

Maryland Big Tree Program – 2023 Report

SUMMARY

In 2023, the MBTP volunteers measured, re-measured, or deleted 399 trees. There were 259 trees newly measured, 96 trees were re-measured, and 44 deceased. The total of new trees is a record for the program. We have moved 36 trees to the “Inactive” file. There are currently 2793 active trees (measured in the last 10 years) on the Maryland database, 732 deceased trees & 742 inactive trees (trees not re-measured in the last 10 years for various reasons). We were not able to re-measure 11 trees and they will be carried over to 2024.

The MBTP had an opening fund balance of \$3,639.57, had income of \$800 and spent \$3319.27, ending with \$1,120.30. The Maryland Forestry Foundation paid for all website-related expenses which totaled \$817.57. We are grateful to the Foundation for its continued support. We also thank the Anne Arundel Forestry Board for their 2022 \$1000 contribution.

The web site, www.mdbigtrees.org, continues to be the major source of new referrals, with many of the new trees being referred automatically from the web site nomination form. Marty Adams, Barlett Tree Services, nominated a number of new trees in Howard County. The Baltimore County Forestry Board has produced several tri-fold pamphlets that have been distributed in public parks in Baltimore. A new volunteer, Larry Snyder, nominated and helped measure a dozen new trees around his homeowners' association. We had great help from staff at the Nature Conservancy in Garrett, Wicomico and Worcester Counties. Finally, volunteers from both the Allegany and Garrett County Forestry Boards combined to measure 10 trees at the newly-renovated Kitzmiller Botanical Garden which was established in 1949 by Melvin Brown.

From 2010 to 2016, the MBTP was managed by the Cecil County Forestry Board. Beginning in 2016 a new State-wide Committee was formed from members of the Association of Forestry Boards. Currently there are 10 members on the Committee. We have learned that **American Forests** will no longer manage the national big tree program. It will be managed by the University of Tennessee starting in 2025.

DECEASED STATE CHAMPIONS - 8

BT-0444 Common Hackberry	Washington	373 points – private – State Champion since 1990
BT-3668 Pignut Hickory	Cecil	268 points – Rosebank Cemetery
BT-0275 Himalayan Pine	Talbot	250 points – private – State Champion since 1990
BT-2023 Carolina Silverbell	Montgomery	186 points – private
BT-3190 Silver Linden	Baltimore	163 points – Towson University
BT-3389 Red Pine	Montgomery	158 points – Montgomery Parks
BT-2543 Korean Evodia	Cecil	114 points – private
BT-2626 Spicebush	Montgomery	30 points – Montgomery Parks

NEW STATE CHAMPIONS or CO-CHAMPIONS - 21

BT-4350 Silver Maple	Frederick	435 points - private
BT-4377 Black Oak	Howard	361 points – private
BT-4430 Yellow Buckeye	Harford	343 points – Susquehanna State Park
BT-4270 Pin Oak	Baltimore	329 points – private
BT-4382 Black Willow	Howard	318 points – private
BT-4242 Norway Maple	Carroll	292 points – Wakefield Valley Park, City of Westminster
BT-4201 Eastern Hemlock	Garrett	288 points – Swallow Falls State Park
BT-4223 London Planetree	Baltimore	270 points – Hampton National Historic Site
BT-4363 Higan Cherry	Baltimore	265 points – private
BT-4259 Atlantic White Cedar	Worcester	208 points – The Nature Conservancy
BT-4389 Sycamore Maple	Baltimore	205 points – private
BT-4280 Red Spruce	Garrett	196 points – Kitzmiller Botanical Garden
BT-4238 Cryptomeria	Montgomery	191 points – private
BT-4378 Concolor Fir	Howard	180 points – private
BT-4378 Pond Pine	Worcester	180 points – The Nature Conservancy
BT-4370 Pond Pine	Worcester	176 points – The Nature Conservancy
BT-4304 Red Pine	Garrett	160 points – Kitzmiller Botanical Garden
BT-4355 European White Birch	Harford	150 points – Rock Run Cemetery
BT-4306 Dwarf Red Buckeye	Garrett	83 points – Kitzmiller Botanical Garden
BT-4446 Hazel Alder	Howard	52 points – Pig Tail Recreation Area
BT-4372 Winged Sumac	St. Mary's	47 points – Point Lookout State Park

STAFF SUPPORT - Our DNR Forest Service staff support person currently is **JUSTIN ARSENEAULT**. In **2024** our new staff support person will be **RYAN MAYENSCHIEIN**.

MEDIA PRESENCE – There were 1 media accounts regarding Maryland Big Trees in 2023:

<https://baltimorecountyforestryboardcom.wordpress.com/> - This will link to the Baltimore County Forestry Board's big tree brochures developed in 2023 and available as paper copies at various venues.

COMMITTEE

As of December 31, 2022, the Committee includes the following members:

John Bennett, Chair

- Dawn Balinski
- Jim Bardsley
- Linda Barker
- Anne Gilbert – DNR Liaison
- Doug Inkley
- Kathie Jarmon

Joli McCathran, Vice-Chair

- Dori Murphy
- Jim Sherring
- Geary Schwemmer
- Don VanHassent