

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 7th, 2024

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

Attendees:

Ron Anderson Dori Murphy John Bennett

Kathie Jarmon Michael Morgan Matt Spiroff

Emilio Concari

Ron brought the meeting to order at 6:13 PM.

The January 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board via email on 1/15/2024.

Treasurer's report

- John gave the treasurer's report.
- No new changes were made to the Board's accounts. No expenses in January.
- The board approved one check to be written for the St. Mary Anne's Garden Market registration. The check was in the amount of \$100.

Maryland Big Tree Program Update:

- John gave the county report, and his report is provided below:

MBTP Report –**John** and **Tom Frederick** visited a private residence on 1/12/24 and re-measured two trees—a post oak and a Kentucky coffeetree. The post oak is the county champion at 224 points and #8 on the MD list. There are only 12 registered in total—rare oak.

John visited Donaldson Brown Conference Center and met with **John Biedenback, Maintenance Chief**. Later we set 2-17-24 as the date to re-measure the 11 trees on site. Mr. Biedenback has nominated a new yellow poplar in the woods near the conference center. We did not include the English yew in 2014 and need to decide if we will measure it.

Tom Frederick volunteered to head up the measurement team for the 5 trees at Fair Hill NRMA. **Assistant Manager Lesley Leader** agreed to locate all the trees and to get them cleaned up around the base. She also will provide two Gators for transportation. We have set the date for 2/13/24. Later that day we will visit the Fair Hill Nature Center to measure two new trees and discuss plans for a big tree walking tour.

John visited a private estate in Conowingo to try to find a contact for their trustees of the property on which there are 7 trees registered. He was successful; there are three trustees, and he has permission from all three to re-measure the 7 trees and look for additional trees. The trustees have nominated an additional tree. No date has been set for this visit.

John visited Elk Neck State Park and located the two yellow poplars to be re-measured. Both are multi-trunk trees on a steep slope so will require volunteers to be careful. No date has been set.

State – 29 trees were measured in January. **26** were new trees and 3 were re-measurements. Specifics below:

Montgomery – 13 new – 1 new State Champion – a shingle oak in Patuxent River State Park

Baltimore – 8 new

Cecil – 2 old

Howard – 2 new

Frederick – 2 new

Wicomico – 1 old

Worcester – 1 new – new State Champion – a loblolly pine along a county road ROW

Five **Montgomery County** trees were measured at **Patuxent River State Park** and are publicly accessible, as are 3 new trees at county road ROW property. The remaining trees are privately owned.

Seven **Baltimore County** trees were measured at **Lake Roland**. One tree was measured at **Gunpowder Falls State Park**. All are public access.

Two **Howard County** trees were measured at **Patuxent River State Park**. They are publicly accessible.

Two **Frederick County** trees are privately owned.

The **Wicomico County** tree is on the **Salisbury University** campus. It is the county champion white oak. It was measured by SU staff and students.



Post Oak



Post Oak leaves



Kentucky Coffeetree

Figure 1. Trees referenced in MD Big Tree Program Report.



Shingle oak



Loblolly pine

Figure 2. Trees referenced in MD Big Tree Program Report.

Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) Update:

- Gabrielle was not able to attend the meeting, and no update for NRCC was provided.

Website Update:

Ron gave the update:

- A number of items were uploaded to the board's website, and a number of trees had their records updated on the board's website.
- Ron cross-referenced the Cecil forestry board's big tree listings to the state wide listings and submitted recommendations for the state listings to be updated.
- A list of changes to the board's website since the January meeting includes:

1/15/24 – Updated BT-1667 Post Oak on Cecil County Champion page (data and picture)

1/15/24 – Updated December meeting minutes with changes made at Jan meeting

1/23/24 – Added January meeting minutes to the CCFADB Minutes Page

Changes to website County Champion page to match MDBigtrees.org data -

1/26/24 – Changed County Champ Honeylocust to BT-3546

1/26/24 – Added co-champ BT-1690 to BT-2181 Norway Maple

1/26/24 – Corrected height of co-champ BT-2181 Norway Maple from 71' to 51'

1/26/24 – BT-1325 Pin Oak no longer state champion

1/26/24 – Added 'Colorado' to Spruce, Blue name

1/26/24 – Added '(Empress Tree)' to Paulownia, Royal name

1/26/24 – Added '(American)' to Sycamore name

1/26/24 – Added '(White)' to Fir, Concolor name

1/26/24 – Added '(Black Gum)' to Tupelo name

1/26/24 – Added '(Eastern)' to Hemlock, Canadian name

2/3/24 – Updated Meeting Agenda

Old Business:

- The board continued discussion on the All Trails app and its suitability for use in Cecil County. John is searching for an interested party to assist with using the app to inventory and map trees in the state park system.
- Further discussion about the Calvert Regional Park and the potential for a self guided tree identification story trail.

New Business:

- Matt presented the 2023 Cecil Forestry Board Year-in-Review to the board. This document was requested by the Association of Forestry Boards to highlight the work of Boards across the state.
- John reported the Garrett County Forestry Board is considering a County Champion Big Tree Hunt in 2025 to help celebrate the 100th year of the Maryland Big Tree Program. Due to the lateness of the hour, John requested this be placed on the March agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM.

The next meeting will be held on March 6th, at 6:00 PM.