will try to take a photo of the new crown shape and post it everyone take care.

Marcas Houtchings

## **Do you have law also for Grand or Trophy Trees?**

by **Marcas** » Wed May 23, 2012 7:05 pm

Tree protections are slow in coming Richland County

<http://www.thestate.com/2012/05/22/2285337/tree-protections-are-slow-in-coming.html>

Cut more plant less.... No grand tree law where it would not protect huge tree from being cut like there sister county. <http://www.lex-co.com/departments/communitydevelopment/Documents/27OCT2010LOSOrd.pdf> . Page 40 said the Ordinance describes the category of trophy trees as those trees that are significant by their size and type

and as such should be preserved wherever possible. Guidelines detailed within the Ordinance address the circumstances in which preservation of trophy trees is not feasible. The specifications for determining trophy trees are as follows: Canopy Trees, except:

Sweet-gum, Yellow-poplar, >24" D.B.H.

Understory Trees >12" D.B.H.

The specifications for trophy trees may be revised by staff upon direction by Lexington County.

Do you have law also for Grand or Trophy Trees?

Marcas Houtchings



## Re: European beech forests

by **hamadryad** » Tue May 22, 2012 5:57 pm

So you like our Euro beeches huh! This one is an ancient, the white fungus is *Aurantiporus fissilis*. We have here in England a long long history of managing

our woodlands, and therefore while our trees may not be tall because they were pollarded for early industrial enterprise they are the oldest and fattest of their species.

Anthony Croft



## [Re: European beech forests](#)

by **hamadryad** » Tue May 22, 2012 6:04 pm

Our trees are born survivors, and we venerate them for their tenacity, the older and more tenacious they

are the more we value them. here is a great veteran from Ashridge Park England.

Anthony Croft



## [Re: New disease could wipe out English oak](#)

by **hamadryad** » Tue May 22, 2012 5:47 pm

Its a shame that our organizations haven't acknowledged the real cause of the decline in oaks, nitrification and weakening of the tree species specific relationships.

Industry/agriculture is the main cause of these issues,

these things are merely symptoms of a much bigger issue, our soils are what's REALLY sick.

*Rand wrote: I'm not familiar with what you are referring too. Any further details, links etc?*

what i was suggesting is that, and certainly with Phytophthora, is that the issues are in lost mycorrhizae associations and a lack of biodiversity within the soil food webs, along with changing climate causing range to be challenged for some species (north drift to cooler climes) leading to a

more weakened stock of trees, trees just don't thrive without their associated organisms, especially the ecto-mycorrhizal associating Oaks, Beeches, Larches, Pines etc.

The Oak has the most diverse suite of host specific symbionts in the British isles and saprobes etc, in a healthy system I believe these Oaks would not be falling foul of such issues as Phytophthora.

Personally the biggest threat to the native oaks *Q. petraea* and *Q. robur* is hybridisation with *Q. cerris* and maybe other species of imported oak. I received some very special chitied acorns from Windsor to nurture recently, they come from an ancient English *Q. robur* and I have been very surprised by their leaf shape colour and stem being VERY red/wine coloured these are ancient genes of that I am certain, I am very much looking forward to seeing them grow on into fine trees.

One is destined for Haver Castle, I have some other sites to find and a few to confirm for a home for each of these rare and majestic true English Oaks, I will take some photographs tomorrow.

I haven't seen these symptoms in any of the woods I visit in the south east of England (ancient woodland) and all the images I see are of forest timber silva situations contexts, this only reaffirms my views on biodiversity and soil health being a key in tree health and vitality.

## [Flying Redwood Albino?](#)

by **Mark Collins** » Thu May 24, 2012 1:39 am

I was spending some time looking around the redwood forest this past weekend when I saw something truly wonderful. It appeared to be a redwood albino growing out of a redwood tree about 100 feet in the air.



Is this common? I've seen several redwood albinos, but this is the first I've ever seen growing out, or possibly on a burl of a redwood.





If I am breaking albino etiquette please let me know and I will delete the post. After seeing several trees carved with initials, I understand the need and desire to protect these special specimens.

Mark Collins

### [Re: Flying Redwood Albino?](#)

by **edfrank** » Thu May 24, 2012 2:21 pm

Mark, Thanks for the bigger photos. To me it looks like dying branches with brown needles, rather than an albino branches. The albino stuff I have seen are bright white in color. Maybe someone else will have a different idea. Keep posting the neat stuff you find. That is part of the adventure of exploring the forest.

Edward Frank

### [Atlanta Champion Tree list- 2012](#)

by **eliahd24** » Thu May 24, 2012 1:27 pm

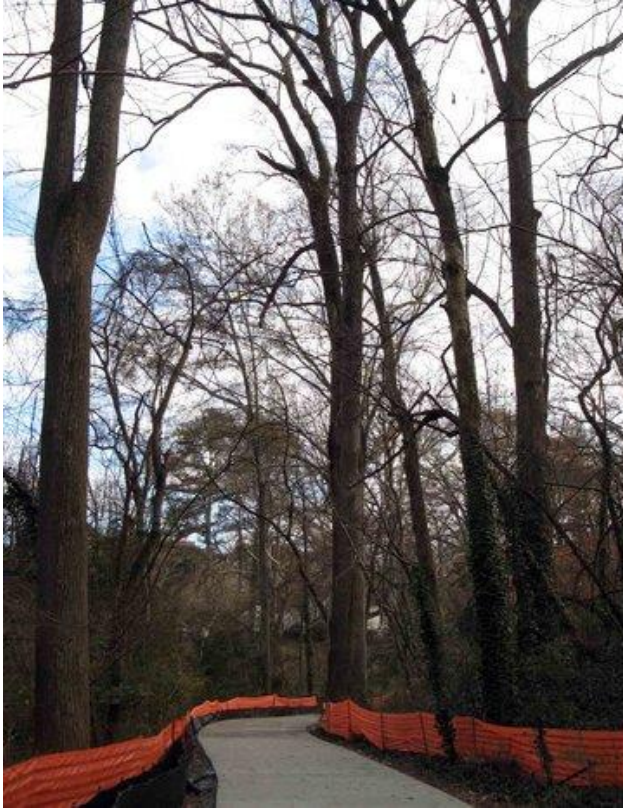
I have just finished editing the new 2012 Champion Tree List for metro Atlanta. This program is sponsored by Trees Atlanta and will be posted on their website in the near future (2011's list is still up for now). I've attached the file as a pdf.

**Trees of note** (and some pictures):

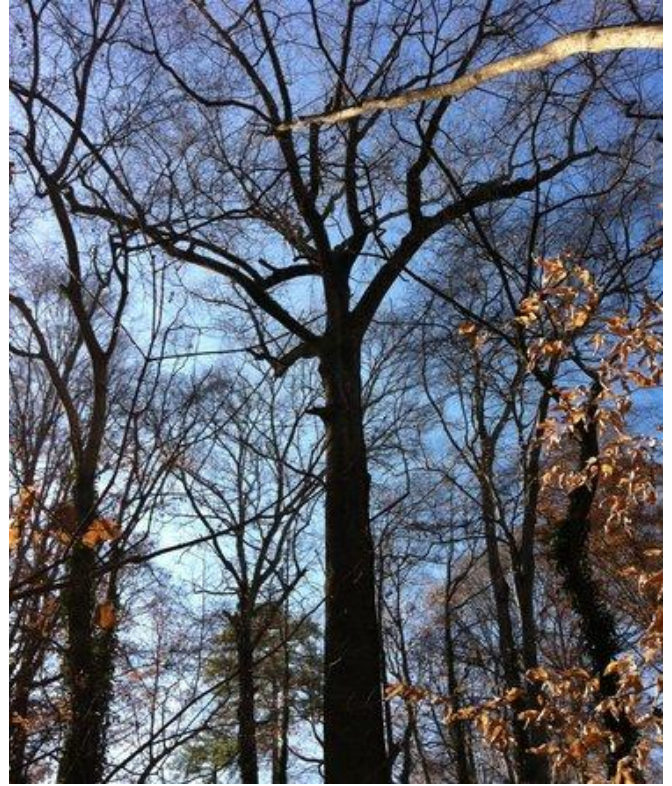
*Fagus grandifolia* - 12.4' x 121.7'x 110'



*Fraxinus americana* - 14' x 131.6' x 56.3'



*Liriodendron tulipifera* - 16' x 151.6' x 89.5' (Emory's campus)



*Liriodendron tulipifera* - 11.5' x 164.4' (leaf on measurement)



*Oxydendrum arboreum* - 6.2' x 99.4' x 38' (old Civil war battle site in SW Atlanta)

*Populus deltoides*- 20.8' x 86' x 86' (middle of midtown Atlanta)



*Quercus alba* - 14.6' x 138.1' x 96'

*Quercus falcata* - 19' x 94.1' x 111'



*Quercus coccinea* - 12.8' x 133.1' x 87' (Emory's campus)

*Quercus pagoda* - 23' x 102' x 130' (state champ, but miss-ID'd as *falcata*)



*Quercus rubra* - 20.1' x 123.4' x 115' (front yard tree!)

*Quercus shumardii* - 16.9' x 123.1' x 107' (Emory's campus, adjacent to Peachtree Creek)



*Quercus velutina* - 12.3' x 125.9' x 90' (Piedmont Park, small forested area)

*Tilia heterophylla* - 7.2' x 127.8' x 50'

*Ulmus alata* - 8.6' x 124.6' x 50'

Enjoy!

~Eli Dickerson

 [2012 Trees Atlanta Champion Tree List.pdf](#)

## Re: Tree Top Offset Project

by dbhguru » Thu May 24, 2012 8:23 pm

NTS, I had lost track of John Eichholz's post of 2005 analyzing the implications of the 8.3-foot average difference between the trunk and crown

baselines based on a sample of about 1,800 trees. The trees in that sample are mostly bigger, taller, older trees. Form the 8.3-foot average, John derived an average total crown-offset of 13 feet. I decided to reconstruct the derivation and include a diagram. They follow:

### Determining average horizontal crown-point offset

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| M = measurer          | D - L = effective offset |
| T = trunk             | R = absolute offset      |
| C = crown-point       | a = angle MTC            |
| D = baseline to trunk | y = as shown             |
| L = correct baseline  |                          |

#### Derivation

From integral calculus the average value of a continuous function  $f(x)$  for the range  $a_1 \leq x \leq a_2$

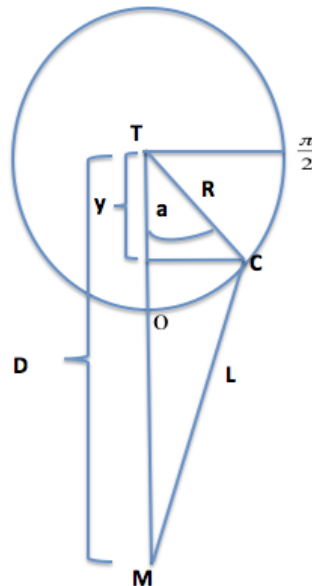
$$y_{avg} = \frac{1}{a_2 - a_1} \int_{a_1}^{a_2} f(a) da$$

For the diagram,  $a_1 = 0$ ,  $a_2 = \pi/2$

$$y_{avg} = \frac{1}{\frac{\pi}{2} - 0} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} f(a) da$$

$$f(a) = R \cos a$$

$$y_{avg} = \frac{1}{\frac{\pi}{2} - 0} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} R \cos a da$$



#### Notes

1. From my database the following average was computed.  $|D - L| = 8.3$
2. When  $a = 0$ ,  $y = R$   
When  $a = 90$  (or  $\pi/2$  in radians),  $y = 0$
3.  $y$  in the diagram is a surrogate for D-L

$$8.3 \approx \frac{1}{\frac{\pi}{2} - 0} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} R \cos a da$$

$$8.3 \approx \frac{2R}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos a da$$

$$8.3 \approx \frac{2R}{\pi} (\sin a) \Big|_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}}$$

$$8.3 \approx \frac{2R}{\pi} \left( \sin \frac{\pi}{2} - \sin 0 \right)$$

$$8.3 \approx \frac{2R}{\pi} (1 - 0)$$

$$8.3 \approx \frac{2R}{\pi}$$

$$R \approx \frac{8.3\pi}{2}$$

$$R \approx 13.04$$

John extended the integration process over a range of 180 degrees. I show it for 90 degrees, and for the second quadrant. The results are the same for the 1st quadrant. In these kinds of problems, you have to express angles in radians as opposed to degrees. Thus the range of integration is show as 0 to  $\pi/2$  instead of 0 to 90.

As the diagram indicates, this integration computes the average value of the  $y$  variable over the range of integration. At an angle of  $a = 0$ , the value of  $y = R$ . For  $a = \pi/2$ ,  $y = 0$ . This is not exactly equal to the average value of  $D - L$ , but close enough. So  $y$  is a surrogate for  $D - L$  with the advantage that values of

$D$  and  $L$  do not have to be known.

The project that I am proposing that includes the spreadsheet in my previous post calls for us to add crown-offset determinations to our routine sin top-sin bottom measurements. This could be what opens the eyes of tape and clinometer users to the crown-offset problem and the need to see the problem as requiring two baselines. The idea may take time to catch on, but the logic of it is incontestable.

Robert T. Leverett

## North Bend State Park, WV

by tsharp » Fri May 25, 2012 6:35 pm

NTS:

I visited North Bend State Park near Cairo, Ritchie County, WV on December 19th and 22nd 2011 to do some tree measuring and make myself scarce for Christmas shopping duties. This time I targeted some bottom land along the North Fork of Hughes River. Access was along the Connector Trail leading from the park to Tunnel #13 on the North Bend Rail Trail near Cornwallis, WV

The Connector Trail follows the river right (descending) side of the river and was originally a spur line from the Main B&O main line. It is about a mile long and is at an elevation of 690'. The bottom land varies in width from 30 to 200 yards wide and prior to a dam being constructed a few miles upstream flooded almost every year. Prior to the park being established in 1950 this was in pasture/cropland.

My goal was to walk along the trail until I got at least 10 species for a Rucker Index. I had to walk the entire mile to get eleven species. About 75 percent of the canopy is Sycamore (*P. occidentalis*) and Tuliptree (*L. tulipifera*) and were mostly in the 6-8' girth range. An occasional larger girth tree was found near the river where it did not interfere with previous farming activities. There was a ¼ mile stretch where the stand density was high and the heights looked good. It was along this stretch I measured 15 Sycamores and 8 Tuliptrees over 130' with the tallest Sycamore being 139.6' and Tuliptree at 142.7'. Measuring heights from the trail was easy. It was about 10 above the bottom land level and thanks to a high deer population there was no ground clutter except for some Pawpaws. Several times I measured heights of 3-4 trees from one location. This required one to make sure to match the dbh and height to the appropriate tree. It was while measuring in this section that I took a couple of long laser shots of across the river of Sycamores with one coming in at 148.9'. On December 23rd I returned and hiked the Nature Trail down to verify this height and settled on 145.6' which is a height record for WV. The two pictures below show this tree.



Photos by Turner Sharp 12/23/2011  
17.6' x 145.6' x 105'

This tree beat the WV height record previously held by the Great Webster Sycamore which was measured by Will Blozan, Jess Riddle and Ron Busch in 2005 at 144.3'. It was toppled on a windy day in August 2010 after suffering a bout of arson. The bottomland on this river left (descending) side was very narrow or nonexistent so was probably never totally cleared for farming. Large sycamores dotted the river bank downstream for quite a distance. Pictured below are two of them.

Sycamore Twin



Left 13.0' x 135.6', Right 13.3' x 135.2'

A fallen giant. Usually they fall in the river.



17.1' x ? The CBH was taken at 4 1/2' above root collar

The Rucker Height Index for this site is RH10= 102.3'. The entire list of tree measured may be found at:

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1216/Details>

Two species that are conspicuous in their absence are Cottonwood and River Birch

I had previously measured trees along the Giant Tree Trail in the park with a RH10 of 122.5. Combining the two data sets gives the park a RH10 of 125.6' The original trip report is on the old Google Groups list.

[http://groups.google.com/group/entstrees/browse\\_thread/thread/88d152680b1a971f?hl=en](http://groups.google.com/group/entstrees/browse_thread/thread/88d152680b1a971f?hl=en)

And the full list of trees measured on that trip is listed in the Trees database at:

<http://alpha.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1202/Details>

Turner Sharp

## Re: North Bend State Park, WV

by tsharp » Fri May 25, 2012 7:03 pm

[http://groups.google.com/group/entstrees/browse\\_thread/thread/88d152680b1a971f?hl=en](http://groups.google.com/group/entstrees/browse_thread/thread/88d152680b1a971f?hl=en)

### Reprint from April 10, 2009

ENTS:

North Bend State Park is located near Cairo, Ritchie County West Virginia not far off of US 50. The Park contains 2,458 Acres along the North Fork of the Hughes River, which is a tributary to the Little Kanawha River, which flows in the Ohio River at Parkersburg, WV. It has been a state Park since 1950 and later additions include a flood control project with a 305 acre lake and a 70 plus mile- rail trail along the abandoned B&O mainline between Parkersburg and Clarksburg, West Virginia. It has amenities such as a lodge, swimming pool, camping area, cabins, etc. It also has hosted a wild food weekend since 1968 that was inspired by writings of the late Euell Gibbons who was also the keynote speaker at the gatherings for eight years.

Elevation in the park ranges from 1135 down to 670 along the river. The area containing the measured trees is an unnamed hollow down from the lodge that contains a wet weather stream. The hollow has a northeast orientation and is traversed by a paved park road that connects a picnic area to a playground area. It is also traversed by the Nature Trail at river level and Giant Tree Trail somewhat below the paved road. The paved road generally follows the 800 foot contour and all trees measured were below road and between 800 and 700 elevation. The area I covered is about 20 acres. Four yellow poplars and two oaks exhibited old growth characteristics of deeply furrowed bark and the stag-horn branching in the canopy. The stand has evidence of previous fire damage and several trees had fencing embedded in their trunks. At the mouth of the hollow there was much evidence of beaver activity. No HWA was observed.

Here are the tallest examples of 18 species measured during March and April of 2009.

White Pine *P. strobus* 11.1 148.7

|                   |                      |      |       |
|-------------------|----------------------|------|-------|
| White Ash         | <i>F. americana</i>  | 6.8  | 128.2 |
| Yellow-poplar     | <i>L. tulipifera</i> | 12.7 | 128.0 |
| Hemlock           | <i>T. canadensis</i> | 7.8  | 122.2 |
| Cucumber Magnolia | <i>M. acuminata</i>  | 7.7  | 121.4 |

Five species average 129.7

|                  |                        |     |       |
|------------------|------------------------|-----|-------|
| Sycamore         | <i>P. occidentalis</i> | 5.9 | 121.0 |
| Black Oak        | <i>Q. velutina</i>     | 6.4 | 113.3 |
| American Beech   | <i>F. grandifolia</i>  | 5.8 | 111.5 |
| Black Walnut     | <i>J. nigra</i>        | 8.0 | 111.3 |
| Northern Red Oak | <i>Q. rubra</i>        | 9.9 | 109.9 |

10 species average 121.5

|                  |                      |     |       |
|------------------|----------------------|-----|-------|
| Black Gum        | <i>N. sylvatica</i>  | 7.6 | 108.9 |
| Red Maple        | <i>A. rubrum</i>     | 7.1 | 105.0 |
| White Oak        | <i>Q. alba</i>       | 8.8 | 104.6 |
| Yellow Buckeye   | <i>A. flava</i>      | 5.0 | 102.9 |
| Shagbark Hickory | <i>C. ovata</i>      | 5.2 | 102.2 |
| Virginia Pine    | <i>P. virginiana</i> | 3.0 | 89.7  |
| Pitch Pine       | <i>P. rigida</i>     | 4.2 | 84.8  |
| Sourwood         | <i>O. arborea</i>    | 3.4 | 71.0  |

Two other notable trees measured were a Yellow-poplar at 11.8' cbh and 124.8' height and a White Pine 9.3' cbh and 137.3' height. It was not until I crawled up and out of the hollow after measuring one of the big poplars that I realized that two or three of the much younger bean-pole poplars probably were taller than the ones I had measured. That will have to wait for another measuring day.

The Cucumber Magnolia, Black Oak, and Black Walnut heights will set new state height records unless some fellow ENTS can give me better ones. I will submit them to the state coordinator, however they have not updated in five years and do not seem to motivated to do so in the next five.

Turner Sharp

## More Records from Cheraw State Park, SC

by Tyler » Sat May 26, 2012 7:09 pm

ENTS,

I spent most of this measuring season exploring more of Cheraw State Park. At first, I was focused on finding the taller longleaf pine groves but soon became distracted by the wetland areas that weave through the longleaf forest.

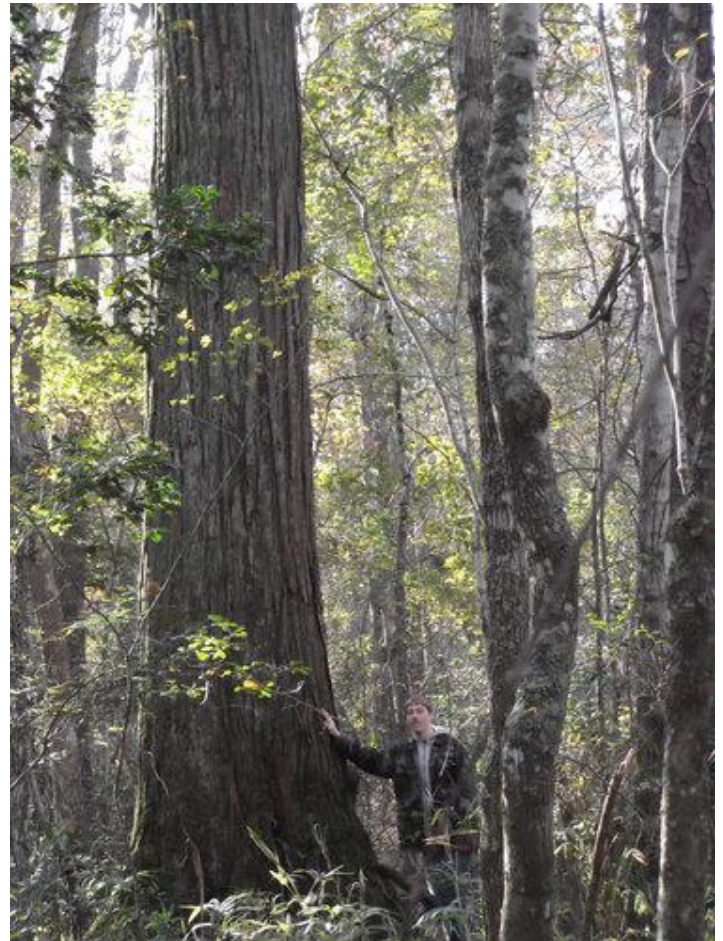


Longleaf Pines



Juniper Creek

I found several large pondcypress trees in the narrow floodplain of juniper creek. Old fire scars stretch up their trunks and scattered stumps remind one of the logging that took place before the park became established. Most of the older cypresses are broken topped and hollow, but the largest tree seems solid.



Huge Pondcypress

There is active management going on at the park. Small hardwoods invading the longleaf understory are routinely cut down and mulched up. Longleaf and loblolly groves are thinned, even clearcut if mostly loblolly. Periodic controlled burns go through the pine areas also, but the wetland areas are left alone to grow naturally. All of this is done to restore habitat to a presettlement condition of an open longleaf pine savannah with a diverse herb layer.



Hardwood understory removal

|                       |           |       |                              |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------|------------------------------|
| Cedar, Atlantic White | 4' 4"     | 90.7  | previously measured at 99.9' |
|                       | 4' 8"     | 92.9  |                              |
|                       | 5' 7"     | 100.2 |                              |
| Dogwood, Flowering    | 1' 4"     | 38.8  |                              |
|                       | 2' 3.5"   | 40.2  |                              |
|                       | 5' 4.5"   | 52.5  |                              |
| Oak, Blackjack        | 12' 6.5"  | 59.3  |                              |
|                       | 12' 11.5" | 66.3  |                              |
|                       | 12' 4.5"  | 78.9  |                              |
| Oak, Turkey           | Coppice   | 86.8  |                              |
|                       | 3' 4"     | 57.5  |                              |
|                       | 3' 4"     | 58.4  |                              |
| Pine, Longleaf        | 3' 6"     | 59.2  |                              |
|                       | 4' 11"    | 100   |                              |
|                       | 5' 5"     | 100.2 |                              |
|                       | 5' 7"     | 100.2 |                              |
|                       | 3' 3.5"   | 100.2 |                              |
|                       | 3' 6.5"   | 100.7 |                              |
|                       | 5' 5"     | 100.9 |                              |
|                       | 5' 8"     | 103   |                              |
|                       | 4' 11"    | 103.6 |                              |
|                       | 5' 4"     | 103.7 |                              |
|                       | 4' 0"     | 104.4 |                              |
|                       | 5' 4.5"   | 104.5 |                              |
|                       | 5' 3.5"   | 104.6 |                              |
|                       | 4' 11.5"  | 104.6 |                              |

|                 |          |       |                    |
|-----------------|----------|-------|--------------------|
| Pine, Longleaf  | 4' 11.5" | 105.3 |                    |
|                 | 5' 2"    | 105.7 |                    |
|                 | 4' 8.5"  | 106.8 |                    |
|                 | 6' 8"    | 108.3 |                    |
|                 | 6' 7"    | 110.2 |                    |
|                 | 4' 3"    | 111.2 |                    |
| Pine, Pond      | 5' 8.5"  | 114.7 |                    |
|                 | 8' 0.5"  | 79.9  |                    |
|                 | 7' 10.5" | 97.6  |                    |
|                 | 8' 1.5"  | 98.8  |                    |
|                 | 7' 5.5"  | 99.2  |                    |
|                 | 7' 6"    | 101.2 |                    |
|                 | 7' 5"    | 102.5 |                    |
|                 | 5' 2.5"  | 103.7 |                    |
|                 | 5' 5.5"  | 106.8 |                    |
|                 | 5' 6"    | 108.6 |                    |
|                 | 6' 0"    | 109.1 |                    |
|                 | 6' 5.5"  | 118.6 |                    |
| Pine, Shortleaf | 6' 4.5"  | 105.6 |                    |
|                 | 6' 0"    | 111.2 |                    |
|                 | 4' 2"    | 103.1 |                    |
| Pine, Slash     | 4' 2"    | 103.1 | Not Native to Area |
|                 | 4' 8"    | 106   |                    |
|                 |          |       |                    |
| Pondcypress     | 12' 6"   | 75.7  |                    |
|                 | 4' 6.5"  | 98.3  |                    |
|                 | 13' 6"   | 104.2 |                    |

The largest pondcypress has enough points to be a national champion and is a potential volume champion for the species.

Several of the pond pines have enough points to be state champions.

Potential and current state champion trees in the park include sparkleberry, sweetleaf, pond pine, longleaf pine, atlantic white cedar, and pondcypress. I also got around to getting a rucker height and girth index for the site.

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Rucker 10 Height |           |
| Tulip Tree       | 124.7     |
| Loblolly Pine    | 124.6     |
| Cherrybark Oak   | 121.5     |
| Pond Pine        | 118.6     |
| Sweetgum         | 117       |
| Baldcypress      | 116.3     |
| Longleaf Pine    | 114.7     |
| Shortleaf Pine   | 111.2     |
| Slash Pine       | 106       |
| Pondcypress      | 104.2     |
| Rucker Index     | 115.88    |
| Rucker 10 Girth  |           |
| Pondcypress      | 13' 6"    |
| Darlington Oak   | 12' 11.5" |
| Tulip Tree       | 11' 5.5"  |
| Water Oak        | 10' 11"   |
| Willow Oak       | 10' 6.5"  |
| Swamp Tupelo     | 10' 3.5"  |
| Loblolly Pine    | 9' 6.5"   |
| Cherrybark Oak   | 8' 10"    |
| Pond Pine        | 8' 1.5"   |
| Longleaf Pine    | 8' 1"     |
| Rucker Index     | 10' 5.5"  |



118.6' Pond Pine



Longleaf Pine Regeneration



Ground Pine



Beaver kill area



Lupine



Left wiregrass Right longleaf pine grass stage



Longleaf pine entering "rocket stage"

Tyler Philips

## New area of Monroe SF, MA

by dbhguru » Sat May 26, 2012 8:48 pm

NTS,

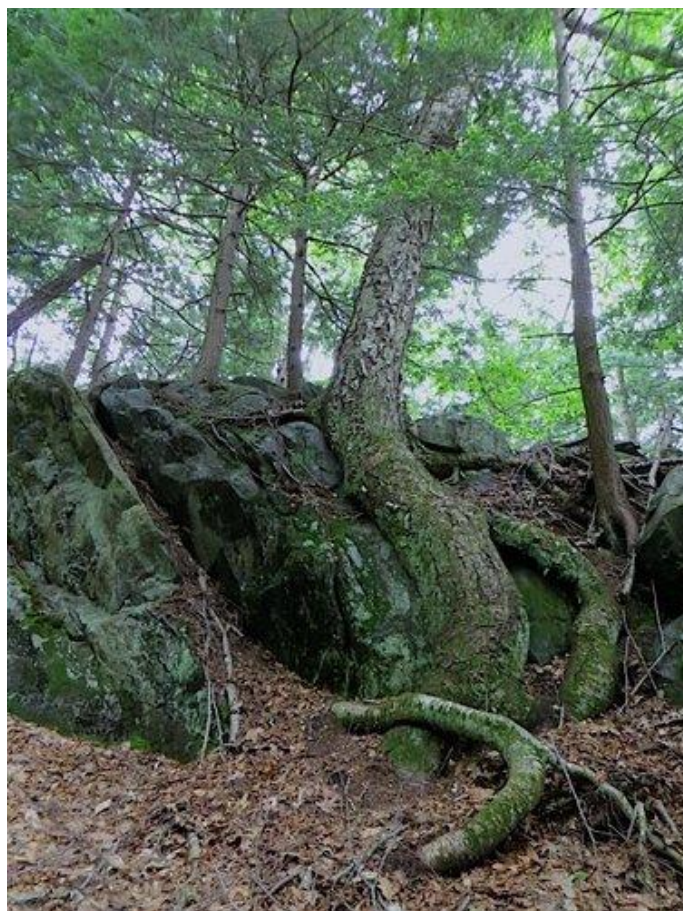
Today I took a group of amateur naturalists on an old-growth trek in Monroe State Forest. There were 11 of them. The trek we took is shown on the topo below.



Once we entered the forest, the tree/root shapes intrigued all members of the group. I think most do their nature studies in young forests with boring trees. Not so today. Meet Mr. Beech perched on a rock.



The black and yellow birch root structures we saw blew everyone's mind. They are artistic and Tolkienesque.





In the uplands, some of the mature N. red oaks exhibited nice buttressing.



Chicken of the woods, anyone?



And there were the old hemlocks.



I measured a couple that I keep track of. The largest are in the 10 - 11.5-foot girth range, and heights to 120 feet at most. Not too shabby. Lots of bear sign. Some moose sign. Great day.

Robert T. Leverett

## Re: New area of Monroe SF, MA

by **edfrank** » Sat May 26, 2012 10:37 pm

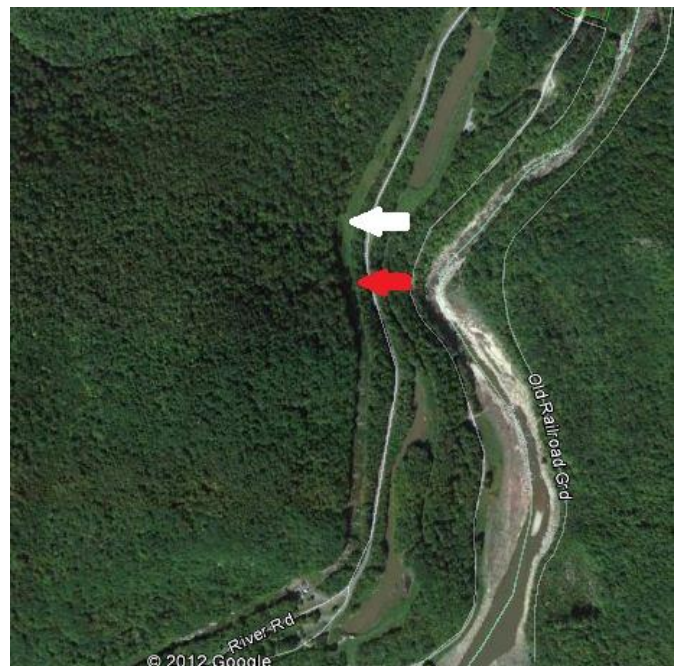
Bob, Looks like a nice trip. I have been looking at your route via Google Maps. This first image is from April 29, 2005:



This map seems to give a good idea of the distribution of conifers in that area of Monroe. Here is a close-up of the small cove like area with the pointy terrain in the southeastern part of where you explored also from April 29, 2005. I am guessing this is an escarpment from an ancient rock slide. There are some trees with pretty large crowns along the base of the cliff in this area - if my interpretation is right.



This is an image from November 18, 2011. The white arrow is approximately where your map shows you came down off the mountain (or perhaps a little south of where you came down - did you climb down a ridge or a valley?). The red arrow shows a valley immediately to the south.



This is a close-up of this area from the same date:



In some of the photos this area has a slightly different color - more olive or brownish than the other tree areas? The red valley looks like it is the home to some trees with large canopies. It is a really steep area however.

Nice report Bob, and good hunting.

Edward Frank

### [Re: New area of Monroe SF, MA](#)

by dbhguru » Sun May 27, 2012 8:08 am

Ed, Yes, there are some large-crowned trees at the base of the cliffs. Sugar maple and N. red oak dominate in terms of large crowns. The terrain dropping down to the Deerfield River is super steep. Lots of ledges with faces from 20 to 60 feet in height. You have to thread your way around them. Not all the scenes are attractive. Here is a shot of a yellow birch with fungal rot at the base.



Robert T. Leverett

### [Re: More Records from Cheraw State Park, SC](#)

by Tyler » Mon May 28, 2012 7:38 am

The pines seem to be about the same age, but they are distributed across a large area. Typically they are separated by groves mixed with both loblolly and longleaf pines. There are many trees that are much shorter and older looking on the higher sandy ridges, however I choose to only record trees with a height over 100' or if they had a large girth.

I measured two large sweetleafs last year:

1' 8.5" X 47.4' X 18' ---72 Points

1' 7.5" X 50.1' X 17.5' ---74 Points

The current SC champion has 70 points.

Tyler Philips

## "Seeing Trees" Book

by Jenny » Fri May 25, 2012 2:54 pm

Has anyone seen or heard of, or own this book:  
"Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of  
Everyday Trees"

From what I can see on Amazon the pix look fantastic. But I didn't want to get it without some feedback. Also, there is a New book out about Trees of New York City that I am excited to get. It had better be good. I've been disappointed in the books on NYC so far.

There are "look insides" and even videos of the Seeing trees book at Amazon:

[http://www.amazon.com/Seeing-Trees-Disc ... QN3YATJ20P](http://www.amazon.com/Seeing-Trees-Disc...QN3YATJ20P)

....Well, I ordered it from the library as well as a new book about the trees of New York City. See if they are worth purchasing.

nice photos from the book:

[http://robertllewellyn.com/#/PORTFOLIOS ... 20TREES/1/](http://robertllewellyn.com/#/PORTFOLIOS...20TREES/1/)

video about the book:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGv21FZFLPY>

Jenny Dudley

## Re: Washington Grove City Park, NY

by lucager1483 » Sat May 26, 2012 10:15 pm

Ents, On Monday, May 21, I met up with Larry Champoux at Washington Grove, and he gave me the nickle tour (I forgot to pay). Many tree heights were roughly measured, a real, live, Canadian was encountered on the trail, and a generally good time was had by all. It's been mentioned before, but I'll say it again: the black oaks here are unique, because of both their great size and assumed age, and ought to be recognized and treasured as such for the rest of their natural lives. Here's a copy of the email Larry sent me after our visit. Larry combined Tom Howard's comments and measurements and added my height measurements at the bottom for each tree.

 [WashingtonGroveVisit1.docx](#) (12 KB)

Hi Elijah,

*Thanks again for coming to the Grove. Here's the heights that you measured, tied to Tom Howard's previous entries. There are few at the end that Tom did not measure, but that you did.*

*It was great meeting you and please come back to the Grove again, maybe in the fall after the leaves are gone and we can take another look.*

Larry

*Trees examined by Tom Howard/Elijah Whitcomb  
(EW MEASUREMENTS FOLLOW ENTRIES)*

*TH: The biggest tree at Washington Grove as far as I know is at the entrance near the small parking area at the end of Nunda Blvd. It is a forest-grown Black Oak of almost unbelievable size for this far north – 56.1" dbh (14.7' cbh), its massive towering trunk streaked by 2 lightning scars. This tree could easily be close to 120 ft. tall, which is a phenomenal height for Black Oak in New York State. The tallest NY Black Oak I know of from NTS records is a 106 ft. tree in Wellwyn Preserve on Long Island, and the tallest Black Oak I know of in Upstate NY is the 105*

*ft. tree in North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove. The Black Oaks of Washington Grove seem to average over 110 ft. tall. EW: 111-120 feet*

*TH: met Larry Champoux of the Friends of Washington Grove, who gave us a tour of the rest of the grove, and told us of its long and fascinating history. He said some of the trails here may have been part of a centuries old Iroquois portage trail. He showed us one of the largest trees right near a house- Black Oak 52.6" dbh (13.74' cbh), a forest-grown giant EW: 98+ feet*

*TH: Black Oak upslope 40.4" dbh (10.48' cbh), old tree with leaning trunk (many of the old Black Oaks have leaning trunks), crooked crown of few large branches EW: 117+ feet*

*TH: White Oak, forest-grown 33.1" dbh (8.7' cbh), spiral grain, big limbs in crown EW: 112 ½ + feet*

*TH: White Oak by trail, forest-grown, looks like over 120' tall – 25" dbh (6.6' cbh), balding bark, a lot of Sassafras in understory. EW: 113+ feet*

*TH: possibly biggest Sassafras 19" dbh (5' cbh) – this tree is awesomely tall, possibly 115-120' tall, as tall as the tallest Oaks around it, its crown sticking up high above a tall leafy Black Cherry; this could be the tallest Sassafras in NY State. EW: 100.6+ feet*

*Other trees not measured by Tom Howard, with heights measured by Elijah Black Oak near center on center trail: EW: 114+ feet White Oak same vicinity: EW: 109.5+ feet White Oak Southeast section: EW: 109.6+ feet*

A few comments about the height measurements: First, the height of the first black oak measured, near the main entrance "111-120 ft." is probably a comment I made to Larry. I need to apologize for this, as I don't have my own notes to give a more accurate measurement.

Second, and along the same lines, most of the measurements were straight-up laser shots into the canopy, and should be interpreted as "not less than."

The reason for my use of this method was due to the thickness of the canopy and the most impressive trees

growing close together and the middle of the grove.

This is why I intend to return in the fall or spring after leaf-drop to get some higher numbers.

Third, the tallest tree measured Monday was a tulip tree. Using the sine method, as the tree was fairly open-grown, I came up with a height of 126.6'. On the way back to my car, I also got a height of 105' for a butternut (another straight-up shot).

To sum everything up, here are my maximum height estimations for each of the major species found in Washington Grove (fairly close to Tom's, except for sassafras).

Black oak: 120-125'

White oak: 120-125'

Northern red oak: 115-120'

Tulip tree: 126-130'

Butternut: 110-115'

Sassafras: 100-105'

Black cherry: none measured, but likely 110-115'

Sugar maple: none measured, but likely 115-120'

Rucker height index: likely between 115 and 120' due to the limited number of canopy-height species.

Looking over the report and the numbers, I'm both a little disappointed that I don't have more accurate height numbers (like in the decimal places), but also encouraged by the roughing-out that was done. We now have a starting point for both heights and girths at Washington Grove, and the numbers can only be further refined. Hopefully in the near future, we can add to the data set ages and volume and crown-spread measurements. I'd also like to get some more pictures of the monster oaks. I have a few hiding somewhere on my hard drive, but maybe Tom, Adam, or Larry has better, more recent ones to share (hint, hint).

Elijah Whitcomb

## [Re: Washington Grove City Park, NY](#)

by **tomhoward** » Sun May 27, 2012 3:01 pm

Elijah, Larry, Ents,

Awesome report. Elijah's estimates confirm my visual guestimates of the great height of the Washington Grove trees. Washington Grove is possibly the tallest Oak forest in NY state, and the 117 + ft. Black Oak Elijah measured is the tallest accurately measured Black Oak in NY. As I suspected, Tuliptree seems to be the tallest tree in WG. The 100.6 + ft. Sassafras is the tallest of that species I know of in upstate NY.

Tallest trees I know of in NY (all these height records are from NTS):

White Oak 121.6 Vanderbilt Estate, Hyde Park (WG possibly taller)

Black Oak 106.3 Welwyn Preserve, Long Island (WG beats this at over 117 ft., and very likely 120-125 ft.)

Northern Red Oak 140.3 Zoar Valley Gallery of Giants in western NY (this part of Zoar Valley is a mixed forest of many species with only a small number of Oaks)

Tuliptree 156 Zoar Valley Gallery of Giants  
Butternut 107.6 Green Lakes State Park here in Onondaga Co. (measured by Jess Riddle May 1, 2011 - Washington Grove could have Butternut 110-115 ft. tall - these may not only be the tallest Butternuts in NY, but the tallest in existence - the tallest known to NTS is 115 ft. in North Carolina)

Sassafras 107.3 Welwyn Preserve (WG will probably beat this)

Black Cherry 131.1 Lily Dale, Chautauqua Co.

Sugar Maple 127.6 Zoar Valley

This fall after the leaves are down, it would be great if we all could get together at Washington Grove to get more accurate heights. I'm convinced that we will have even greater heights. Also, it would be good if Neil Pederson could join us at WG with his increment borer - as it looks like the oldest Black Oaks in existence could be there.

I agree with Elijah that these magnificent Black Oaks in WG should be treasured and preserved as should this entire priceless old growth forest.

In a few weeks I'll be able to post some photos of WG.

Larry, thank you for creating the excellent document on Elijah's visit.

Looking forward to a great measuring outing this Fall!

Tom Howard

## [Canada Geese & Goslings](#)

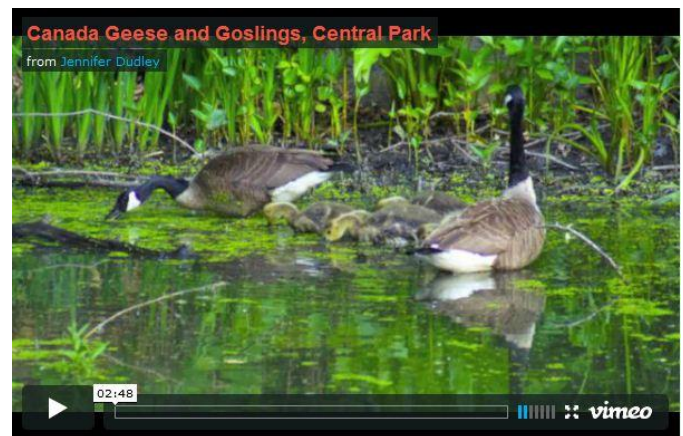
by **Jenny** » Sun May 27, 2012 12:21 pm

Canada Geese and their 6 Goslings in Central Park.

Vimeo doesn't seem to work, so I put my MobileMe link. It's better quality, both sound and picture, anyway.

MobileMe:

<http://gallery.me.com/jennifdudley#101089>



<https://vimeo.com/42645687>

Jenny Dudley

## [A bit of a mystery hickory](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Sun May 27, 2012 6:35 pm

NTS, Today James Parton and I explored a tributary of the Oconaluftee River in Great Smoky Mountains NP. We encountered a fairly massive hickory that perplexed me to no end. No new leaf/bud falls were to be found nor were good nuts or husks. I am vacillating between *C. glabra* (type) and perhaps *C. alba*. Strong attributes of both abound but based on twig size *C. glabra* would win over. Yes, *C. cordiformis* was in the area but the bark on this tree was so much more "ropey", like I have seen on *C. glabra* at the coast. Also, leaflets of 5-7 were all that were seen. Here are some shots; I'd appreciate any ideas as to the ID of this beast!



*Trunk with James Parton*



*Upper crown bark detail*



*Leaves*



*Only decent buds I could find*



*One of the only intact nuts- quite small*



*Another view of the trunk.*

Thanks!

Will Blozan

The consensus seems to be Pignut Hickory  
(*Carya glabra*)

## [The Elusive James Parton](#)

by **James Parton** » Mon May 28, 2012 12:04 am

Ed and everybody,

It is truly me, James Parton. I really never intended to stay gone for so long. I combination of long work hours, spending more time with my daughter Sarah and intensified studies in the second and now third level of courses plus I am now a Bardic Mentor and Moderator there has kept me really busy. I really apologize. I gotta say that I missed all of you but I have to admit I missed Bob Leverett's humor the most.

During my time out, Will heard some from me. He asked me on a couple of previous trips and work kept me from going plus I asked him to identify a stupidly obvious tree which of course he did. I thought "Damn, Nyssa Sylvatica " I should have known that! He got me back. Today he liked to have killed me! I'll be sore tomorrow. I gotta get back in shape. Damn, I am only 2 years older than Will. But the Smokies are Awesome!!

I also wanna thank Ed for asking of my whereabouts. It's nice to know I am missed. I'm back folks.

James E Parton

## [Old Growth on private land.... Does anyone here have it?](#)

by **RexK** » Sun May 27, 2012 6:19 pm

I live in southeast Kentucky and the 'woods' are and have always been a big part of my life. Its were I spend a great deal of time and I've always appreciated it. But until recently I didn't realize what old growth was and how rare it is. I've always been against logging, especially on my family's property, but never realized it had most likely all been logged in the past and is now a secondary forest. At this point, most of my grandfather's 500 acre farm (only about 50 acres cleared) has been sold off and I'm working to save the last remaining block of forest. Its far from

untouched, having been subject to one or more high grades in the past 50 years and a fire within the last 20. Still yet, at this point, most of it seems "wild" again and I think there may be a few old trees scattered about on cliff edges or in deep ravines. I'd like to "restore" it as much as possible. I'm not sure what can be done, but I'm sure that removing non-natives and planting a greater diversity of natives would be a start.

I'm curious if anyone here has old growth on their private property or even a second growth forest that they are trying to preserve. I would love to hear about it and pictures would be great. If so, did you realize what you had afterwards or was the purchase intentional? In addition to preserving my family's remaining forest, I think I am going to keep my eyes open for a small piece of timberland in my area with old growth forest, or at least some kind of remnant.

Thanks  
Rex Karr

## [Fork Ridge Tuliptree intact after tornadic winds](#)

by **Will Blozan** » Sun May 27, 2012 8:05 pm

NTS, Michael Davie sent an alarming note out a while back about a tordanic track near the site of the Fork Ridge Tuliptree, the current tallest eastern tree. Today I was not too far away and was able to zoom in to the tree from an overlook and it appears to be fine. I originally was looking in the wrong place and did not see the tree but when I was able to access photos from last year I see it is indeed alive and well.

Great news!!!!!!

There is a good chance Steve Sillett and Marie Antoine (*The Wild Trees*; by Richard Preston) will join NTS this fall for a 3D modeling of this tree. Now we know it is there so...

Will Blozan

## [Champion Lodgepole Pine, CA](#)

by **RyanLeClair** » Mon May 28, 2012 2:17 am

Hey everyone,

Just wanted to say that the National Co-Champion lodgepole pine is healthy and a "must-see" for anyone visiting Southern California.

The listing for the tree is here:

<http://www.ufe.org/bigtrees/bigtreelist.lasso>

The champ stands at the edge of a beautiful meadow way up in the San Bernardino Mountains. It is in an area rife with big lodgepoles. Keep in mind that this is a species that is usually in the 1-2 ft. DBH range...these special lodgepoles near the pristine meadow were much larger. Many trees of them were in the 4 ft. DBH range.

The champ himself is over 6 feet in diameter, and let me tell you, it is a tree that will make your blood rush. To see a diminutive species reach such dimensions is so wonderfully surprising.

In terms of form, the champion pine starts off with a sizeable buttress. Purportedly the tree is 36 ft. in circumference at ground level! Higher up, the tree assumes a more orthodox, columnar shape. At around 50 feet or so the tree splits into two leaders; this divergence goes unseen behind a pall of ropy branches. The two leaders reach upward roughly the same height. From below it is impossible to determine which is taller. The massive trunk displays an odd characteristic: it seems to be "swallowing" its own branches.

Using a laser and clinometer I estimated the tree's height to be 117.6 feet. I could not verify the girth measurement, as the tree is protected by a fence.

I put "must-see" in quotations because the tree is not accessible by any means. First of all, just going to the San Bernardino mountains is a lengthy endeavor; the range is several thousand feet tall. Then, finding the tree involves navigating miles of unpaved roads.

I am going to add some pictures to this report tomorrow.

Ryan LeClair

## [Richfield, Ohio location](#)

by **davidnrobyn** » Tue May 29, 2012 2:09 am

Hi, I'm new here, and I'm fascinated by the study and research you guys are doing. I'm originally from NE Ohio and I find the discussions of large tree/old growth discoveries there incredibly interesting. I thought I'd pass along a site that I ran across many years ago while I was working on I-271 in Richfield.

I was working as an intern engineer and during some slack time I wandered off the site and into a small patch of what looked to my inexperienced eyes as old growth. There were several species of trees there, all of which were the largest examples I had ever seen of each species. Also, the woods were notable for the lack of dense growth at ground level--it was very easy to walk through without a lot of underbrush and I could definitely use the term "forest cathedral" to characterize the experience. Anyway, here's where it is (I think, after 44 years!): Just about a half mile west of the intersection of I-271 and Brecksville Rd, on the north side of I-271 in a rough triangle bounded by I-271, Hawkins Rd., and Roberts Dr. I checked it out on Google Maps and it looks like it's still there.

It's a very small patch, maybe 10-15 acres. Maybe you're already aware of it, or maybe I remembered wrong, but it might be worth a look with your LiDAR. Hope this is helpful!

David Robyn

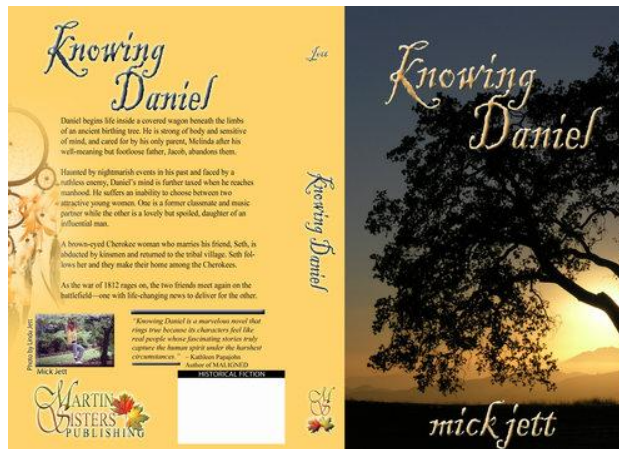
## [Mick Jett, a novelist](#)

by **MickJ** » Mon May 28, 2012 7:28 am

Hi, I'm Mick Jett, a novelist who might be of some help in getting the book project going. My own book, originally entitled *The Birthing Tree* but changed by publishers to the more marketable title of *Knowing Daniel* was published in mid-April.

[http://www.martinsisterspublishing.com/?page\\_id=1262](http://www.martinsisterspublishing.com/?page_id=1262)

Although it's fiction, it's based solidly on facts and one of the inspirations for the book is based on the existence of an ancient tulip oak which still rises on the eastern edge of McMinnville, TN, on Sparta Street there. The time frame is the early 19th Century when wagon trains bumped along the Kentucky Trail. The pioneers paused beneath the huge limbs of the birthing tree where pregnant women could be delivered of their babies in relative comfort. The tree was also the center piece of the pioneer campground where wagons were repaired, relatives and other travelers joined the caravans and stock watered in the nearby streams.



Daniel West, whose surname is changed to Burns in the novel, was a prominent citizen and young veteran of the War of 1812. He loved wood of all types and was a master cabinetmaker. Shortly after the war ended he married a young woman who was supposedly a widow. Her trapper husband was presumed dead after a conflict with Cherokees. However, he returned to McMinnville and reported

that he had been forced to become a warrior for the Cherokees to replace one of them he had slain in battle. It was a common practice. By his proved valor in battle, he was released to rejoin his wife.

Daniel's wife chose to rejoin her first husband and Daniel left his spacious house and carved a room in a living giant poplar. Although known as a hermit, he remained sociable and rode about McMinnville on the back of a British white steer. He continued to conduct business in that odd manner.

My book's characters, most of the based on actual individuals, do not cause major events of the time nor do they change the outcome. It's available for order in all book stores and on Amazon.

Mick Jett

## Re: Three Big Tuliptrees in Baltimore

by **MickR** » Tue May 29, 2012 8:45 am

OK - so I went back to see the trees on Sunday morning. I got a few more pictures of the 3rd one, but only one came out good in the hot, hazy air. But, I inspected the back of the tree best I could and for certain there was a damaging event early in its life to make the trunks separate so much. As you can see below, there is quite a flat spot at the crotch; a nice little micro-forest is growing in the fertile valley on top.



South side of giant tulip poplar.

Here is a better picture of the "burn" although I'm not sure if that is what it really is.



Close up

So - it turns out I was not trying hard enough. I rode around the park a bit more and found some more giant trees. Tree hunting is so addictive! There are 15-17' CBH tuliptrees all over this forest. At one point a low-income housing project butts against the park... with a massive old tree 100' from somebody's sliding glass patio door. I found two exceptional, old tuliptrees which are much larger than these 3... they are absolutely epic in girth. I'll make a separate post for these next two curious old trees.

Mick Ricereto

## From the Archives (2010):

### Norway spruces in Buckland

by [johnofthetrees](#) » Mon Oct 18, 2010 7:01 am

At the conclusion of the Jake Swamp Tree climb, a group of ENTS, consisting of Tim Zelazo, Bart Bouricius, Will Blozan, Turner Sharp and I visited the Buckland State Forest to view the tall Norway Spruce and European Larch. I am going out on a limb with the id, but we all thought it likely to be Larix Decidua. One confirming reference is:

[http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/tre...\\_larch.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/tre..._larch.htm)

which looks like what we saw except the needles were a little shorter.

We reached the grove in about a 15 minute walk, through a mixed forest with some large red oak, white ash and bitternut hickory among the usual northern hardwoods and softwoods.

Near the grove, an occasional larch would appear, some of them showing substantial character development in their bark. The grove lies on a moderate slope, bounded by a small stream below and a steeper, rocky slope above that rises to a ledgy ridge. The grove is bounded by stone walls on two sides as well.

We confirmed that all of the champion and near champion trees were indeed tall and still in good shape after the winter. The previous tallest Norway spruce had appeared to gain several inches of growth, and measured to 146.1'h x 7.37'c. I did not remeasure the larch carefully, but did rough it out to 146'. The black cherry looked to have grown quite a bit this season, and now measures 125.1', again without a careful assessment of base elevation. This cherry tree may be the current state height record holder, as the Trout brook cherry has eluded detection lately. I also got 130' on the

large white ash. The second tall Norway, which can be identified by a stripe of blue paint at 4.7', took a while to find. Bart and I finally located it near the ash. I was surprised to find a new, fast growing top peeking out behind another, that resulted in a height measurement of 150.4'h x 6.3'c. The annual growth appeared to be around a foot on that tip. Will measured several more spruce and larch, exceeding 140' a couple of times. As usual. i\I would like to return and take more careful measurements to document this growing season, as well as take some photographs

The spruce and larch in this grove appear to be growing very well, and together with the high growth seen in black cherry and white ash, demonstrate the high quality of the forest growth on this site.

John Eicholz



We looked everywhere for the tree but couldn't find it. Photo: Tim Zelazo