

# Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

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## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday July 10th, 2024

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

### Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham	Ron Anderson	John Bennett
Kathie Jarmon	Katie Kranich	Emilio Concari
Matt Spiroff	Tom Frederick	

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

The June 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board via email on 6/14/2024.

### Treasurer's report

- John provided the treasurer's report.
- No new charges or withdraws were made to the Board's accounts.
- The CD account was rolled over into another CD term, no other changes occurred to the account.

### Maryland Big Tree Program Update:

- John provided the report. John's report is provided below:

### **June Big Tree Report**

**Cecil – John** has been exchanging emails with **Jayne Ash, Executive Director of the Maryland Natural History Society**, regarding a planned big tree driving tour of Harford and Cecil County scheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup>. As of July 10<sup>th</sup>, the planned stops at the Steppingstone Museum and the Deer Creek Friends Meetinghouse have been cancelled. Planned stops at the Richards Oak, the Calvert Brick Meetinghouse White Oak, some trees at Fair Hill NRMA, a walk through the Gilpin Falls Covered Bridge and finally lunch and a walk around at the Donaldson Brown Conference Center are still scheduled. Other stops have been suggested. The weather forecast is ominous.

**STATE – 6 trees** were newly measured in June. Four are in Charles County, at the Indian Head Naval Surface Warfare Center. Two trees were newly measured in Frederick County. One tree, a **green ash**, is the new **Maryland State Champion**. It is a magnificent privately-owned tree in Burkittsville, in the front yard of the owners' house. It has regular arborist care, is being treated for EAB, and was recently pruned. **Bruce Phillips**

and **Dakota Durcho** did the measurement and reported no sign of EAB. It scored 349 points; two points larger than the former State Champion in Cecil County, now deceased. It is the largest green ash ever measured in Maryland.

The other Frederick County tree is a **white mulberry** which becomes the new Frederick County Champion. Unfortunately it is covered in dying English ivy foliage as the owner cut the vines around the trunk so the tree could be measured properly.



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

### **Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) Update:**

Gabrielle provided the update.

- NRCC 2024 is soon to be underway with 35 students registered to attend.
- A handful of students backed out of camp, and/or decided to attend camp in the future.
- Gabrielle was successful in finding all the staff needed to run the camp. Gabrielle also found a Deputy Director to assist with running camp.

### **Website Update:**

Ron gave the update:

- The June meeting minutes were uploaded to the boards website in June.
- Ron reported that there was one minor issue with the boards website. The issue that arose, is that users of the site have received a warning message when accessing the site. Ron has been looking into the cause of the error, and is going to be reaching out to the website host to obtain more information about fixing the issues.

### **Old Business:**

- Gabrielle reported on the Maryland Forestry Board Summit.

### **New Business:**

- The board discussed the Garrett County Forestry Board's Big Tree Calendar. John is interested in having calendars made for big trees in Cecil County as well. John plans to reach out to Melissa Nash, the Garrett Board's Secretary to obtain more information about having the calendars made to determine feasibility.
- National Night Out – The board discussed the National Night Out in Elkton, MD in August and setting up a board display. Tentatively, Gabrielle and Emilio Concari will be attending the event to represent the Cecil Forestry Board.
- At the Maryland Forestry Board Summit in June, the Allegany Forestry Board donated descendants of a liberty tree to Board's with representatives attending the summit. Gabrielle accepted the tulip poplar tree on behalf of the Cecil Forestry Board. The board would like to find out if the tree can be planted at the arboretum located on the Elk Neck State Forest for the enjoyment of the public. Matt will reach out to see if the tree can be planted there.

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM.**

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