

# Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

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

## Meeting Minutes



Wednesday November 13th, 2024

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

### Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham	Ron Anderson	John Bennett
Kathie Jarmon	Dori Murphy	Tom Frederick
Michael Morgan	Matt Spiroff	Emilio Concari

Gabrielle brought the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

The October 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board via email on 10/31/2024.

### Treasurer's report

John provided the treasurer's report:

- One purchase of 1600 white pine seedlings was made by the Board in October. The seedlings were ordered from the State's nursery and will be given to the County schools for use in their Arbor Day 2025 celebrations. Some trees from this order will also be used for giveaways at the St. Mary Anne's Garden Market 2025. The cost of the seedlings was \$272.00.
- No other purchases were made by the board in the month of October. The board is still awaiting receipts for storage bins bought by Gabrielle for the Board's materials in order to issue a reimbursement check.

### Maryland Big Tree Program Update:

- John, Kathie, Matt and Emilio met on 10/10/24 to measure two listed Big Trees in Elk Neck State Park. The group also measured a pawpaw as a new entry. The newly added pawpaw is now the county champion.
- John provided the report:

### **October Big Tree Report**

**CECIL** – Two yellow poplars at **Elk Neck State Park** were re-measured by **Matt, Emilio, Kathie and John** on 10/10 and a pawpaw was measured as the new county champion. The two yellow poplars scored 388 points and 379 points. They rank #2 and #3 in Cecil County. The pawpaw scored 67 points. All three trees are along the **Farm Trail**.

### **STATE – 1 tree was re-measured and 9 new trees measured:**

**Frederick** - 4 trees measured – **2 bitternut hickories, common hackberry, Shumard oak**. The latter is a new county champion.

**Garrett** - 1 tree measured – **red pine**. It is a new **STATE CHAMPION** and a **MD GOAT TREE** – the largest ever recorded in Maryland.

**Montgomery** – 1 tree re-measured – **sourwood**

4 trees measured – **American basswood, Virginia pine, 2 white fringetrees** – all except the smaller fringetree are new county champions



red pine – Garrett



Shumard oak – Frederick



bitternut hickory – Frederick

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



Figure 2. Leaf of a Shumard oak, and associated range of the species.

Shumard oak is native to the [Atlantic coastal plain](#) primarily from [North Carolina](#) to northern [Florida](#) and west to central Texas; it is also found north in the [Mississippi River Valley](#) to central [Oklahoma](#), eastern [Kansas](#), [Missouri](#), southern [Illinois](#), [Indiana](#), western and southern [Ohio](#), [Kentucky](#),

and [Tennessee](#). It is found locally north to southern [Michigan](#), southern [Pennsylvania](#), [Maryland](#), western [New York](#), and the extreme south of [Ontario](#), [Canada](#).

It is tolerant of wide ranges of pH levels in soil. It is drought-resistant and prefers partial to full sunlight. Shumard oaks begin to bear seeds at a minimum of 25 years of age, and the optimum age for seed development is 50. They are known to have reached at least 480 years of age. The roots are intolerant to disturbance.

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

Gabrielle provided the update.

- Three campers have already applied for the 2025 camp!
- Gabrielle has drafted a 2025 NRCC news release. Board members are requested to review and provide comments for the article. The article will go through the proper DNR channels to be released in the Spring once the Cecil Board has approved a final draft.
- Gabrielle is getting help with brochure creation from Marie Miller of Allegany College of Maryland.

#### **Website Update:**

Ron gave the update:

- The October meeting minutes were uploaded to the board's website in October, and the November meeting agenda was added to the website in November.

#### **Old Business:**

- The Board viewed the Maryland Big Tree Program measurement and tree submission video prepared by the Big Tree team, and Emilio Concari.
- The Board discussed the need to plant the Liberty Tree descendant tulip poplar that was gifted to the Board. DNR staff will provide information at a later date.
- Matt mailed the white oak acorns requested from the Calvert Oak Tree by the White Oak Initiative.

#### **New Business:**

- John has proposed the idea of hosting a centennial celebration for the Maryland Big Tree Program at the Donaldson Brown Center in Cecil County. The site features multiple listed big trees on their grounds. John is exploring options with their staff and tentatively plans to have the event in early Spring of 2025.

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.**

**The next meeting will be held on December 11th, at 6:00 PM.**