

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 7th, 2026

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham

Ron Anderson

John Bennett

Dori Murphy

Katie Kranich

Matt Spiroff

Emilio Concari

Mike Morgan

Tom Frederick

Call to Order

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

The December 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Board by email on 12/11/25.

Treasurer's report

John provided the treasurer's report:

- No new Board expenses were incurred in December 2025.
- After discussing who will become the second check signer for the new Board bank account, it was decided that Dori will serve as the second signer. John made a motion to approve Dori as the second signer, Dori seconded the motion, and all other Board members voted in favor of the motion.

Maryland Big Tree Program

John Provided the Big Tree Program Report:

December Big Tree Report

I understand the Maryland 250 calendar from the Maryland Forest Service has been printed.

CECIL – The Cecil Board measured 1 new tree—a yellow-poplar at 332 points—in the Perryville area. It has private ownership.

STATE – The Big Tree Centennial Contest – I received 3 nominations. All are multi-trunk yellow-poplars. As of 1/7, one tree has been measured and qualified. It has a circumference of 17' 1". It is located in Elk Neck State Forest near the fire tower.

51 trees were either measured or re-measured in December, as follows:

Anne Arundel – 4 new

Baltimore – 2 new, 1 remeasure

Carroll – 5 new

Cecil – 1 new

Frederick – 3 remeasure (State champion, GOAT Tree black locust)

Garrett – 1 remeasure

Howard – 1 new

Montgomery – 4 new

Prince George's – 3 new, 2 remeasure

Queen Anne's – 13 new (new State champion sassafras and new GOAT Tree)

Wicomico – 14 new (new State champion sand hickory)

Sassafras – 297 points – NEW GOAT TREE Sand hickory – 217 points



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

Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC)

Gabrielle provided the report:

- Gabrielle will be attending the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) conference along with Deputy Director Bud Reeves on behalf of NRCC.
- Gabrielle mentioned that there will be an upcoming virtual meeting of the NRCC education committee.

Website

- Ron presented a draft slide show presentation of Cecil County Big Trees on the Board's website. The presentation will be made available to the public once it is completed.
- Ron provided the following list of changes that have been made to the Board's website since our last meeting:

12/3/2025 - BT-1669 (Osage Orange) circumference and height changed to match picture/data page

12/16/2025 - Replaced County Champion Norway Maple (BT-2181 - deceased) with BT-4539 on County Champion Page

12/16/2025 - Removed Shellbark Hickory information

12/16/2025 - Added December 2025 meeting minutes

12/29/2025 - Removed Big Tree Contest ad

12/29/2025 - Added agenda for Jan 2026 meeting

1/6/2026 - Added first example of Big Tree slideshow

1/7/2026 - Cleaned up Big Tree page on website

Old Business

- The Board further discussed the upcoming tree plantings at the Elk Neck State Forest Arboretum and Gabrielle's retirement party celebrating her time serving as the NRCC camp Director.
- The Board discussed the pruning workshop at the Elk Neck Arboretum. Mike and Matt decided to plan the event mid-2026, for a Fall 2026 workshop due to the Board having a busy spring schedule.

New Business

- The Board discussed reaching out to other industry professionals that may be interested in joining the Cecil Forestry Board. Katie is going to follow up with potentially interested parties.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.

The next meeting date is Wednesday February 4th at 6:00pm.

