

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

130 McKinneytown Road

North East, MD 21901

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 4th, 2025

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham

Ron Anderson

John Bennett

Dori Murphy

Kathie Jarmon

Matt Spiroff

Emilio Concari

Mike Morgan

Tom Frederick

Call to Order

Gabrielle brought the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

The November 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Board by email on 11/28/2025.

Treasurer's report

John provided the treasurer's report:

- 1 Check was written at the November meeting in the amount of \$272.00 for the Board to purchase white pine seedlings for Spring 2026.
- No other new Board expenses were incurred in November 2025.

Maryland Big Tree Program

John Provided the Big Tree Program Report:

November Big Tree Report

CECIL – BT-2181, Scott Norway maple, is deceased. **BT-1690**, Parent Norway maple, has been moved to "Inactive" as the owners failed to respond. **BT-4539, Octorara LLC** Norway maple is the new county champion.

We are scheduled to measure a new yellow-poplar in Perryville on Saturday, weather permitting.

STATE – The Big Tree Centennial Contest – I received a nomination for a yellow-poplar in Elk Neck State Forest, Black Hill Tract, near the fire tower. The tree is a double-trunk. It appears to meet the '15' circumference requirement but maybe not the split trunk requirement. I need assistance getting to the tree.

I understand the Maryland 250 calendar from the Maryland Forest Service has been delayed again due to printing issues. The Forest Service is proposing a yearly Big Tree calendar with 12 of the most impressive new trees measured each year. The suggestion is that local FB's can sell them as fund raisers.

27 trees were either measured or re-measured in November, as follows:

Allegany – 1 new, 1 re-measured

Anne Arundel – 8 new

Baltimore – 3 new (1 new State champion pin oak), 2 remeasure

Howard – 6 new

Montgomery – 3 new

Queen Anne's – 1 new

Talbot – 1 new



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

Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC)

Gabrielle provided the report:

- Gabrielle is working with Will Williams and Bud Reeves to ensure a smooth leadership transition occurs with NRCC. Most documents have been transferred and now loose ends are being tied up.

- NRCC already has 1 night staff and 2 staff assistants for the 2026 camp.

Website

Ron provided the report:

11/11/2025 – updated county champ tree page to match mdbigtrees.org

- BT-1669 (Osage Orange) recalculated or checked as to circumference?
- BT-3347 (Black Oak) removed from mdbigtrees?
- BT-2874 (Shellbark Hickory) removed from mdbigtrees?
- BT-2100 (Serviceberry) removed from mdbigtrees?
- BT-2678 (Common Pear) miscalculated on mdbigtrees?
- BT-2666 (Sycamore) not in mdbigtrees (new champ installed – BT-1334)
- BT-4545 (Black Walnut co-champ) not listed as co-champ in mdbigtrees

11/28/2025 – added November meeting minutes

Updated meeting agenda for December meeting

Figure 2. List of changes to Board website in November 2025.

Old Business

- The Board discussed the upcoming tree plantings at the Elk Neck State Forest Arboretum. Gabrielle decided on a serviceberry tree. Mike Morgan is going to source the serviceberry tree.
- The Board was not interested in discussing a 2026 Annual Work Plan and decided that it needed a subcommittee.
- Additional discussion surrounding the plaque to be installed at the ENSF Arboretum in Spring 2026. The plaque has been ordered. The Board needs more information on if they must source the stone, and plaque installation.

New Business

- With the presentation of Gabrielle's Directors Commendation, and the planning of the ribbon cutting ceremony underway, John proposed expanding the event to be a NRCC retirement party and luncheon for Gabrielle. Board members are going to continue planning this event following the December 2025 meeting.
- Gabrielle is meeting with Emma from the MFF next week as part of their preparation for a New Member Handbook. Gabrielle extended a request for input from interested Board members.

- The Board reviewed 1 Forest Conservation Act / Forest Retention Area Harvest Plan. Mike abstained from voting on the item. John made a motion to recommend the approval of the plan, Dori seconded the motion, and all other present members voted in favor of recommending approval. The Board did want to add a comment recommending that the timber harvest follows FIDS Habitat Conservation Guidelines in the letter regarding their disposition.
- Matt has been contacted by Port Deposit and Perryville regarding the towns applying for a yellow poplar Liberty Tree descendant grant. Matt offered technical expertise regarding the projects.
- Matt presented the Woodland Catalog to the Board to see if the Board had interest in ordering different products for the 2026 St. Mary Anne's Garden Market then the Board normally receives. The Board was not interested in placing an order through the vendor. Gabrielle is going to look for competitive options regarding Smokey giveaway products.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM.

The next meeting date is Wednesday January 7th at 6:00pm.