

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday July 9th, 2025

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham	Ron Anderson	John Bennett
Dori Murphy	Kathie Jarmon	Mike Morgan
Matt Spiroff	Emilio Concari	

Call to Order

Gabrielle brought the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

The June 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Board by email on 6/25/2025.

Treasurer's report

John provided the treasurer's report:

- The Board moved the funds from the Board's CD account into the Board's checking account after the CD matured.
- The Board voted by email to approve a check to be written for the remainder of the Board's balance for NRCC 2025 campers. A check was written in the amount of \$400 to be mailed to Dawn Balinski.
- No other new Board expenses were incurred in the month of June 2025.

Maryland Big Tree Program

John Provided the Big Tree Program Report:

June Big Tree Report

CECIL – I have mailed permission forms to two private big tree owners at the end of June as per policy. These owners did not respond to the January mailing. If

there is still no response, I will recommend that their trees be moved to the “Inactive” file.

STATE – The Big Tree Centennial Contest began on May 24th. To date there have been 3 enquiries but no qualifying nominations. **14** new nominations have been made for trees outside the contest area in June. Two of them in Frederick were measured and did not qualify.

I was interviewed on June 12th by Anna Rubenstein from the **Baltimore Banner**. The article appeared on June 30. The interview took place at Donaldson Brown Conference Center.

I was part of a meeting on June 24th regarding a possible Big Tree Centennial event in Western Region. The event was originally planned for the Kitzmiller Botanical Garden in Garrett County, but Melissa Nash was unable to confirm reservations with the Kitzmiller officials. I suggested the event be held in City Park in Hagerstown. There seemed to be general agreement with the idea, but I have heard nothing since then.

At the same meeting I suggested a calendar be developed as part of the 250 Commission’s projects for the upcoming Semiquincentennial. A committee was to be formed. Nothing has happened since.

7 trees were measured/remeasured in June that qualified. Six were in **Montgomery County**, measured by McCathran, Howard, Fillah, Bergmann. They were red buckeye, pitch pine, pignut hickory, dawn redwood, pin oak, baldcypress. One was in **Calvert County**, measured by Balinski, Lee. It was a Port orford cedar.



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

Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) Update

Gabrielle provided the update.

- Camp welcome and information packages have been sent out to campers. Registration for camp is nearly full at 41 campers planned for the camp.
- The Cecil Board is excited to be sending three NRCC campers from Cecil County. The Board hopes to invite Audrey, Jackson and Mickenzzie to a future meeting to discuss their time at camp.

Website Update

Ron provided the report:

- The June Meeting Minutes and the July Meeting Agenda were added to the website.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

- The Board discussed a potential Maryland Big Tree calendar in 2026 to celebrate the semiquincentennial of the nation. The MBTP is awaiting word from the Maryland 250 Commission.
- Gabrielle requested natural resources related book donations to provide to campers at NRCC 2025. Following the meeting Matt reached out to Daniel Root. Daniel is the DNR

Forest Service's Forest Health Program Coordinator. The DNR Forest Health team graciously provided a full class set of Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas Books to NRCC 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.

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