

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

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<http://www.cecilforestryboard.sailorsite.net/>

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday August 6th, 2025

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham Ron Anderson John Bennett

Kathie Jarmon Katie Kranich Matt Spiroff

Call to Order

Gabrielle brought the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

The June 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Board by email on 7/28/25.

Treasurer's report

John provided the treasurer's report:

- No new Board expenses were incurred in the month of July 2025.

Maryland Big Tree Program

John Provided the Big Tree Program Report:

June Big Tree Report

CECIL – I have received a signed permission form from the owner of 10 registered trees near Port Deposit.

STATE – The Big Tree Centennial Contest began on May 24th. To date there have been 4 enquiries but no qualifying nominations. **55** new nominations have been made for trees outside the contest area since May 24th. **10** have been measured; two did not qualify. I have recommended that the Contest deadline be extended thru December 31.

I was part of a meeting on July 24th regarding a possible **Big Tree Centennial event** in Western Region. The event was originally planned for the Kitzmiller

Botanical Garden in Garrett County, but Melissa Nash was unable to confirm reservations with the Kitzmiller officials. I previously suggested the event be held in City Park in Hagerstown. I contacted the City Park officials about reserving two pavilions. I needed a certificate of insurance to complete the reservations. None was forthcoming nor was there any communication. Anne said that Forest Service funding has delayed any action. The Washington County Forestry Board declined to manage such an event and suggested it be held as part of the State Fair.

At the same meeting Ashley Triplett-Peltzman and Joli McCathran reviewed plans for a calendar celebrating the USA 250. Joli plans to use living Bicentennial Trees. There are 8 trees where we have permission to list them as “public access”. She suggested creating some other public access trees as “new” Bicentennial Trees. I asked about permission to use privately-owned trees like the Brick Meetinghouse white oak without checking with the owner. After considerable discussion, Anne said there needs to be some sort of outreach. Joli volunteered to do so. I asked that the above white oak be excluded from the list as per the Cecil Board’s discussion. I indicated I am designing my own calendar that would be limited to historic trees—living or dead. Ashley said the projected price would be about \$25 per calendar. There was some concern expressed about the price.

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to a new database proposal to register multi-trunk trees that divide below 4’ 6”. The decision was to try this new database for the next six months.

13 trees were measured/remeasured in July that qualified. **Eleven** were in **Washington County**, measured by Doug Inkley, Don and Linda Grove. **Six** are or became Washington County champions. One was in Harford **County**, measured by Bennett, Sherring, Hoover. It is a white mulberry and became the Harford County champion. **One** was in Frederick County, measured by Kay, Durcho, Anderson. It is a shortleaf pine and is the county champion. It was found because of the county-wide contest to find new species in Frederick County.



Figure 1. Trees referenced in the above Big Tree report.

Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) Update

Gabrielle provided the update:

- NRCC 2025 went very well with no major incidents reported, and campers enjoyed fair weather for the week.
- Gabrielle thanked Board members for their book donations to NRCC. And a special thank you to Daniel Root of the Maryland Forest Service who provided a case of invasive species identification guide books to the camp.
- Gabrielle is eager to speak with parties who may be interested in serving as the Camp Chair for the 2026 NRCC.

Website Update

Ron provided the report:

- The July Meeting Minutes and the August Meeting Agenda were added to the website.

Old Business

- Matt reported that the Board does have permission to plant the memorial serviceberry at the Elk Neck State Forest Arboretum. General discussion about conducting the planting during the fall of 2025.
- Matt presented the Cecil County Forestry Board 2024 Year-In-Review. The document will be available on the Board's website.

New Business

- The Board discussed ongoing non-native invasive plant and insects that are relevant to areas of Cecil county.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM.

The next meeting date is Wednesday September 3rd at 6:00pm.