Mission Statement:

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

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COVER: Archangel climber Meryl ascending Waterfall Tree, CA photo by Michael Taylor.

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I want to remind the readers of this magazine that the articles presented here are only a part, usually just the beginning, of the discussions being held on our BBS at [http://www.ents-bbs.org](http://www.ents-bbs.org). The full discussion can be read by clicking on the link embedded in the title of each individual article. - Edward Frank

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Onondaga County NY Update

by tomhoward » Sun Jun 02, 2013 3:50 pm

NTS,

I am now staying at Candlewood Suites in North Syracuse near the Syracuse Airport, while my apartment is being renovated. From May 8-15 my brother Jack Howard was down here to help me with the move. We did some tree study while taking breaks from the move. What follows are reports on sites he and I visited this month:

Wizard of Oz Memorial Oak Grove May 9, 2013

Jack Howard and I had a wonderful visit to the old growth Wizard of Oz Memorial Oak Grove near North Syracuse Junior High School. Trees, including slow to leaf out Black Gums, are leafing out, Beech in bloom. The “Old Growth Air” in the Grove felt wondrously fresh on this cool day.

I used the laser rangefinder and clinometer that Ed Frank of NTS loaned me, along with my scientific calculator to get height measurements of some of the trees. I used the NTS Sine Method. Tree heights are in feet.

White Pine in 2nd growth by Lonergan Park, tallest tree in 2nd growth forest next to old growth Oak Grove (measured to height of 106 ft. with Forestry 550 Laser Rangefinder) from Lonergan Park (due to dense brush I could not see base of tree so H2 (which is normally the height from the base of the tree to my eye) is the height from the about 2 ft. above the base of the tree to my eye):

Height 109.17 (since this is the height of the tree from at least 2 ft. (or more) above the base, the estimated height of this tree is at least 110 ft. so it will be listed as 110+ ft., as of 5/9/2013, the tallest White Pine in the North Syracuse area)

Straight up shot (with 440 Laser Rangefinder) into the wide dense crown of Anne Frank Black Gum – 88.5 ft. (in Nov. 2009 Robert Henry measured the Anne Frank Black Gum to a height of 94.5 ft., as of May 2013, still the tallest Black Gum I know of in NY State; my straight up shot did not reach the highest point of this tree’s extremely complex crown – the highest part is not visible from the tree’s base)

Black Gum across trail from Anne Frank Black Gum, slender tree:
Height 70.3

Beech north end Forest Cathedral (from south):
Height 93.2
New official height, tallest Beech in Grove and in North Syracuse

White Oak just north of White Oak #4 (Tree #4 in core list), living trunk, other trunk a snag:
Height 100

Slender White Oak by trail northwest part of Forest Cathedral:
Height 102.55

North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove May 12, 2013

On this cold windy day Jack Howard and I had a wonderful visit to the North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove. The Swale (or vernal pool) in the center of the Grove still had some water in it, adding to the Grove’s ancient magic, bestowing an air of sacredness on the Grove. It was magical in the Grove with the cold wind blowing, a sea-like roar in the trees that are leafing out, a vision of Paradise with the great columns of the old Oaks in their massed ranks towering above the green leafy understory. The great old Oaks waved back and forth in the wind like stalks of grain. Royal Ferns coming up by the Swale gave the Grove a primeval feel. This was the best visit to a natural site that Jack and I had when he was here May 8-15 to help me move from my apartment to my temporary home at Candlewood Suites. More trees were measured with the NTS method, using laser rangefinder, clinometer, scientific calculator (sine
method tree heights are in feet):

White Pine in 2nd growth to north by Wells Ave. houses – northernmost of the tall White Pines NW of the Grove - this tree has a wide crown, tree est. 90 years old:

Height 102

In 2nd growth forest north of the old growth Oak Grove, slender White Pine north of 3-trunked Red Oak #39, from Black Gum #34 (in Nov. 2012 measured at 98.1 ft., top not seen then):

Height 103.51

This tree is the southermost of the tall White Pines seen northwest of Oak Grove. Like all the other rather tall White Pines near the Cemetery Oak Grove, this tree is being climbed by a large Poison Ivy vine. This White Pine is very slender, possibly no more than 8” dbh. These White Pines are only about 90 years old, 200 years younger than the neighboring old White Oaks in the Grove.

Red Maple near east edge east of White Oaks #23 and #25 near 26.4” dbh 101.8 ft. Red Oak this Red Maple 19.8” dbh, tree seen prominently from Oakley and Keith Drs., tree measured to 100.13 ft. 12/15/2012, 5/12/2013 measured from Red Oak #18 (west southwest):

Height 101.3

(tallest Red Maple found so far in North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove, first 100 ft. Red Maple found in Cemetery Grove area)

Red Oak, slender just east of White Oak #10, from Red Oak #13:

Height 96.4

Red Maple – next to sinuous 100.8 ft. 12.9” dbh Red Oak by Swale, slender Maple with snag coming out of base, tree possibly over 100 years old:

Height 95.3+

Battered knotty Red Maple in middle of Swale, tree possibly over 100 years old, measured from east:

Height 91.5

Red Oak – slender (16.4” dbh) young-looking just east of White Oak #33 from sinuous 100.8 ft. Red Oak by Swale:

Height 97.3+

Tallest Trees in North Syracuse, NY 2013
(Heights in feet)

Red Oak 117.1 Wizard of Oz Grove tallest Central NY
Red Maple 111.6 Wizard of Oz Grove
White Oak 110.4 Wizard of Oz Grove
White Pine 110+ near Lonergan Park
Black Oak 104.9 Cemetery Grove tallest Central NY
Tuliptree 103 Chestnut St.
Sugar Maple 102 Cemetery (old part)
Cottonwood 99 Wizard of Oz Grove
Norway Spruce 98 behind Baptist Church
Black Cherry 96.5 Wizard of Oz Grove
Silver Maple 95 behind Baptist Church
possible tallest Onondaga County
Black Gum 94.5 Wizard of Oz Grove possible tallest NY State
American Beech 93.2 Wizard of Oz Grove
Sassafras 87.7 near Cemetery Grove tallest Central NY
European Larch 87.5 near Palace Ct.
Scots Pine 86 behind Baptist Church
Purple-leaf Beech 76 Fergerson House
Yellow Birch 75.5 Cemetery Grove
American Chestnut 43.5 Wizard of Oz Grove

Sites:
Wizard of Oz Memorial Oak Grove, North Syracuse
“Cemetery Grove” = North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove
“near Cemetery Grove” = in 2nd growth near old

11
growth grove

All heights measured by either Robert Henry or Tom Howard with sine method used by NTS from 2009-2013.

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Tallest Trees in the 2 Old Growth Forests of North Syracuse:

North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove:

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North Syracuse Rucker 5:

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Green Lakes State Park

Jack Howard and I visited Green Lakes State Park on this cold mostly cloudy day. The chief features of this park are 2 rare meromictic lakes, Green Lake and Round Lake, which are so deeply set (Green Lake to 195 ft. deep, Round Lake to 180 ft. deep) in their forested bowls that the annual turnover that occurs in most lakes does not happen. These lakes contain unique life forms, and are much studied by limnologists. Both lakes have a unique and remarkably beautiful green-blue color, and both lakes have groves of ancient picturesque White Cedars lining their shores. We walked along the very popular trail that goes completely around Green Lake,
through groves of these lovely Cedars. The Cedars are not huge and not very tall (mostly not over 50 ft. tall), but they are gnarled, with crooked trunks and limbs reaching out over and often falling into the lake; branches sprout from submerged trunks.

We saw a Great Blue Heron wading by the shore right near us, but the great bird was scared off by dogs some people were walking. Little wildlife is seen because of the large numbers of dogs being walked. The vast majority of the people walking the dogs (and dog walkers are the majority of hikers) seem to be unaware of the natural beauty they are passing through, and, needless to say, they are totally unaware that they are passing through part of Central New York’s largest old growth forest.

Jack and I went to Green Lakes to get an updated measurement of one of the park’s most charismatic trees, the solitary White Pine that towers high above all other trees at the southern end of Green Lake. I got a good height measurement of the Pine, and then we walked through the beautiful old growth forest along the trail between Green Lake and Round Lake; this forest is dominated by large ancient Sugar Maple and Basswood with some Beech, Tuliptree, and other trees. We did not have time to walk around Round Lake, which is the most beautifully unspoiled lake in Central New York, and which is nearly entirely surrounded by old growth forest. The water of Round Lake is a clearer and lovelier, more ethereal green-blue than the water of Green Lake. To the southwest of Round Lake in the farther reaches of the park is the tallest forest in Central New York, the spectacular Tuliptree Cathedral, where Tuliptree soar to heights over 140 ft. We did not have time to go there on this day.

I did more height measurements with the NTS method, using laser rangefinder, clinometer, scientific calculator (sine method – multiplying distance by sine of angle heights of trees are in feet):

White Pine south end Green Lake Onondaga County champion, 34.1” dbh est. 190 years old from trail to Round Lake:
Height 123.2 as of 5/11/2013 tallest White Pine in Central NY

This is also the largest White Pine in Onondaga County (but not in all Central NY - the biggest is in Holland Patent Cemetery in Oneida County, 112 ft. tall, 57.5” dbh, and open-grown, and seemingly dying) and it is surprising that no White Pine I know of in this big region reaches 125 ft., but Central NY has lost nearly all its tall White Pines.

Sugar Maple by trail from Green Lake to Round Lake:
Height  93.1

Basswood between Green Lake and Round Lake:
Height  100.44

Tuliptree in group of 5 tall Tuliptrees at trail junction NW of Round Lake:
Height  112

Tuliptree 25.9” dbh in same group, tall and straight, deeply ridged bark:
Height  113.15

Age data:
Sugar Maple log cross-section at Deadman’s Point, Green Lake:
208 rings, 9” radius

White Cedar stump at south end of White Cedar stand at Deadman’s Point:
159 rings, 5” intact radius, remaining 3.5” of radius hollow (total radius 8.5”)

A sign at Deadman’s Point says the White Cedars there are over 200 years old, which seems quite likely.

Mud Lock and Long Branch, Onondaga Lake Park
May 14, 2013

Jack Howard and I visited these northern parts of Onondaga Lake Park on this sunny cool beautiful day. Mud Lock is north of Onondaga Lake in a pleasant setting along the Seneca River It is the site of the only original lock of the old Oswego Canal (originally built in 1828 to connect the Erie Canal in
Syracuse with Oswego on Lake Ontario. It is quite picturesque with 4 large open-grown Sycamores (one of them 33” dbh) along what I believe used to be the towpath, and a few planted White Cedars, trees I remember from many childhood outings there. The dominant trees at Mud Lock are Ash trees that do not look very healthy. They are young and not very tall (I measured what I think is the tallest to 85.05 ft.). Across the Seneca River from Mud Lock is Klein Island, which, as far as I know, is not part of Onondaga Lake Park. Klein Island is an idyllic place, with a few water side homes in a forest of mostly Silver Maple, and other swamp hardwoods. By one house a remarkably tall Redbud caught our attention – it reached far over the roof of the house, and, like the other Redbuds in this area, was gloriously in bloom, covered with purplish-red flowers. The contrast of these flowers beneath the much taller sheltering green Maples was spectacularly beautiful. This Redbud is the tallest and largest of its species I have ever seen (I measured it to a height of 39.73 ft. from across the river); it can get so large (for a Redbud this far north) because it is in a sheltered spot at the south end of the island. Also at Mudlock, I measured a large battered (with top broken off) Cottonwood to 45.3” dbh.

We next went to Long Branch, also past the northern end of Onondaga Lake, a place used mainly for special events. Long Branch used to be a shady amusement park over 100 years ago, and was a popular place to cool off under the “long branches” of the park’s famous Chestnut trees. It was a major destination of a trolley line that went along the west shore of Onondaga Lake to a series of popular resorts. Much of Long Branch was devastated by a tornado in Sept. 1912; the tornado destroyed the trolley station, killed 2 people there, and blew down many of the park’s trees (this tornado continued to the southern edge of North Syracuse, killed a store owner there, and destroyed many houses and trees, narrowly missing the old growth Wizard of Oz Oak Grove). Several of Long Branch’s trees survived the tornado, and the amusement park was rebuilt, but this resort (along with the others along Onondaga Lake) went out of business in the Great Depression of the 1930s. Robert Henry and I surveyed Long Branch Park (with “D” tape only) in Apr. 2001, and we found several large White, Red, and Black Oaks about 200 or more years old, survivors of both the original forest and the 1912 tornado – this is why Long Branch is on my Central NY Old Growth List as an open collection of Old Growth Trees. The largest of these Oaks Robert Henry and I saw in 2001 was a single-trunked Red Oak 57.7” dbh with a huge scar down its side and a broken top, damage that could likely have been caused by the 1912 tornado. On our May 2013 visit Jack and I could not find this tree so it is gone. Many of the other old Oaks are still there, and they are old but open-grown not very tall trees. The biggest surprise of Long Branch on this visit was a collection of younger but much, much taller Tuliptrees that Robert Henry and I barely noticed on our 2001 visit. These Tuliptrees are the tallest trees I have ever seen in the northern suburbs of Syracuse.

Height measurements were done by the NTS method, using laser rangefinder, clinometer, scientific calculator (sine method – heights are in feet):

Mud Lock:
Ash (seems to be tallest tree at Mud Lock):
Height 85.05

Redbud on Klein Island from across Seneca River:
Height 39.73 possibly tallest in Central NY

Long Branch:
Big White Oak, 46.3” dbh (in group of 4 large trees – others Red Oak, Black Oak, smaller Sugar Maple):
Height 92.9

Big Black Oak in same group, 48.3” dbh:
Height 86.34 – (this tree has a larger trunk than the great Onondaga County champion Black Oak of the North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove (45.8” dbh, 104.9 ft. tall), but this tree is much smaller than the North Syracuse tree – its trunk tapers more rapidly and it is much shorter)

Young Tuliptree in 2nd growth woods to west, next to another Tuliptree of similar size and height):
Tuliptree in lawn same area, 42” dbh:
Height 114

Young-looking Tuliptree in lawn just east of big Red Oak stump (see Age Data below), 34.2” dbh:
Height 117

Tuliptree in lawn by picnic shelter, 43.7” dbh:
Height 103.7

Huge Cottonwood open-grown in hollow in lawn, solitary single-trunked tree 71” dbh! (18.6 ft. cbh – this should be the largest tree in Onondaga Lake Park):
Height 111.2 - I am not confident that I reached the highest point of the enormous crown of this tree.

Tuliptree in back of park, towering high over much lower Oaks:
Height 125.13 – tallest tree I have ever seen in the northern suburbs of Syracuse, in the northern part of Onondaga County

Slender Tuliptree on knoll near park entrance:
Height 116.41 – since the base of this tree was above my eye level (not below it as in all the other trees I measured this month) I had to subtract H2 from H1 to get the accurate height.

These Tuliptrees at Long Branch form the tallest group of trees I have ever seen in the northern suburbs of Syracuse where I have lived most of my life. There are several other tall Tuliptrees at Long Branch yet to be measured. The Tuliptrees seem to be much younger than the much shorter Oaks; they don’t seem to be much over 100 years old, while the Oaks reach ages greater than 200 years.

Age data:

Red Oak stump 205 rings (inner rings very tight) 1.7 ft. radius

Outside of Green Lakes State Park I know of no trees in Central NY over 125 ft. tall. This area (and much of the rest of Upstate NY outside the Adirondacks) has been thoroughly cut over, and most of the best soil (and tree growth) sites were converted to agriculture long ago, or have been turned into highways, barren housing developments, strip malls. This area is dominated by car culture, and few people around here care much about trees or forests. That being said, there very likely are some people at the Forestry School in nearby Syracuse who would be very interested in knowing about this area’s old growth forests, tallest and oldest trees, and the good work that the Native Trees Society is doing to save these important forests and improve the accuracy of tree measurements.

Tom Howard

Old Cucumber Magnolia? (NY)

by lucager1483 » Sun Jun 02, 2013 10:38 pm

NTS,

As in my recent question about black gum, I'm not too familiar with the appearance of old-growth cucumber magnolia, and I'd like to hear thoughts on whether a particular individual cuke should be considered "old," as well as any possible age estimations. The only examples of old-looking cucumber magnolia I've seen in person are in Cook Forest.

The tree in question is located on the opposite (north) end of Howland's Island from the black gums, though the growing conditions are similar. The soil is fertile and well-drained, and this particular spot seems to be slightly raised, perhaps the site of an old trail or roadbed. Associated tree species include black cherry, ash, soft maples, eastern hemlock, yellow birch, tulip tree, basswood, beech, and bur oak.
among others. Before leaf-out this spring, I had assumed the tree to be a white oak, and that it was planted, being the only one in the vicinity. I was wrong, and other cucumber trees can be found in close proximity, indicating to me that it grew naturally. I'm fairly certain that this isn't the tree Jess Riddle referred to in his max list on the Howland's Island thread [http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=105&t=3337&start=20](http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=105&t=3337&start=20) due to the difference in girth measurements, but he may have seen the tree and can offer an opinion on it. I measured the tree's height to 88.2' and cbh to 79". Below are pictures of the tree in question:
Thanks for the help! I hope everyone is enjoying summer.
Elijah

Re: Old Cucumber Magnolia? (NY)

by edfrank » Sun Jun 02, 2013 11:19 pm

Elijah,

I would be hard pressed to offer an age estimate. The oldest documented tree is the ~436 year old fallen cucumber at Cook Forest. One of the indications of old age is the balding of the bark. The old cucumber tree did not show that characteristic. Better indications might be the thick branches and broken crown high up in the tree. It certainly has that gnarled look. I would go for at least a couple hundred, but it might be much older as I don't think we have enough age data to get a good feel of what old cucumber trees look like.

Ed

Re: Knot Illusions

by F.Jakobsson » Mon Jun 03, 2013 12:45 am

Don Quijote’s head in profile on redwood in Stout Grove
(interpreted by Fredrik)

Don Quijote in Stout Grove
**Re: Knot Illusions**

by F.Jakobsson » Mon Jun 03, 2013 6:19 pm

E.T. (or bulldog) on redwood in Helen Stanford Canfield and Marian Farr Andrews Grove (interpreted by Fredrik)

![Image of E.T. on redwood](image1.jpg)

E.T. in Humboldt

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**Lake Champlain on Days #1 and #2**

by MonicaJakucLeverett » Mon Jun 03, 2013 8:01 pm

Folks,

Monica and I hit the road on Sunday headed for Point Au Roch, north of Plattsburgh, NY for a couple of days before continuing westward. Here are some shots on or near Lake Champlain - one of my favorite spots on the planet.

A ride across a ferry from VT to NY

![Ferry sign](image2.jpg)

NY and the edge of the Adirondacks

Little hitchhiker on the ferry
Looking back across Champlain from NY to VT, two shots

I'll cover the tree discoveries in the next post.

Bob

Prunus americana- little giants

By Will Blozan » Sun Jun 02, 2013 12:11 pm

NTS,

For a brief time each year the presence of the diminutive and elusive American plum is known. The showy flowers indicate where these uncommon trees are growing as they do not boldly present themselves during the rest of the year. In fact, I only have seen these trees in about a half-dozen locations in my 26 years in the area. I am sure there are more but the point is- they are an elusive target.

It has long been my mission to give the “little guys and (gals)” the credit they deserve. So this year I decided after many lost springtime chances to visit the known larger specimens and do an initial documentation of what they can do here in the mountains of western North Carolina.

Two sites caught my interest as having large
specimens; Montreat College’s “In-The-Oaks” campus in Black Mountain, and the Western North Carolina Nature Center in Asheville. After six years of seeing the trees bloom I finally laid the laser on ‘em.

This post will set the bar for the species as I have seen no NTS data posted to date. Before this trip I have but one tree measured; a tree Jess Riddle and I measured 1/31/2006 at the North Carolina Arboretum. I do include two trees Jess Riddle measured at Warren Wilson College below.

So, here are the results of measurements at four sites listed as girth, height, average spread, (max spread).

1) North Carolina Arboretum 1/31/2006

19” X 27’ X 25’ (27.5’)

2) In-The-Oaks Campus 8/12/2012 with Brian BeDuhn

23” X 42.5’
20” X 42.9’
17” X 45.1’
35” X 46’ X 22’


20” X 30.8’
18.5” X 37.4’

4) Western NC Nature Center 9/23/2012 (pictured below)

26” X 40’ X 24’
So, based on this limited sample max dimensions for this little tree are currently known to be:

- Girth 35”
- Height 46’
- Spread 27.5’

I have spotted a very large tree in Fletcher, NC but it is on the side of an interstate and not very enticing to visit. Since I have only seen it once it will have to wait until next spring for relocation and it may be a clump.

Will

**Turkey Oak and ID Question**

by Jenny » Tue Jun 04, 2013 8:11 am

I know the Turkey Oak is not native to North America, but here it is anyway since the spot where the limb hung over The Lake in Central Park was so beautiful.

My question: Is the tree in the third picture a Horse Chestnut? Going to NY Botanical Gardens for native tree MAJOR tree review. There are so many ornamentals in Central Park that I have a hard time with ID, plus I’m even rusty on a lot of the natives.

Thanks, Jenny
Re: Turkey Oak and ID Question

by edfrank » Tue Jun 04, 2013 12:14 pm

Nice photos. Yes the Turkey Oak in Central Park http://www.centralparknyc.org/visit/tree-oak.html is Quercus cerris. This tree’s natural range is eastern Europe to western China. But so that others are not confused, there is a native oak species Quercus laevis that is also called Turkey Oak, or Turkey Foot Oak. I would say the other was horse chestnut, but I have been wrong before.

Ed

Re: European Records in Finland

by KoutaR » Tue Jun 04, 2013 2:33 pm

NTS,

In the message # 1 of this thread, I told about the record common juniper (Juniperus communis). Its height was 16.4 m in 2011.

A juniper, which has probably been still taller, has been found in Hauho, Finland. It was found by Anu Tuominen who stands at the juniper in 2006 in the photo below taken by Jukka Siltanen.

Jukka Lehtonen (with who I measured the 16.4-m juniper in 2011) recently visited the Hauho juniper with Anu and Jukka S. but it had unfortunately been snapped by wind 2-3 years ago.
Anu Tuominen and the juniper snag in 2013. Photo by Jukka Lehtonen.

They measured the trunk length as 17.65 m. From the trunk length, and taking into account the leaning angle, which was estimated from photos, it can be estimated that the juniper has perhaps been about 17 m (56 ft) tall. The girth is 78 cm.

Kouta

http://baumzaehlen.de

Subjective view of the Sequoia old-growth

by AndrewJoslin » Mon Jun 03, 2013 4:59 pm

I recently finished editing a montage of video and photographs from a visit to the Sierra National Forest in April 2010. The purpose of the video is to communicate a subjective sensory/emotional view of the Sierra Nevada old-growth, enjoy:

https://vimeo.com/66697211

-AJ

Re: Subjective view of the Sequoia old-growth

by AndrewJoslin » Tue Jun 04, 2013 1:15 pm

Joe wrote:Andrew, I enjoyed your video very much. Could you give us a little info about your video method? Which camera? What editing software? (I like the split screen effect) I see at the end a mention of Creative Commons License to use the music. How do you find music with that?

Joe

Thanks Joe! For shooting video I use whatever camera I have at hand, for the Sequoia Expedition video I used a Sony HD Handycam hand-held. More
recently I've added a Contour HD helmet cam to my gear collection and I also shoot with my iPhone which makes surprisingly excellent video.

To edit I use Adobe Premiere Elements (the non-pro/home version of Adobe Premiere). I create the split screen effect manually in Premiere by layering the photos over the video clips or over each other. The video editor (like most video editors) allows you to create multiple tracks with photos and video clips on each track. A track also contains the sound portion of the video or additional sound clips can be added in.

You manage the tracks in a "timeline" view which visualizes all the tracks, their objects (video/sound/photos). For each video clip, sound clip or photo you can create transition effects to fade from one to the other.

For this video I used music from the Free Music Archive. You can search the archive to find music that fits your video. For any track that you find on the sight there is licensing info. For well-known artists use is highly restricted, you need to pay for the right to use the music in a video. Other artists allow use under various flavors of "Creative Commons" license, the details of which are specified with any track you wish to download. For example the music I downloaded can be be used free in non-commercial projects, there are certain conditions such as the video maker must include specified links to the Free Music Archive and to other artist info.

Here's a screen capture showing the timeline view in my video editor for the Sequoia Expedition, very complex, labor intensive. I'm a patient person so I can bear to do this kind of thing ;-) It can be frustrating learning to use these editors but if you stick with it the process becomes easier over time. This is very complex because of all the cross-fading and layering I'm doing between video and photos as well as manipulating the music clips I'm using.

Video editing can be waaaay less complex than what's above, it's a worse case scenario for editing hell ;-)  
-AJ
Re: Subjective view of the Sequoia old-growth

by AndrewJoslin » Tue Jun 04, 2013 5:46 pm

Joe wrote: Andrew, thanks for the tip. I've been using MS Movie Maker, an elementary video editor but it's time to move up. I think I'll also buy a "steadcam" type support thing for my Canon HV20 camcorder so I can walk through a forest and get a smooth video without the up and down from walking. I'll check out the "free music archive".

Joe

Huge challenge to get a smooth shot while walking. That's why pros set up all kinds of crazy track systems to move the cameras mechanically. One way I deal with that on a budget is to shoot both walking and stationary camera footage of a particular scene. For example setting a camera on a tripod (or a rock) and walking past it. Or shoot someone else walking past the camera. Then shoot again holding the camera while walking. In the video editor you can intersperse the two clips to create an authentic feel of walking and being in that particular location.

-AJ

Back Yard Pine

by Bosque » Thu May 30, 2013 2:12 pm

The challenge called for courage
The first dare I ever recall
To climb a tree so tall
Like a bet I couldn't hedge.

Little brother and his friend
Atop the big white pine
Taunted, "Come up!" Could I decline?
On this my status would depend.

This is another Beginning Creative Writing class poem I wrote years ago. Some of the rhymes are a stretch, and it's kind of simple minded, but I like to think that it goes from superficial competition/status stuff to a more important finding of courage and love of nature. I was "extremely shy" in school (as my third grade report card said) but all-out joyful at home in the outdoors.

Re: Back Yard Pine

by Jenny » Tue Jun 04, 2013 9:34 am

Very evocative. Brought back memories of climbing pines when I was a kid. I wish I could still do it. Feel so old....

Jenny
Re: Back Yard Pine

by Bosque » Tue Jun 04, 2013 11:00 pm

Jenny,

I started seeing a physical therapist occasionally ten years ago. She asked me what my goals were. The first one I gave her was to be able to climb trees again and she understood totally. I haven't been able to do it yet, but I haven't given up either. The sixth story in Robert Fulghum's It Was on Fire When I Lay Down on It tells about the time he started to climb a tree in a city park and heard “Young man, this tree is occupied.” A white-haired woman was high up in the tree and told him ‘Find your own tree’ -- friendly but quite firmly.’ He later learned from a park worker that she was about 65 and was often in the trees. I'll leave the rest for you to read.

Don't give up!

Carol

Re: Ray Asselin - Intro

by dbhguru » Tue Jun 04, 2013 8:57 am

Larry,

Ray and I go a long way back. Check out his website. Ray is an excellent photographer, as you've seen and hopefully will see. But don't let him kid you, he's still not paper trained. That's why we have to take him for those walks in the woods. Heel, Ray, heel.

Robert T. Leverett

Ray Asselin - Intro

by RayA » Mon Jun 03, 2013 11:05 am

Hello to everyone,

I've neglected introducing myself for a while now since joining, but Bob Leverett just went and posted some photos I took while on a hike with him in Bryant Woods (MA), thereby forcing me out of hiding. I first started worshipping, er, exploring old forests with Bob in the late '80's or so, when we were both still puppies. Bob's now an old dog, and I'm still not paper trained (hee hee hee). But I've learned a lot from him, and still am (for instance, I never thought to order two different ice cream flavors in the same cone... genius!).

At any rate, I'm now a retired database software techie from Dow Jones, and spend most of my time woodturning (bowls, vases, keepsake boxes, and the like). For me, as in the search for big, old trees, one of the most interesting aspects of woodturning is the hunt for new wood species I haven't worked yet.

Although I'm a consumer of wood, I want to see much more of our forest lands left intact to become old growth. That may or may not happen, but my experience has been that when people see what we do have (here in Mass) for old forests, they're simply enchanted with the experience, and become supporters.

Ok, enough from me (you read this far??). The rain's letting up, and there's woods to go see ......

Ray Asselin

http://www.Bowlwood.com
Re: Ray Asselin - Intro

by Larry Tucei » Tue Jun 04, 2013 1:19 pm

Wow really good woodturning. The finished products from the different types of wood are outstanding! I like the Cedar lamp with the leaf on the Lampshade. Ray- The patterns and colors are fantastic. Larry

Re: Ray Asselin - Intro

by michael gatonska » Wed Jun 05, 2013 9:21 am

Ray,
Your vase, bowls, and vessel turnings are really amazing - each piece is so distinct and those distinctions you really bring out in each piece - beautiful craftsmanship.

Michael

Sonorities: white pine & red pine...

by michael gatonska » Fri May 31, 2013 7:07 pm

Dear NTS:

Both of these recordings where made on the same day, and in the Meshomasic State Forest in Connecticut - and at two different sites inside the park. Wind conditions remained consistent during both recording time periods.

The first sound sample heard is of the white pine. The second sound sample heard is of the red pine. The sonic difference is quite marked, and here is an exchange that I have had with a soundscape artist from the UK since posting the soundscape:

Field Recordist

Red Pine wins hands down - that's a lovely 'warm' sound. You had good audio reach into the top of those trees - were you using a 'dish' for these?

EcoEarSoundscapes

Hello - yes, for this recording I was using a dish that was approximately 16” in diameter and 3” in depth. That would just over 40.6 cm in diameter, and approximately 7.6cm in depth. Maybe not the best choice of dish in this case ( I could have used a deeper one), but I got the result I was trying to achieve.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=WmRJF6bFBi0

Any thoughts?
Michael Gatonska

Re: Sonorities: white pine & red pine...

by dbhguru » Fri May 31, 2013 8:38 pm

Michael, Wow! No trouble differentiating between the two. I was surprised at the difference. I wonder what creates that coarser sound of the red pine.

Robert T. Leverett
Re: Sonorities: white pine & red pine...

by Joe » Sat Jun 01, 2013 6:38 am

Michael, very nice- I had no idea. Have you thought of adding video to the sound?
Joe

Re: Sonorities: white pine & red pine...

by michael gatonska » Mon Jun 03, 2013 7:29 am

Bob and Joe,

I am not sure why the sound of the needle trees that I have recorded all have different sonic characteristics. In the case if the white and red pines, I was considering the actual physical differences of the two trees, and how those differences may play a role into why the sound qualities of the two differ. For example, the white pine has limbs that are horizontal, and its limbs and foliage seem to sway and move freely and with relative ease in the wind. In contrast, the red pine, with its limbs that are kind of like at right angles, seem to give more resistance to wind conditions. This resistance may contribute to a set of complex partials that have a lower, or more suppressed quality of sound as opposed to the white pine song quality. Also, the red pine needles are kind of stiff, which makes a different kind of "tuning fork" than the relatively flexible white pine needles.

Only speculating here!

When I first started recording soundscapes, I tried to demonstrate how the movement of limbs may be a factor in the quality of sound that each needle tree produced. I started making some videos, but I don't have any professional video or video editing equipment. As a result, I felt the video quality was pretty lousy, so I stopped making them.

Here is a video of a hemlock, and the quality is poor -

I have a Canon Power Shot 110.

Re: Sonorities: white pine & red pine...


Michael Gatonska

Re: Sonorities: white pine & red pine...

by Joe » Mon Jun 03, 2013 7:55 am

Michael, I like the video- I get more out of the sound with the video, even if it's not professional quality. As long as it's on a tripod and the lighting is good, it should serve the purpose.

Joe

Re: Sonorities: white pine & red pine...

by michael gatonska » Mon Jun 03, 2013 7:59 pm

Thanks Joe, I really appreciate your input. I believe that video can play an important role in determining why one tree from the next will sound different, and I understand your point - perhaps I should re-continue to make the videos. Some of my friends who are into
nature photography are using a GoPro- just wondered if you had any thoughts on the quality of those cameras...they are not too expensive, and they would be very easy for me to carry into the woods on a hike - they have so many options so I wanted to ask if you had any thoughts or suggestions on that front?

Michael Gatonska

Re: Sonorities: white pine & red pine...

by Will Blozan » Mon Jun 03, 2013 8:55 pm

I'm really into video but haven't had the time or money to persue this hobby. If I could afford to retire and buy some really good equipment, I think I could develop a fair talent at it. My ultimate fantasy would be to do Imax type video in forests- recording NTS people hunting for big trees- AND- forestry work including harvesting. Good digital photography of big trees is fine, but imagine seeing them at an Imax theatre! Or, one of your sound recordings and the image of the tree(s).

Joe

Re: Sonorities: white pine & red pine...

by michael gatonska » Wed Jun 05, 2013 6:32 am

Will, looks like you had some nice gusts up there in that pine... did you use a GoPro for this?

Joe, thanks for your thoughts on the GoPro. The Imax video and your idea of the forest would be really awesome - the CT Science Center has a pretty neat 3D theater with a really awesome audio set-up. The science center is kind of hokey (not at all like the one in Boston), but when I am in that theater I always think 'what the forest and big trees look like in a format like 3D?'
Re: Sonorities: white pine & red pine...

by Joe » Wed Jun 05, 2013 6:40 am

Michael, I've thought of buying a 3D camera - though I'm not sure if there is a convenient way to view the imagery. Somebody would have to make a digital viewer, so that you could upload the 3D images to the viewer via a USB cable.

We all enjoyed those toy 3D viewers as children - now we just need to modernize that item - and get out there in the forest and get the images - and of course, the modern version of the camera might also include a sound track?

Re: Sonorities: white pine & red pine...

by Andrew Joslin » Thu Jun 06, 2013 10:48 am

I believe the long thin flexible needle of the white pine makes all the difference, I love the soft whooshing sound of white pine in wind, nothing like it.

Then again there's Will's Ice Glen video, the other end of the wind equation, whoaaaaaaa!!!! That's a hard gust, no way to describe how that feels without experiencing it. Something about "giving it all up to a higher power" comes to mind.

-AJ

Re: Sonorities: white pine & red pine...

by Michael Gatonska » Wed Jun 05, 2013 10:10 am

Joe,

Definitely with a soundtrack. In my opinion, definitely not with music - or the instrumental music that is so often used in nature film/videos.

For example, for video why not use sound the way sound is used in sound installations?

Does orchestral music capture the sound of wildlife? There are no bassoons in the Serengeti, but documentary-makers are reluctant to let us listen to the sound of… nature


Here is an article with Chris Watson, who has spent a lot of time in getting filmmakers to incorporate 'the sound of a place' rather than orchestral music;

http://thequietus.com/articles/11222-chris-watson-interview-sound-recording-cabaret-voltaire

2nd Growth Coast Redwood Climb video

by Andrew Joslin » Tue Jun 04, 2013 1:50 pm

This is very detailed documentation of tree climbing process. This climb happened April 2013, it was my first climb on Coast Redwood, intentionally choosing 2nd-growth to climb on. Climbing old-growth redwood is most likely illegal since most are in highly protected groves. Not that I wouldn't pass up a legitimate legal opportunity.

I used a helmet cam and an iPhone to capture the video. The climb was dedicated to my younger sister Dorothy who had visited that particular site with me in years past and who passed away a year ago April.

Typical for solo climbing, especially on a wild tree, and a new species for me, I do a lot of talking to myself as part of the climbing. I also try to provide some verbal info for the benefit of the viewer.

At one point during the climb I felt the entire tree shake from the roots up, very interesting! I guess it could have been a small earthquake but it was quick
and didn't have the lingering quality of an earthquake tremor. There was no wind movement. Mysteries abound out in the woods and trees.

Climbing a small redwood (80' or so tree) to access a larger tree
Part 1  https://vimeo.com/62000188

Working up the through the crown of the larger tree
Part 2  https://vimeo.com/61998176

Going to the top
Part 3  https://vimeo.com/61989724

I didn't measure the tree but based on my rope length this redwood was probably in the 210' range.
-AJ

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**Re: 2nd Growth Coast Redwood Climb video**

by **Don** » Tue Jun 04, 2013 3:28 pm

AJ

Having climbed rocks that didn't need ropes, it's not surprising that I have climbed trees without them...not that that is a sign of any degree of intelligence, I just had no training in rope work. Probably the tallest trees I ever climbed were in Humboldt County, on the Humboldt campus, near Founders Hall. A row of spruces perhaps in the 120' plus range enticed us one windy pre-storm day. We could from the ground pretty much visualize the climb, with pretty much stair step limbs most of the way up. We managed to get pretty far up, before encountering a gap in the "stair step branching". The trees were swaying in the increasing winds and that kind of diminished any courageous attempts to go further. Staying put, we enjoyed our high up lair and its view of the campus and the rest of the town of Arcata.

I noticed that you seem to have climbed alone...do you recommend that? It's clear that you practice safe climbing, double roping (always with a backup loop in place), but...

*Don Bertolette*

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by **AndrewJoslin** » Tue Jun 04, 2013 5:37 pm

There's no joy like free climbing Don. Free climbing can be VERY demanding physically depending on the tree. However using rope and harnesses opens up a lot of options, and it's very sustainable physically for spending hours if not days in trees.

Solo climbing...

In the professional arborist world it is verboten to work solo. If a climber injures themselves while working there is no one to call for help or to help directly. My climbing comes from a passion for being in the forest, not from the requirement to work in trees. I do enjoy doing tree work now and then but that's a completely different climbing activity. For any activity, whether it's walking a mountain trail, or swimming in a river there is an assessment of conditions and a calculation of risk. I enjoy being with other climbers I learned climbing in the woods mostly solo and have been doing so for plus 7 years. If I depended on having other climbers around I would not be a climber. Everything I do to prepare for climbing and during the climb is thought through very carefully. I love life and am actually not much of a risk taker. I just read an apt quote by the famous Swiss alpinist Ueli Steck. He's well known for doing incredible solo ascents on near vertical ice walls with no rope backup, only an ice axe and crampons. Here's what he says about that (in part): "...I wouldn't do it if I was afraid of it. I'm not an adrenaline junkie. I'm really Swiss, calculating". This rings true. There are many activities that appear to be incredibly risky when in fact the practitioner is highly skilled and has
correctly assessed the risk and performs the activity within their skill level. I think that's key to successful solo tree climbing, to know yourself and to honestly understand your physical, mental and skill limits. I've certainly had to work through fear and still do in my climbing. I have a natural fear of heights. The process of overcoming fear is part of what draws me to it, that and the sense of adventure upon approach to a tall tree unknowable from the ground is deeply irresistible to me.

-AJ

**Re: 2nd Growth Coast Redwood Climb video**

دبّ by Rand » Tue Jun 04, 2013 10:09 pm

*Don wrote:* AJ

It's clear that you practice safe climbing, double roping (always with a backup loop in place), but...

-Don

Reminds me of the hair raising account of Steve Silette's first redwood climb as told in the 'Wild Trees' - with no safety equipment whatsoever. He and one of his buddies went ~ 70' up a small tree like andrew and then jumped the gap over to the larger tree and grabbed one of its epicormic branches. If that didn't sound dangerous enough they then 'rock climbed' up the fissured bark before reaching the next branch. To top it all off, Steve's buddy disturbed a hornet's nest on the way back down and got the ever-livin crap stung out of him before he could jump back over to the small tree and escape. Now that's willpower for you.

**Tulip Tree**

دبّ by Jenny » Wed May 29, 2013 8:19 am

The last of the flowers on a tulip tree. Upper Lobe of The Lake Central Park (near the Sweet Gum).

-Jenny
**Bryant through Ray Asselin's eyes**

by **dbhguru** » Fri May 24, 2013 7:05 pm

NTS,

I'll let the images speak for themselves.

Black cherry. DBH = 9.1 feet, height about 97 feet.
The 162.2-foot Bryant Pine

Weird dude we encountered in the forest.
Same weird dude. After encountering him the second time, we got the heck out of there.

Is this a class-act forest or not?

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Bryant through Ray Asselin's eyes

Re: Bryant through Ray Asselin's eyes

Re: Bryant through Ray Asselin's eyes

Re: Bryant through Ray Asselin's eyes

http://www.timberturner.blogspot.com

Ray Asselin

Re: Bryant through Ray Asselin's eyes

Joe » Sat May 25, 2013 6:37 am

Bob, years ago, you used to offer periodic hikes and lots of people would show up. Either you don't do that anymore or I'm not aware of it - but I would like to see Bryant one of these days. I know you go there often so I suppose I could join you, but it seems so wonderful, perhaps a group event? Invite state officials who ought to be aware of such places?

Joe

PS: a black cherry with a DBH of 9 feet? I GOTTA see that!

Re: Bryant through Ray Asselin's eyes

by RayA » Tue Jun 04, 2013 10:00 pm

The photos Bob posted in this thread are:
1 - dead Beech with Pileated woodpecker excavation
2 - Yellow Birch growing on a windthrow root mound
3 - the impressive Black Cherry
4 - Bigtooth Aspen trunk
5-9 - White Pines

I posted an article today on my blog about Mass. old growth forests, with more Bryant photos (with 4 exceptions). Hope it's ok to post its link here

http://www.timberturner.blogspot.com

Ray Asselin

Re: Bryant through Ray Asselin's eyes

by Joe » Sat May 25, 2013 6:37 am

Bob, years ago, you used to offer periodic hikes and lots of people would show up. Either you don't do that anymore or I'm not aware of it - but I would like to see Bryant one of these days. I know you go there often so I suppose I could join you, but it seems so wonderful, perhaps a group event? Invite state officials who ought to be aware of such places?

Joe

PS: a black cherry with a DBH of 9 feet? I GOTTA see that!

Re: Bryant through Ray Asselin's eyes

by RayA » Mon Jun 03, 2013 10:33 am

Hi Joe,

That Black Cherry is stunning... my jaw dropped when Bob showed it to me. We were on the last part of our loop through Bryant (my first time there), and Bob said "Now I want you to look at the ground until I tell you to look up". A few yards farther along, he said, "ok, look up... this is the cherry's cherry tree!". He was right. It's pretty impressive.

When i figure out how to post images, I'll add some.

Ray Asselin
More haiku attempts

by Bosque » Fri Jun 07, 2013 3:02 pm

Ephemerals and the Vernal (nitrogen) Dam

Spring flowers live fast
Saving nitrogen in earth
For tree seeds to come

Different Family Strategies

Red oak acorns wait
the winter out for sprouting
while white acorns grow.

Smart Squirrels

Sweet white oak acorns
with tips bitten off just right
will last much longer.

Native American Oak Knowledge

Pioneers plowing
Found creekside caches placed
For rinsing tannins.

Life in Paradise

by dbhguru » Sat Jun 08, 2013 7:50 am

Hi Folks,

Monica and I are in Paradise, MI. Here are some shots along Lake Superior. Notice the pollen in the water in two shots. Sand Hill Cranes are way cool.
Re: Samuel P Taylor State Park, CA

by yofoghorn » Sat Jun 08, 2013 12:16 pm

SPT has some taller trees, no virgin forest in there to my knowledge but a few scattered old growth trees. There's also a one-of-a-kind albino redwood in the area. Roy's Redwoods has some nice trees, and Muir Woods tends to have younger old growth trees. They tend to fall as young trees as well. This is why I think Muir Woods doesn't get too tall: the soil is a little bit lose and not well packed. But this is all speculation.
**Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Arbutus (Madrone)**

*by Matt Markworth* » Sat Jun 08, 2013 9:00 pm

Hi All,

Here's another Genus of the Week: Arbutus

Zane,

Your 135.4’ Arbutus menziesii find is incredible! Please reply with any other measurement details that you’d like to have included on the Maximums List. Here is Zane's original post if anyone missed it: http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=69&t=4601

Here's a sampling of Arbutus that can be submitted:

- Arbutus arizonica, Arizona Madrone
- Arbutus menziesii, Pacific Madrone
- Arbutus xalapensis, Texas Madrone

**An excerpt from Jess's MaxList:**

**An excerpt from the TALLEST EXAMPLES OF EASTERN NATIVE TREE SPECIES List, February 2004:**

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/bigtree/webpage_tall_tree_list.htm

**Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Aralia (Spikenard)**

*by Will Blozan* » Sat Jun 08, 2013 9:30 pm

Matt,

It was first measured via cross-triangulation then verified to the same height with Bushnell Lytespeed 400 laser and Suunto clinometer. I have not since been able to relocate the tree. A much larger and perhaps taller one had just fallen when I found this tree in a small "grove".

Will

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**Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Aralia (Spikenard)**

*by Matt Markworth* » Sat Jun 08, 2013 8:25 pm

Hi All,

Here's another Genus of the Week: Aralia

Will,

The 74.2’ Aralia spinosa you measured in April 1996 is a giant! For the spreadsheet, what should I put for the method of height measurement?
Genetic engineering

by Bosque » Wed May 29, 2013 2:17 pm

Does anyone have time to educate me about genetic engineering and trees? ArborGen, a South Carolina company, is hoping to sell "millions of genetically engineered eucalyptus trees for planting in the South" (Asheville Citizen-Times, May 29, 2013, p.B1). The International Union of Forest Research Organization Tree Biotechnology 2013 Conference is being held this week in Asheville, N.C. through Saturday. It's theme is Forest Biotechnology: Meeting the Needs of a Changing World. Two hundred people protested outside the conference for three hours. One thousand people in Asheville also recently joined the Monsanto protest last Sunday. I am definitely against what Monsanto is doing in the world, but I don't have enough facts about tree engineering. Is it true that only wild trees of the same species would be affected in their pollination by the genetically engineered trees? (sorry, I can't remember the scientific term for this). Would allowing this genetic modification set a dangerous precedent for other species? How dangerous is this practice for diversity?

Thank you in advance for your time.

Re: Genetic engineering

by edfrank » Thu Jun 06, 2013 9:45 pm

Genetically Engineered Trees
http://www.sierraclub.org/biotech/naples.aspx

Genetic engineering of food crops has been a stealth technology, introduced with little public debate and arriving on grocery shelves unlabeled. Now another application of genetically engineered (GE) agriculture is sneaking up on us - the production of transgenic trees by paper and lumber companies. The possibility that the new genes spliced into GE trees will interfere with natural forests isn't a hypothetical risk but a certainty. During our lives, genetic engineering may do as much damage to forests and wildlife habitat as chain saws and sprawl.

The GM tree plantations bred to satisfy the world's energy needs
http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/nov/15/gm-trees-bred-world-energy

FuturaGene has spent 11 years trialling thousands of GM eucalyptus and poplar trees on 100-hectare plots in Israel, China and outside São Paulo in Brazil, and is now at the last stages of the Brazilian regulatory process for commercial planting. Thanks to a gene taken from the common, fast-growing Arabidopsis weed, the company has found a way to alter the structure of plant cell walls to stimulate the natural growth process. The company says its modified eucalyptus trees can grow 5 metres (16ft) a year, with 20%-30% more mass than a normal eucalyptus. In just five and a half years they are 27 metres high.


In 2003, the Pentagon even awarded Colorado State researchers $500,000 to develop pine trees that change color when exposed to biological or chemical attack. However, critics argue that not enough is known about designer trees' effect on their natural surroundings — they could spread their genes to natural trees or increase wildfire risk, among other drawbacks. Still, the USDA in June gave approval for ArborGen, a biotechnology company, to begin field trials for 250,000 trees in seven southern states.

Genetically Modified Tree Ban Urged at UN Convention on Biodiversity

GM Earth: Genetically Modified Trees on The Horizon
There is no question that the genetically modified foods infiltrating our food supply are causing negative health effects and compromising the quality of the ecosystem. Numerous studies reveal how genetically modified crops are leading to issues like pesticide-resistant superweeds, superbugs, and even cancerous tumors when consumption is involved. But the genetic modification we’re working so hard to prevent goes beyond the food supply; even trees are being genetically engineered, and some experts say that these genetically modified trees are even more environmentally-damaging than GM foods.

Genetically engineered trees and the lifeless forest
https://www.lifeinthemix.info/2013/04/genetically-engineered-trees-lifeless-forest/
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w437uQf_A7c

This is a selection - almost all of the publicity is negative, but often public opinion does not reflect reality. The big problem is that the trees live such a long time we can't adequately model the long term effects on other trees or the environment.

Ed

Re: Genetic engineering

by Don » Fri Jun 07, 2013 12:00 am

My own take falls somewhere between. Fear of the unknown is not necessarily a good or bad thing, but it is real. Not enough to NOT investigate how the GenMods will impact their environment. Where would we be had not Mendel looked into what became genetics, Darwin not looked into evolution and the role of genetic mutations in the survival of the fittest, Burbank not looking into hybridization. I just ate a juicy sweet tart nectarine that would not likely have evolved on it's own.

But not performing enough research on what a GenMod might effect, is akin to introducing 'alien invaders', and we do know how invasive species are affecting our environment. The biggest negative though is the role of corporate America has taken in introducing GenMods on the sly, without adequate research, or seemingly without concern for their consumers. That's criminal...we have no more control over the corporations than we do substandard imports from China.

Don Bertolette

Hello from NC

by muttly » Mon Jun 10, 2013 12:28 pm

My name is Ken and I live within site of Table Rock and Hawskbill Mountains in NC. I grew up in SW Georgia and have lived in Northern NY, N. Florida, and Northern Arizona. I have worked in the past as a contract wildland firefighter and volunteer wilderness ranger for the USFS. I am a veteran of the USAF and have two little girls, ages 11 and 8. I have spent most of my spare time in the woods, literally. It has been in the last few years, however, that I have taken a more acute sense of the forests, their make-up, character, communities and so forth. Teaching my children to appreciate what so many in this country take for granted is one of my highest priorities. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this community.
Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, CO

by Don » Fri Jun 07, 2013 11:25 pm

May 28, 2013

Back in the early 1970's, I was travelling from California to Michigan for the summer. Enroute, I stopped in at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, near the Rocky Mountain Crest, some 30 miles west of Colorado Springs. In addition to classic 'pages' of leaf and insect fossils nearly unrivaled elsewhere, this young forester was very impressed by the huge redwood stump fossils there, at something near 10,000' feet in elevation. Quite some change, from nearly sea bed growing conditions! Of course there was a bit of geologic time involved.

From the National Park webpage:

Beneath a grassy mountain valley in central Colorado lies one of the richest and most diverse fossil deposits in the world. Petrified redwood stumps up to 14 feet wide and thousands of detailed fossils of insects and plants reveal the story of a very different, prehistoric Colorado.

Don Bertolette

Re: Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, CO

by edfrank » Fri Jun 07, 2013 11:40 pm

https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgr ...
FSRZFCOAJ

[09/08/2009]

WNTS/ENTS-
I am soon to visit Colorado for a few days, and thought I'd research locations appropriate for someone carrying a Nikon 550, clinometer, and D-tape.
Imagine my surprise when visiting Colorado's big tree registry, that I noted a Sequoia sempervirens (in itself amazing), with the following dimensions:

Redwood  Sequoia sempervirens DBH 131.90"  
CBH 414.17"  Florissant, Colorado

I should hasten to add, this specimen is a fossil, found at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, at near 10,000' elevation!

-Don

----------------------------------------------------------------

Don,

Florissant Fossil Beds  
http://www.nps.gov/flfo/index.htm is a neat place I always meant to visit. What is most important about the site is the presence of many insect and spider fossils that are usually not preserved in the rocks there.
This is the Big Stump. The most common kind of "petrified stump" found at Florissant Fossil Beds is the redwood Sequoiadendron giganteum, such as "Big Stump" pictured at left. When you visit the park, look for two saw blades embedded into Big Stump; before Florissant was a National Monument, someone tried to cut Big Stump into pieces by using saws! Needless to say, the effort was for the most part, fruitless, and the saw blades are still stuck in Big Stump to this day!

This is a fossil set called the Trio. This "family circle" of fossilized stumps grew out of the single trunk of an older parent tree. The tree trunks are ancient clones, or genetically identical copies, of that parent tree. Modern coastal redwoods also reproduce by stump sprouting. If a redwood is toppled or burned, a ring of new trees often sprouts from burls (roots that stick out of the ground) around the trunk's base. In the coastal redwood forests, family groups are common. But this trio of stone stumps is unique in the world's fossil record!

http://www.nps.gov/archive/flfo/online...

Ed Frank

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Ed-

In 1971, as a young man pursuing his destiny, I struck out for Michigan for a summer and fall job...I chose the highway that crossed Monarch Pass, just because it was over 10,000' (I should add that I was driving a new Triumph Spitfire and sought out mountain roads). One of the side benefits was that Florissant Fossil Beds NM was along that route, which a duly stopped and visited at some length. Of course I remember it best for the redwood stumps (I'd had two years of forestry classes by then), but FLFO was actually best known for their 'bookmark' fossil collection...named for the way the shale would 'open' up on 'pages' where a wide variety of plants, and as you point out, insects, etc. would be found. What a treat for a budding naturalist!

-Don

Re: Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, CO

by edfrank » Fri Jun 07, 2013 11:44 pm

Fossil flora and stratigraphy of the Florissant Formation, Colorado

Oct. 1, 2001


http://www.dmns.org/science/museum-scientists/proceedings

http://www.dmns.org/media/376970/series4-1red-1.pdf [pg 1-69]
http://www.dmns.org/media/376973/series4-1red-2.pdf [pg 70-135]
http://www.dmns.org/media/376976/series4-1red-3.pdf [pg 136-216]
Re: Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, CO

by edfrank » Fri Jun 07, 2013 11:52 pm

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument - National Park Service
http://www.nps.gov/flfo/index.htm

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florissant_Fossil_Beds_National_Monument

The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds
http://www.fossilbeds.org/

Re: Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, CO

by bbeduhn » Mon Jun 10, 2013 9:16 am

I had no idea such a place existed. The only fossilized redwood tree I've seen is a standing one in Yellowstone.

Re: The sequoia with the greatest ground perimeter - 155 feet

by M.W.Taylor » Tue Jun 11, 2013 8:23 pm

Fredrik,

I was a contractor for Archangel during this time and part of the effort to get Waterfall Tree cloned. I delivered the cuttings via ice chest to their nursery. I have a clone growing at my house of Waterfall. Archangel also cloned nearby Stagg Tree. In Alder Creek Grove also grows the only known wild weeping sequoia. These 2 giant sequoia were the first ancient giant sequoias to be cloned from a cutting. Prior to this it had not been officially documented although I successfully rooted a 1400 year old giant sequoia from a 1" thick branch the year before.

Michael Taylor
first officially cloned ancient giant sequoia

20’ dbh+ waterfall tree. Base root flare perimeter goes downhill to the creek.

Re: The sequoia with the greatest ground perimeter - 155 fee

by F.Jakobsson » Tue Jun 11, 2013 9:19 pm

Thanks Michael for providing great photos and interesting information surrounding the Archangel giant sequoia clonings!

By the way, do you happen to know if Archangel originated the name Waterfall tree?

Fredrik
European crab apple

by KoutaR » Thu Jun 13, 2013 6:53 pm

NTS,

European crab apple (Malus sylvestris) is the only Malus species native to Central Europe. It is very similar to the cultivated apple (Malus domestica) but has much smaller fruits, almost hairless leaves and thorny twigs. It has become a rarity due to habitat clearing and enormous hybridization pressure by the cultivated apple, which (along with hybrids) is now more common in European nature than the crab apple. The role of M. sylvestris in the composition of the cultivated apple has been controversial; according to the latest studies, the main ancestor is Asian M. sieversii, but M. sylvestris has had influence on the apple genome, as well.

Normally M. sylvestris is a shrub or a small tree up to 10 m tall. Foresters in Brandenburg, Germany, measured a 19.7 m tall specimen in Brieselang, west of Berlin. They used TruPulse and the 3-point routine, so my friend Christoph and I decided to check it with Nikon Laser 550A S. The tree is surrounded by beeches (Fagus sylvatica) and hornbeams (Carpinus betulus), which has certainly forced it to grow tall. The first shot already showed the foresters had under-measured it. The tree has an irregular crown not directly above the base, partly hidden behind beech and hornbeam. How can you guess, which one of the twigs is the highest without testing them all with a laser? From one direction I found two tops 20.8 m tall, and from another direction one still higher, 21.4 m (70.2 ft).

The other trees are beeches and hornbeams. In the background also Norway spruces (Picea abies). The arrow shows the highest twig.

Together with a 21.4-m M. domestica in France (http://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/fra/m ... grosswald/), this is the tallest Malus of Europe we are aware of.

Thanks to Karlheinz for contacting the Brandenburg forestry office!

Kouta

http://baumzaehlen.de
Re: European crab apple

by Jeroen Philippona » Fri Jun 14, 2013 6:18 am

Kouta,

You and Karlheinz are finding nice new records, in part because there are so few reliable heightmeasurers in Europe, except for the Netherlands, where Leo Goudzwaard, Nardo Kaandorp and I searched a lot since 2009 and which is small, with less good conditions for trees to grow tall compared to parts of Germany, France and more middle European countries.

There will not be many crab apples as tall! Do you know when the foresters measured the tree? Could it have grown in height since their measurement?

I send here the latest version of the European height record list, with the country records as well.

List treeheights-Europe-country-records-laser14-06-2013.xls

List of European country height records of trees

Native species in black, exotics in red. A few old, reliable records measured at fallen trees in blue. This list is, as Kouta knows, not complete. We have more species at the Monumental Trees website. It could be copied also to another topic concerning European height records.

Jeroen

Re: European crab apple

by Will Blozan » Fri Jun 14, 2013 8:16 am

Kouta,

Another excellent report and on a species that would likely not get any recognition! On even moderate sized trees I find that if an assistant can kick or shake the tree that really helps to isolate the tops. It is amazing how large of a tree can be moved by one person!

Will

Re: European crab apple

by KoutaR » Fri Jun 14, 2013 1:05 pm

The tree was measured by foresters this year. I agree that the flood of new Europe records is in large part a result of the infancy of sine-measuring in Europe. Eastern NA was in this point perhaps at least 10 years ago.

The kicking method I have still to test.

Kouta

http://baumzaehlen.de
The Gully

by Bosque » Sun Jun 02, 2013 11:48 pm

The Gully

As a child I felt no strong desire to go to Disneyland. We had something much better just a short walk away. Usually we ran. It started with a slide, but no playground equipment stood near. A wilder ride awaited us at the top of the forested ravine. The dirt path through the trees to the creek lay steep-sloped and was best negotiated sitting down. Focused on the imminent descent, I no longer heard the forest birds calling. I stopped noticing the change from bright light to the cool darkness of the woods. My brain noted the place where the big oak loomed against the path, forcing a sharp curve around it.

I bent my legs and held my knees against my chest, thus releasing the brakes of my legs stretched out with their dug-into-the-dirt heels. The ride was fast. Though scary, it was the most fun to go first and be able to watch from the bottom as the other kids took their turns hurtling down the path. Once we’d all reached the bottom, we checked the creek for animal activity first thing. Minnows and water striders (Wikipedia lists 13 common names!) were the main event unless we took time to look under rocks for crayfish.

For us the Gully was a place apart from civilization and its distractions. Our senses came alive there and our bodies reveled in the movement like Wordsworth above Tintern Abbey describing those “aching joys” and “glad animal movements” of his boyhood. In the Gully we heard no people talking in their yards, no lawn mowers, not even distant traffic. Creek music accompanied us from beginning to end. We followed the waterway like a ridge top trail, only our mountain ridge lodged upside down with the “top” deep down in the earth. Instead of high, wide views, we saw an intimate corridor created by the water before us. We felt beckoned by whatever waited around the bend.

The stream through “our” northeastern Ohio hardwood forest was so chockfull of stones that we could “rock hop” along every twist and turn of the deep ravine to its end nearly a mile away at the Chagrin River. Near the end we listened for the waterfall through the woods. This anticipated sound made us run/rock hop faster. “I Hear It!” could have been the name of the falls, because whoever could first discern the water’s roar through the trees always shouted so. We still had to be careful during this acceleration because there was a contest each time we went to the Gully. Whether tacit or spoken, the agreement was whoever misstepped on a rock and slipped a tennis-shoed foot into the stream first lost—and was teased for getting the first “soaker.” I can remember leaping from rock to rock and feeling as graceful as a deer. As Wordsworth wrote, “…like a roe I bounded…by the sides of the deep rivers, and the … streams…” The feeling was so strong and true that often when I see a deer I think of the Gully, even though I never saw one there. In autumn rock hopping’s pace slowed. A Charlotte North Carolina poet, Maureen Ryan Griffin, writes about the Cherokee name “when the leaves are in the water.” During that time when leaves blanket both rocks and water the avoidance of a soaker becomes a nearly impossible feat.

Another impossibility was calling the place anything but “the Gully” when we were kids. Though the creek and big ravine ended spectacularly at the river with its slightly upstream waterfall and lake spread between the woods above it, we didn’t say we were going to the river, the falls, or the lake. It was the trip through the ravine itself that really mattered to us. Like younger children at story time with a favorite book, we looked forward to every familiar part to come. We named these places too: the Grapevine, Picnic Rock, the Skunk Cabbage Patch, the Log, Diamond Camp—each family of siblings had their own camp or fort.

We walked in the Gully in all seasons, and enjoyed watching what was familiar change, yet stay the same. Robins left in the fall, but chickadees, blue jays, and cardinals stayed with us in winter. Once after a big thunderstorm we saw the effects of flooding. The “gully washer” seemed to have deposited more debris than it carried away. Brown leaves wedged together in snags of broken branches, big and small, throughout the Gully. We couldn’t believe what we saw in the Shales. The smooth shale
bed had disappeared! Another look revealed it had moved several yards downstream. I swear it was true. I didn’t know such things could happen. I thought only glaciers and volcanoes could move rock beds.

The Grapevine gave me another lesson about change. It hung from a tall tree halfway up the steep hill. Already cut at the bottom for swinging, the vine swayed slightly at this end—a seductive dance initiated by the wind in the tree tops. We took turns swinging. With a double-handed grasp, three or four running steps, and courage, we went soaring out over the creek, turned in the air, and glided back all too soon for a safe landing.

I think the Grapevine was our main destination when we were kids. I went there once after a long time away at college. When I saw the vine still hanging there, the old thrill seeker from childhood came out. I peered up to ascertain the strength of the vine’s anchorage. Seeing nothing amiss in the tangle of trees above, I tested the grapevine with a pull, then grabbed hold and lifted my feet off the ground. It held my weight! I climbed the few steps up the hill and joyfully, bravely, set sail. Reality struck with a thud on my bottom and lots of vegetation on my head. I hope the neighborhood kids were able to find a new one. That was the end of the Grapevine—and my childhood for certain!

The Gully held many discoveries for curious kids. A very pungent one happened the day we found the Skunk Cabbage Patch in a moist depression near the creek. We held our noses, squealed, and otherwise delighted in being disgusted by the bad smell. We used to dare each other to run through it. Did you know that skunk cabbage can push up through the snow and is one of the first flowers of spring? A more agreeable smell came from the soil in the forest. I still remember the first time I got on hands and knees there to push the leaf bed aside and scoop up to my face a double handful of rich, fragrant black soil. It smelled so healthy, like it would be good for you.

Nothing excited us more than finding animals. I remember being in a Tom Thumb stage when all things miniature charmed me. I longed to be small enough to have a seat on the collar of our cat, to see where he went and what his adventures were. In the Gully, little green tree frogs and tiny brown toads satisfied my obsession. A tree frog felt cool on the skin of my palm. I was careful not to squeeze it or let it jump away from too great a height. In adulthood I read a wonderful memoir by Elizabeth Arthur about her summers in a camp in Vermont run by her beloved aunt and uncle. They taught the children so well to respect and love the animals that the kids policed themselves. Woe on to any child who spoke of hurting even the tiniest woodland creature. The title is Looking For the Klondike Stone.

The first water snake I ever saw was in the river at the end of the gully. I didn’t know that snakes could swim and wouldn’t have been more surprised if it had sprouted wings and flown away. We watched it intently and read in its distinctive pattern a warning to stay back—which we did whether we were right or not. I wasn’t irrationally afraid of snakes. As a five year old I had been completely charmed when I turned over a log and found a bunch (or a slither in terms of venery) of wiggling baby garter snakes there.

On rare and special occasions, adults accompanied us to the Gully. When Granny came, we got on each side of her to protect her from falling down the entrance path. We pointed out the slickest rocks to be avoided. Granny, who was raised on a farm and loved the outdoors, made the slower pace interesting by telling us the names of plants such as chicory, wild rose, and stinging nettle. The latter we had called “seven-minute itch” for obvious reasons. I wonder if we got the name from overhearing our parents discuss the Broadway play, or the Marilyn Monroe movie, The Seven-Year Itch? We showed off our physical prowess for our grandmother at the Log, a place where a fallen tree spanned the creek from hillside to hillside, so Granny could praise our high wire act.

Every winter Dad hiked with us to a place near the Grapevine where a big rock sat in the stream. We gathered sticks and Dad taught us to find dry tinder in nooks protected from the snow under the overhanging creek bank. On the rock’s flat top he built a fire and and cooked scrambled eggs and toast. After that, Picnic Rock was christened with a name.
Dad made the annual hike fun, but also explained that we could survive being out in the cold if we knew what to do. He told us that wearing layers would help us keep a good comfort level even if we got hot from wading through the snow. Soakers were not okay on subfreezing hikes. They could lead to frostbite. Dad said we needed waterproof boots for winter. He had already taught us how to make a fire to dry socks just in case.

Winter sledding in the Gully required no sleds. A bunch of us would climb the slick slopes to a good starting place. We sat down in a “train” with each child wrapping his legs around the waist of the child in front. The last person shouted “Go!” and we were off. I wonder now how we escaped all the fallen branches on those rides.

In early adulthood my walks there were solitary and centered on the lake beyond the Gully as much as the Gully itself. Once I stretched out in the sun on a dry mudbank that bordered the lake. While lying there idly I dug with my hands just to feel the warm earth. That’s when I discovered the round white turtle eggs buried there. I felt like I had trespassed, but marveled at them before covering them back up.

When we were children an abandoned house stood on the lake shore near the falls. I imagined living there, but it burned down too soon. I never tried to purchase the land and rebuild the house. By the time it might have been possible, I had lived in southern Ohio and found it more rural and wilder than our suburban neighborhood anyway in the north. Residency in Vermont and western North Carolina added to the feeling. But I’ll always be grateful for the Gully of my childhood—and I’ll always be in favor of preserving more wild places for children and all creatures.

Carol Diamond

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**Re: The Gully**

by bbeduhn » Tue Jun 04, 2013 9:36 am

Carol,

This reminds me of some of my earliest excursions in gullies and streams. They were also along the Chagrin and connecting rivers. I remember hiking to Squaw Rock as a child, not knowing such a wonderful place existed so close to home. I climbed along shale cliffs above the river in a race to the top. Northeast Ohio has an abundance of scenic waterways.

Brian Beduhn

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**Re: The Gully**

by pdbrandt » Wed Jun 12, 2013 4:40 pm

I loved reading your post, Carol. Like others have said, it brought back a rush of childhood memories of the time I spent in the ravine with ini biking distance of my house. I remember rock hopping, looking for wildlife (crawfish were always a coveted find), hiding from the homeowners on the ridge who I was sure would turn me in if they saw me enjoying the stream below, and getting up the courage to walk through the culvert that carried the stream under a road.

Thanks again,

Patrick Brandt
Hello from AK

by WinterSmith » Mon Jun 10, 2013 10:31 pm

I have been lurking on the list for quite some time now. I am a Forester and have worked for the Pacific Northwest Research Station, USFS since the mid-70s. Before that I worked in northern Idaho. I did my undergraduate work at the University of Montana (Missoula) and did my graduate work at the University of Idaho (Moscow). My special areas of interest are forest inventory and remote sensing. I have done work with high-density lidar and I am currently looking at the use of Structure from Motion (SfM) to measure trees and forests in remote areas.

My spouse is also a forester and is a GIS analyst for the Chugach National Forest. We have 2 daughters, 25 and 20. The elder is an officer in the Coast Guard and the younger is a student at the University of Montana.

Re: Hello from AK

by Don » Sat Jun 15, 2013 9:27 pm

KenW-
I am pleased to welcome you to the forum, to NTS (Native Tree Society) in general, and especially to the Western Native Tree Society (WNTS). Probably shouldn't split further, as I'm not sure ANTS (Alaska NTS) would be well-taken by all.

Long-time readers of this forum may recall my advocation of LIDAR as a filter for identifying big trees...it was Ken who got my head straight on how it works.

I suspect that one of our WNTS members, Michael Taylor will be interested in your observations on "Structure From Motion". Mike is investigating incorporating drones into forest measuring tasks, among other fascinating techniques and processes of precise measurement, to say nothing of his accomplishments in the field of big tree hunting.

Mike has the daunting task of being the Big Tree Coordinator for the state of California.

I'm still at the scrambling-to-grasp-it stage, but really like what I've seen, and the implications it has for aerial photogrammetry. As one who has seen 3D from 2D through stereo aerial photographs for years, it's conceptually as if the stereoscope you're looking through is 'flying' around a stand of trees and the data is being recorded...poorly worded phrasing I'm afraid, but really exciting! Those of you who have "flown" in GoogleEarth, will want to look into SfM methinks.

Another 'lurker', my cousin Randy Fulton down in Arizona, posted me recently with some news of note on these subjects, that I'll quote here:

"...about forest restoration and thinning around Flagstaff with the cooperation of the forest service..."
and the nature conservancy. New twist though in that they are trying to incorporate sat gps, computer tablets, and drones. Nature conservancy is trying to raise three mil to fund the test project as gov. won't fund at this time..."

It's not too hard to imagine a drone capturing imagery (kept on line by satellite GPS input/direction) that among other tasks, provides data for SfM (Structure from Motion). To get a rudimentary idea, Wikipedia has a good introductory piece at:


and if that whet's your appetite, I suspect Ken W can steer you to some more URLs.

Anyway, KenW, welcome to the 'fold', you'll find many friends in this forest forum!

Don Bertolette

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**Re: Peter Meinke and Tree Identification**

**by Matt Markworth » Wed Jun 12, 2013 11:16 pm**

Here's my attempt at something similar . . .

I will get to the essence of a place, using the facts, yes, but drawing parallels too like the hulking wrecks at dinsmore woods and the pilgrimage to the cottonwoods at high cliff, to photograph in different seasons a travelogue of sorts, yet anti-travel to capture the vibrant first impression and avoid dulling with repetition

then turned around and walked back in and saw drift wood in the sky and saw roots in the sky, and thought it worthwhile and could briefly understand that some see them as but woods, monochromatic

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**Re: Peter Meinke and Tree Identification**

**by dbhguru » Thu Jun 13, 2013 10:04 am**

Matt,

I enjoyed your poem. It speaks to me as I imagine it speaks to many. You and Carol are fulfilling the original purpose of NTS. There is a hidden poet in the hearts of many of us. We're just too timid to let it out for fear of sounding amateurish. Thanks again for moving us forward.

Monica and I have an invitation to visit the famous American poet W.S. Merwin on Maui next January or February. We hope to take him up on the invitation. He is a great conservationist as well as poet.

Well, we're in the Black Hills of SD presently and will move on to the Big Horns later today for hiking. Yesterday we were in the Badlands. Heck of a place!

Robert T. Leverett
Re: Peter Meinke and Tree Identification

by Matt Markworth » Thu Jun 13, 2013 10:03 pm

Thanks Bob, I just reserved W.S. Merwin's *The Shadow of Sirius* and *The Carrier of Ladders* from the library, they look very interesting. Here are a couple photos of the places that inspired the poem . . .

High Cliff Natural Area, Lake Winnebago, WI

Dinsmore Woods, KY

Here's a short one:

Hot sun, asphalt, brief time away
Time clock, ticks fast, short break today
Soft trail, sun shade, clock stands still
Zone out, my time, oh what a thrill!

- Matt

Re: Peter Meinke and Tree Identification

by Bosque » Sat Jun 15, 2013 2:43 pm

Matt and Bob,

Thanks for educating me about Merwin. I'll look for the books. A generous relative has a house on the big island in Hawai'i, so we go there when we feel we can splurge on the airfare. Might have to see Maui now too. Thanks for sharing you poem and photographs Matt. More please.

Carol
Re: Peter Meinke and Tree Identification

by dbhguru » Sun Jun 16, 2013 12:14 am

Carol and Matt,

Monica and I attended an event at Smith College recently where Merwin spoke. I was enormously impressed by him and his tributes to nature made me reflect on how much we benefit from poetry. I do hope the two of you will continue exploring our connections to nature, and more specifically trees, through poetic expression.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Gifford Woods State Park Aug. 22, 2012

by adam.rosen » Sun Jun 16, 2013 10:50 am

I brought my camera to Gifford Woods yesterday, June 15, and went to the forest—not the interpretive trail on the west side of Route 100, but the 7 acres of unmarked woods on the other side. A few steps off the pavement and the mystery unfolds. I wasn’t measuring for tree height, but I took some CBH measurements and photographed some of the old growth evidence—coarse woody debris (I love that term!), twisted trunks, buttressed roots, and an amazing twisted crack halfway up the bole of an OG hemlock. I’ve seen a couple sources—one an ents liked data base, and the other the Longstreet Highroad Guide to Vermont Mountains, that date that hemlock at at least 400 years old. For the numbers, I took a CBH on the hemlock of just over 10 feet, and CBH on the largest Maple I measured at 13 feet and two inches. Neither is one for the record books, but, Tom Howard, how does that compare with the ancient giant of the Liverpool grove.

So, here are pictures: looking up trunks, details of trunks, cracks and fissures, standing snags, and that great hemlock.

Why am I dressed up? I was returning from a good friend’s memorial service. Technical advice on how to rotate the images is welcome.
Re: Gifford Woods State Park Aug. 22, 2012

by tomhoward » Sun Jun 16, 2013 12:43 pm

Adam,

Those pictures of Gifford Woods are awesome! The next time I am in Vermont, I plan to visit the old growth forest across Rt. 100 from the developed part of the park that we visited last year. It is very impressive indeed. The site compares well with the Liverpool School Maple Grove in size of trees and age of maples, but the Liverpool Maple Grove is a little larger in area, and Liverpool has no 400 year old hemlocks (or 400 year old trees of any kind, I don't think). 13 ft. 2 in. cbh is really big for a Sugar Maple and the great tree you found is only a tiny bit smaller than Liverpool's great Maple (the Liverpool Sugar Maple is 13.8 ft. cbh and est. 350 years old). Liverpool and Gifford may be comparable height-wise - it should be interested to get out in Gifford after the leaves are down to get some heights - Liverpool's tallest trees just touch 120 ft. and the biggest Maple is 116 ft. tall.

Tom Howard
**Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Serviceberry)**

by Matt Markworth » Sat Jun 08, 2013 6:10 pm

Hi All,

Genus of the Week: Amelanchier

http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=AMELA

Here's a sampling of Amelanchier that can be submitted:

- *Amelanchier alnifolia*, Saskatoon serviceberry
- *Amelanchier arborea*, Common Serviceberry
- *Amelanchier canadensis*, Canadian Serviceberry
- *Amelanchier laevis*, Allegheny Serviceberry
- *Amelanchier utahensis*, Utah Serviceberry

An excerpt from Jess's MaxList:

Don Leopold video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdVJzwiiU9M

- Matt

**Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Serviceberry)**

by tsharp » Sun Jun 09, 2013 12:10 pm

Matt another amelanchier submission:

Scientific name: *Amelanchier arborea*
Common name: Common or Downy Serviceberry
Height: 44’
CBH: 102”
Crown Spread: 56’ average
Site name: C. W. Cassell
Subsite: Country: USA
State: West Virginia
County: Pocahontas
Property owner: Private
Date of measurement: 4/12/2010 by Dan Cooley
Method of measurement: Sine method using handheld Nikon 550 laser rangefinder and Suunto clinometer
Habitat: Tree located in an open area of active pasture land. 2900’ elevation

T. Sharp
Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Servicebe)

"by Will Blozan » Sun Jun 09, 2013 3:45 pm

Turner,

Holy crap! You're positive they are arborea? I've laevis that big but never arborea!

Will

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Servicebe)

"by Joe » Mon Jun 10, 2013 7:03 am

photos please!

we planted one in the back yard last fall- it's flowering this spring was gorgeous but it has no berries...

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Servicebe)

"by tsharp » Mon Jun 10, 2013 10:28 am

Will, NTS:
Will I can not be sure. However when this tree was submitted i queried Dan Cooley and later Elizabeth Byers about the species ID. Dan deferred to Elizabeth and in later communications I had with her it was obvious she knows Serviceberries. She works for WV Natural Heritage Program based in Elkins as an ecologist and and does a lot of field work monitoring wetland areas throughout WV and is very familiar with all the species of Amelanchier. Not that A. arborea or A. laevis are wetland species, but apparently they really like to grow on moist sites near wetlands. Of course she can make a mistake like anyone else. If you would like to communicate with her I can get her contact info. She was a wealth of information.

The only way I can differentiate the two species is when the leaves first come out. Do you have any other ID suggestions.

TS

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Servicebe)

"by tsharp » Mon Jun 10, 2013 5:28 pm

Joe, NTS'
Joe no picture of the tall Serviceberry, but I can't resist posting this picture of a Common Serviceberry in all its spring glory.
It is the same tree I nominated for biggest girth.
This tree is almost directly beneath the east facing overlook that Cass Scenic Railroad uses on Bald Knob. Of course it is about 1,500 feet elevation lower in the Greenbrier River drainage.

For example, how should submissions be handled when they are substantially bigger than known maximums, especially for species/subspecies that are commonly misidentified? The Yellow Buckeye in Kentucky that reigned as the Ohio Buckeye champ for 30 years comes to mind. My thought is that the identification has to be rock solid to establish a significantly higher benchmark for a species.

Should photos always be included when making a submission? I know there has been some discussion that the AF National Register of Big Trees should require photos. My thought is that photos shouldn't be a requirement for submission, however they should always be encouraged, especially for species that are commonly misidentified (with sufficient zoom to positively identify) and also when there is a question of single-stem vs. multi-stem.

Do non-NTS measurements have a place in the list? My feeling is that if the NTS Member has direct knowledge that a Non-NTS member has accurately measured the tree with a tape drop or the ENTS Sine Method, then this submission can be included in the spreadsheet tab titled, "Non-NTS Reliable Maximums." Over time, as the Tree Maximums List increases in status as a reliable source of Tree Maxima, then it should serve as a recruiting tool as Non-NTS big tree hunters will want their tree listed in the official list. Also, as we discuss the tree with the Non-NTS Member, there may be an opportunity to have them create a username and to submit the tree on their own, therefore becoming a member.

I appreciate all the ideas that have been provided and am very pleased with the improvements to the list that have been made thus far. I welcome any and all ideas to refine the list even further.

Thanks,
Matt
Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Servicebe)

» Tue Jun 11, 2013 8:32 pm

Matt: An A. laevis submission for crown spread in case no else has one.
Common name: Allegheny or Smooth Serviceberry
Height: 43.7’
CBH: 69”
Crown Spread: 45’ maximum, 40.5’ average
Volume:
Site name: Marlinton
Subsite
Country: USA
State: West Virginia
County: Pocahontas
Property owner: Private
Date of measurement: 5/17/2011 by Turner Sharp
Method of measurement: Sine method using handheld Nikon 440 laser rangefinder and Suunto clinometer
Tree name:
Habitat: Tree located in a fence line between two property owners and is under a much larger Oak.
Elevation 2200’

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Servicebe)

» Thu Jun 13, 2013 2:41 pm

Matt: To answer or comment on three questions you posed in a previous post
Q1: How should submissions be handled when they are substantially bigger than known maximums, especially for species/subspecies that are commonly misidentified?
I think it would be prudent to note that the submission is substantially much bigger than any previously measured and place it in a "pending" status until a second on site inspection can be obtained.
Q2: Should photos always be included when making a submission?
Not always, but are appropriate if they can clearly illustrate characteristics of the tree that may be called into question.
Q3: Do non-NTS measurements have a place in the list?
If I interpret your question correctly you are referring to people making the measurements. I believe your original requirement was to only accept measurements by NTS member but I believe you later changed it to 'or have knowledge of the person measuring the tree.'
I believe that measurements by anyone should be accepted as long they are using measurement methods acceptable to the NTS
Comment: I believe that any submission that has not been verified after a certain time should be flagged
and other submissions be allowed. American Forests uses 10 years and they don't flag them - they delete many of them.

Will:
Your 2 cents worth are valued. I agree the woolly hairs present when the leaves unfurl are surefire way to identify that species. In my experience they disappear after 2-4 weeks and I have always been at a loss to ID Serviceberry at other times of the year. Maybe I better start taste testing. Next spring I will make an attempt to evaluate the two giants.

TSharp

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Servicebe)

督查 by Will Blozan » Thu Jun 13, 2013 3:59 pm

Turner,
The downy's here are woolly all summer. Laevis starts woolly then loses it (mostly).

Will

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Servicebe)

督查 by tsharp » Fri Jun 14, 2013 11:39 am

Will: Apparently we have different expressions of "Downy" in the A. arborea in the part of WV close to the Ohio River. Just this morning I checked on two trees that were fully "downy when they first leafed out this spring. Not a bit in evidence. We have had at least three bouts of strong thunderstorms with high winds and driving rain since they leafed out.

TSharp

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Servicebe)

督查 by edfrank » Fri Jun 14, 2013 1:54 pm

I wonder about how much regional variation is expressed in Amelanchier (and other species) where there are two similar species. Are the characteristics used to distinguish between the two forms the same at both ends of its range? Do they coexist as distinct species or subspecies in some parts of their range while they are all but indistinguishable in other parts? Do the species grade from one form to the other? In terms of hawthorn there have been literally thousands of species/subspecies described but likely many of these differences are simply regional variations or expressions of the same genetic stack. Jack Horner has been trying to show that many of the different dinosaur species described are really just variations in skull form expressed as the dinosaur ages. Are the two species really different? Maybe there are more than two different species.....

Turner, there must be some reason why you decided the large specimen was arboria instead of laevis - you are good with species identification, so why did you make that call in the first place? Have those reasons changed? I wish there was a cheap DNA machine we could carry around and do tree species ID's. There actually are portable DNA machines, but each test is still relatively expensive and it doesn't come with a tree ID data set.

Ed

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Servicebe)

督查 by tsharp » Sat Jun 15, 2013 7:38 am

Ed:
Your comments about regional variation is appropriate.
To clarify who made the species ID on the three nominations I submitted for Matt's max dimension list.
I did not make the species ID on the tall Serviceberry or big girth Serviceberry. For the tall one in Uphur County Elizabeth Byers made the initial ID and Dan Cooley concurred. The big girth Serviceberry (pictured in full bloom) was actually a re-measurement of a tree previously identified by John Rossell (WV DOF forester) in 1999. Dan Cooley concurred with the previous ID but commented that the leaves had not opened when was there. The tree I measured in Marlinton was also a re-measurement originally identified as a A. laevis by Robert Furgeson in 1995. He was a District Ranger for the Monongahela National Forest and lived nearby. I was there when the leaves were newly opened and there were no hairs present so I had no trouble concurring with the original ID.

TS

**Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Amelanchier(Serviceberry)**

by **Matt Markworth** » Sun Jun 16, 2013 6:48 pm

Hi All,

Thanks for the great discussion about Serviceberry. I have a better understanding of the genus than I did one week ago.

Turner - Those are impressive Serviceberries. I shaded the two Amelanchier arborea in light blue and added a comment that they are pending species confirmation.

Jess, Will - Let me know if you'd like to include any notes for your Amelanchier finds.


- Matt

**Maryland's once biggest tree, in pieces :(**

by **JohnnyDJersey** » Sun Jun 16, 2013 7:57 pm

I took a spontaneous trip this weekend through Maryland to do some tree hunting and check out some of the largest trees in the state. One of my visits was to the champion Silver Maple and Maryland's once largest tree. It held this title from the day the famous Wye Oak collapsed in 2002 until a year or two ago when it lost a main limb. I found the tree in the forest, precisely where Big Trees of Maryland ([http://www.mdbigtrees.com/view_tree.aspx](http://www.mdbigtrees.com/view_tree.aspx)) said it was. Unfortunately when I arrived, all I found was a gigantic stump. The tree has apparently lost its other leader recently and I'm unfortunately announcing its demise. The tree once had a girth of almost 27 feet, and claimed 479 point. Ill post a picture of the tree in its glory as well as the photos I took today. Notice how massive the stump is still. On the brighter side, I was also able to visit the White Oak in Rising Sun MD, this tree is healthy and seems to be the perfect example or an old growth white oak. Posting photo of it as well.
White Oak Rising Sun

The massive limb it lost first

other limb

In its glory
The stump as it stands now

John D Harvey

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**Wizard of Oz Oak Grove June 16, 2013**

by tomhoward » Sun Jun 16, 2013 12:31 pm

Wizard of Oz Memorial Oak Grove - June 16, 2013

From Candlewood Suites where I am staying while my apartment is being renovated, I can see the green south wall of the Wizard of Oz Oak Grove to the north. The canopy of the south wall is about 90-95 ft. tall, lower than the 110 ft. heights of the Forest Cathedral in the northern half of the Grove. From Candlewood Suites, I can see the thin broad crown of a Red Maple towering above the south wall. This is the crown of the double-trunked Mother Teresa Red Maple, which I measured to 97 ft. in the official list of tree heights. In The Sierra Club Guide to the Ancient Forests of the Northeast by Bruce Kershner and Bob Leverett (2004), the Mother Teresa Red Maple is listed as 110 ft. tall, “tallest in the grove” (p. 115). Although I don’t think this is the tallest tree in the Grove, the 110 ft. may well be accurate. This tree can be seen from a mile away towering over and behind the Grove’s south edge – the thin wide crown of this tree is unmistakable.

On this warm humid morning I walked up to the Grove, and I was quickly enfolded into its dark green depths. I got a straight up shot (with the Nikon 440 Laser Rangefinder) a slender (17.5” dbh) Red Maple just east of Mother Teresa and got a height of 97.5 ft., and this is without seeing the highest part of the tree. I measured the Mother Teresa Tree from the north using the NTS Sine method:

| A1 | 66 |
| A2 | 5  |
| D1 | 36.5 |
| D2 | 14 |
| H1 | 33.344 |
| H2 | 1.22 |

Height 103.7+ (This is still not the highest point – a more accurate measurement will have to be made this fall when visibility improves after leaves come down.) D1, D2, H1, H2 are in yards, while final tree height is in feet.

The Grove is undergoing a Gypsy Moth infestation and in the southwestern part of the Grove every White Oak is covered with caterpillars. There are far fewer caterpillars in the Forest Cathedral, but they are present. The Grove is permeated with the sound of pieces of leaves falling, and the ground is littered with fallen pieces of White Oak leaves, which caterpillars are consuming high in the canopy. The White Oaks still have full green leafy crowns, and from the ground I could not see any defoliation. The caterpillars infest White Oak and Beech but they do not trouble Red Maple, Black Gum, or other species very much. There were also plenty of mosquitoes in the Grove.

When I left the Grove a light rain began to fall.

Tom Howard
Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

by Don » Sat May 18, 2013 6:12 pm

Rand-
AF's Big Tree Program is making a significant effort to transition into a more scientifically based program, and they are committing time, energy and resources to upgrading their tree measuring standards. This is an important opportunity for NTS to be providing input, for as Bob/Ed would say, we are the premier tree measuring group, uniquely focused to provide input. Having been selected as a member of the Measuring Guidelines Working Group (MGWG), I'm honored to provide NTS input.

Your comment about a PR exercise for the Forest Service is however without basis. AF's primary support source is from a private enterprise called Davies Tree Expert Company, and has not direct ties to the USFS. As just one man's opinion, one of AF's missions is to involve the public in the conservation and restoration of forests, and in keeping with that mission they were often willing to accept the public's measurements, relying on volunteers (often state forestry programs) to verify or confirm. AF's current effort to form the MGWG reflects their serious intent to upgrade this aspect of their Big Tree Program. As a member of MGWG, I will advocate for "tree...iage" approach where initial public input is accepted, but as the champion candidate rises to state and national levels, the requirements for accuracy also rise...for example, measuring equipment at the national level should include laser rangefinders and clinometers, and measuring techniques include the sine-sine formula calculations, or better.

While we in NTS don't have members in every state, I'd like to think that NTS could establish a cadre of national level Big Tree Registry volunteers willing to offer to measure national contenders?

-Don

Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

by Don » Sat May 18, 2013 6:19 pm

Will-
I did get selected for the AF's MGWG and would be very surprised if your were not selected, as your expertise speaks for itself! I don't yet know the entire makeup of the group, but I think there are a few NTS/Big Tree State Coordinators on it. I know you're well respected by the AF Big Tree Program folks, and I'll be happy to 'channel' your input, if you end up not being selected. The same goes for Ed, you guys both have been tireless advocates for improved tree measurement accuracy.

I do believe that AF is doing their dead level best to upgrade their tree measurement guidelines and that they value NTS input.

-Don

Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

by dbhguru » Sun May 26, 2013 5:50 pm

NTS,

I just received a letter from American Forests announcing my selection as one of 3 principal members of the American Forests Measuring Guideline Working Group. I had expected the appointment from an earlier phone call, but was asked to wait until getting the official word before announcing it. The other two principal members include the Texas champion tree program coordinator and a person from Virginia Tech Forestry Dept. There are 3 additional members of the working group who will act as advisors to the principal three to lend their expertise and to insure the needs of state coordinators are properly addressed. Don Bertolette and Scott Wade, both NTS members, are two of the three. So in terms of the 6 members, 3 are in NTS. That is pretty fair representation for us.
I, as the rest of you, am disappointed that Ed wasn’t selected. I think it came down to a flip of the coin. I have had significant dealings with American Forests back to 1992, including being on a prior AF working group with Colby Rucker to develop better measuring guidelines. That effort was abandoned for reasons unknown to either Colby or myself. That said, Ed’s direct contribution would be invaluable, but rest assured that he and Will will be adequately represented through myself and Don Bertolette. In fact, all of you will. There will be a collective NTS brain. We will make it work.

Despite the past abortive attempts by AF to improve measuring discipline, I take this new appointment very seriously as proof that AF wants to tighten the measurement guidelines in ways that not only correct past deficiencies, but also reflects the equipment advances that we enjoy today. I think some of Don Bertolette’s thinking has already penetrated in terms of the emphasis trees in the National Register should receive. In addition, the Big Tree Program coordinator, Sheri Shannon has taken it on herself to learn how to measure trees. She has made rapid progress. Her predecessors found themselves getting conflicting advice from ostensibly equally qualified sources. The AF coordinators had no diplomatic way of moving forward. They didn’t want to alienate big supporters of the National Register, plus staff turnovers were frequent.

Overall, time has been an ally for us. It has allowed time for us to gain this mountain of experience and for new ideas to take seed. The Measuring Guidelines Working Group will rewrite the tree measuring guidelines. That will be our function. I promise to keep everyone informed and regularly seek input.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

Thanks Joe, Bryan, Larry,

Be assured that all of you will have a voice as a consequence of the three NTS members who are in the Working Group. We should be having our first meeting of the group before long. I’ll keep you all posted.

It will be a challenge to figure out how to craft guidelines that don’t exclude beginners, but also don’t allow obviously mis-measured trees to get and stay on the list. Ed will have a major voice in my vote. All his fine work in putting together the Wikipedian articles will not have been for naught.

I spend a good part of my time testing equipment, thinking about new measurement methods, and comparing the results attained from applying different methods. I realize that the methods and procedures have not always been clear in their mathematical derivations and the accompanying spreadsheets. However, for a new technique to be valid, the underlying mathematical model must be valid. It isn’t just a case of presenting a set of steps that can be followed. The instructions accompanying clinometers, the use of the stick method, and the 3-point hypsometer method are usually quite clear. Beginners can follow them, but they don’t lead to accurate height measurements. Don Bertolette and I have been working on more understandable presentations. More to come.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

by Will Blozan » Fri May 31, 2013 11:02 am

Bob,

A great starting point for the group would be to through the current list and reject the multiple stems
and flag the questionable heights and spreads. These
trees should be put on a probationary period (as well
as those with no photos) to received verification by
credible methods. Our MAXLIST would be a great
way to screen the process and justify the probation.
You all could reach out to the scattered NTS
members and have them verify as time permits.

Will

Re: American Forest's Measurement
Group

by dbhguru » Fri May 31, 2013 1:37 pm

Will,

In spirit I'm with you. However, it is going to be a
challenge. I don't know how sensitive the other two
primary members are or how knowledgeable or
experienced they are. So, I must proceed with
cautio. Getting things turned around in American
Forests is like turning the S.S. Queen Elizabeth
around. Were she a dingy, we could whirl around
and head in a new direction, but I have a feeling that we'll
have to overcome a lot of inertia and reluctance to
exposing certain nominators to even indirect
criticism. We'll find a way to get there, but we'll
likely have to overcome some road blocks.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: American Forest's Measurement
Group

by Joe » Sat Jun 01, 2013 6:17 am

Well, Bob, if anyone can- you can--- I recall that day
in the late '90s when I brought you to a farm to show
you an old growth hemlock stand- one of the family
"youngins" showed up with his rifle cocked asking
what we were doing on HIS land- you started talking
about the good old days down in the mountains, and

you had him eating out of your hands.... nice talent to
have- one I respect since I don't have it.

Joe

Re: American Forest's Measurement
Group

by dbhguru » Sat Jun 01, 2013 7:24 am

Joe,

Yes, I remember that day. The 'good ole boy'
instincts kicked it. I'd encountered plenty of
situations growing up in the mountain South. The
early training served us well.

When Monica and I take one of our trips down
South, I revert to being a good ole boy, and chew the
fat with my southern brethren. Monica is from New
Jersey and on our first trip South, she couldn't
understand all the comradery between people who
didn't officially know one another. She fits in well
now. When we head south, I call her Baby Bell.

As part of the working group, I will have to keep in
mind that American Forests has always worried about
losing popular support. So, they have intentionally
kept guidelines and measuring methods as simple as
possible. That has led to errors of epic magnitude
such as the mis-measured trees we've discussed in the
past, including a former national champion red maple
in Michigan and a pignut hickory in North Carolina.
The former was mis-measured by a staggering 60 feet
and the later by an even more staggering 67 feet.
Other so-called national champions are routinely mis-
measured by 20 to 30 feet.

I think we can change this situation, but there's
going to be lots of state coordinators who are going
to resist the solution. And that solution includes
guidelines on how to apply methods so that such
errors are avoided. These latter methods will have a
numerical component, which must be simplified to
avoid the appearance of mathematical equations.

Boy, have I ever learned that lesson! This is where
my Alaska buddy Don Bertolette is going to be worth
his weight in gold (and that's a lot of gold). Don has been keeping after me to find better ways of dealing with the mathematics to shield the general user from the deluge of formulas that usually comprise my approach. We're thinking of trying out new approaches to explaining measuring techniques using PowerPoint presentations.

Robert T. Leverett

**Re: American Forest's Measurement Group**

- by Joe » Sat Jun 01, 2013 7:58 am

**dbhguru** wrote: So, they have intentionally kept guidelines and measuring methods as simple as possible.

Bob, this gets back to the periodic discussion of exactly why this type of work is so important. I believe that definite essay has yet to be written.

but, it should include:

* good measurements will be a foundation for other ecosystem research
* trust in good measurements may spur competition to find even bigger/older trees
* scientific measurements will be valuable for silvicultural and forest economics research
* changes in rates of growth may tell us something about climate change
* understanding the full potential of all life forms is essential for our species to rightfully claim being the stewards of the Earth
* finding ever bigger/older trees for each species is mind blowing and recording them for posterity with photos, videos, soundscapes, art is a tremendous contribution to human culture and the sustainability of the Earth, something doubted by many but which we are obligated to accomplish

Joe

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**Re: American Forest's Measurement Group**

- by dbhguru » Mon Jun 17, 2013 9:43 am

NTS

I echo what Don has said. I'd like to think that choosing one of us is equivalent to choosing all of us. Don and I certainly intend to follow that path and consult with the rest of you and Ed, Mike, and Will in particular. NTS is a heck of a brain trust and this is an excellent opportunity to exercise it for good cause. American Forests has made some critical decisions on moving forward and deserves to be given the benefit of the doubt. With Don, Scott, and me as Group members, NTS has substantive representation. We can hardly accuse AF of bypassing us.

Robert T. Leverett

**Re: American Forest's Measurement Group**

- by edfrank » Sat Jun 29, 2013 9:50 pm

Bob and Don,

With regard to the Measurement group. I want to see all kinds of changes implemented. There are three main areas that I think can be addressed.

1) Multitrunk or Single trunk - There needs to be a place to indicate whether or not the submitted champion is a single trunk tree or multiple tree. This should be defined as whether or not the tree would have multiple piths at ground level. Ideally, AF would keep duplicate lists and have a champion for single trunk trees and one for multitrunk trees. This would fit with their purpose of engaging the public. If they are to be lumped together, there should at least be an indication of what form that particular tree has. To facilitate this a photo of the lower portion of the trunk should be submitted.

2) I also would like to see a photo of the overall tree
submitted, in addition to that of the lower portion of teh trunk. With digital cameras built into almost every cell phone, and stand alone cameras for less than $20, it is ridiculous to not require a photo or photos of the tree be included in the submission.

3) I would like to see the methodology of the measurement be a field. It could be a simple check box with values like: a) climb and tape drop, 2) pole measurement, 3) clinometer and distance tangent method, 4) laser range finder sine method, 5) laser rangefinder tangent method, 6) professional survey, 7) other - describe. For the definitions of these different methods refer them to the Wikipedia article on tree height measurement. I am not as hopeful for this suggestion, but I feel it is critical.

Edward Forrest Frank

Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

by dbhguru » Sat Jun 29, 2013 10:59 pm

Ed, Will, et. Al.,

We have met twice and are dealing with the simpler issues first. One issue is if a champion has not been re-measured within 10 years, should it be removed from the list. The consensus is yes with some exceptions. The exceptions need not be spelled out prematurely, but I doubt any one is going to disagree with the 10-year rule. Many of the state programs have considerably shorter windows. Thoughts?

The current issue under consideration is whether to include only the live parts of the tree or to measure to the end of the dead parts. In the case of the trunk and species like bristlecone pines, the dead part of the trunk is, of course, included. But height to a dead top, crown spread to the end of dead branches? What are your thoughts?

Robert T. Leverett
Re: European beech forests

by hamadryad » Mon Jun 04, 2012 4:06 am

Pholiota aurivella (Golden scaly cap)

Inonotus cuticularis

Volvalriella bombycina

Helvella lucanosa
Clavulina coralloides (mycorrhizal)

Fommes fomentarius

Hericium erinaceus
Beech have the second highest associated bio diverse ecology of our natives (U.K) I go out in search of their associated fungal partners regularly. I am most fortunate to live so close to so many great Beech and Oak woods, Epping Forest, Burnham Beeches, Ashridge Park, Knole house etc. Here are a few more images from our U.K Beechwoods.
Re: European beech forests

by hamadryad » Sat Jun 16, 2012 7:31 pm

Corrrr blimey guvnor, its lonely in ere innit!

Heres another beechwood fungi Coprinopsis picaceus
Re: European beech forests

by hamadryad » Mon Jun 17, 2013 2:58 pm

I thought it was time I added a few more English Beeches to this thread.

As you can see in one image sunburn is a common problem, your beech bark disease can also be sunscald if the woodland is thinned too much and in hot weather.

I re inspected some old friends over the weekend, sadly I missed the Laetiporus while it was in its prime, the tree has failed within the last few days the bracket must have been over 50lbs in weight!

In one image you can see the Lion of Buckinghamshire carved into the chalk hills of the Chilterns, beech habitat, this landscape is full of beech woodland.
Corner trees on the Monongahela National Forest

by tsharp » Sun Jun 16, 2013 8:48 pm

NTS:
I thought this abstract may be of interest to some ENTS and WNNTS:

Forest restoration would be greatly helped by understanding just what forests looked like a century or more ago. One source of information on early forests is found in old deeds or surveys, where boundary corners were described by noting nearby trees known as witness trees. This paper describes the creation and analysis of a database of witness trees from original metes and bounds surveys of what became the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. We include an estimate of positional error from the conversion of paper maps to digital format. The final database contains 15,589 corners and 22,328 trees of 49 species from deeds dating from 1752 to 1899. White oak was the most frequent witness tree, followed by sugar maple, American beech, and American chestnut, and distribution patterns were recognizable across the study area. In early forests of the study area, magnolia, sugar maple, and black cherry were found on high-elevation ridges. Red spruce, hemlock, birch, and American beech were found on high-elevation toe slopes. Basswood was found in high-elevation coves, and red oak was associated with bench landforms at high elevations. At moderate elevations American chestnut and chestnut oak were associated with ridges, white pine and yellow pine occurred on benches, and an unknown species called spruce-pine was found on valley landforms. Blackgum was associated with toe slopes on low elevations, and black walnut was found on low-elevation benches. Low-elevation valleys contained white oak, elm, and sycamore. An important finding from this analysis is that some associations between species and environmental variables differed based on the ecological setting. Indicator kriging, using presence-
absence data, resulted in probability of occurrence maps for selected species. We estimate that white oak covered 26 percent of the study area, sugar maple 19 percent, American chestnut 3 percent, and red spruce 2 percent. For some reason I could not get a working link embedded in this message for the entire PDF file but if one searches for "European settlement-era vegetation of the Monongahela National Forest" you should be able to download it. I would think other National Forests have done similar studies.

TS

Re: Corner trees on the Monongahela National Forest

by edfrank » Sun Jun 16, 2013 9:41 pm

Title: European settlement-era vegetation of the Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia
Author: Thomas-Van Gundy, Melissa A.; Strager, Michael P.
Year: 2012
Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 39 p.

http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/41448


Re: Corner trees on the Monongahela National Forest

by Don » Sun Jun 16, 2013 11:49 pm

Turner/Ed-
While working at Northern Arizona University, one of my colleagues (Terry Arundel) was doing his MS thesis on a Western equivalent of the paper you cite. I got to thinking about the differences that would come out of the two different survey techniques (metes, bounds and a Cadastral grid).

From my original corner/property line restoration work with the Redbird Purchase Unit on the Daniel Boone National Forest, the metes and bounds were almost exclusively landscape-based such as ridgelines, creeks, and other topographic features (elevation, slope, aspect).

From my earliest work with original corner restoration with the Burns District of the Bureau of Land Management in eastern Oregon that began in the 1880's, surveying was done on a grid system. With respect to topographic/ecologic features, the Cadastral gridding "systematizes" the data, with a tendency towards random selection (it does pay attention to cardinal direction/aspect).

While I no longer recall statistical techniques that
Terry used to offset any bias the gridding system introduced, I suspect that analogous statistical techniques were employed by your cited paper.

VERY interesting stuff...in the west, it seems that surveyors developed a preference for some species over others in terms of 'scribe-ability' of bearing/reference trees. Perhaps a similar predilection existed in eastern surveys?

Don Bertolette

Re: Corner trees on the Monongahela National Forest

by Will Blozan » Mon Jun 17, 2013 4:47 pm

Spruce-pine= hemlock. Sometimes Carolina hemlock is called spruce-pine down here.

European Chestnut

by Jeroen Philippona » Tue Mar 30, 2010 8:29 am

James,

You asked Kouta about measuring European Chestnut, Castanea sativa. I have measured a lot of them, although not in really native forest stands, which are in S.E. Europe. In the Netherlands it was introduced by the Romans, so not native but naturalised. The tallest measured here is 33,0 m (108 ft), in tall forest in Arnhem surrounded by European Beech up to 42,6 m (139,76 ft), European Larch up to 39,0 m (127,95 ft) and English Oak up to 37,5 m (123 ft). Normally in closed forest the height of Chestnuts is between 20 and 28 m, rarely above that. The largest in the Netherlands has a cbh of 850 cm (27,9 ft), the largest cbh of all trees in Holland. The largest Chestnuts are in the warmer Meditarranean countrees like Spain and Italy. Also in the western parts of France near the Atlantic and in the UK (were winters are very mild) there are very large (but not very tall) chestnuts. There are Chestnuts with cbh of 10 to 14 metre (33 to 46 ft), most of these are open grown with a height of about 15 to 25 m (50 - 80 ft).
The largest Chestnut of the UK has a height of 25 m (82 ft) and CBH of 12 m (39 ft). See two attached photos

European Chestnut CBH 34 ft

and one of another Chestnut of CBH of 10.3 m (34 ft). Both are in Cowdray Park, West Sussex, England.

In Sicily, Italy, there are even larger Chestnuts, but while still alive their trunks have been rotting and falling apart in several pieces. Tallest in the UK is 35 m (114.8 ft). Even in the south European countrees I have never seen taller Chestnuts and I doubt if they ever reach 40 m.

So European Chestnut is amongst the largest trees in trunk-diameter in Europe, but not one of the taller species.

In Germany and more to the east there are fewer large Chestnuts because of the colder, more continental winters.

Jeroen

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**Re: European Chestnut**

[Jeroen's post](#) by [James Parton](#) » Wed Mar 31, 2010 6:36 pm

Jeroen.

Awesome chestnuts! They are huge! Our Live Oaks may be even second to these giants. Long ago our American Chestnuts were said to be giants but not anymore. I am glad European scientists were able to defeat the blight there. Hypovirulence worked like magic there.

Ed,

I would love to see Jeroen's part of this post w/photos included on the American Chestnut Project page. While they may not be eligible for the spreadsheet list, the post itself with photos would be a welcome addition to the Chestnut Project Page. It show how big a Castanea species can really get! Castanea Sativa to the best of my knowledge is the closest in appearance to Castanea Dentata.

James E Parton

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**Re: European Chestnut**

[Larry Tucei's post](#) by [Larry Tucei](#) » Thu Apr 01, 2010 8:29 am

Jeroen, Wow that is a huge tree! I'm curious to know how old would that tree be? 200-300 years maybe? I'd love to measure and photograph some of the European tree species some day. Larry
Re: European Chestnut

by Jeroen Philippona » Sat Apr 03, 2010 8:01 am

Larry,

About the age of these two chestnuts I know little. Dr. Owen Johnson of the Tree Register of the British Isles writes about the largest of them in their book "Champion trees of Britain and Ireland" (Whittet Books, 2003) "this gigantic but relatively youthful Sweet Chestnut grows in the same field at Cowdray Park, W. Sussex, as the well-known Queen Elizabeth Oak."

This relatively youthful is when compared with two other chestnuts with even larger circumference but which are very hollow, burred and with complex trunks with parts decaying away and new growths. Hereby I send a few photos of such chestnuts. One of them, the Tortworth Chestnut, in the 18th century had a bigger circumference than it has now due to this decay.

These kind of chestnuts are said to be very old, even a thousand years, but little can be proven. The oldest chestnut (and tree!) in the UK with a known planting date is the Castle Leod Chestnut in Strathpeffer, Scotland, which was planted in 1550 and has a girth at 5 ft of 8.10 metre / 26 feet 7 inches. So it is far from the biggest in girth, but it has a rather long trunk and a height of 28 m / 92 ft. It has known girth-measurements since 1867 when it was 18 feet 2 inches; in 1908 it was 21 ft 6 inches, in 1938 23 feet 3 inches. This is a relative slow rate of growth of less than an inche a year, probably because of the shorter cool growth-season in Scotland. Most chestnuts grow faster in Southern England with warmer summers, I know when young between 1 and 2 inches girth increment a year, but slowing down to about one inch a year when older.

In another park nearby, Petworth Park, I have ringcounted a cutted chestnut with a cbh of about 23 feet which was 230 years. This is very normal for the species.

The huge chestnut of Cowdray Park will have grown fast, the girth is extra large because of root-swell. So the lifelong growth in cbh could be 3 to over 4 cm a year. I think it will be about 300 years old, 200 years seems to be very young for such a large tree of perhaps 4000 cubic feet, which would be 20 cubes a year.

Conclusion: the oldest known chestnut in the UK for sure is 460 years now. Several extreme big chestnuts are thought to be older, but there is little proof. The huge chestnuts of Cowdray Park are probably around 300 years.

Jeroen

PS Larry, you reacted before I had completed this post. I agree that probably few of the big Live Oaks are over 400 years. It is interesting if the largest of them will live on for several decades or more. The Locke Breaux Oak was said to have died of poison, could it not have died from great age?

When comparing great ages the oldest trees are often not the biggest, for example the oldest found white and chestnut oaks in the US till now are not very big. They have grown slow and have very narrow rings.


**Re: European Chestnut**

▷ by Jeroen Philippona » Sat Apr 03, 2010 1:19 pm

James,

Yes, I have heard about it. It could be that the root system is of one genetic individual, but still the extreme large circumference was of several stems together. The trunks have decayed a lot and now there seem to exist a few separate trunks. The largest of them seems to have a circumference of about 22 m, 70 feet, but strange is that I have never seen a really good photo of it. I think each of these trunks has decayed in itself also a lot. So in my opinion it does not rival the Tule Tree and the largest Baobabs in size, while these have rather complete trunks of over 30 m / 100 ft girth.

About the age there is a lot of speculation, but while the old information of the huge tree is of the 18th century, I don't think there is proof of a historical, tree-ring, Carbon-dating or other scientific kind which gives proof to such a great age. I think that with several (12 or so) trunks growing from a common root system such a great size could be reached within 1000 years. I hope some scientific research shall be done.

Jeroen

**Re: European Chestnut**

▷ by James Parton » Sat Apr 03, 2010 10:46 am

Jeroen & Kouta,

Have you heard of the "Tree of a Hundred Horses" in Italy. It is supposidly the largest girthed tree in the world with a cbh of 190 feet and diameter of over 60 feet. This chestnut rivals the Tule Tree (A Montezuma Cypress) and the giant Baobabs of Africa in size. It is true that the Hundred Horses Chestnut is a multi-trunked tree but it is counted as one because all trunks grow off the same root system.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chestnut_Tree_of_Hundred_Horses

http://wapedia.mobi/en/Chestnut_Tree_of_Hundred_Horses

The tree also is believed to be of great age. 2000 years or more.

James E Parton

**Re: European Chestnut**

▷ by Rand » Sat Apr 03, 2010 9:06 pm

Thomas Pakenham includes this tree in his book 'Remarkable Trees of the World', If I remember correctly he said only a few of the original trunks that formed the original 18th century ring survive. I believe he said they used to pen livestock up inside of it, causing much of the damage.

http://www.amazon.com/Remarkable-Trees-...0393325296
Re: European Chestnut

by Jeroen Philippona » Mon Apr 05, 2010 4:51 pm

Hereby some photos of the trunks of the "Castagno dei Cento Cavalli / Tree of a Hundred Horses" I found on internet as well as three more old drawings / paintings of the tree, to see the separate trunks.

Jeroen

Re: European Chestnut

by edfrank » Sat Jun 29, 2013 10:41 pm

Photos of a Tree of a Hundred Horses

The chestnut tree today
Re: European Chestnut

by hamadryad » Mon Jun 17, 2013 4:58 pm

Some very large Sweet Chestnuts (Castanea sativa) from Croft Castle, Herefordshire, U.K.

The tree in a gouache by Jean-Pierre Houël ca. 1777.

Pencil sketch from Popular Science monthly, circa 1872.
Folks,

The Ausable River empties into Lake Champlain near Keesville, NY. Most people visiting the area stop by Ausable Chasm. Others canoe the river out to Lake Champlain. My son Rob and I floundered around in the marsh looking for big trees. Here are some images of what we found.
Needless to say, we were not disappointed. Cottonwood, silver maple, green ash, chinquapin oak, hackberry, boxelder, red elm, northern red oak, and red maple make up the majority of trees. I spent a lot of time plowing through ferns that had already reached head height. It was challenging.

The big news is that I measured an old cottonwood to 134 feet. That sets a height record for the species for the latitude - I think. More later.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Ausable River Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary

by dbhguru » Wed Jun 05, 2013 4:45 pm

Howard, Elijah, et al.'

Here are 3 more images from the Champlain area
White cedar roots

Monica and a black willow

A 20.1-foot girth chinquapin oak

Tom, Monica and I are presently at Golden Lake in Ontario. Tomorrow we'll be at Algonquin Provincial Park. Here are two shots from Golden Lake.
This Internet connection is painfully slow. I'll stop here.

Robert T. Leverett

Big Butt Mountain trees...what gives?

• by jamesrobertsmith » Mon Jun 17, 2013 3:21 pm

Okay. We all know that the Black Mountain range is shaped like a giant "J" or fish hook. I had been rambling all over the main ridge in my days as a hiker/backpacker/camper. But I'd never hiked the other, smaller side of that "J". Yesterday, I did. And what floored when when I got to the highest point of land on the highest mountain in that part of the range (Big Butt Mountain) is that the high ridge is dominated by rhododendron shrubs and hardwoods. Hardly an evergreen to be seen! No spruce. No balsams. What gives? Why is this nearly 6,000-foot chunk of real estate so different than 6,000-foot terrain on the other side of the range?

http://tilhelasthemlockdies.blogspot.com/2013/06/i-ended-up-doing-easy-hike-as-day-trip.html

Re: Big Butt Mountain trees...what gives?

• by bbduhn » Tue Jun 18, 2013 8:46 am

It looks just like the Craggies to the south. Patches of spruce exist in the Craggies but spruce are not dominant there. Yellow birch, beech and sugar maple are all very common at the highest elevations, along with hawthorn and Catawba rhododendron. The spine of the Craggies runs directly into the Big Butt spine. Perhaps Big Butt is really a part of the Craggies.

Re: Big Butt Mountain trees...what gives?

• by Josh Kelly » Tue Jun 18, 2013 9:42 am

JRS et al.

Great question! Why isn't there more spruce in the "western Blacks", a.k.a., the Craggies? Why isn't there spruce west of Siler's Bald in the Smokies? These are interesting biogeography questions.
In many parts of the range of red spruce, logging and burning in the historic period have decreased spruce dominance at high elevations. That is not the case in the Craggies. With the exception of the spruce around Point Misery, the Craggies are and have been dominated by hardwoods up to their highest elevations throughout the historic period. There are big differences between the geology in the Craggies and the Blacks. The Craggies are gneiss, and a fairly base-rich (mostly magnesium) variety at that. The summit of the Blacks and east are composed of acidic Metagreywacke, a metasedimentary rock of totally different composition and origin than the gneiss of the Craggies.

That’s about all I have to share. Interesting to contemplate.

Cheers,
Josh Kelly

**Variation on External Baseline method from Germany**

by dbhguru » Tue Jun 18, 2013 12:56 pm

NTS

Kouta recently received information on a measurement of Germany’s tallest tree. A team over there using a Theodolite measured a Doug fir to a height of 64.83 meters. They drew extensive diagrams and documented every step of their measurement process. Kouta was interested in Will’s and my take on their process. In particular, Kouta wanted to know the process would lead to an accurate determination and if he should follow up with a measurement using the Nikon Forestry 550.

From their diagram and distances and angles, I was able to derive the equations they used. It is a variation of the Extended Baseline method. It represents a different approach, but completely valid. I have a spreadsheet showing the derivation and calculations, which I will post if Kouta authorizes it. At any rate, we can say that the Doug fir is 212.7 feet in height, assuming the measured distances and angles are accurate, and we have no reason to doubt them.

As an interesting variation on the theme, they measured the angle from the vertical down to the top of the tree and used the cotangent function instead of measuring the angle above the horizontal and using the tangent function. Their process is trigonometrically equivalent. Additionally, they used angle measure of gradians instead of degrees. I missed that point initially until Kouta pointed it out. Nine degrees equals ten gradians. So, conversions between systems is very simple. I had to use degrees because all my trigonometric tables are based on degrees.

What impresses me most is that they recognize what they need to do to get the horizontal distance of the top from either of their measuring stations. They didn’t just assume the top was vertically over the point on the trunk at the level of a measuring station. Kudos to them. It offers hope that our European counterparts understand what needs to be done to accurately measure the height of a tree that isn’t perfectly vertical and are willing to go to the effort needed. Of course, the method they used isn’t a field method intended to be efficient for the measurement of lots of stems. But I’m sure they recognize what is needed in different situations and for different purposes. One size does not fit all. Quite refreshing.

Robert T. Leverett

**Re: Variation on External Baseline method from Germany**

by KoutaR » Wed Jun 19, 2013 1:18 pm

Bob, Note that the tree was measured by the land survey office of Freiburg municipality, not by foresters.

A photo:
McNeil River Bear Sanctuary, South Central Alaska

by Don » Tue Jun 18, 2013 6:46 pm

Noting Bob's fine floral images as he and Monica traverse Wyoming, it occurred to me that I should put up some images that Rhonda and I captured last week when we had the good fortune to spend five days at the McNeil River Bear Camp.

For more than thirty years, the Sanctuary has provided a special environment for Alaskan brown bears, free of human/food conditioning, and full of respect for the bruins and THEIR way of life. As a result, we were fortunate that the bears let us share some of their space. Images that follow range from 300 yards away to 30 feet away, and were captured by a Sony point and shoot, pocket-sized travel zoom (DSC HX9V 24mm-360mm). Most images were Auto-enhanced, straightened but otherwise appear as taken. I'll attach a few here and now, and if requested, more in a later posting.

[Double click for actual image size, for this one only...apologies for submitting such a large file size!]

Don Bertolette
Re: McNeil River Bear Sanctuary, South Central Alaska

by Don » Wed Jun 19, 2013 2:58 pm

Bob-
They are, as they say in Alaska, the most ‘charismatic of mega-fauna’! Our guides had (yep) guidebooks that identified many of the bears we saw, and knew them often by name. The third day out, Boog and a young challenger began what we soon recognized as a 'space recognition' issue (not so much territory in the geographic sense, but in a here and now chronological sense...guides referred to it as bubbles, and saw bear bubbles bouncing off of other bear bubbles). The two continued "compressing bubbles" until the bubble 'popped' in a pretty dramatic altercation. In their approach, they both practiced what the guides called "the Cowboy Walk" (essentially the wide-legged stance that cowboys develop after years of horseback riding). During this walk they'd urinate, essentially 'drawing the line'. [Males urinate down to forward, females urinate down to behind them, sometimes the only way to be sure of gender ID]

They were no more than 50 yards away from us, over a slight hill. They rose up on two legs (both formidably 8’ or taller) and swiped each other with clawed paws (claws longer than Arsenio Hall’s fingers!) before things got serious. They began a Sumo Wrestler kind of shoving match (they’re still on two legs), until Boog decided to raise the stakes.

With a firm bite on the massive neck of his younger challenger, Boog eventually took him down and wreaked a little havoc on him. Boog released him, backed away, turned his back on the challenger (a show of dominance) as he walked away. With a Cowboy Walk. The young challenger remained motionless (on all fours), looking down, for several minutes, then set off in another direction, casually grazing, with noticeable blood in his neck fur.

We sat transfixed, silent until a near simultaneous "phew!" kind of a sigh of relief (I think we were probably all holding our breath, apprehensive about what might come next). Five minutes later, we continued our journey, boldly enough walking by the site of the altercation, viewing the strewn sedges (Carex spp).

The next day, the young challenger is just another bear, this time having just crossed the creek to cool off (unusually warm weather while we were there, returned Saturday to Anchorage to 80 degree temps!)

The young challenger, surprisingly non-plussed grazes his way towards an eventual creek crossing...

Don Bertolette
Re: McNeil River Bear Sanctuary, South Central Alaska

by jamesrobertsmith » Tue Jun 18, 2013 9:14 pm

One of my former pals went there two years ago before he went into Katmai. He had some pretty dicey encounters with some bears while he was at McNeil.

He and his wife were walking back from the river to the campground. They got cornered by a mother bear with two huge cubs (all but grown). They had to back into the trees (shrubs, really, from the way he described them) to get out of their way (cubs coming down one side of the trail, momma the other. It was a nervous moment for them but the bears met up and passed them by without paying much attention to them.

Later, in Katmai they had an even more frightening encounter with a bear which also turned out okay.

Augustine Volcano, here not active, but upon our return displaying a column of steam...most recently active four years ago...pilot aimed at it from Homer, then turned SW while along side of it, towards the Bear Camp...

Don Bertolette

Re: McNeil River Bear Sanctuary, South Central Alaska

by Don » Wed Jun 19, 2013 4:09 pm

Part of the McNeil River Bear experience is the journey, and taking a float plane ride (Cessna 206) is a tried and true Alaskan adventure. The plane is sitting on water when you get into it, it takes off on it, flies above it for an hour or more, and lands on it. During that experience, there might be views of interest, such as the one below, taken by my better half (Rhonda) in the back seat (best for viewing, taking photos):

Augustine Volcano, here not active, but upon our return displaying a column of steam...most recently active four years ago...pilot aimed at it from Homer, then turned SW while along side of it, towards the Bear Camp...

Don Bertolette

Re: McNeil River Bear Sanctuary, South Central Alaska

by Don » Wed Jun 19, 2013 4:44 pm

JR-
Wise decision by your friends! And one that works both at McNeil and with bears in general. Heck, animals in general.

We came to a different way of viewing bears while at McNeil...these are different bears. What I mean to say is that they behave differently than bears in other locations. The McNeil bears have had a consistent human behavior to deal with for the almost 40 years they've been in the sanctuary. Through one man's consistent behavioral philosophy (Larry Aumiller), these bears haven't come to associate humans with food (their words are more like, not food-conditioned). They don't raid the camp, although to
the uninitiated camper's horror, their footprints occasionally do appear within the camp per se. The outhouses (brand spanking new after 40 years) are about 50 yards out of camp, and unless you're in a hurry, one usually takes a good long look at the immediate vicinity. The bears I'm told are liking the new edges on the new outhouses and like to rub their backs on them.

Thursday, we ventured out further and stationed ourselves on this 'driftwood island', about 100' from a cliff that ran for several miles along the far side of Mikfik Creek. We'd seen "following behavior" for several days, and were getting good at identifying it. Boy follows girl. Girl plays hard to get. Boy follows girl more ardently. Girl plays harder to get, and actually gives him a piece of her mind. Boy is non-plussed, definitely gonna stay close to her as he can.

So after one complete circle of the immediate geography (some several square miles) in the morning, we're watching a younger girl taking a nap, halfway down the cliff/bluff, when boy and girl bear burst upon the scene, dropping from top of cliff to base of cliff a small distance before us, and the younger girl bear...she see's the advantage of exiting stage left, climbs up and over the cliff/bluff and is outta there. Another bear enters the driftwood island from the Southeast, all three now in front of us about 100 yards out. Girl Bear in the lead heads away from them, and towards us at a rapid clip. There are five of us, rotating on large driftwood logs trying to take all of this in...I sensed the wrongness of my position, turned to face the girl bear, our guide (Dru) behind me and slightly to the side. Dru simply stood tall, opened up his arms and pointedly stared at the girl bear who promptly zagged to the right of us, the new boy bear returned from where he came, and the pursuing boy bear continued his 'following behavior', and off they went.

At the point of nearest proximity, all three were briefly within 50 feet of us. I would have liked to have had the wherewithall to have set my camera on video and captured this scenario. But I found that having jaw dropped interfered with my photo shooting! I did take a photo of the younger girl bear, in her siesta not long before all the action, and it follows:

Don Bertolette
Re: Albino Redwoods

by SteveH » Thu Jun 20, 2013 2:15 am

This is a slightly different angle of the one Mark posted that I took while on an albino search.

Greater Everglades Question

by ESH » Tue Jun 18, 2013 3:07 pm

Hi there,

With the disclaimer that I'm a fairly new member of NTS who's eager to post more often & plow through the archives (in other words, apologies if this is an already-covered topic), I wondered whether anyone had any information on notable individual trees of the Greater Everglades. While I'm based in Oregon, I'm a frequent visitor to & devoted fan of the South Florida backcountry, and I've begun venturing more deeply into the outstanding Everglades wilderness. I'm aware of the huge, famed centerpiece West Indian Mahogany of Mahogany Hammock, and I know many trees of similar stature were logged out of the more accessible hammocks in the region (and that the pine rocklands of the Miami Rock Ridge, including Long Pine Key, were analogously harvested), but I just wondered whether any big-tree or old-tree surveys had been conducted either in the Everglades N.P. or associated locales (Big Cypress, etc., not necessarily counting the well-described Corkscrew Swamp with its Bald-cypress behemoths). I'm thinking of everything from champion Live Oaks to big old-growth mangroves & buttonwoods along the Everglades/Ten Thousands Islands coast. The Coastal Prairie Trail stretching from Flamingo to Cape Sable sure passes some nice Buttonwood & Black Mangrove veterans (and plenty of beautiful hurricane-killed snags).

Anyhow, just thought I'd throw it out there. As a naturalist & writer, I'm really interested in old-growth--including "hidden" old-growth of those ecosystems in which the concept has only lately been given attention. Thanks for any ideas, counsel, etc.

Cheers,
ESH

Bannock Range - Clouds and Shadows

by dbhguru » Thu Jun 20, 2013 11:06 am

NTS,

Pocatello is in the Basin and Range province of Idaho. As you drive through the countryside, small mountain ranges appear on the horizon, appear closer, and fade as they are bypassed. Most travelers don't have any interaction with them, but they define the scenic backdrop that defines the region. Here are
four scenes that reflect what can be so compelling about this country - the interplay of sky and mountain shadows.

The mountain in the last scene is Chinese Peak. Its modest elevation is 6,700 feet and it rises from the Portneuf River basin at about 4,300 feet. I look off toward this mountain from my daughter's front doorstep.

Robert T. Leverett

**Badlands of South Dakota**

by dbhguru » Tue Jun 18, 2013 9:13 pm

NTS. While the Internet is working for me, here are some images of the Badlands.
Black Hills

by dbhguru » Tue Jun 18, 2013 9:18 pm

NTS,

One final image: Elkhorn Mtn in the South Dakota Black Hills.

The next image shows 12,325-foot Mount Teewinot, companion to the Grand. It rises between 5,400 and 5,500 feet from the location of the image. As can be seen, the eastern side of the Tetons

Robert T. Leverett

More of the Tetons

by dbhguru » Wed Jun 19, 2013 5:06 pm

NTS,

Here are 4 more images from Grand Teton NP. The first shows a field of arrowleaf balsam root, a prolific bloomer on the slopes and meadows.

The third image shows 12,645-foot Mount Moran, named for Hudson River School of Art painter Thomas Moran.
In contrast: Point Misery

by jamesrobertsmith » Fri Jun 21, 2013 1:42 am

In contrast to Big Butt Mountain, which has almost no spruce trees, Point Misery is covered with them. Both mountains lie on the same hiking trail. Point Misery is close to the main and highest ridge of the Blacks...not far from Blackstock Knob, actually. Again, I must assume that there is something in the chemical makeup of the soil that accounts for the extreme differences in flora between this peak and the one at the far end of the ridge.

Oh crap!

by Will Blozan » Thu Jun 20, 2013 11:48 am

This report is dangerously close to the Fork Ridge Tuliptree last measured at 17.8’ X 191.8’ tall (tallest eastern tree), as well as the HUGE Poke Patch Tuliptree last measured at 21’ X 179’.
THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN GREENVILLE-SPARTANBURG SC HAS CONFIRMED A TORNADO IN THE BIG CREEK AREA OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK IN HAYWOOD COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA ON JUNE 13 2013.

A SURVEY TEAM THAT INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AND THE UNC-ASHEVILLE ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATED A REPORTED DAMAGE AREA IN THE BIG CREEK REGION OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS TODAY. THE SURVEY TEAM FOUND AN AREA OF EXTENSIVE TREE DAMAGE ABOUT 3.5 MILES UP THE DEEP CREEK TRAIL FROM ITS TERMINUS AT DEEP CREEK CAMPGROUND. THIS APPEARED TO BE THE END OF A DAMAGE PATH. HUNDREDS OF SMALL TREES WERE SNAPPED 10 TO 20 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND...AND DOZENS OF LARGE TREES UPROOTED ALONG A ONE-HALF MILE SECTION OF THE TRAIL. THE DAMAGE PATH MORE OR LESS PARALLELED DEEP CREEK...SUGGESTING THE FLOW WAS CHANNELED DOWN THE VALLEY...WITH ALL THE DAMAGE BEING BLOWN TOWARD THE NORTH OR NORTHWEST. CONSIDERING A PARENT STORM MOTION FROM THE NORTHWEST...THE DAMAGE PATTERN WAS HIGHLY CONVERGENT...WHILE THE DAMAGE PATH WAS VERY CONCENTRATED ACROSS A WIDTH OF ABOUT 100 YARDS. THESE FACTORS WERE CLEARLY INDICATIVE OF A TORNADO. THE SURVEY TEAM VIEWED A DAMAGE PATH THAT EXTENDED UP TO A RIDGE TOP ABOVE LOW GAP...AND DISCUSSIONS WITH A TRAIL MAINTENANCE CREW INDICATED THAT THE DAMAGE PATH EXTENDED WEST/NORTHWEST TO AT LEAST THE TENNESSEE LINE. HOWEVER...DOWNED TREES AND THE RUGGED TERRAIN MADE A COMPLETE SURVEY IMPOSSIBLE. THE SURVEY TEAM HOPES TO USE HIGH RESOLUTION SATELLITE DATA TO PRECISELY MARK THE BEGINNING AND ENDING LOCATIONS OF THIS TORNADO IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Re: Oh crap!

by Josh Kelly » Fri Jun 21, 2013 9:38 am

Relax! The damage is 3.5 miles up from the campground and the super trees are 10 miles up from the campground. Several friends stayed at Poke Patch last weekend and I heard no stories of damage. Those trees are so tall in part because they are in such protected locations. It’s possible that a they lost a limb or two, but I'm sure the Poke Patch tree is still standing and I bet the Unagudaguda tree (or whatever Ian named it) is too. It's good to keep an eye on things. It’s also good to temper concern with a bit of calm. Anyway, that’s my perspective. Otherwise, every time a powerful thunderstorm goes through the NC section of the park, big tree lovers will be ringing their hands. Wasn’t there a similar post last year?

Rationally,
Josh

Re: Oh crap!

by Will Blozan » Fri Jun 21, 2013 5:09 pm

Josh,

I am glad to hear the area was not smashed! The NWS report did note damage to the TN line- thus my concern. I do hope no damage occurred- but, that is what it is.

Back in the eighties I worked on a historic estate in Maryland pruning state record trees; black walnut, white ash, and shagbark hickory. All were lost in the derecho of 1988 just weeks after our pruning. Champions come and go but when you get a personal attachment and life experience in them their well-being seems more important.

Will
Poem: Prayer of a Tree

by RayA » Fri Jun 21, 2013 6:16 pm

I'm a woodturner, making artifacts from trees that have come down for whatever reason. I appreciate living trees as things of wonder, awe and beauty; and I find working wood a very satisfying pursuit. A poem hangs on the wall of the shop; it's reportedly from the book “Spanish Sunshine” by Elinor Elsner, circa 1925, and was a notice found on a tree in a park in Seville, Spain. I've adopted it as expressing my own sentiments. Thought some of you might appreciate it too:

Prayer of a Tree

To The Wayfarer,

Ye who pass by and would raise your hand against me, harken ere you harm me.

I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights, the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun.

My fruits are refreshing draughts, quenching your thirst as you journey on.

I am the beam which holds your house, the board of your table, the bed on which you lie, and the timbers of your boat.

I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, the shell of your coffin.

I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty.

Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer; harm me not.

Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Asimina (Pawpaw)

by Matt Markworth » Sun Jun 16, 2013 8:14 pm

Hi All,

Genus of the Week: Asimina

Here's a fitting quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson, "For as Nature has put fruits apart in latitudes, a new fruit in every degree, so knowledge and fine moral quality she lodges in distant men . . ."

Will,

That 3' CBH Pawpaw is a beast. What would the method of height measurement been for that tree back in August 1996?

An excerpt from Jess's MaxList:

An excerpt from the TALLEST EXAMPLES OF EASTERN NATIVE TREE SPECIES List, February 2004:

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/bigtree/webpage_tall_tree_list.htm

USDA Plants Database:

http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ASIMI

Don Leopold video . . .

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7X2vCTqIoOY

- Matt Markworth
Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Asimina (Pawpaw)

by Will Blozan » Mon Jun 17, 2013 6:16 pm

Species (Scientific): Asimina triloba
Species (Common): common paw paw
Height (ft): 62.2’
CBH (ft): 2.5’
Maximum Spread (ft): 18
Average Spread (ft): 16
Volume (ft³):
Site Name: Great Smoky Mountains National Park (TN)
Subsite Name: Abrams Creek Campground
Country: USA
State or Province: Tennessee
Property Owner: USDOI
Date of Measurement: 4-30-2011
Measurer(s): Will Blozan
Method of Height Measurement: ENTS sine; Nikon 440 + Suunto clinometer
Tree Name: George
Habitat: Riparian flat near creek
Notes: http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=74&t=2487&hilit=+paw+paw
Same tree listed as measured on 8/1996 in 2004 MAX LIST. (CBH a typo). This tree was supposed to replace a triple stem coppice on the National Register but so far it is not listed.

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Asimina (Pawpaw)

by edfrank » Thu Jun 20, 2013 4:21 pm

Matt,

These are the largest Paw Paws in this neck of the woods:

May 16 - Paw Paw seeds which I planted months ago have finally sprouted. I have four of the seven seeds up. I hope the others grow also. They aren't producing fruit yet...

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Asimina (Pawpaw)

by tsharp » Wed Jun 19, 2013 8:47 pm

Matt: Submission for Pawpaw - Crown Spread
Scientific name: Asimina triloba
Common name: Pawpaw
Height: 28.3’
CBH: 33.3”
Crown Spread: 34.3’ maximum, 28.7’ average
Volume:
The same ones plus one additional as of June 17, 2013. I am not sure how to measure girth on them, but they likely would not be a record anyway.

Edward Forrest Frank

North Syracuse Update June 2013

by tomhoward » Sat Jun 22, 2013 3:51 pm

NTS, I have some more information about the 2 old growth Oak Groves in North Syracuse.

I reported about the Gypsy Moth infestation that I discovered in the Wizard of Oz Grove Sun. June 16. That infestation has worsened dramatically in the past few days. On June 16 I didn’t see much defoliation, but that changed in only 2 days. Robert Henry and I visited the Grove June 18, and there were many more caterpillars than only 2 days before, with the trunks of Oaks and Beeches crawling with them. The Oaks are being rapidly defoliated. It's possible that some of the Oaks will die – they should all be bare in another week or so. These caterpillars don’t seem to be bothering the Red Maples too much. I can find no evidence of a Gypsy Moth outbreak in the media around here, but there is a huge outbreak in Toronto that is making a lot of news there, and they are using helicopters to spray the infested trees.

In the beautiful golden evening of Mon. June 17 Robert Henry and I went to Watson Rd., North Syracuse to look at a big White Oak owned by a friend and neighbor of his. The tree is in a small 2nd growth wooded area at the back of his friend’s lot, and it is huge! It is a partly open-grown White Oak with 2 big leaders rising into a vast lofty crown. It is a single-trunked tree, and, well below where the trunk forks, we measured a dbh of 61”. The branch spread is easily 100-110 ft. The tree is growing on a slight rise that has been said by some to be an ancient Indian burial mound. The tree is possibly about 200 years old, and it does not have the balding bark, gnarled branches, stem sinuosity that are typical of older White Oaks. We got our best height measurement from Robert Henry’s nearby backyard, from which the huge crown of this White Oak seems to fill the sky:

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Asimina (Pawpaw)

by Will Blozan » Sat Jun 22, 2013 7:55 am

Matt,

I drove to the site yesterday and the 40’ tree was gone...
Looks like Turner's spread nomination is also a girth record.

Will
(D1, H1, D2, H2 are in yards; full height of tree is in feet)

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<td>D2</td>
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<td>H1</td>
<td>32.68</td>
<td>H2</td>
<td>2.46</td>
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<td>Height</td>
<td>105.42</td>
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The tree may be even taller than this – we will have to come back when the leaves are down to get better laser rangefinder shots into the crown, and through the thick brush by the tree’s base.

In total volume, this White Oak is the largest tree in North Syracuse, and largest Oak in Onondaga County (at least as of this time).

After we left Watson Rd., Robert Henry and I had a magical and spiritual visit to the North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove. The Grove was illuminated by golden sunlight slanting through the densely packed old trees.

Soon after Bob and I entered the Cemetery Grove, a man approached us. He is a member of the Board of the North Syracuse Cemetery Association, which owns the Grove. He saw us go in there, talking about trees, and he wondered what was going on. He is a steward of the Grove, watching over it. He does not want any harm to come to the trees. He wants to see the Grove preserved for posterity. This is the best news we’ve heard about this precious little Oak Grove in many years. We reassured him that we love the Grove, and that we have been studying it for years. He takes his children into the Grove, and they play in there, just like I did as a child – I told him I’ve been going to the Grove since I was 5 years old, back in 1957.

Then Bob and I went further into the Cemetery Grove. We did not find a single Gypsy Moth caterpillar on any tree – the Cemetery Grove Oaks are totally free of Gypsy Moth, and are magnificently green and healthy. This seems miraculous since the Wizard of Oz Oak Grove White Oaks are so infested with Gypsy Moth.

Thanks to the recent heavy rains, the vernal pool in the center of the Grove was full of water; it is an irregularly shaped ancient natural pool, with tree-filled peninsulas and islands. I showed Bob some of the trees near the vernal pool, including an ancient sinuous Red Oak (12.9” dbh, 100.8 ft. tall) that has its growth slowed by waterlogged roots, and a double-trunked slender Red Maple that amazingly reaches a height of 100 ft. The golden light through the trees was beautiful, like an Impressionist painting.

The spiritual power of the Grove was palpable, as we passed through 3 concentric circles to the vernal pool (or natural ancient sacred pool), through a broken circle of tall (and young) White Pines, through a circle of Red Oaks (seeming to be mostly 100-150 years old), and at last through the inner circle of ancient White Oaks. We visited the center of this power, in the extremely dense stand of old White Oaks southeast of the vernal pool, and Bob marveled at the extraordinary density of this Grove, amazed at how 2 ancient (possibly 300 years old) White Oaks like #23 and #25 could be only 6 ft. apart from each other. The Grove seems to be filled with a positive spiritual energy.

Red Oak #13 in the Cemetery Grove is the gnarliest, oldest-looking Red Oak we’ve seen here in Central NY. It could be about 270 years old, oldest Red Oak in Onondaga County. This 1-acre Grove contains what could be the oldest White Oak (300 or more years old), Red Oak, Black Oak (biggest tree in Grove, 45.8” dbh, 104.9 ft. tall, about 190 years old, the monarch of the Grove), Red Maple (about 200 years old), Black Gum (awesomely gnarly Tree #34 with ancient balding bark, possibly over 300 years old) in Onondaga County.

The Cemetery Oak Grove is this area’s ultimate forest, ultimate old growth sacred site. The North Syracuse Cemetery Oak Grove is a true wonder of Creation, the most significant natural wonder in North Syracuse.

Tom Howard
Arches National Park

by dbhguru » Sun Jun 23, 2013 7:19 pm

NTS,

Yesterday evening Monica and I drove to a lookout for Delicate Arch in Utah's Arches NP. It is small as NPs go, just under 77,000 acres, but its purpose is to protect exquisite rock sculptures. In this regard, it succeeds handsomely, because even the shortest drives are eye-popping. Here is a look at Delicate Arch.

Odd shapes are the rule. Here is one example of hundreds.

The moon had risen and I caught it over this sculpted rock form.

For me the real treat was the moon over the LaSal Mountains to the east. The LaSals are one of three laccolith structures in Utah. The others are the Abajo and Henry Mtns. Ed could give a good explanation on how laccoliths form. Mount Peale, at 12,721 feet is the high point in the LaSals. They are serious mountains.

Robert T. Leverett
Moab Mama

by dbhguru » Sun Jun 23, 2013 10:30 am

NTS

So far, i haven't had many encounters with notable trees. Lots of magnificent scenery, but the big trees have largely alluded me. However, I struck pay dirt in Moab. In a field along a fence line, I saw some large trunks of Fremont cottonwoods. Unfortunately, they were on the other side of a barbed wire fence, with an electric strand at the top and no trespassing signs. But I had a monocular and made use of it. The big sucker below measures 7.35 feet in width, which likely translates to between 22 and 24 feet in girth. I have no idea how far out of round the trunk is. The height is only 62.5 feet, but this is a desert, so trees will be short.

Here is the best I could do for a photograph. I used an iPad app to increase brightness. The result is a little grainy.

Just beyond this cottonwood grows another large one, just at 20 feet in girth. A third one that I could get to measures approximately 18 feet around. A large mass of tumbleweed surrounded much of the trunk and there were thorny shrubs all around as well. Nonetheless, t was gratifying to know that large, short cottonwoods can grow even in a desert environment. I'm reminded of the Villanueva, NM.

Well, it is off to Durango and the old growth dedication with Joan Maloof tomorrow and tree hunting with Larry Tucei. Way cool.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Moab Mama

by Larry Tucei » Sun Jun 23, 2013 8:19 pm

Bob, NTS, Wow! 20 footers! You don't see them often. I just got in Durango and right away noticed some nice city trees, nothing that big though! Flew over the fires north and east of Durango- got a good look at that one. Windy here and that's not helping much. Another big fire is near East Spanish Peak threatening ranches, also the big one taking over 250 homes at Colorado Springs. Talked to one guy on the flight that was on his way to assist them here. http://durangoherald.com/article/201306 ... South-Fork

Larry

Re: General Discussions

by Matt Markworth » Mon Jun 24, 2013 7:28 pm

Ed,

I linked through your bookstore post to buy BVP’s Champion Trees of Washington State, which must have brought me good karma because I got a very cool copy.

BVP signed it with the following message, “SHIRLEY, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.”
Throughout the book are trees nominated by Shirley Muse and they have been highlighted with a marker. Many of the highlighted trees have handwritten notes next to them, such as “new,” “topped,” “diseased,” “cut down,” and “gone.” Many of the trees she nominated are in Walla Walla, WA, which is also where this book shipped from. The book includes a paragraph about her on the Acknowledgements page.

It’s very clear that this book belonged to Shirley Muse, “The Tree Lady” of Walla Walla, WA.

- Matt

Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Betula (Birch)

by Matt Markworth » Sun Jun 16, 2013 9:39 pm

Hi All,

Genus of the Week: Betula

"No weather interfered fatally with my walks, or rather my going abroad, for I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech-tree, or a yellow-birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines." - Henry David Thoreau

"Instead of calling on some scholar, I paid many a visit to particular trees, of kinds which are rare in this neighborhood, standing far away in the middle of some pasture, or in the depths of a wood or swamp, or on a hilltop; such as the black birch, of which we have some handsome specimens two feet in diameter; its cousin, the yellow birch, with its loose golden vest, perfumed like the first . . . " - Henry David Thoreau

Here’s a sampling of Betula that can be submitted:

Betula alleghaniensis, Yellow Birch
Betula lenta, Sweet Birch
Betula nealaskana, Resin Birch
Betula nigra, River Birch
Betula occidentalis, Water Birch
Betula papyrifera, Paper Birch
Betula papyrifera var. cordifolia, Mountain Paper Birch
Betula pendula, European White Birch
Betula populifolia, Gray Birch
Betula pubescens, Downy Birch

An excerpt from Jess’s MaxList:


An excerpt from the TALLEST EXAMPLES OF EASTERN NATIVE TREE SPECIES List, February 2004:
http://www.nativetreesociety.org/bigtree/webpage_tallest_tree_list.htm

USDA Plants Database:
http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=BETUL

Don Leopold videos . . .

Sweet Birch http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQlx2L_Li0
River Birch http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fakXAMQqpPI
Paper Birch http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eh7Vq3Enw3
Gray Birch
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMnfGWFt3DU

Here is Josh's original post about the two massive Yellow Birches on Rocky Bald. Check out the difference in character of these two trees . . .

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/fieldtrips/north_carolina/rocky_bald/rocky_bald_macon_county_nc.htm

- Matt

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Betula (Birch)

by Matt Markworth » Sat Jun 22, 2013 10:19 pm

Hi All,

Here are the Maximum Heights for Betula . . .

- Matt

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Betula (Birch)

by dbhguru » Mon Jun 24, 2013 6:28 pm

Matt, The listing of the 110-foot white birch in Mohawk Trail State forest can be deleted. I was never able to confirm that measurement, and it is an improbable maximum for the species.

Bob

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Abies (fir)

by tsharp » Tue May 21, 2013 6:49 am

Matt: Another Abies submission. This is a species of limited distribution and probably not well documented as to size.

Scientific name: Abies lasiocarpa var. arizonica
Common name: Corkbark Fir
Height: 90.0
CBH: 5.8
Crown Spread: none taken
Volume:
Site name: San Francisco Peaks
Subsite: Snow Bowl
Country: USA
State: Arizona  
County: Coconino  
Property owner: Federal, Coconino National Forest  
Date of measurement: 3/2012  
Method of measurement: Sine method using handheld Nikon 440 laser rangefinder and Suunto clinometer  
Tree name:  
Habitat: Mountain slope at 9,200’ elevation

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Abies (fir)

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Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Abies (fir)
Species (Scientific): Abies magnifica
Species (Common): California Red Fir
Height (ft): 172
CBH (ft): 30.41
Volume (ft³): 3,880
Site Name: Yosemite National Park
Subsite Name: near White Wolf Road
Country: USA
State or Province: CA
Property Owner: NPS
Measurer(s): Bob Van Pelt
Tree Name: Leaning Tower

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Abies (fir)

by Matt Markworth » Tue Jun 25, 2013 9:08 pm

Hi All,

Largest Abies procera by volume, per BVP's Forest Giants of the Pacific Coast . . .

Species (Scientific): Abies procera
Species (Common): Noble Fir
Height (ft): 227
CBH (ft): 29.91
Volume (ft³): 5,700
Site Name: Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Subsite Name: Yellowjacket Creek
Country: USA
State or Province: WA
Property Owner: USFS
Measurer: Bob Van Pelt
Tree Name: Yellowjacket Creek Champion
Notes: Tree originally reported as having a height of 278' (84.7m) before the top was blown out.

- Matt

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Abies (fir)

by Matt Markworth » Wed Jun 26, 2013 8:19 pm

Hi All,

This link has a photo of the Cabin Lake Tree, the huge Abies amabilis found by the late Randy Stoltmann. It's listed on the Tree Maximums List for Max Volume.


- Matt

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Abies (fir)

by Matt Markworth » Wed Jun 26, 2013 8:41 pm

Hi All,

Here is Howard's original post on the 95.6' Balsam Fir, it's listed on the Tree Maximums List as Max Height along with Bob's 94.5 footer . . .

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/fieldtrips/new_york/elders_grove06.htm

- Matt
Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Abies (fir)

by Matt Markworth » Wed Jun 26, 2013 8:55 pm

Hi All,

Here's is Bob's original post on the 94.5' Balsam Fir that is on the Tree Maximums List . . .

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/fieldtrips/new_hampshire/old_growth_new_hampshire_style.htm

- Matt

Part 1 - Going to the river

by tsharp » Mon Jun 24, 2013 12:17 am

JNTS:
In July of 2012 wife Susan and friend John Fichtner took off for points far north. By far north I mean to Dalton Post, Yukon Territory for a put in on the Tatshenshini River. There we were to meet four other friends arriving via Haines, AK. The driving part from Parkersburg, WV was to be 3400 miles. We spent long days on the road and tried to make camp before dark. At most of our stops I had enough time to measure a few trees. Our itinerary took us up through North Dakota into Canada and picked up the Alaska Highway near Beaver Lodge, Alberta. Then north and west through northern British Columbia and the southern section of the Yukon Territory until a turnoff heading south at Haines Junction which is about 100 miles west of Whitehorse, YK

Stops along the way included:
Alberta: Banff National Park
This stop included tenting with the mosquitoes in the Two Jack Campground plus traffic jams in the downtown area.
Largest trees measured were:
Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta var. latifolia) 3.7’ x 74.6’, 3.8’ x 70.6’

Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides) 2.4’ x 52.5’

Turner and Susan Sharp at Bow River Falls near downtown Banff. Really a cascade instead of falls but is a scenic attraction handy to view by the multitudes of tourists.

Photo by John Fichtner

Typical dramatic scenery in the park

Photo by Susan Sharp

Alberta: Another stop was at a roadside park near the town of Demmitt.
Largest trees measured included:
Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides) 4.0’ x 72.5’, 4.5’ x 61.0’

A complete list of trees measured in Alberta can be
found on the Trees database at:

http://www.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1502/Details
http://www.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1542/Details

British Columbia: Fort Nelson
This was a pleasant lunch stop at town park on the edge of town
Species measured included:
Balsam Poplar (Populus balsamifera ssp. balsamifera) 3.9’ x 67.9’, 5.9’ x 67.2’
Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides) 3.0’ x 89.5’

British Columbia: Liard River Hot Springs Provincial Park:
This was a nice stop. For five dollars one got to enjoy an outdoor hot spring that was developed by the US Army while building the Alaska Highway during WW II. Large and lush examples of Ostrich Ferns (Matteuccia struthiopteris) and Cow Parsnip (Heracleum lanatum) gave the surrounding area an almost tropical jungle feel.
Surprisingly the park stays open in the winter but another patron warned me the when it gets down to minus 15 to 20 F it is advisable to take off any clothing before walking the short distance to a changing room. The clothing is subject to freezing on sensitive body parts.
To get to the hot spring one must walk about 1/3 mile over a board walk through a muskeg swamp which features some Eastern Larch and Black Spruce. It also features mosquitoes which I was told at the gate are no extra charge but one has two choices - Run the distance at full speed or cover up including head netting.
The largest of six species measured are listed below:
Thinleaf Alder (Alnus incana ssp. tenufolia) 1.25’ x 26.1’
Eastern Larch (Larix laricina) 3.0’ x 70.2’
White Spruce (Picea glauca) 6.1’ x 87.3’
Black Spruce. (Picea mariana) 2.4’ x 53.0’
Balsam Poplar (Populus balsamifera ssp. balsamifera) 5.0’ x 91.1’
Black Cottonwood (Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa) 6.8’ x 91.4’
I had trouble separating many examples of Balsam Poplar and Black Cottonwood at this site and suspect hybrids of the two are common in this area.

A complete listing of trees measured in British Columbia can be found on the Trees database at:

http://www.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1477/Details
http://www.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1462/Details

For more information about this park use the following link:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/liard_rv_hs/

This stretch of the Alaska Highway from Fort Nelson to the Stone Mountains was rich in wildlife viewing. Moose, Caribou, Deer, many black Bears, Coyotes Golden Eagles, Bobcat, Bison (including two road kills), and Red Fox were observed from the road. The picture below is of some Stone Sheep which is one of four species of Sheep native to North America.

Yukon Territory: Teslin Lake campground
Tree species measured included:
White Spruce (Picea glauca) 3.6’ x 59.5’, 4.0’ x 53.1’
Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides) 2.2’ x 50.2’, 2.7’ x 40.7’
We camped at a public campsite not far off the highway near the lake. The camping area appeared to flat top ridge composed of sand and gravel. This was
poor and dry site and the tree growth reflected it. Yukon territory: Watson Lake:
We camped at a public camp ground several miles north of town near a lake which we never saw. The site was much better for tree growth and mosquito activity.
Tree species measured included:
Subalpine fir (Abies lasiocarpa var. lasiocarpa) 3.4’ x 94.3’
Paper Birch (Betula papyrifera) 3.2’ x 57.8’
White Spruce (Picea glauca) 4.4’ x 92.7’
Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta var. latifolia) 4.7’ x 77.5’
Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides) 4.8’ x 65.0’
Scouler’s Willow (Salix scouleriana) 1.8’ x 32.1’

A complete listing of trees measured in the Yukon Territory can be found on the Trees database at:

http://www.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1479/Details
http://www.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1482/Details

There is another rather unique forest in Watson Lake, but I did not measure any trees there.

we left early the next morning after discovering Walmart had penetrated this far north and was open all night for last minute supplies.

Our original plan was to meet the others at the put-in at Dalton Post, but new Homeland Security requirements insist that we must present ourselves at the border post just north of Haines, Alaska beforehand to notify them of our intentions of reentering the country by river. So it cost us 4 extra hours and a tank full of gas gas and an overnight stay in Haines. However Haines is pleasant town and reminiscent of Cicely, Alaska of the TV show Northern Exposure. They also do not allow the large cruise ships to stop.

Part 2- Going down the river will follow in a couple of days.

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Part 2 - Going Down the River

by tsharp » Wed Jun 26, 2013 10:44 pm

We left Haines early in the morning and had to go through the same routine at the border crossing because yesterday’s staff did not communicate with the today staff. After an hour delay we were soon ascending the Haines Highway to the Chilkat Summit and alpine tundra at 3500 feet. In a 10 mile stretch of this highway and near the turn off for Dalton Post we saw three female Grizzly Bears with 5 cubs. What a welcome to the area and time to verify we had packed bear spray. The vegetation seemed to be luscious near the road and the mama bears seem to be teaching the cubs what grasses/roots to eat.

Mama with two ? cubs twenty feet off the road.
Once at the put-in of Dalton Post or Shaw’ashee (Southernage name) we rigged our boats for a 135 mile river trip on the Tatshenshini and Alsek rivers to Dry Bay, Alaska with 1,950 feet of elevation drop to sea level. Our party of seven would be in a raft and two Catarafts. We were to be floating through Kluane National Park and Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary in the Yukon Territory, the Tatshenshini- Alsek Park in British Columbia and once passing into Alaska the Glacial Bay National Park and Preserve which occupies both sides of the river until approaching the coast where the Tongass National forest is on river right.

From the put-in at Dalton Post we made camp near the confluence of Silver Creek at mile 12. This first day through a five mile canyon had the only significant whitewater on the trip. It was continuous Class 3+ with the ice cold river running bank full at 10 mph. The banks had a lot of trees in the water so it was not advisable to swim to shore it you were out of your boat. Everyone made it with the only the loss of one oar.

Bridget among the wildflowers

During dinner at this camp we were treated to two pairs of Trumpeter Swans winging away down river. We could hear them before they arrived and long after they passed.

It should be noted that most of our camps were on out wash plains from side tributaries and new ground. I did not expect to find any large or old trees and most camp sites had sparse vegetation. Several good reasons for picking camp locations like this. No bush means less mosquitoes and good visibility means bears and humans are less likely to have a surprise encounter. It also makes it easier to unload and load rafts. I was not one to wander in the bush alone and the occasional companion that was game soon tired of the mosquitoes and definitely showed less interest when large unseen creatures were heard in the bush.

Trees measured included:
White Spruce (Picea glauca) 4.6’ x 68.0’
Balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera ssp.balsamifera) 4.5’ x 54.5’
Scouler’s Willow (Salix scouleriana) 1.7’ x 31.6’, 2.0’ x 24.5’

Next camp was at the confluence of Alkie Creek at mile 43
Trees measured included:
Thinleaf Alder (Alnus incana ssp. tenufolia) 1.25’ x 22.8’, 1.3’ x 22.7’
White Spruce (Picea glauca) 2.5’ x 47.9’
Scouler’s Willow (Salix scouleriana) 2.1’ x 35.2’

There were long stretches of braided channels below...
this camp which kept the boatman on high alert the following day.

Next camp was at the confluence Towagh Creek at mile 63
The river has has almost doubled in size and the scenery is going off the charts

Cottongrass (Erioporum spp.) on the outwash plain below Towagh Creek with a small portion of the Alsek Range in the background.

Next camp was about a mile below the confluence of at Melt Creek at mile 75
The scenery has gone off the charts. This camp is only three miles above the confluence of the Alsek River. This is immense, raw, wild country. Well worn paths made by bears were very evident. A big four legged creature walked through our tent area at night. Tracks observed in the morning shows it was a Moose and calf. Apparently no one stuck their head out of their tent to make a species identification. Melt Creek was running bank full and cobbles the size of bowling balls make lots of noise as they tumbled along the creek bed.

A list of trees measured during the British Columbia part of the River trip is in the Trees Database at:

[http://www.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1492/Details](http://www.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1492/Details)

Just three miles below Melt Creek the Alsek river joins on river right. The river is now about a mile wide and the flow creates swells of 2-3 feet giving a sense of being at sea. It is also the area know for its unpredictable weather. It seems that the coastal and continental air masses quite often meet here and hang around for several days. July through September are usually the most benign months. We got by with 1 1/2 day of drizzle. The vegetation changes in this section also. Disappearing are Quaking Aspen, White Spruce, and Balsam Poplar replaced by Black Cottonwood, Sitka Spruce and extensive stands of Sitka Alder covering newly exposed slopes caused by retreating glaciers.

Alsek River heading into the weather section and the Fairweather Range

The Alaska border is reached at mile 88
We are now within the borders of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
We camped at Walker Glacier mile 95. This was another layover day so we could hike to the glacier. The name Walker Glacier is unofficial an appears on no map. It is called that because it is the easiest one to "walk" to from the river. The "walk" was maybe two miles one way and fairly easy but did include some crawling and wading. Portions of the trail were underwater and we had to bushwack a mile through an Alder stand. If you like hiking/crawling through the Rhododendron slicks in the Appalachians you...
will feel right at home in an Alaska Alder thicket.

Ed Gertler standing on a lateral moraine after emerging from the Alder thicket.

Photo by Amy Thornton

On the toe of Walker Glacier

Photo by Tom Connelly

We camped at Gateway Knob in Alsek Lake at mile 118.

Getting into Alsek Lake has to be done with care. One must pull over on river right and climb about 200 feet above the river on a scree slope and with your binoculars glass the three different entrances known as doors to see which ones are passable. Door number 1 was open, door number 2 was blocked by icebergs, and door number 3 was probably open because it is only closed in low water. So door number 1 was it

Entering Door number one. Notice how the current sweeps into the icebergs.

Photo by Tom Connelly

Everything went well into the lake and there was plenty of time and distance to avoid the iceberg by pulling left. However it soon became apparent that even though the beach at Gateway Knob was only one mile away we would have to row about 3 miles up and around the lake to get past the rows of icebergs blocking the beach access. Even then the last 100 yards we had to manhandle the smaller bergs to get the rafts to shore. Time elapsed from our scout position to the beach was 4 1/2 hours in a lite rain or heavy drizzle and several of us had to wade in waist deep water during the last one hundred yards. A roaring fire and some food soon made us forget the misery and we soon had the tents up and most everyone soon drifted off to sleep to the sound of icebergs calving from the two big glaciers feeding into Alsek Lake. The next day weather was perfect and we were treated to a great view of Mount Fairweather about 40 miles to the east.

Mount Fairweather 15,325’
Photo by Amy Thornton

The picture above was taken at 5:30 AM the next morning from camp and the clear visibility only lasted for about 45 minutes. Mount Fairweather also known as Boundary Mountain marks the boundary between the USA and Canada. It was first climbed in 1931.

Fireweed (*Chamerion augustafolium*) between the beach and the slope of Gateway knob

Photo by Bridget Tincher

Trees measured included
Feltleaf Willow (*Salix alexensis*) 1.6’ x 20.7’ x 27.0’(average crown spread)
The list of the Willows measured is in the Trees database at:

http://www.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1484/Details

The last fifteen miles to Dry bay was uneventful although we did share it with some icebergs that exited Alsek Lake about the same time. They traveled a lightly slower speed than we did and caused no problems
Alsek Lake is a recessional feature formed when the glaciers retreated. Likewise I believe Gateway Knob is the remains of a terminal moraine. Early explorers made no mention of a lake at this location, only a wall of ice and scree slope on the other side.
The take out at Dry Bay Mile is at mile 135 and is still about 3 miles from the ocean although harbor seals were evident on the river sand bars. We were to meet our bush pilot at a landing strip for the flight back to Haines The good weather allowed the flight back to Haines to cross the mountains instead of taking the coastal route. It gave us a good opportunity to see Alsek Lake and the Grand Plateau Glacier feeding the lake.

Photo by Bridget Tincher

Susan touring the bergs in her cataract. She apparently did not get enough berg time the previous day.
Trees measured along the Douglas Island Old Growth Trail included the largest of the following species:

- Sitka Spruce (Picea sitchensis) 12.2’ x 138.8’, 16.2’ x 133.5’
- Western Hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla) 5.9’ x 128.8’, 8.5’ x 114.0’
- Red Alder (Alnus rubra) 4.1’ x 53.0’

The Red Alder was close to the water’s edge and it was obvious for about 20 feet of elevation the trees were much younger. My first experience with isostatic rebound - This was how much the land has risen since the glaciers have retreated and it is still an ongoing process.

http://www.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1487/Details

On the dive back to Juneau I spied some small knarly pines near the road in a wet area. Even though I had never seen them before I knew they should be Beach Pine (Pinus contorta var. contorta) I got to the most convenient one and measured it at: 2.4’ x 47.2’

I also learned later that Mountain Hemlock (Tsuga mertensiana) grows down to sea level in this area. The only ones I saw were young.

TS

Personal Best Heights

by bbeduhn » Wed Jun 26, 2013 4:01 pm

It's the slow season so I'll list my personal bests. Feel free to add a similar list.

http://www.treesdb.org/Browse/Sites/1485/Details

Susan and I took the ferry over to Juneau for a two day visit with friends. One of the requirements of our visit was I had to be able to spend some quality time in some mature Sitka Spruce/Western Hemlock stands. Our friends delivered me to a hiking trail on Douglas Island in the Tongass National Forest. Douglas Island is just across the channel from downtown Juneau and is connected by bridge. I got to spend several hours there and have to admit much of was just spent sitting and enjoying (forest bathing?)
Re: Personal Best Heights

by dbhguru » Wed Jun 26, 2013 5:06 pm

Brian,

That is an impressive list to say the least. You've accumulated a wealth of data. I am especially interested in the species that also occur in New England, New York, and PA and will watch as you find taller members of those species. As a general rule species that grow well in both northern and southern latitudes have a 20 to 30-foot height advantage in the South. For example, pitch pine in the South beats its northern equivalent by around 25 feet. Lots of other examples could be given. I'm especially interested in what you find for red maple. The differential north to south may be only 10. To 15 feet. Tuliptree appears to be between 25 and 30 feet. White pine is probably under 25 feet. And so on.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Personal Best Heights

by bbeduhn » Thu Jun 27, 2013 10:18 am

Patrick,
Tuliptree will easily be bettered on a trip to one of several Smokies locations. I've tried to focus on Smokies trails that haven't been measured by ENTS, thus the low number there. Pecan is not native and I've only identified one tree so far, in the 50' range, so I didn't bother to get an accurate measurement. These are personal bests that I've discovered on my own, except for the tulip which was pointed out by Will, and a number of trees at Biltmore, which he also guided me to. A fair number of the Biltmore trees had been measured in the past by ENTS and others. The Bur oak is listed as a state champ at 140'. I spent nearly ten minutes checking out the enormous crown. There's no way it ever topped 120'.

Bob,
I have a tough time finding red maples above 120'. They seem to occur is just a handful of locations. That's definitely one species that holds its own in the Northeast, along with silver maple and sugar maple.

Brian

Re: Personal Best Heights

by pdbrandt » Wed Jun 26, 2013 5:47 pm

Nice list indeed! Do you consider these the tallest trees that you have located and measured personally? If so that is even more impressive. I imagine it would not be hard for you to measure a taller tulip tree during a day trip to Baxter Creek in the smokies. I noticed there was no pecan on your list. Do they grow in the western half of NC?

Patrick
**Hermosa Creek Goodies**

by dbhguru » Thu Jun 27, 2013 10:32 pm

NTS

Today Larry Tucei, Steve Colburn, myself, Monica, and Bea Colburn went up Hermosa Creek. The objective was to put the TruPulse 200 X through its paces. We succeeded handsomely. Here are tall trees measured with the new TruPulse or the TruPulse 360 from two trips.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species.</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ponderosa</td>
<td>160.3</td>
<td>Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug fir</td>
<td>160.3</td>
<td>Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado blue spruce.</td>
<td>160.2</td>
<td>Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponderosa.</td>
<td>152.5</td>
<td>New</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado blue spruce.</td>
<td>150.75</td>
<td>New</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado blue spruce.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ponderosa.</td>
<td>145.0</td>
<td>Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponderosa.</td>
<td>143.0</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern white pine</td>
<td>114.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Steve loaned Larry a TruPulse and he went much farther up the trail and made some amazing discoveries. He'll report on them after he returns to Mississippi. Larry has one more crack at the trail tomorrow, so he may add to the discoveries. At any rate the Hermosa Creek watershed in the La Platas is a very, very significant place. Part of it is under consideration for a federal wilderness designation. A biker told Larry that the big trees go on for 20 miles. Lots left to explore.

Robert T. Leverett

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**Coal Bank Pass Engineer Mountain**

by Larry Tucei » Thu Jun 27, 2013 12:23 am

NTS- On Tuesday June 24 Bob and I drove to Coal Bank Pass which is about 35 miles north of Durango. We hiked Coal Creek Hiking Trail up Engineer Mountain just north of Hwy 550. He has been on the trail several times and has measured Engelmann Spruce to 142.5’ and 135’. This would be my first hike of an elevation above 10,000’. The Trailhead starts off at about 10,640’ and tops out at 12,973’. We did not hike to the Summit but did make it in to about a 1 ½ miles to 11,562’.

[link]

The Forest here is dominated by immense stands of Engelmann Spruce. At the lower trail the tree heights are in the 115-125’ class with an exception over by the parking area across Hwy 550 where Bob had measured a Spruce to 142.5’ on a previous visit. We measured a few younger trees to 120’ and one Old Growth in a photo later at the trailhead. Most of the trees throughout the trail were not Old Growth and had heights to 120’ with some exceptions and CBH to 12’. The higher we hiked the taller the Spruce became and we started seeing more OG trees. Bob and I spied trees that were exceptional and he measured over 60 trees on our hike and documented around 30. It was amazing how many trees were at the 120’ mark. Most of the Old Growth trees had Circumference’s of between 10’ and 12’. The scenery was spectacular and we spent most of a day on our hike up and back. The tallest trees were located at mid climb with an exceptional stand that we named the John Davis Grove. The elevation at the Grove was 11,097’. Lat N 37 42.256 and Long W 107 46.569.The tallest trees here that Bob measured were 135’, 134’, and 130’. We named the 134’ tree the Matt Markworth Spruce with a CBH of 7’ 10”. The 135’ Spruce unfortunately had died. These three trees were on the upslope which surprised me. The area may have more surprises and warrants further exploration. One other note we measured a Spruce of 109’ at over 11,500 maybe a new elevation record. Some photos- Larry
Bob measuring the 142.5' Engelmann Spruce at the Pass

The Needles and Pigeon Peak

Engineer Mountain

Matt Markworth Spruce

Old Growth Spruce at Trailhead
John Davis Grove Upslope

Bob at the John Davis Grove
The Rock Spruce 120+

Growth Rates

Pond at 11,200

Looking North
Moss in the Trees

There is no expectation on posting frequency. Just thought the numbers were interesting.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Postings

by edfrank » Thu Jun 27, 2013 12:40 pm

A fair number of posts made by myself were structural ones where I set up the various forums and links to the website. But still I am likely the most prolific even taking out maybe 500 for those activities. I am not able to get out much for various reasons, so I comment on the posts made by others.

Testing TruPulse 200 X

by dbhguru » Wed Jun 26, 2013 10:09 am

Karlheinz and Kouta,

Tomorrow, steve Colburn, Director of Sales, North America, will bring a TruPulse 200 X over from Denver and will allow me to test it. I have the red beam lasers here and will set up targets. A full report will be presented so that you can judge for yourselves.

Larry, We should probably plan to return to Hermosa Creek to do the testing on the champion trees. I'm interested to see how well the gate works to ignore returns from objects closer than the target. If the 200 X performs as advertised, it would be the instrument of choice. I think the advertised accuracy is +/-2 centimeters. I'll take it. I'm unsure of what the advertised accuracy of the tilt sensor is, but it should be +/- 0.1 degree or the improved accuracy of the laser will be compromised.

Robert T. Leverett

NTS

Larry Tucei is to be congratulated. He has reached his 1,000th posting. Joe Zorzin is closing in with 990. Robert Smith has 808. Of course, the most talkative of the group include a fellow from PA and a fellow from MA. Our buddy James Parton has dropped off.

by dbhguru » Wed Jun 26, 2013 5:22 pm

NTS

Wildflowers at over 11,500'
Re: Testing TruPulse 200 X

by dbhguru » Thu Jun 27, 2013 10:08 pm

Karlheinz and Kouta,

My initial experience with the TruPulse 200 X was very positive. Accuracy of the laser is about an inch and a half. Accuracy of the tilt sensor is 0.1 degree. The gate function has been improved to work in units of one foot. That is very useful. With this model, we were able to confirm the height of the champion Colorado blue spruce to 160.2 feet. We also were able to confirm the champion ponderosa to 160.3 feet. The nearby Doug fir is also 160.3 feet. The TruPulse 200 X will get another test tomorrow, but as of this point, I am impressed.

Robert T. Leverett

Re: Testing TruPulse 200 X

by dbhguru » Fri Jun 28, 2013 7:38 pm

Kouta

I was able to test the laser accuracy this morning against the Bosch GLR825. Over 12 trials, the average difference between the two instruments was 1.5 centimeters. The gate function works, but my test was very limited. I saw enough to want a 200 X. I'll likely get it in August at which time the testing will continue. It will be too late for me if I find the purchase a mistake. However, I could save you all from a similar fate.

Oh yes, the firmware is going to be upgradable by the Internet.

Robert T. Leverett

Big (and healthy) Hemlock in Salem, NJ

by Barry Caselli » Fri Jun 28, 2013 5:08 pm

A few weeks ago I was exploring the Baptist cemetery in Salem with a friend and found a beautiful Eastern Hemlock with no adelgid on it at all. It's one of the biggest Hemlocks I've ever seen that I can remember, and it's not going to be dying any time soon. Yeah! I'll see if I can attach pictures to this post.

Hemlock closeup
**Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Acer (Maple)**

by **Matt Markworth** » Fri Jun 28, 2013 10:01 pm

Hi All,

Here is Dale's original post on the Max Girth Sugar Maple along with photos . . .


- Matt

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**Re: 20+ CBH Oaks in Southern New Jersey**

by **JohnnyDJersey** » Sat Jun 29, 2013 8:43 am

Barry,

Thank you. I wasn't aware of the oak in Estell Manor. There is a 20+ CBH oak in Collingswood on rt 30 that I have pictured above that I didn't know about until about year ago and there was virtually no information online. It sits right in front of the Scottish Theater there. In my opinion, the 5 greatest oaks now in New Jersey are, The Salem Oak, The Keller Oak, The Basking Ridge Oak, The Clement Oak, and the one in Collingswood. All white oaks. To add a sixth I would say the state champ white oak as well, not much history to it but the largest by points.

- Matt
Updates on Colorado blue spruce and southwestern WP

by dbhguru » Sat Jun 29, 2013 10:48 am

Mark,

Please change the dimensions of the tallest Picea pungens in the tall tree list. Height = 160.2 feet. Larry Tucei will give the girth when he posts once he is back in Mississippi. It will be named the Laurie Swisher tree for the Forest Service representative who accompanied. The co-measurer was Steve Colburn. The method was sine-sine using a TruPulse 200 X. The location data are the same.

The second height to change is southwestern white pine. The new champ is 114.0 feet, measured by me using a TruPulse 360 and sine-sine. The location data of the tree are the same as the present one. All these trees are in the same mixed grove of trees. The name of the southwestern white pine is the Veronoica Egan tree. She is past Executive Director of the Great Old Broads.

Robert T. Leverett

Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Alnus (Alder)

by Matt Markworth » Sun Jun 02, 2013 10:35 pm

Hi All, Genus of the Week: Alnus

http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ALNUS

Here's a sampling of Alnus that can be submitted:

- Alnus glutinosa, European Alder
- Alnus incana, Gray Alder
- Alnus maritima, Seaside Alder
- Alnus oblongifolia, Arizona Alder
Alnus rhombifolia, White Alder
Alnus rubra, Red Alder
Alnus serrulata, Hazel Alder
Alnus viridis, Green Alder

An excerpt from Jess's MaxList:

An excerpt from the TALLEST EXAMPLES OF EASTERN NATIVE TREE SPECIES List, February 2004:
http://www.nativetreesociety.org/bigtree/webpage_tall_tree_list.htm


Don Leopold videos:

European Alder
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTLnYC2AwmY

Red Alder
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfHiBk_a2Nc

- Matt Markworth

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Alnus (Alder)

by KoutaR » Wed Jun 05, 2013 10:14 am

Matt,

Jess once wrote he has measured a 43.9-ft A. incana ssp. rugosa (=A. rugosa). See message # 25 here:
viewtopic.php?f=144&t=4861&start=20

Your second excerpt shows a 47-ft A. serrulata measured in 1997. I wonder if it can be a laser-measurement? In 1997!

In the European list, the 37.4-m A. glutinosa in Germany should actually not be in the list. Karlheinz has contacted the officials, who measured it, regarding another trees, and they said they use TruPulse with the 3-point-routine. The person, with who Karlheinz spoke, was quite new there and was not sure about the older measurements (the alder was measured in 2003), but it is highly probable that they have used a tangent method. This appears to be the case with almost all the measurements made by forestry folks in Germany. They regularly have TruPulses but they use the 3-point-routine only. Apparently some don't understand the problems with

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Alnus (Alder)

by tsharp » Tue Jun 04, 2013 2:38 pm

Matt: Here is an Alder submission:
Scientific name: Alnus oblongifolia
Common name: Arizona Alder
Height: 105.9’
CBH: 118.1” or 9.8’
the 3-point-routine, others understand but they say it is accurate enough for their purposes. Some have even said it is totally impossible to measure with the 2-point-routine (=sine method). We accepted the *A. glutinosa* tree to our list before we realized all the laser-measurements are not sine-measurements.

The tallest German *A. glutinosa* I have measured is 36.4 m:  
http://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/deu/s ... hengarten/

Kouta

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Alnus (Alder)

by Matt Markworth » Sat Jun 08, 2013 12:55 am

Turner,

That's an impressive Alder! Here's the original post if anyone missed it: http://www.ents-bbs.org/viewtopic.php?f=175&t=4955

Kouta,

Thanks for finding Jess's post with that tall Speckled Alder.

It looks like Will would have been using a laser by 1997. Here an excerpt from this post:  

I toyed around with some Smokies trees but my first major survey with the laser was in CONG, December 1996.

Let me know if you'd like to add any additional details for your impressive Gray Alder find.

Also, I greatly appreciate having access to the European Height Records List that you and Jeroen created. It has helped me expand my horizons.

Jeroen,

Let me know if you'd like to add any additional details for your impressive European Alder find.

Jess,

Do you have any other details on your impressive Speckled Alder find? Here's the original post:  

Will or Michael,

Do you know if the 47' Hazel Alder at Riverside Business Park is still standing? If so, it might be interesting to see the height difference since 1997.


Thanks,

Matt

Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Alnus (Alder)

by KoutaR » Sat Jun 08, 2013 6:18 pm

Matt,

Species (Scientific): *Alnus incana*  
Species (Common): grey alder  
Height (ft): 89.2  
CBH (ft): 3.28  
Maximum Spread (ft):  
Average Spread (ft):  
Volume (ft³):  
Site Name: Tuusula  
Subsite Name: Ruotsinkylää  
Country: Finland
Re: Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Alnus (Alder)

by Matt Markworth » Sat Jun 29, 2013 1:49 pm

Hi All,

Here is Jeroen's original post that includes the Max Height Alnus glutinosa . . .


Also, here's a photo from the Monumental Trees site . . .


- Matt

Grey Alder (Alnus incana)

This species also has a very wide distribution in Europe, Asia and North America. It is divided to several subspecies. Like in common juniper, the European subspecies (subsp. incana) becomes taller than the North American one. In boreal Europe, grey alder is very common as a pioneer tree and on lake shores. In central Europe the species is largely restricted to mountains. Jukka's record grey alder had fallen, but there were equally tall individuals next to it. The height of the new record grey alder is 27.2 m (89.2 ft) and CBH 100 cm. It grows in Ruotsinkylä, Tuusula, in 90-year-old forest dominated by +30 m tall Norway spruces. The forest type is the most fertile in Finland. Other trees in the grove are black alder, aspen, silver and downy birch, and bird cherry (Prunus padus). The understory is dominated by lady fern (Athyrium filix-femina).

- Matt
Defining tree base

by KoutaR » Sun Jun 30, 2013 2:28 am

A tree is growing on level ground but its roots have pushed the soil higher around its base. Do you measure the tree to the point A or B? Below B, no tree bark is visible, only soil. There was no mound before the tree germinated.

Kouta

Re: Defining tree base

by Karlheinz » Sun Jun 30, 2013 3:53 am

Particularly I can think of the earth plinth around the trunk of large tulip trees. Also in hillside situations with all thick trunks it is the rule that on high-slope-point the soil is raised.

Karl

Re: Defining tree base

by edfrank » Sun Jun 30, 2013 10:27 am

Kouta and Karl,

The concept that should be used is to old "From where the acorn sprouted." In principle the height should be measured from the height of the original ground surface rather than from the raised area pushed up around the roots. This is not always easy and may lead to some variations between different measurers, but this is what should be considered the base of the tree. In your diagram, it would be from height A.

Edward Forrest Frank

Re: Defining tree base

by Karlheinz » Sun Jun 30, 2013 12:47 pm

And this point "from where the acorn sprouted" is also the base for the girth measurement, if otherwise no special?

Karl
Re: Defining tree base

by tsharp » Sun Jun 30, 2013 2:33 pm

Kouta: I am glad you brought this subject up. While I readily accept "where the acorn sprouted" concept it does make an assumption that many times is not true. The assumption being that the ground level has stayed constant since the acorn sprouted. I have come across many examples where this is not true. With increasingly accurate height measurements this determination of the base elevation becomes more important. I believe on significant trees the base level should be documented/benchmarked for later measurements to be comparable.

TS

Re: Defining tree base

by edfrank » Sun Jun 30, 2013 3:11 pm

Karlheinz wrote: And this point "from where the acorn sprouted" is also the base for the girth measurement, if otherwise no special?

Karl

Yes this is what I think should be done. Yes this is a simplistic interpretation, but it works for most cases. Here is the text of my best shot at defining the base from ""The Really, Really Basics of Laser Rangefinder/Clinometer Tree Height Measurements" January 2010.

Colby Rucker stated this simply (Aug 11, 2002), "All height measurements start from the same place - "where the acorn sprouted." The application of the principle is where the trouble begins, but I do believe that any interpretations of the tree base should be true to this concept. Trees will sprout virtually anywhere and the physical landscape changes over periods of time. In many cases with trees on level or slightly sloping ground where little alteration of the ground surface has taken place, the base of the tree can be determined fairly easily. In cases where trees are on sloping surface with debris accumulation and soil erosion, where the trees are sprouting from the side of a rock outcrop, where trees are growing on nurse logs, where trees are growing in a swamp or marsh, and where trees are growing as epiphytes on other trees, the determination is more complex.

Where is the base of the tree? The definition used here is “the base of the tree is where the projection of the pith (center) of the tree intersects the existing supporting surface upon which the tree is growing. (Frank 2005a). Trees often sprout and begin their life on nurse logs. These logs eventually decay and the initial sprouting point may be a foot, or in the case of some of the giant western trees 10's of feet above the existing ground surface. Over time these exposed tap roots grow bark and become virtually indistinguishable from other portions of the trunk. This definition avoids the necessity to make those distinctions. In cases where the ground has been eroded to a lower elevation by this definition any exposed root above the ground surface directly beneath the center of the tree would be included in the tree height. Trees growing on the side of a cliff would still have their base at the cliff side as that position would be the intersection of the pith of the tree with the supporting growth surface. Roots that extend down the side of the rock face would not be considered toward the total tree height, just as exposed roots extending down a hillside are not considered toward tree height. Trees growing as epiphytes on other trees would have their base defined as where their pith intersected the supporting surface, in this case the branch or trunk, upon which it is growing. In Olympic National Park, WA in the summer of 2005I saw a large red cedar upon which two tree sized western hemlocks were growing, The largest epiphytic hemlock was likely 50 feet high and a foot or more in diameter and was perched on a notch of the cedar 20 feet above the ground - so this is a real-life consideration. There are trees that grow from spreading roots or from branches that have touched the ground and sprouted. The base of these trees would be the point at which their new trunk emerges from the supporting surface. Trees growing in swamps or marshes would have their base
measured from the bottom of the water pool in which they were growing.

It is not perfect but it is an approach to the problem. Benchmarking would require leaving a mark or something embedded nearby or in the tree itself, which may not be practical or acceptable. Consistent girth measurements require that the girth be measured at exactly the same point every time and really a tack or nail marker needs to be placed in the tree to endure repeatability.

Edward Forrest Frank

Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

by dbhguru » Sun Jun 30, 2013 11:27 am

Ed, et. al.,

Another lightweight topic is the rounding rule to be applied to girth, height, and crown-spread measurements. I think lots of states round down to the nearest whole number. I haven no problem with this as a general rule. In tight competitions where the highest accuracy instruments are being used, i would not automatically round down. However, coming up eith viable rules for treating situations as exceptions would get tricky. Thoughts?

Robert T. Leverett

Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

by tsharp » Sun Jun 30, 2013 2:17 pm

Bob:
I believe dead wood should be counted for height and crown spread. This would be consistent with counting it for girth and/or volume.
I believe a 10 year rule between measurements is reasonable.
For rounding measurement numbers I believe consistency is the way to go. Is there an AF policy on that issue at present?
TS
Hermosa Creek Trail Part 2

by Larry Tucei » Sun Jun 30, 2013 10:38 am

NYS-Bob, Monica, Steve Colburn, B Colburn and I hiked back into Hermosa Creek on Thursday June 27 to check out the new TruPluse 200X. At the .92 mile marker Bob and Steve measured the State Champion Ponderosa Pine to 160.3’. This is also the same location of the State Champion Colorado Blue Spruce, State Champion Douglas Fir and State Champion Southwestern White Pine. There is a beautiful stand of 130’ class Ponderosa all around the north upside of this site.

Steve was kind enough to let me use a TruPluse 300 on the hike and boy was I loving that instrument. I’m going to purchase one soon and triple my measuring trees in the Forest. After using this instrument I don’t care to even take my Nikon 440 out of its case.

After testing the new TruPluse we then proceeded farther on the trail to a distance of 1 ½ miles for a stop and lunch. I then went up the ridge a bit to locate and measure the Randy Brown Pine that was discovered last year. The Ponderosa Pine was about 200 yards on the upslope from a turn in the trail. What a whopper it measured 139.5’ tall and had a CBH of 13’!

The gang had got back on the trail after lunch and I was headed to meet up with them. When I did they had decided to head back to town. I would meet up with them later for the evening meal. I walked on trail another 2 miles and found much more Old Growth. When we separated the Ponderosa was in the 120’ class but as I walked in the trees began to reach heights of 130’ and eventually heights to over 145’ as did the Fir! I went through about 2 more stands of Pure Ponderosa, 2 stands of Aspen and 2 mixed stands of Ponderosa and Fir to a point 3.5 miles from Trailhead. The Aspen was tall also between 90’-100’ and some of the largest CBH that I’d ever seen. I talked with a Mountain Biker and he told me there were many big trees and tall trees the length of the trail. This is a fantastic site for mixed Old Growth species. As I reached near the end my hike I measured one Monster of a Ponderosa Pine right next to the trail with a CBH of 13’ 8 1/2” and a height of 146.5’! This is the tallest Ponderosa I’ve measured and largest CBH. N 37 28.794 W 107 52.108 The last surprise I got was at the end of my hike I spied a tall Doug Fir and measured it to 153.5’ which Bob has told me is the 2nd tallest Douglas Fir measured in the State. I did not measure the CBH but it would be around 10-12’. N 37 28.865 W 107 52.084

The Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir are reaching record heights throughout this trail and the Aspen as well. This is really just touching the tip of the Iceberg as I only walked in 3.5 miles of the 20 mile trail. Records are most likely to be broken here and it will soon become the newest Wilderness in the State. This 1000 acre proposed Wilderness Area has the tallest trees in Colorado and it has been a real pleasure to come here to help document this special place. I will hope to come back next year for a longer stay and more big tree hunting.
Some strange Hikers something about they were measuring trees

Steve at nice Ponderosa Pine

State Champ Ponderosa Pine .92 mile mark

Critters on the Trail
Another Stand of Ponderosa Pine 2 mile mark

Lunch

Randy Brown Pine 139.5’ 13’ CBH

1st Aspen Stand
Mountain Biker

Ponderosa Stand

Ponderosa Pine 146.5' CBH 13' 8 1/2"
Re: Albino Redwoods

by yofoghorn » Sun Jun 30, 2013 11:55 am

Here is the largest albino redwood known. It is 100 feet in circumference, over 31 feet average diameter, and has an area of approximately 795 square feet.

Re: Say Good Bye to the White Ash Tree (WV)

by Matt Markworth » Sun Jun 30, 2013 5:52 pm

Ash on a hillside in Northern Kentucky . . .
Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

by dbhguru » Sun Jun 30, 2013 7:26 pm

Turner,

Thanks. I've been bouncing around on the dead versus live wood issue like a ping pong ball. So your input is very valuable. The work of the group is starting to heat up so input at this time from all with ideas on any of the relevant topics will be mighty appreciated.

Ed, Will, Turner, et. al.,

One of the resolutions we must make is what is the definition of a tree for AF purposes. We've all seen examples of a species that can grow into a tree, but encounter a specimen that is a coppice at almost ground level. I presume that the particular specimen would need to have at least on stem with a diameter of 4 inches or more at some specified height for us to consider it eligible for measuring. Thoughts?

Robert T. Leverett

Re: American Forest’s Measurement Group

by edfrank » Sun Jun 30, 2013 8:39 pm

Bob, you wrote:

One of the resolutions we must make is what is the definition of a tree for AF purposes. We've all seen examples of a species that can grow into a tree, but encounter a specimen that is a coppice at almost ground level. I presume that the particular specimen would need to have at least on stem with a diameter of 4 inches or more at some specified height for us to consider it eligible for measuring. Thoughts?

Really I think you are off base on this one. The definition of a tree should have a height component, but not a girth component. These are the definitions from the USDA:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Growth Habits Codes and Definitions http://plants.usda.gov/growth_habits_def.html

Shrub (SH)
Perennial, multi-stemmed woody plant that is usually less than 4 to 5 meters (13 to 16 feet) in height. Shrubs typically have several stems arising from or near the ground, but may be taller than 5 meters or single-stemmed under certain environmental conditions. Applies to vascular plants only.

Subshrub (SS)
Low-growing shrub usually under 0.5 m (1.5 feet) tall, never exceeding 1 meter (3 feet) tall at maturity. Applies to vascular plants only. A dwarf-shrub in the FGDC classification.

Tree (TR)
Perennial, woody plant with a single stem (trunk), normally greater than 4 to 5 meters (13 to 16 feet) in height; under certain environmental conditions, some tree species may develop a multi-stemmed or short growth form (less than 4 meters or 13 feet in height). Applies to vascular plants only.

I think a minimum of 4 meters/13 feet is a fine criterion for marking the boundary between shrubs and trees for submission purposes. In each case if it is a coppice with separate trunks the girth should be measured at 4.5 feet for the same stem that was the tallest. The other stems in the coppice should not be a consideration. If multiple trunks have grown together they could be treated as a multitrunk specimen measuring the girth at the narrowest point below 4.5 feet that incorporates the fused trunks, or if the tallest trunk is separate at 4.5 feet, it's girth could be measured there and the submission be treated as the largest single trunk specimen, or both. I really would like to see there be separate lists for multitrunk and single trunk trees. This would also help promote the goals of public outreach and participation by doubling the number of people who could have champion trees.
A key point to remember is that they are looking for criteria for champion trees and only champion trees, so many of these marginal forms will not really be a consideration for any but an exceptional situation.

Edward Forrest Frank

Tree Maximums - Genus of the Week: Carya (Hickory)

by Matt Markworth » Sun Jun 30, 2013 8:53 pm

Genus of the Week: Carya

"Was struck by the appearance of a small hickory near the wall, in the rocky ravine just above the trough. Its trunk was covered with loose scales unlike the hickories near it and as much as the shagbark; but probably it is a shaggy or scaly-barked variety of Carya glabra. It may be well to observe it next fall. The husk is not thick, like that of the shagbark, but quite thin, and splits into four only part way down. The shell is not white nor sharply four-angled like the other, but it is rather like a, pignut. " – Henry David Thoreau, 11/27/1857

Anyone care to help Thoreau with his identification? :)

Here's a sampling of Carya that can be submitted:

Carya alba, Mockernut Hickory
Carya Aquatica, Water Hickory
Carya carolinae-septentrionalis, Southern Shagbark Hickory
Carya cordiformis, Bitternut Hickory
Carya floridana, Scrub Hickory
Carya glabra, Pignut Hickory
Carya illinoiensis, Pecan
Carya laciniosa, Shellbark Hickory
Carya myristiciformis, Nutmeg Hickory
Carya ovalis, Red Hickory

Carya ovata, Shagbark Hickory
Carya pallida, Sand Hickory
Carya texana, Black Hickory
Carya x brownii, Bitternut Pecan

An excerpt from Jess's MaxList:

An excerpt from the TALLEST EXAMPLES OF EASTERN NATIVE TREE SPECIES List, February 2004:

http://www.nativetreesociety.org/bigtree/webpage_tall_tree_list.htm

USDA Plants Database:
http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=CARYA

Don Leopold videos . . .

Mockernut Hickory
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gWhx-XJy1c

Bitternut Hickory
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgEg7XCPsGE

Pignut Hickory
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhDZXbaSWvY

Shagbark Hickory
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uh1mzMiCREy

Shellbark Hickory
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29tga_zijao

- Matt Markworth
Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

by dbhguru » Sun Jun 30, 2013 9:56 pm

Ed,

Oops, yes, a height criteria is needed. I was assuming that, just didn't say so. Thirteen feet seems a tad short, but I don't have a better number. But should we also have a stem diameter criteria. And I presume that it is understood that the criteria would be applied to the species as: "capable of achieving the stated dimension". In other words, if a particular species is known to achieve the threshold dimensions somewhere, we declare it a tree. Since I tend to limit myself to the species that everyone accepts as trees, I've not thought about species at the margin. I don't have an example in mind. Maybe someone can come up with one.

Bob

Robert T. Leverett

Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

by edfrank » Sun Jun 30, 2013 10:24 pm

Bob,

I just want to reiterate my opinion that there should NOT be a girth criteria. These values I presented - 4 meters/13 feet are the height demarcation values as defined by the USDA, so what benefit would there be in creating yet another arbitrary height criterion, when we already have a perfectly workable arbitrary height criterion already in widespread use? What would it gain us? Oh and the USDA does not have a girth criterion in their definition.

Ed

Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

by tsharp » Sun Jun 30, 2013 11:01 pm

Bob:
Species at the margin. Blackhaw (Viburnum prunifolium). I just saw a field with maybe 50 specimens and not a one over ten feet although they do get taller. Actually there are a number of species that only occasionally break the threshold of 13 feet/4 meters.

TS

Re: American Forest's Measurement Group

by tsharp » Mon Jul 01, 2013 6:19 am

Ed, Bob:
I am happy with a 13 foot threshold for a tree. I think that is the present AF threshold for a tree. AF has or used to have a 3 inch diameter requirement to be considered for inclusion in their champion tree list. I do not think they intended to redefine what a tree is but just set a criteria as to what they would accept. Three inches seemed to work.

TS
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- eNTS Magazine May 2016 16 MB
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About:  *eNTS: The Magazine of the Native Tree Society*

This magazine is published monthly and contains material that is compiled from posts made to the NTS BBS. [http://www.ents-bbs.org](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