

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

130 McKinneytown Road

North East, MD 21901

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

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday March 4thth, 2026

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham	Ron Anderson	John Bennett	Kathie Jarmon
Matt Spiroff	Emilio Concari	Mike Morgan	Dori Murphy
Tom Frederick	Trace Burns	Rhonda Burns	Robert Burns

Call to Order

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

The February 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Board by email on 2/24/26.

Treasurer's report

John provided the treasurer's report:

- The Board issued a check for St. Mary Anne's Garden Market registration at the February meeting, no other new Board expenses were incurred in February 2026.
- General discussion regarding Board changes in March 2026. It is understood by the Board that changes to county Forestry Board's finances may not occur until Fall of 2026. However the Board will need to obtain a new mailing address, and discussed setting up a PO Box.
- A check was written for Trace Burns NRCC tuition fee at the March 2026 meeting.
- A check was written for \$500 tuition fee for Trace Burns as a Cecil County student at the 2026 NRCC.
- Matt located a discrepancy between the running total on the treasurer's report and the Board Cecil Bank statement. The statement showed a value of \$140 greater than the Board's account balance as listed in the treasurer's report. John updated the treasurers' report to show the additional \$140.

Maryland Big Tree Program

John Provided the Big Tree Program Report:

February Big Tree Report

CECIL – John continued contacting Big Tree owners for permission to re-measure trees. All owners have been either called, emailed or sent a letter. As of this report, we have positive

responses from 10 owners representing 18 trees. We have agreed to move two trees to “Inactive” status. 4 owners representing 19 trees have not responded. One owner representing 2 trees is not ready to agree to re-measure.

STATE – The Big Tree Centennial Contest – The awards ceremony is scheduled in Annapolis at Tawes on Thursday, March 26 at 9:15-9:30 a.m. during the State Association meeting. All three nominators have agreed to be present. It is hoped that Secretary Kurtz will present the checks. Sara Kramer has arranged to have a photographer present.

I understand the Maryland 250 calendars from the Maryland Forest Service are available upon request.

A subcommittee chaired by Doug Inkley, Washington County, has been formed to study revising the current prohibition on measuring and registering non-native small and shrub-like trees under 150 points. Members of the MBTP Committee were invited to participate.

2 trees were remeasured in February—both in Frederick County. One tree—privately owned at 353 points—is the Maryland State Champion English walnut. Tradition says this tree was transplanted as a seedling in 1792 by John Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, from his Carrollton estate to a property he had purchased in Frederick (City). There is an historical plaque on the house near the tree.



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

Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC)

Gabrielle provided the report:

- Gabrielle attended the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) conference along with NRCC Deputy Director Bud Reeves. They were also joined by Nathan House, Baltimore County forester.
- The Board welcomed Trace Burns at the March meeting of the Board to interview Trace for NRCC 2026. The Board discussed Trace's interests in the Natural Resources fields and relevant recreational experiences.
- John made a motion to send Trace to NRCC 2026 and approve a check for the Trace's NRCC tuition fees. Dori seconded the motion. Mike abstained due to status of their financial disclosure statement. And all other Board members voted in favor of the motion.

Website

Ron provided the report:

- The February Meeting Minutes and the March meeting agenda were added to the website.
- The Board discussed the posting of the Cabin Fever event flyer on the Board's website.
- Emilio obtained a picture of the County champion pawpaw in Elk Neck State Park for use on the Board's website.

Old Business

- No old business discussed

New Business

- The Board will be attending the Moore's Chapel Cabin Fever family fun event. The event will be on March 21, 2026 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Moore's Chapel 392 Blake Road, Elkton MD. Tentatively Gabrielle, Kathie, John and Emilio will be representing the Board at the event. Emilio is bringing the game to the event.
- Emilio volunteered to check the Board's Tree ID game and confirm that it is in good working order and determine if new batteries are needed.
- The Board reviewed 1 Forest Conservation Act, Forest Retention Area Timber Harvest Plan in the area of White Spruce Way in Conowingo, MD. John made a motion to recommend approval of the plan to the County Planning and Zoning. Dori seconded the motion. Mike abstained from voting due to the status of their financial disclosure statement. All other members voted in favor of the motion.
- The planned April 4th NRCC retirement celebration, tree planting, and NRCC / Forestry Board plaque dedication event was postponed to the fall due to a logistical issue. John is going to follow up with registered attendees and let them know of the postponement.
- Mike ordered 2 serviceberry trees for planting at the arboretum.
- **Since the March meeting, the Board has decided on the new event date being October 3rd, 2026.**

- The Board decided to discuss and decide on the placement of the stone for the plaque at the April meeting of the Board.
- The Board discussed the continuation of minutes and agendas and voiced their desire to keep these administrative items following the Forestry Board transition date (3/31/2026). Matt reported that no orders have been specifically given to Central Region staff as to how DNR staff are to handle these items going forward. Matt will update the Board when there is information to give.
- The Board discussed the statewide meeting at DNR headquarters on 3/26/26.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.

The next meeting date is Wednesday April 1st at 6:00pm.