

Cecil County Forestry Board

P.O. Box 328

406 S. Main Street, North East, MD 21901-9998

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

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 5, 2026

5:37 PM @ North East Town Office Meeting Room

Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham Ron Anderson Michael Morgan John Bennett
Tom Frederick

Treasurer's Report:

John provided the report:

- No new Board expenses during the previous month.
- The current checking account balance as of 8/4/26 is \$7214.02.

Maryland Big Tree Program:

John provided the report:

- John and Michael informed the Board that the Kaplan White Oak's condition has declined to a point where the tree became hazardous to the point that it had to be removed. Michael's company removed the tree in July. See further information on the next page.
- Gabrielle requested some historical photos of the tree and would like to put a story together and add it to the website. She also presented some pictures the day that the tree was removed.
- John will start putting together some dates to remeasure the several groups of trees that need to be remeasured this Fall.



CECIL – BT-1666, the Kaplan white oak, developed a split in the trunk in mid-July and was taken down the following week. It is the tenth largest white oak ever measured in MD in the 100+ years of recorded measurements. Its circumference (24' 0") was exceeded only by the Richard's Oak (24' 2") for Cecil County famous white oaks.

STATE: 9 trees were measured/remeasured in July:

Montgomery – 6

Carroll, Garrett, Washington 1 each

BT-1990 is the United States Champion Kentucky Coffeetree in Montgomery County. The new score is 343 points. It is also a GOAT Tree—the largest ever measured in MD.



Natural Resources

Career Camp

(NRCC):



Gabrielle provided the report:

- Cecil County had 1 student attend Camp this year. Reports are that Trace Burns did very well at the Camp. A thank you letter was received and Gabrielle will invite Trace to the September meeting.

Below are some bullet points from the initial report from the new Camp Director, Will Williams, Garrett County:

- 39 students attended this year. Calvert and Anne Arundel Counties had the 2 Campers of the Year. 17 campers applied for and earned 2 college credits from Allegany College.
- There were no serious injuries or lost campers!
- Alex Beitzell, Vice President of Mountain Loggers Group, joined us Friday for lunch with Anne Hairston-Strang. He was quite impressed with the camp and attended Hickory as a child. Alex is a 5th generation logger and farmer, and is a rarity in that he's a young logger at age 35. When I introduced him before lunch, he gave the campers a great talk about what it meant to be a logger, his family heritage, and addressed some of the

misconceptions about logging - camp magic. We'll get him more involved next year and invite him to Career Night.

- Our Staff Assistant, Burhan Ali (also now known as the Minister of Popcorn) is an amazing young man and was a big help to Bud Reaves. He is incredibly thoughtful and the campers really liked him. I bought him a thank you card and a \$100.00 Amazon gift card and presented it to him at the closing. He also left camp with a plate of Cody's famous homemade cinnamon buns.

Website Update:

Ron provided the report:

- Last month's Meeting Minutes/Agenda were posted.
- Ron removed 3 Cecil County champion trees from both the list and slide show on the website. These included the Kaplan White Oak, a European Larch and a Black Pine.

Old Business:

- Gabrielle requested further information about Liability Coverage for Non-State/Regional Board Members. The response from the Foundation was that the coverage exists, however details were still lacking.
- Michael will be working with Doris Behnke (Cooperative Extension Service), on planning the location/timing on the Pruning Workshop for this Fall. Some locations were discussed including North East Town Park, ENSF Arboretum or Cecil College.
- Just a reminder, Gabrielle's Retirement event will be on Saturday, October 3, 2026. John updated the attendance list. John and Dori will send out new invitations in late August. The Board will need to work with Michael and with the Forest Service's approval to move the stone to the ENSF Arboretum. The stone will have the Plaque attached.

New Business:

- Gabrielle reported on the National Night Out Event in Elkton on August 4th. Gabrielle and Emilio Concari, (Forest Service) set up and manned the display. Gabrielle had some interest for next year's NRCC camp. And Emilio always does a great job with attendees/kids using the leaf identification interactive display. Thanks to both on a hot day and evening!