

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

130 McKinneytown Road

North East, MD 21901

(p) 410-287-5777

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

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 3rd, 2024

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station



Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham	Ron Anderson	Dori Murphy
John Bennett	Tom Frederick	Katie Kranich
Kathie Jarmon	Matt Spiroff	

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

The December 2023 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board.

Treasurer's report

- John gave the treasurers report.
- No new changes were made to the Board's accounts. The Board's CD at Cecil Bank is good until June 2024.

Maryland Big Tree Program Update:

- The board approved a motion to create a big tree walking tour of trees on the Mount Harmon Plantation property.
- John gave the county report, and his report is provided below:

MBTP Report – December

For Cecil – John, Gabrielle, Kathie, Dori, Ron visited Mt. Harmon on 12/9. **Jessica Bush**, Mt. Harmon's groundskeeper/caretaker, escorted Ron and John around the grounds in her golf cart. Ron collected new GPS data for the registered trees. Jessica corrected the ID on BT-3336. It is a tree-of-heaven, not a butternut.

Dori, Kathie and Gabrielle walked around the grounds near the mansion taking photos and collecting GPS data for a possible walking tour. Jessica later showed us what she believes is an English walnut in a grove of black walnuts. If accurate, it would be a new county champion tree. We also looked at a London planetree which will also become a new county champion. Later that month **Paige Howard**, Mt. Harmon's administrator, confirmed she would like the Cecil Board to develop a walking tour of the trees in the area.

Later that day all except Ron drove to the St. Paul's Methodist Church to photograph the two Norway spruces for part of the **Big Tree Driving Tour South**. We then drove to the Zion Methodist Church cemetery to measure a Japanese maple and northern catalpa. Both became new Cecil County

champions as well as registered big trees. Later we drove to Cecilton Elementary to measure a green hawthorn. It is a county champion but is not large enough to qualify as a MD big tree. Lastly, we drove to Cecilton Town Park to measure a willow oak. It did not qualify as either a county champion or a MD big tree but will be included on the driving tour.

Earlier that day **Dori, John** re-measured the county champion persimmon at Principio Furnace Foundation mansion and the county champion sugar maple in the same area which is privately owned. Both are in good health and gained points. The persimmon is #3 in Maryland.

Later in December **Dori, John** measured the black oak next to the Black Hill Ranger Station at 288 points.

Later in December **John** measured two new MD big trees at the Brick Meetinghouse site. A pignut hickory scored 226 points and a mockernut hickory scored 189 points.

State – 43 trees were measured in December. **41** were new trees and **2** was a re-measurement.

Specifics below:

Baltimore – 16 new

Harford – 14 new

Cecil – 5 new, 2 old

Howard – 4 new

Frederick – 1 new

Prince George's – 1 new

The 5 **Baltimore County** trees were measured at Lake Roland and are publicly accessible, as are 4 new trees at Patapsco Valley State Park. The remaining trees are privately owned.

The 14 **Harford County** trees are all at Susquehanna State Park. Two walking tours are being developed to include these trees. One of the trees is the new State Champion **yellow buckeye**. It scored 343 points and is a **MD GOAT tree**—greatest of all times.



Persimmon



Sugar Maple

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



Northern Catalpa



Japanese Maple

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



Green Hawthorn



Pignut Hickory

Figure 3. Trees referenced in MD Big Tree Program Report.



Mockernut Hickory



Yellow Buckeye – Susquehanna State Park

Figure 4. Additional trees referenced in MD Big Tree Program Report.



Yellow Buckeye – tree is 840' south of Lapidum Road

Figure 5. Additional trees referenced in MD Big Tree Program Report, plus the location of the tree.

Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) Update:

- Gabrielle gave the NRCC Update:
- The Maryland Forestry Foundation website has been updated. Updated information for NRCC 2024 is now available on the website, and application are currently being accepted.
- Gabrielle will be a part of a webinar representing NRCC to be hosted by the Maryland Forestry Foundation in January. Information will be given on the camp. Webinar to be held on January 18th, 2024.

Website Update:

Ron gave the update:

- The January meeting agenda was uploaded to the website in December, and the updated agenda was uploaded in January.
- The NRCC pages were updated and now feature photos from the 2023 NRCC.
- The December meeting minutes were uploaded to the website in January. Corrected December meeting minutes will be uploaded to the website when Ron receives them from Matt.
- A number of trees were updated or added to the County Champion Table, as well as some trees being added to the public-access map. A list of changes includes:

12/9/23 – changed ID of BT3336 (Tree of Heaven) on County Champion Table and public-access map.

12/10/23 – updated BT2544 (Sugar Maple) on County Champion Table

12/10/23 – updated BT2539 (Persimmon) on County Champion Table

12/28/23 – Added BT4415 (Northern Catalpa) and BT4416 (Japanese Maple) to public-access map and County Champ Table

12/28/23 – Added BT4473 (Black Oak) to public-access map.

Old Business:

- The board reviewed the additions made to the Cecil County Big Tree Driving Tour South, based on new tree measuring activities that took place in December 2023.

New Business:

- The board reviewed and edited a 2023 Cecil Forestry Board Year-in-Review document. This document was requested by the Association of Forestry Boards to highlight the work of Boards across the state.
- Discussion regarding Calvert Regional Park and trees located on or adjacent to the park that may qualify to be recorded under the MBTP. The board would like to establish a working relationship with the park officials to see if areas around the trees can be enhanced to allow better viewing by the public. The board also discussed creating a self-guided tour of these trees, with small kiosks being installed that can provide information to park visitors.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM.

The next meeting will be held on February 7th, at 6:00 PM.