

BUILDING LEOPOLD'S LEGACY

AN ODD POCKET

# American Forests

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SPRING 2006 \$3.00

## In Search of Giants

AN OLYMPIC UNDERTAKING

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF  
BIG TREES 2006-2007

CHANGING THE PARADIGM



# American Forests

VOL. 112, NO. 1

SPRING 2006

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Cover: Path through old-growth redwood forest, California. Photo by Laurance B. Aiuppy



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#### Publisher

Deborah Gangloff

#### Editor

Michelle Robbins

#### Contributing Editors

Jane Braxton Little, Howard Burnett

#### Art Director

Lydia Scoleto

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## FORUM

the tax law to discourage large houses and second homes. However, I believe that a major change in our institutions, land ownership, and capitalist philosophy is needed.

Timberland in turmoil will continue as Woodland Investors own more, smaller parcels of timberland. Our real challenge is to encourage Woodland Investors to practice good forestland management for all the potential benefits coming from forestland.

Frank C. Shirley  
Vaughn, Washington

### ARE LIVE OAKS THAT OLD?

editor: I enjoy *American Forests*. Not before the Winter 2006 issue have I wondered about the accuracy of the material therein. The article titled, "Southern Comfort" starts with a startlingly fine black and white photo of an old grove of live oaks. Unfortunately, the text heavily emphasizes the great age—to 1,200 years—that live oaks are purported to reach.

In Floral City, Citrus County, Florida (about 20 miles west of my home at "Towering Oaks"), there is a still-existent, beautiful live oak-lined street. This view was featured in the 1936 movie "Gone With the Wind." These mostly grandfather oaks were planted in 1884 or just 50 years before!

At the battleground where Major Dade and over 100 U.S. soldiers were murdered by Indians and escaped slaves in 1835, the detailed map made a few months later shows not a single oak. This is startling, because dozens are there today and one of them, just northwest of the museum, is an especially large and apparently very old one.

The oaks that live hundreds of years are neither southern nor live oaks. They are European or more northerly species. They are also very exceptional individuals.

It may be true that the ivory-billed woodpecker has survived in the swamps of Louisiana, Arkansas, or the mountains of Cuba, but the evidence, so far, doesn't support this hope. Still, having a Cornell University ornithologist supporting this position counts for something.

I have seen the woodpecker "evidence." The out-of-focus movie second

or two is far from convincing. I share [author Gary] Lantz's hope, but so far there is more convincing evidence for the Loch Ness Monster and several other nonexistent spirits than for living ivory-billed woodpeckers.

Richard Cary Paull  
via e-mail

*While it is true that size should not be equated with age, it is a fact—as we said in the story—that the average age for live oaks is more than 200 years. The age of the Seven Sisters, the national co-champ live oak in Louisiana—estimated by foresters at more than 1200 years—was obtained from both the Live Oak Society and chairman Coleen Perilloux Landry.*

### LIVE OAKS ON LOCATION

editor: Thoroughly enjoyed Ethan Kearns' article on *Quercus virginiana*, my favorite tree. They are common where I grew up in southeastern Virginia. I doubt very much that they grow in southwestern Virginia, as stated on page 26. Much too cold there in hardness zone 6. I have a three-year-old one growing in Fairfax County, Virginia, near the Potomac River, on the border between zones 6 & 7. Has survived two winters so far. I harvested the acorn from which it grew from a tree I planted in 1942 in Norfolk, Virginia. Maybe global warming will save it.

Stuart C. Nottingham  
Alexandria VA 22308-2602

*Thanks for catching our directional typo. Live oaks do indeed grace southeastern Virginia, but not the hilly, cooler climes of the western portion of the Old Dominion.*

### THE TREE DOCTOR IS IN

*Have questions about trees, growing seasons, diseases? E-mail our Tree Doctor at [treedoctor@amfor.org](mailto:treedoctor@amfor.org).*

### WRITE US!

Compliments? Complaints? Questions? E-mail your Letters to the Editor to [mrobbins@amfor.org](mailto:mrobbins@amfor.org) or write to us c/o Editor, *American Forests*, PO Box 2000, Washington, DC 20013. We reserve the right to edit letters.



EDITORIAL

DEBORAH GANGLOFF  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Nature's Tipping Point

Combating global climate change must include trees.

**G**lobal climate change is once again making headlines, but this time with a difference. It used to be those who were talking about the reality of global warming who were marginalized; now that stigma belongs to those who don't. *Time* magazine recently cited a Time/ABC News/Stanford University poll that "85% of respondents agree that global warming probably is happening. Moreover, most respondents say they want some action taken."

There have been some improvements, but the changes to date are not enough. Climate change has brought rapidly receding glaciers, melting polar ice caps, thawing permafrost in Alaska, species migration, and increasing storm frequency and intensity. The practical reality is that the costs of climate change to businesses will continue to rise.

It's clear that environment, energy, and economics are inextricably entwined; you can't care for one while ignoring the others. Trees and managed forests can help us address these issues simultaneously.

Of the eight greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the most abundant, constituting over half of the total heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere. The planetary counterbalance to this build-up has been the oceans, which absorb the gas, and the trees and forests, which "fix" carbon dioxide into their structure during photosynthesis. Ninety percent of the carbon that is fixed in solid form on the Earth's surface is held in the world's forests. Forest trees take in 26 pounds of atmospheric carbon dioxide a year and release about 13 pounds of oxygen, enough to keep a family of four breathing for one year.

AMERICAN FORESTS began addressing climate change with tree planting nearly 20 years ago. It was a difficult sell at that time, and we lost some sponsors over what was then considered a radical stand on global climate change. Today corporations are planting trees to sequester carbon and offset their business's contribution to global climate change. Everyone from Oprah Winfrey to *Seventeen* magazine to myspace.com is "talking trees" for mitigating carbon dioxide. Calculate your carbon debt with our on-line calculator: <http://www.americanforests.org/resources/ccc>. The average is about 30 trees per year per person to be debt-free.

Our corporate partner IKEA is going carbon-neutral by challenging its customers to offset greenhouse gas emissions by planting trees with AMERICAN FORESTS; IKEA is matching those contributions. Green Mountain Energy, a leading clean-electricity provider, has a portfolio of carbon-reduction services for businesses that includes tree planting with AMERICAN FORESTS. Boisset's French Rabbit wine, sold in recyclable ePods, plants trees with AMERICAN FORESTS to reinforce its environmental commitment. It's good business for major companies to actively promote paperless communications, pollution reduction strategies, and environmental restoration programs.

Business, commerce, transportation, and the environment are all part of our first look at regional perspectives that tie together the environment and economics (see *Changing the Paradigm*, pg. 30). Together they present this country's number one challenge for the future: How do we stay a force in global commerce if we cannot grow sustainably?

Protecting and restoring the nation's urban tree canopy, now being lost at an alarming rate, is a crucial part of sustainable growth and an effective way to counteract excess carbon. Trees in cities reduce energy use, a major cause of atmospheric carbon.

As you ponder what trees do for our environment, peruse our National Register of Big Trees, the definitive listing of the largest tree of each species in the U.S. While big trees don't sequester carbon as fast as young, growing trees, they are carbon sinks that store tremendous amounts of terrestrial carbon. They are symbols of good conservation and what it takes to grow a tree to its full potential.

As you celebrate spring, take another look at the trees around you and think about planting some more ([www.americanforeststore.org](http://www.americanforeststore.org)). Unless we take immediate steps to deal with atmospheric carbon, we humans may find ourselves strangers in a strange land. Like the coyote found in New York's Central Park or the whale that swam up the Thames River in London, we may find ourselves out of place—and perhaps out of time. AF

## AS SEEN ON RADIO

People who saw it first on the radio can now hear it whenever they like—the webcast “Seeing Green with Trees: The Economic and Environmental Benefits of Urban Forests” is now available on CD. This toolkit of good information includes a Windows Media (audio/video file) recording of the original webcast together with individual PowerPoint presenta-

tions from each speaker and fact sheets and Internet links outlining the benefits of urban forests. The International City/County Management Association sponsored the project, which was produced by the Local Government Environmental Assistance Network in association with AMERICAN FORESTS and supported by a grant from the US Forest Service. More info: [aseth@icma.org](mailto:aseth@icma.org)

## TRANSITIONS

**Saluting:** Tree lover and Pulitzer-prize winning poet **W.S. Merwin**, who won the 2005 National Book Award for *Poetry for Migration: New and Selected Poems*. Merwin was profiled as an Earthkeeper in the Winter 2005 issue of



*American Forests* for his work in preserving rare palms at his home in Hawaii. The state of Maryland, which this year is celebrating its

100th year of forest conservation. AMERICAN FORESTS' National Register of Big Trees, begun in 1940 and featured in this issue, originally was styled on Maryland's “noted tree list,” first compiled in 1925.

**AMERICAN FORESTS** for receiving an award of excellence for tree stewardship from the city of Salisbury, North Carolina's Tree Board for our CITYgreen Tree Canopy Project.

**Honoring:** **Charles Burditt**, president of Burditt Consultants, the 2005 winner of the prestigious Laurence C. Walker Distinguished Service to Forestry Award. The award goes to foresters who have made an outstanding contribution to forestry in Texas and to the Society of American Foresters.

**George Frame**, of Bristol, New Hampshire, a member of that state's Tree Farm Committee, recipient of the American Tree Farm System's 2006 National Field Leadership Award. The

tree farm program is run by the American Forest Foundation, which cited Frame for his “unwaning enthusiasm, his ability to motivate volunteers, and his commitment to New Hampshire's forest owners. . .”

Artist and Life member **Bob Timberlake**, who was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by North Carolina governor Mike Easley. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of the state's highest honors, is given to individuals who have a record of more than 30 years service to North Carolina.

**Mourning:** The first Earth Day without its founder, three-term Democratic senator and former Wisconsin governor **Gaylord Nelson**. Nelson died last July at age 89 from cardiopulmonary disease. His obituary in the *Washington Post* cited his involvement in legislation creating the Wilderness Act, protecting the Appalachian Trail, and banning DDT and Agent Orange.



**Robert E. Wolf**, 84, who during his 30-year career worked for the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Congressional Research Service, and what is now the Office of Management and Budget. During that time, Wolf was involved in revising or enhancing nearly every significant piece of federal public lands legislation, according to *The Forestry Source*.

## NEWS OF NOTE

- In an effort to curb waste of scarce timber resources, China has announced it is imposing a 5 percent tax on disposable chopsticks, according to the *Taipei Times*. China makes about 15 billion pairs of the popular, throwaway chopsticks every year.
- Thousands of Christmas trees are getting a second life thanks to the Army Corps of Engineers, which is turning the stripped and discarded trees into reefs for freshwater fish, according to Reuters News Service. The Corps drills holes in the tree trunks and wires a few trees to a concrete block to create underwater forests near fishing piers. “The little fish will go in there for cover and to feed and the big fish will follow them,” Missouri park ranger Eric Lemons told Reuters. The reefs are considered prime fishing spots for crappie, bass, bluegill and catfish.
- A 25,660-acre swath of green in the Washington metropolitan region will go on being the area's “green lungs” after an agreement was signed to protect the land and form a comprehensive Forest Stewardship Plan. The agreement between the Agricultural Research Service, the state of Maryland, and adjacent agency owners creates Baltimore-Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship. The woods has been used to develop a theory that determines how much forest is needed for various species to survive. National and international bird-count techniques have also been developed there. Located in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the land has been considered a historic forest in Maryland.
- Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty has accepted documents of certification for more than 4.8 million acres of state lands. Third-party certification of forests is becoming more widespread, ensuring the land is managed in a sustainable fashion that allows trees to be grown and cut while protecting the health and habitat of wildlife, plants, soil and water. The certification was awarded through both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), developed by the American Forest & Paper Association, and the nonprofit Forest Stewardship Council.



## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATES PATRIARCH TREES

Stately old pioneers with roots firmly entrenched in centennial soil will be honored when the state of Oklahoma celebrates its 100th birthday in 2007.

The Witness Tree Project, sponsored



contains gnarled post oaks, blackjack oaks, and eastern redcedars more than 400 years old. And the state once harbored three national champion trees, although all three eventually literally lost their crowns.

Oklahoma Urban Forestry Coordinator Mark Bays says that trees deserve special recognition for the role they've played

by state foresters and the Tree Bank Foundation, hopes to ID woodland patriarchs growing when Oklahoma became a state in 1907, along with those planted by an influx of land-run pioneers.

Among the honorees is a broad-canopied bur oak along the banks of the North Canadian River in Oklahoma City. According to core samples it is more than 200 years old and was therefore a witness to Indian encampments, the region's early cattle drive era, and eventually the birth of the state capital city.

"Just think what that tree has seen," marveled David Yost, a member of the Tree Bank's board of directors. Yost points out the oak will eventually shade a Native American Cultural Center planned for the banks of the North Canadian.

Although often stereotyped as a treeless prairie state, Oklahoma contains a diverse forest environment ranging from mountainous mixed hardwoods and pine in the southeast to pinion-juniper plateaus in the northwest corner of the panhandle. Commercial logging remains an economic staple in southeast counties, where oxbow lakes harbor alligators. Mountain lions are more at home in the arid northwest, where ponderosa pines reach their eastern limit.

Oklahoma's state champion baldcypress resides in the southeast's

McCurtain County. At more than 1,000 years old, it is still dwarfed by a cypress more than 2,000 years old killed by lightning several years ago.

The Cross Timbers, a thickly timbered forest belt pushing north from Texas across Oklahoma and into Kansas,

in the region's social and cultural development. He points out studies show trees have a calming effect on neighborhoods, resulting in reduced crime.

Among Oklahoma's favorite witness trees is the Council Oak, protected in a small park near downtown Tulsa. This spreading post oak overlooks the

Arkansas River and was a mature tree in 1836 when Creek Indians stopped here at the end of their forced removal on the Trail of Tears from ancestral homelands in Alabama.

According to the Tulsa Preservation Commission, the area around the oak was chosen as a "busk ground" by the Lochapoka clan at the end of their exodus. A busk is a ritual featuring ceremonial cleansing, fasting, and purification, a time when grievances are resolved, special meals are served, and then ceremonial embers are distributed to rekindle hearths throughout scattered villages.

Suffering from exhaustion, ill health, and the loss of 161 kinsmen from among the 630 clan members forced to accept a military eviction from Alabama, the Tulsa-Lochapoka Creeks deposited ashes carried from their final homeland fires and redistributed them around the Council Oak, thus establishing a new town in an alien territory.

The oak has symbolized the plight of the Creeks for nearly 150 years and will be replaced by a seedling grown from the tree's acorns when it dies. For now, however, it remains a silent witness to the turbulent history of a state that's still not much more than a sapling, especially if measured in arboreal time.—Gary Lantz

**Bayer Advanced won the Queens Award in the 2006 Rose Bowl Parade for its float, Jack and the Queen Stalk. The company handed out seeds from AMERICAN FORESTS' Famous & Historic Trees program's Betsy Ross Sycamore and John James Audubon Sycamore to those attending the Queens Award program.**



# TREE DOCTOR • HOWARD BURNETT

**Q: How can I tell if a bush is a male or female holly when I buy it?**

**Scott & Suzanne Wahl, via e-mail**

**A:** As far as I know there is no way, short of microscopic gene analysis, to tell the sex of a young holly. However, most nurseries that sell hollies produce cultivars that are seed bearing, as the red berries are what make holly attractive, desirable, and a symbol of Christmas. The purveyor should be able to advise you if efforts are made to assure you get the female. Of course, you still won't get any berries if there is not a male in the neighborhood somewhere, too. Perhaps a good strategy might be to plant several trees and hope you get a matched pair sooner or later. My experience is that the male tree can be quite far away, several hundred yards at least, and still provide the pollen necessary to get the berries.

**Q: Our honeylocust is not nearly as big as your national champion, but I am curious about its approximate age. It measures 144 inches at 4.5 feet. I don't know the tree's height. We know it must be at least 100 years old and has been home to raccoons and bees.**

**Shirley Johansson, via e-mail**

**A:** There is no real good way to determine the age of a tree, other than actually counting the annual rings on the stump, but even that assumes solid wood all the way to the core. Although a ring count is impossible, a little arithmetical exercise might give something better than a "wild" guess. Over the course of a tree's life, the width of each annual ring decreases. Honeylocust requires a lot of sunlight for maximum growth and, considering that your tree has survived this long, it has probably grown as rapidly as possible over most of its life. In the very early years it might grow an average of three to five rings per inch, 15 or 20 to the inch in later years, considering limb loss, disease, hollowing, and other adverse influences. Assuming it's an open-grown tree that gets plenty of water and is in good soil, we might guess the average growth at 8 or 10 rings per inch. Assuming your tree has only one trunk that you measured, the tree

is over 45 inches in diameter, which would give us a radial ring count of almost 23 inches. At eight rings, or years, to the inch, an age of 184 years would result. I would have no problem with saying the tree seems to be at least 150 years old, based on all the assumptions I made along this way.

**Q: What do you recommend for a Crimson King maple that was struck by lightning? It blew off a large chunk of bark on the base of the tree, which at this point seems very healthy and shows no outward signs of stress or disease I do not want to lose this tree to insects or stress if it can be saved.**

**Scott Wheeler, via e-mail**

**A:** Sometimes a lightning strike can kill a tree, while other times trees seem to be not too affected. At this point, I would recommend you clean off any loose bark from the wound area. The objective is to prevent small pockets where rainwater might collect. If necessary, at the bottom of a wound, cut out a very small tear-drop shape to facilitate drainage. Do not paint the wound with any kind of dressing; the latest research indicates the tree will handle the dead tissue on the wound surface by itself. Sealing the wound seals in moisture, encouraging insects or disease. From there on, it is a policy of watchful waiting to see how your maple does in the future. Usually a tree hit by a strong bolt of lightning exhibits browned leaves very soon, so it sounds like your tree is a likely survivor.

**Q: Please give me some advice on saving my liquid amber (sweetgum) tree. A couple of years ago the leaves, instead of being healthy green, became yellow-green and burn black from the edges until the entire leaf shrivels and drops. A liquid amber in the back yard is unaffected. Can you suggest someone I could talk to or a course of action? I'd really like to save the tree.**

**Matthew Sanders, Via e-mail**

**A:** Sweetgum trees are susceptible to a

blight that seems somehow related to soil moisture, as well-irrigated trees are hit less severely. Trees planted close to buildings, driveways, streets, and so forth might have limited root systems, and thus be more subject to drought. Other root or soil conditions also may affect the tree. From the photos you provided, it seems as if some root disease may be at work. My best advice is that you procure the services of a certified arborist to have a look at your tree, and prescribe a course of action. Contact the International Society of Arborists at [www.isa-arbor.com/findArborist/findarborist.aspx](http://www.isa-arbor.com/findArborist/findarborist.aspx), and by entering your zip code get a list of local certified arborists for your area. The arborist should be able to give you a definitive answer to your concerns.

**Q: I collected a pod from a tree in our yard (thornless common honeylocust); and put the seeds in a clay pot indoors with potting soil/water. I would like to get some starts and transplant to another area of mid Indiana). Am I doing this right, and if so, how long before I can expect some results?**

**Jerry Mace, Noblesville, IN**

**A:** In the case of honeylocust, the seed pods fall and may not disintegrate until late winter or early spring. The seed itself is very hard and seems to take a long time to soften up to the point where it can germinate. It sounds like you are doing the right thing by keeping the seeds moist so the seed coats can eventually absorb enough water to soften. Since the natural seeds fall on top of the ground, I would not recommend planting more than 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep. In time they should start to swell, and then germinate. The one variable you may have overlooked is the possibility of some freezing being needed, but that may not be important. I assume the pod you collected was ripe, with mature seeds, collected sometime in mid- to late autumn. Germination should occur in late spring, maybe even June, so don't get discouraged too soon.

*Email your arboreal questions to: [treedoctor@amfor.org](mailto:treedoctor@amfor.org).*

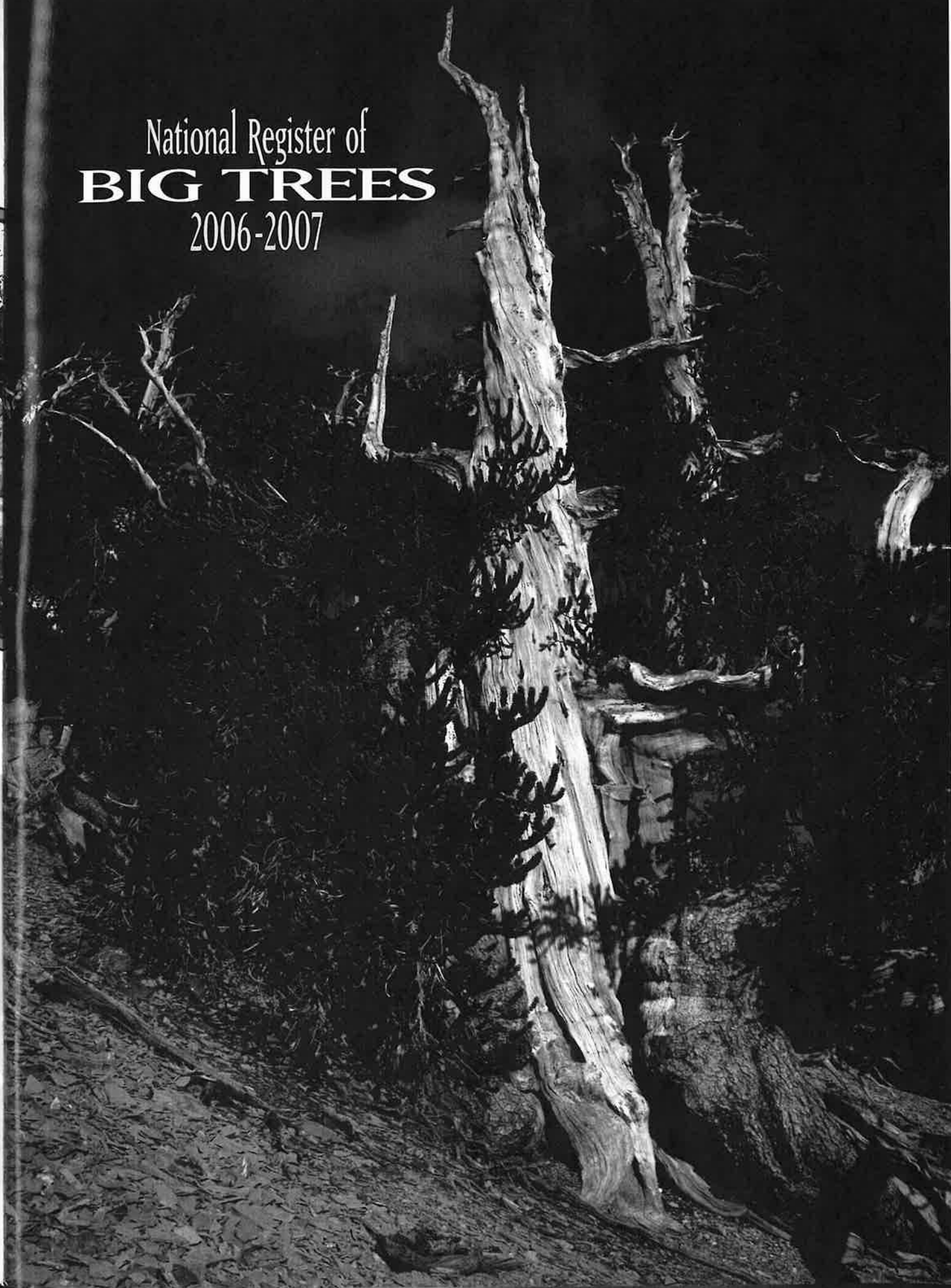
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**BIG TREES**  
2006-2007

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For us,

*Tall,*

*Tank,*

*and handsome*

has a whole other meaning.

We're searching for the biggest of 826 species of trees for America's National Register of Big Trees.

Join the search.

Help champion America's biggest.

The National Register of Big Trees is online at  
<http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees>

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R. Douglas Cowan and Deborah Gangloff

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Step-by-step to potential Big Tree fame.

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The latest from the world of really big trees.—Whit Bronaugh

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Time for a species check-up.—Whit Bronaugh

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The new monarchy: 826 species, 870 champs and co-champs.

## Empty Thrones 44

Long live the King, wherever it is.—Whit Bronaugh



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### Key to Abbreviations

Co-champion: \*

Naturalized: Δ

Champ that must be remeasured before 2008 to remain as champ: ★

Year listed after Latin name: Year champ was first nominated. Years separated by a slash means a double stint as champ

County: Co.

National Conservation Area: NCA

National Forest: NF

National Monument: NM

National Park: NP

National Recreation Area: NRA

National Wildlife Refuge: NWR

State Forest: SF

State Natural Area: SNA

State Park: SP

State Recreation Area: SRA

Wilderness Area: WA

Wildlife Management Area: WMA

Circumference measurements are in inches; height and crown spread are in feet.

For a list of Champs by state, see Search the Register, Advanced Search at our website: [www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org)

On the cover: national champion Great Basin Bristlecone Pine, Humboldt-Toiyaba National Forest, Nevada

At right: Nominator Loren Ross with the national champion Digger Pine, Kern County, California



LOREN ROSS



**R. Douglas Cowan, Chairman and CEO,  
The Davey Tree Expert Company**

Champion! That word signifies the best of the best. And national champion Big Trees don't disappoint. They are vivid reminders of the wonder that is nature's gift.

We identify and protect the giants because of their iconic significance, but we need to protect their smaller neighbors, too. Every tree, no matter how ordinary, adds to the value that trees bring to our lives, and the giants can thrive only when they exist as a part of a healthy ecosystem. That is the real message of the Big Tree program.

All trees contribute to a healthy environment and all trees are important in shading our homes, sheltering wildlife, and purifying water and air. Without our attention to the health of trees now, our grandchildren's lives will be grim indeed. Only if we can balance the sometime competing needs of development and the preservation of natural resources will we be able to guarantee that future generations will have the opportunity that we have had to enjoy the giants.

Davey's affiliation with AMERICAN FORESTS, our sponsorship of the National Register of Big Trees, and our partnership in the Global ReLeaf campaign all signal our commitment to America's trees. We are pleased to be part of a movement that recognizes that maintaining a healthy forest during our time is how we keep our promise to the future.



**Deborah Gangloff, Executive Director,  
AMERICAN FORESTS**

Richard St. Barbe Baker, noted British conservationist and founder of Men of the Trees, said that "a nation's wealth, its real wealth, can be gauged by its tree cover." At AMERICAN FORESTS we wholeheartedly agree. Abundant tree cover indicates that a country has protected its precious resources and cares enough about its people to ensure that they are shaded by cooling trees, quenched by pure water, and sheltered by forests. When tree cover is lost, people and animals suffer.

Big trees are St. Barbe Baker's edict writ large, and we pay homage to them every two years with the National Register of Big Trees. Since 1940 AMERICAN FORESTS has championed these champions—not because they are necessarily the most deserving, but because they are symbols of what can result when people work in conjunction with nature. When we stop to marvel at the wonder of a champion tree—the largest known of its species in the entire U.S.—we begin to see trees in a new light. We can begin a discussion of the value of trees to an ecosystem and take that discussion further to recognize the collective benefits of a forest to a city or a landscape.

Nowhere is that benefit more apparent—and glaringly lacking—than in the Gulf Coast region, where thousands of trees were lost to Hurricane Katrina and where AMERICAN FORESTS is working with donors and local groups to replant that longed-for tree cover.

Among the trees that survived Katrina was our national co-champion live oak, the Seven Sisters of Lewisburg, Louisiana. When hurricanes hit, live oaks twist and bend and lose their leaves, and many will forever carry hurricane scars, but they survive to set new buds and push forth new leaves. It is a fitting metaphor for the resiliency of one of our most precious assets. When we truly appreciate and care for our nation's trees—our real wealth, as St. Barbe Baker put it—then we will be a rich nation indeed.

## Requirements }

For each nomination AMERICAN FORESTS needs the following information:

1. Correct name of the species or variety (only U.S. native and naturalized species are eligible). If you need help with identification, call your state big tree coordinator or your local Parks, Forest Service, or Extension office.
2. Circumference of the tree in inches at 4 1/2 feet above the ground. If there is a fork at or below 4 1/2 feet, measure the smallest circumference below the fork.
3. Vertical height of the tree to the nearest foot. The most reliable tools for this purpose are a clinometer, Abney hand level, hypsometer, or transit. Lacking those, you can use a straight stick. Hold the stick at its base vertically after making certain the length of the stick above your hand equals the distance from your hand to your eye. This is done by holding the stick between your thumb and index finger with your arm parallel to the ground and with the stick just touching the side of your face, then swinging it vertical. Staying on ground level (or on the same contour as the tree base) move away from the tree while sighting the trunk base above your hand. Stop when the top of the stick is level with the top of the tree. You should be looking over your hand at the base of the tree and, moving only your eyes, looking over the top of the stick at the top of the tree. Measure how far you are standing from the tree, and that measurement—in feet—is the tree's height.
4. Average diameter of the crown to the nearest foot. Measure the widest spread of the crown and the perpendicular measurement, then add them together and divide by two.
5. Location.
6. Date measured and by whom.
7. Name and address of owner.
8. Clear photograph with date taken.
9. Description of the tree's physical condition.
10. Name and address of nominator.

Send to: National Register of Big Trees, AMERICAN FORESTS, P.O. Box 2000, Washington, DC 20013.

## Eligible Species }

To be eligible for listing in the National Register of Big Trees, a species must be recognized as native or naturalized in the continental United States, including Alaska but not Hawaii. (Species found only in Hawaii are not included.) Hybrids and minor varieties are excluded. There are 826 eligible species and varieties: 747 native and 79 naturalized. To determine eligibility, AMERICAN FORESTS uses Elbert L. Little Jr.'s *Checklist of United States Trees (Native and Naturalized)*, published in 1979 as U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Handbook 541.

## "Tree" Defined }

As defined in the *Checklist*, trees are woody plants with one erect perennial stem or trunk at least 9 1/2 inches in circumference (3 inches in diameter) at 4 1/2 feet above the ground (breast height), a definitely formed crown of foliage, and a height of at least 13 feet. In contrast, shrubs are small woody plants, usually with several perennial stems branching at the base.

- Native tree species (also called indigenous) are wild and grew naturally or spontaneously in the undisturbed forest vegetation before the arrival of Columbus or other Europeans.
- Introduced tree species have been brought into the United States. A naturalized tree is an introduced species that has become common and established itself as though wild, reproducing naturally and spreading. Species accepted as naturalized are designated in the Register by the symbol ( $\Delta$ )

## How Trees Are Compared }

To find a tree's total points, AMERICAN FORESTS uses the following calculation: Trunk circumference (in inches) + Height (in feet) + 1/4 of its average crown spread (in feet) = Total points

Champions must be remeasured within 10 years of the current Register to maintain Champion status. For example, national champions last measured before 1998 must be remeasured for the 2008 Register.

- A nominee will replace a registered champion if it has more points. When two trees have scores that fall within 5 points of each other, they are listed as co-champions.

— The Editors



NATIONAL CO-CHAMP COAST REDWOOD/WHIT BRONKAUGH



# NEW CHAMPS IN HEIGHT AND BREATH

General Sherman gets smaller, mega-trees switch places, people are one with trees. Read on for the latest from the world of really big trees.

—Story and photos by Whit Bronaugh

**You are a big tree.** Well, part of you is anyway. No, really. This is not some flaky New Age crystal thing. This is science. Allow me to demonstrate.

First, take a breath. It doesn't have to be particularly deep or meaningful, and you can do it with or without meditation. You can think about trees, dessert, petunias, or nothing at all. Doesn't matter. Just breathe.

Don't be alarmed, but something on the order of oh, about 10 sextillion (10,000,000,000,000,000,000) air molecules just entered your lungs. From that and a few other educated guesses mathematicians have calculated that there is a 98 percent chance that your one breath contains about 5 molecules from the last breath of Julius Caesar. And the last breath of Leonardo da Vinci. And of Shakespeare.

Now, here comes the tree part. The world's biggest tree, the General Sherman giant sequoia, adds about 40 cubic feet of wood to itself every year. Wood cells grow at a rate that produces 4 million or 5 million oxygen molecules per second. By my back-of-the-envelope calculation, that means General Sherman produces about 75 sextillion molecules of oxygen annually. So, along with 5 molecules from Julius Caesar's last breath, you also breathed in about 15 oxygen molecules produced by General Sherman last year. Congratulations! You are part national champion giant sequoia.

And you are also part champion black walnut, part champion sycamore, and part champion bristlecone pine. Some fraction of your life, however small, owes its existence to the oxygen produced by each

champion tree in the 2006 National Register of Big Trees, from the 1,321-point giant sequoia in the Sierra Nevadas of California to the 25-point corkwood of Waccasassa Bay, Florida. But there have been some changes in the roster. Since you have this new-found connection to champion trees, you might want to pay attention.

AMERICAN FORESTS now recognizes 870 champs and co-champs representing 826 species and varieties of native and naturalized trees in the continental United States. The last two years have seen the crowning of 119 new champions, not quite replacing the 130 that lost their royal status.

In the megatree category (more than 650 points) the 11 member species stayed the same, but a few switched rank and there is one new co-champion. The biggest Monterey cypress has grown to 683 points, taking the No. 9 rank from a fellow Californian, the California-laurel.

The remeasured common baldcypress of Cat Island, Louisiana, now at 762 points, nudged 3 points ahead of the bluegum eucalyptus of Petrolia, California, to take the No. 6 position. Challenging them both is the biggest new titleholder, a 758-point common baldcypress (see pg. 38) in Holmes County, Mississippi. This tree, which because it is within 5 points of the Cat Island tree becomes the species co-champ, has an amazing girth of 55 feet! Thirty people, shoulder to shoulder, could lean against it. Only the champion giant sequoia, coast redwood, western redcedar, and Sitka spruce have a larger circumference.

Last January, a storm broke a 2-foot diameter limb, the second largest, off the General Sherman giant sequoia. Not to







worry, the champion of champions has lost bigger limbs before, including one in 1978 that was more than 6 feet in diameter and 140 feet long. It is unlikely that any tree will catch up to General Sherman, but the 1,290-point Lost Monarch champion coast redwood, discovered in 1998 in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, is only 31 points behind on AMERICAN FORESTS' scale.

General Sherman's top is dead, so the lost limb would affect the champ's score only in crown spread measurement. And since only one-quarter of General Sherman's 107-foot crown spread is used in AMERICAN FORESTS' formula, its number one position is secure. However, the northwestern corner of California, where the Lost Monarch grows, provides more rain and growing days than the Sierra Nevadas, so stay tuned for a megatree rivalry.

The second and third biggest new champions are also conifers: a 486-point Engelmann spruce near Loman, Idaho, and a 485-point Jeffrey pine in Yosemite National Park. They are also the tallest new champions, each topping 180 feet. Big tree hunters Byron Carmean and Gary Williamson, who have nominated trees since 1986, found the biggest new broadleaf champs, a pair of water tupelos in Southampton County, Virginia, more than 10 feet thick. They also found a new co-champion American elm, 421 points, in Greensville County, Virginia, and the new

biggest black ash and biggest green hawthorn.

Other additions this year to the list of over-400 pointers are an Arizona sycamore located in Coconino National Forest, Arizona; a Shumard oak in Anna, Illinois; the

reinstated black oak of East Granby, Connecticut; and an alligator juniper in Prescott National Forest, Arizona.

Fifteen new champs scored in the 300s, 26 in the 200s, 33 in the 100s, and 32 below 100 points. I am always amazed at the new recordholders for familiar trees: a new 376-point American chestnut in Clarkston, Washington; a 348-point scarlet oak with an incredible 179-foot crown spread in Middlesboro, Kentucky; a 316-point black cherry in West Portsmouth, Ohio; a 301-

*Two views of the  
newly crowned  
national  
champion big  
manzanita, which  
hails from Chico,  
California. A total  
of 119 new  
champs appear in  
this Register; 130  
lost their crowns.*

*East Granby, Connecticut, is celebrating the return of national champion status to its native son black oak, which lost its title in 2001. The now and former champ has a point total of 443.*

point shagbark hickory in Cedartown, Georgia; a 222-point common apple in Burke's Garden, Virginia; and a 148-point eastern redbud in Wayne, Michigan.

Nominator Jimmy Mock found the three smallest new champs: 32- and 31-point shrub althea hibiscus and a 30-point pinckneya, all in Georgia. With a 10-inch girth, the pinckneya just makes the 3-inch-diameter requirement to be a tree but soars 5 feet above the 13-foot height minimum.

The top seven states all retain their rankings: Florida still far ahead with 160 champs followed by California (101), Arizona (82), Texas (78), Virginia (54), Michigan (48), and Washington (39). The lucky folks of these states probably have a few more big tree molecules in them than the rest of us. Georgia, with 37 champs, moved ahead of Oregon (36) and Tennessee (31) to the No. 8 position. Arizona continues to be the most active big tree hunting state (see *Earthkeeper*, pg. 47 of magazine) with 21 new champs to compensate for an equal number of dethroned trees. California, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida had between 10 and 12 new champs each.

A different set of states shines when considering those with the greatest net gain in number of nationally recognized big trees. Georgia, helped by Jimmy Mock's six nominations, had a net gain of eight champions, followed by Ohio (5), South Carolina (4), and Kentucky (3).

Arkansas lost its only champion, a 124-point Ozark chinkapin in Clark County, to wind, and Kansas lost its sole champ, an eastern redbud in Topeka, due to mismeasurement. They join the hopeful states of Delaware, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wyoming who must, for now, be satisfied with breathing a few out-of-state champion molecules every now and then. Meanwhile, Rhode Island, Iowa, the District of Columbia, and New Jersey can each celebrate their one champion for at least another two years.

In the last two years 56 champions were knocked out by bigger challengers. Among them were four trees that easily topped 400 points: a 455-point water tupe-





lo in Southampton County, Virginia; a 435-point Arizona sycamore in Coconino National Forest, Arizona; a 430-point Shumard oak in Powell County, Kentucky; and a 428-point Engelmann spruce in Olympic National Park, Washington.

Big trees have an aura of immortality because they often live so much longer than we do. But the time for them to stop making oxygen for us eventually comes as it did for 48 monarchs in the last two years. The most notable losses were a 444-point overcup oak in Bertie County, North Carolina; a 431-point sweetgum in Craven County, North Carolina; and a 357-point white poplar in Charlevoix, Michigan. Two other champions, a white mulberry in Missouri and a wildgoose plum in Illinois, retired due to injuries and consequent loss of points.

Former Nuttall oak champs, American mountain-ash, dotted and green hawthorns, Canada plum, Kenai birch, and

smooth dogwood have been mysteriously listed as 'whereabouts unknown.' Another 15 trees were stripped of their title because they were misidentified (black ash, red buckeye, seaside alder, Fraser fir, Japanese privet, Bonpland willow, black oak, turkey oak), mismeasured (longbeak eucalyptus, eastern redbud, and Utah serviceberry), or too small to be a tree (evergreen sumac, cinnamon clethra, yellow anise-tree, and jumping-bean sapling).

That's the news from the world of big trees. Now let out that breath. Someday soon, the biggest trees in America will get a whiff and use your carbon dioxide to get even bigger. And if you can't find a worthy tree to nominate, and still want to contribute, just keep breathing. You might even put a contender over the top for 2008. **AF**

*Bronaugh's Wildlife of North America: A Naturalist's Lifelist is due out this fall.*

## THE NEW RULES

Winners are determined not just by how well they play the game, but by how the game is played. Attention all big tree hunters: The rules are about to change. For greater detail, go to the National Register of Big Trees on AMERICAN FORESTS' website ([www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org)), but here are the most important changes.

### 1. The 10-Year Rule

Starting with the 2008 Register, champions must be measured within 10 years of the current Register to maintain their champion status. This means that any champion last measured before 1998 will be dethroned unless it is remeasured before the 2008 Register. Starting in 2010, only two years of champions (88 for 2010) will be eliminated if they aren't remeasured, but expect big changes in 2008 because there are 385 champions and co-champions that were last measured between 1965 and 1998. The Big Tree Program uses both boxing terms (contender, challenger, champion, title) and royalty terms (dethroned, crowned) to convey number one status on nationally recognized Big Trees. Now the 10-Year Rule says Big Trees are less like kings, who rule for life, and more like boxers, who must periodically accept challenges or lose their title by default. This rule will eliminate situations like the California sycamore that was nominated in 1940, the first year of the Register, wiped out by a flood in 1969, but not dethroned until 1992 when the news finally reached AMERICAN FORESTS.

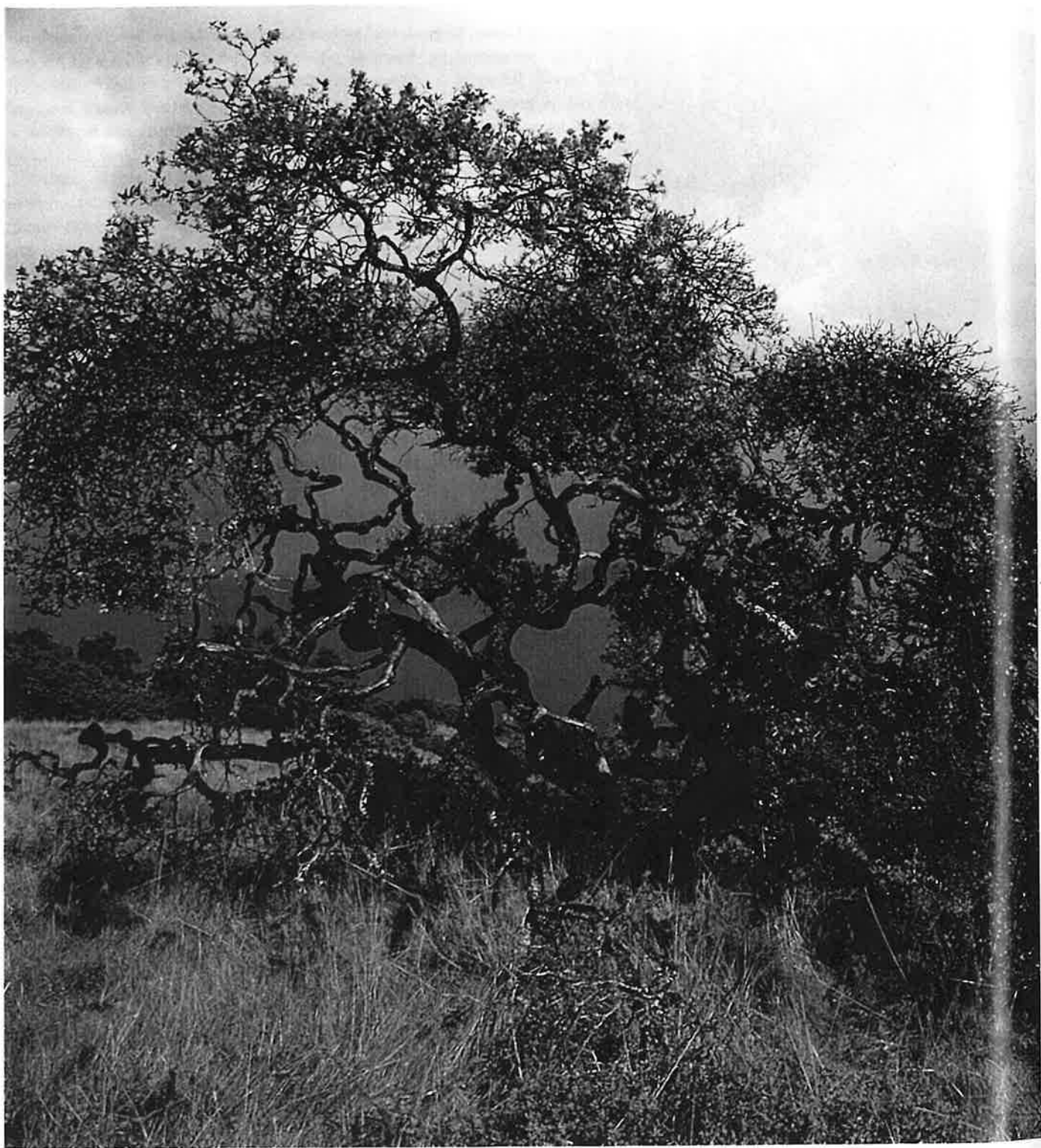
### 2. Circumference of Forked Trees

AMERICAN FORESTS will return to measuring the smallest circumference below a fork that is at or below 4 1/2 feet. This recognizes that a tree's true circumference is measured on its trunk, not a limb. But first, nominators must determine if the tree is, and always was, one tree or if it is actually the result of two or more trunks that began as separate sprouts and grew into each other. In multi-stemmed trees there is often a seam indicating where two trunks grew together. You should also suspect this condition when the axes of the main trunks do not appear to meet above ground.

### 3. Crown Spread Measurement

Formerly, this was done by averaging the widest and narrowest crown spread diameters. From now on, forget the narrowest measurement and replace it with one taken at right angles to the widest measurement.





# Championing Changes

A boy says to a botanist,  
"What's the name of that tree?"  
The botanist replies,  
"I don't know. We call it *Quercus alba*."

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To build on an idea by zoologist and author Richard Dawkins, imagine bringing all your direct female ancestors back to life. Line them up starting with you holding your mother's hand, your mother holding her mother's hand, and so on. Keep going for about 1.3 billion years worth of generations. We need to get back to when there weren't so many species in order to understand the complexity of dividing them up. Ultimately we're talking about trees here, but remember that all living things in the history of Mother Earth are seamlessly connected. So follow that ancestral line down, furry paw to scaly foot, amphibious foot to fin to tail to pseudopodia, flagella, and cilia. Don't laugh. These are your relatives I'm talking about.

Now let's move back up through the generations but start with a different "daughter" than the one that led to you. This daughter's generational line runs parallel to your own ancestral line but is, shall we say, firmly rooted to the ground. This long-lost relative could be the hemlock you climbed as a kid. Or the redbud you planted in your yard. Or the big oak you nominated to be a champion tree.

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by Whit Bronaugh

# s in the Forest

CHANNEL ISLANDS SCRUB OAK/WHIT BRONAUGH



To make sense of all your extended family, and to reflect as much biological reality as possible, we divide life up into species. Sometimes it's obvious where to draw the line. We all know a sycamore from a sequoia. But sometimes it's like drawing the line between two colors in the rainbow. Where does one stop and the other begin?

The modern scientific naming of plants began on May 1, 1753, with the publication of *Species Plantarum* by a man so famous that biologists the world over think of him when they see the letter "L." Carl Linnaeus named and described thousands of species, including more than 130 North American trees. Most of the rest of our trees were named and described soon after the first explorers arrived in a given region.

Then botanists began looking more closely at variations within particular species, hybridization, reproductive systems, microscopic morphology, and, eventually, gene flow and DNA. Often their findings caused them to redraw the lines between species.

The last time AMERICAN FORESTS redrew the lines for the National Register of Big Trees was in the late 1990s with Elbert Little Jr., author of *Checklist of United States Trees (Native and Naturalized)*. Little's 1979 publication, which the Register uses, was a seminal work but, like most science, was only a snapshot of the limits of our knowledge at that time. Botanists have learned a lot since then.

It's time to make changes in the Register to reflect our improved but still imperfect understanding of where the lines should be drawn. The taxonomy of the 2008 Register will be completely updated, but this preview of some of the possible changes will give big tree fans an idea of what to expect, and a jump-start on finding champions among our long-lost cousins.

Oaks have always given botanists fits with their penchant for wanton hybridization, so it's no surprise that many proposed taxonomic changes involve *Quercus* species. A new species, Channel Islands scrub oak (*Quercus pacifica*), was described in 1994. It is a shrub or small tree found only off the southern coast of

California on Santa Cruz, Santa Catalina, and Santa Rosa islands. This oak was long thought to be part of the coastal sage scrub oak complex, but it is actually more closely related to the blue oak.

Another Channel Islands endemic that might soon be an eligible member of the Register is the island live oak (*Quercus tomentella*). Found in moist canyons at lower elevations, this rare evergreen grows to at least 60 feet tall and 2 feet in diameter. As evidenced by fossils, it is a relic that retreated from the mainland long ago. It made a brief appearance in the Register in 1980 as a newly listed species without a champ, but apparently became the victim of a data entry error and is only now coming out of exile.

A more widespread species that could be added to the Register is the bluff oak (*Quercus austrina*), formerly treated as a variety of Durand oak (*Quercus durandi*), with which it is often confused. Look for specimens up to 75 feet tall in lowland forests from Mississippi to South Carolina.

At least six other oaks might make their presence felt among the *Quercus*

## It's time to make changes in the Register to reflect our improved but still imperfect understanding of where the lines should be drawn.

From left, Great Basin bristlecone pine, Arizona smooth cypress, Cedros Island oak, and the oak's only known site, the San Ysidro Mountains just north of Mexico.



already on the Register, although their rarity makes the nomination of a champion difficult by anyone not associated with them via conservation or research. The robust oak (*Quercus robusta*), Mexican oak (*Quercus carmenensis*), and lateleaf oak (*Quercus tardifolia*) are all restricted in the U.S. to the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend National Park, Texas. In 1992, a natural population of netleaf white oak (*Quercus polymorpha*), otherwise widespread in Mexico and Guatemala, was discovered in Val Verde County, Texas.

The mapleleaf oak (*Quercus acerifolia*), recently elevated to full species from a variety of Shumard oak, has only been found at six sites in the Magazine and Ouachita mountains of Arkansas, and totals only a few hundred individual trees. The Cedros Island oak (*Quercus cedrosensis*), of Cedros Island and mainland Baja California, was discovered in 1995 to be growing just north of the border in the San Ysidro Mountains, where it is known from only four sites.

One sterile Sonoran oak (*Quercus viminea*) has been found in the U.S., at Red

Mountain, Santa Cruz County, Arizona. However, no specimens have been located since so it don't look for it to be added to the Register anytime soon, but with global warming, big tree hunters may not have long to wait.

The thorniest problem (pun intended) in the taxonomy of North American trees is undoubtedly *Crataegus*, the hawthorns. Various named species have been produced by rampant hybridization, changes in chromosome number, and asexual development of seeds. But to make matters far worse, several hair-splitting taxonomists at the beginning of the 1900s described numerous species on the basis of minute differences, like the color of the anther, the pollen bearing part of the stamen. This resulted in more than 1,100 named hawthorn species in the continental U.S.!

Most of this taxonomic nightmare was created by a former director of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard, Charles Sargent, who described an astounding 700 species of *Crataegus*. That's about as many species as all the other native trees in mainland America combined!

Fortunately, by 1979 the taxonomic "lumpers" (those who lump together similar species) had gained the upper hand over the "splitters," (those who classify minor species variations as separate trees) and had whittled the number of hawthorns down to the 35 native species recognized in Little's *Checklist* and in the current Register. But the tide has turned. *American Forests* has not yet decided how to deal with "the *Crataegus* problem," but be forewarned: the USDA's Plants Database, the Integrated Taxonomic Information System, and The Nature Conservancy's NatureServe all cite the North Carolina Botanical Garden's *Synthesis of the North American Flora* as the primary authority for their own lists. A strict following of the *Synthesis* would add more than 100 hawthorns to the Register.

One other addition to the Register will likely be the recently naturalized African sumac. Introduced to Tucson in 1925, and subsequently widely planted as an ornamental, this native of South Africa is now invasive along desert streams and washes in Arizona.

Oaks have always given botanists fits with their penchant for wanton hybridization. . . many proposed taxonomic changes involve *Quercus* species.



Slightly balancing all these potential additions to the Register are a number of trees under consideration to be dropped. The Macdonald oak, the only oak in the current Register to have never had a champion, shares the same distribution as the new Channel Islands scrub oak. No coincidence there. It is now known to be a hybrid between Channel Islands scrub oak and valley oak. The Kearney sumac, another empty throne species, could be dropped because it does not reach tree size, at least not in the United States.

A minimum of three full species might be deleted from the Register because they have been lumped with another species. The Carneros yucca, Florida chinkapin, and Hinds willow are now what taxonomists call synonyms (no longer accepted names) of Faxon yucca, Allegheny chinkapin, and sandbar willow. Other trees you might soon have to forget about include the following varieties that are no longer recognized: Black Hills spruce, Arizona smooth cypress, northwestern paper birch, Florida elm, Florida elder, Simpson stopper, and Deering

Tree-cactus. Of course, any current champions of these delisted species will be stacked up against champions of the species they are lumped with. So some may be able to change their name and still keep their place in the Register.

There will be many other differences in the 2008 Register, but they will not have any bearing on which trees you should size up. Only the names will be changed to protect the taxonomic integrity of AMERICAN FORESTS. Many varieties will be elevated to full species status, which means they'll have their own separate heading in 2008. These include intermountain and Colorado bristlecone pines, redbay, silkbay, swampbay, pignut hickory, Alaska paper birch, and 14 varieties of oak (all current varieties in the Register except Bigelow and Durand oaks). A few full species will be demoted to mere varieties: southern and eastern redcedars, speckled and mountain alders, and Torrey and fewflower vauquelinias.

When Linnaeus erected the pine genus, *Pinus*, he included hemlocks, firs, and spruces. Later botanists kept the pines in

*Pinus* but moved the hemlocks to *Tsuga*, the firs to *Abies*, and the spruces to *Picea*. Similar generic reshufflings are still taking place and could soon affect the names you see in the Register. Incense-cedar could move from *Libocedrus* to *Calocedrus*; giant chinkapin from *Castanopsis* to *Chrysolepis*; saguaro from *Cereum* to *Carnegiea*; Key tree-cactus from *Cereus* to *Pilosocereus*; smokethorn from *Dalea* to *Psoralea*; and you could just see the bumelias (*Bumelia*), willow bustic (*Dipholis*), and false-mastic (*Mastichodendron*) join each other in *Sideroxylon*.

Finally, some changes in common names might also be in order. "Digger" is an old pioneer term derisively used to label California Indians for the way they obtained some of their food (roots and bulbs), and so the digger pine could become California foothill pine. However, look for most of the potential common name changes in the trees of Florida where Little often used the Latin genus as part of the common name instead of the more colorful, and truly vernacular, names currently in use. New

## Look for the taxonomy of the 2008 National Register of Big Trees to be completely updated; some possible changes are proposed here.

From left, some species under consideration for taxonomic changes: Sandpost oak, Black Hills spruce, coast redwood, and Texas live oak.





names could include Lancewood (Florida nectandra), great leadtree (great leucaena), Florida clover-ash (Florida tetrazygia), greenheart (coffee colubrina), princesstree (royal paulownia), fevertree (pinckneya), and Florida toadwood (Florida cupania).

If change makes you feel unstable, join the botanists. Unless you want to wait decades or centuries until all the data are in, we must accept that taxonomists' current standards for the relationships of all our very distant arborescent cousins is the best that can be done at this time. New information, discoveries, and opinions will cause more changes in the future.

But look on the bright side. A sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) is still a sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), pines are still in the genus *Pinus*, and you may no longer have to ponder the difference between Hinds and sandbar willows. Best of all, there are probably more than 900 species of hawthorns that won't be in the 2008 Register. **AF**

*Photojournalist Whit Bronaugh lives in Eugene, Oregon.*



COURTESY THE DAVEY TREE EXPERT COMPANY

WHIT BRONAUGH

## IN WITH THE NEW, OUT WITH THE SYNONYMS?

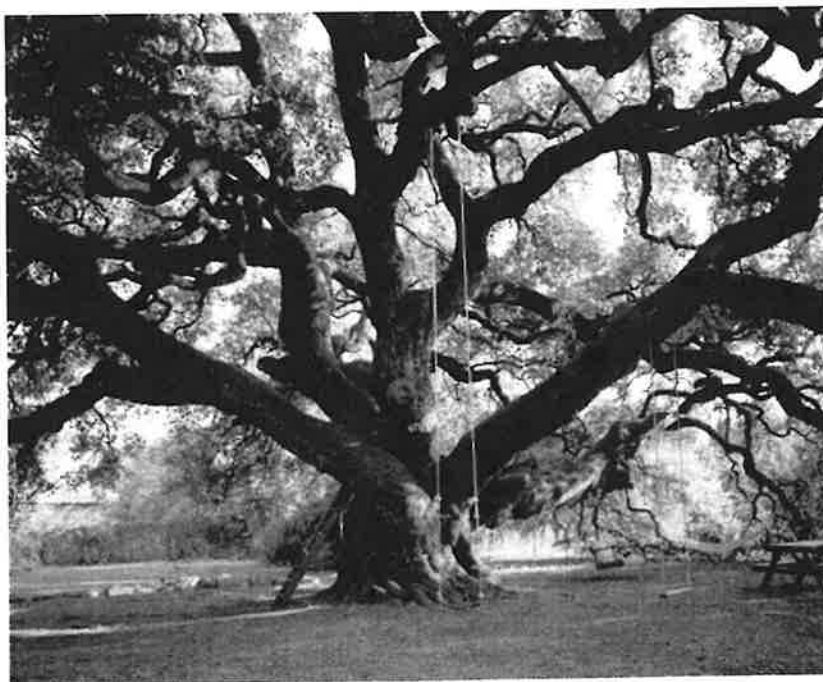
A preliminary list of tree species that you might see added or deleted in the 2008 National Register of Big Trees.

*Species potentially added: you may need to start looking for a big one of these!*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
Island oak	<i>Quercus tomentella</i>	Channel Islands, Calif.
Channel Isl. scrub oak	<i>Quercus pacifica</i>	Channel Islands, Calif.
Cedros Island oak	<i>Quercus cedrosensis</i>	San Ysidro Mountains, Calif.
Mapleleaf oak	<i>Quercus acerifolia</i>	Magazine & Ouachita mtns., Ark.
Bluff oak	<i>Quercus austrina</i>	lowlands of Miss. to S. Carolina
Mexican oak	<i>Quercus carmenensis</i>	Chisos Mountains, Texas
Lateleaf oak	<i>Quercus tardifolia</i>	Chisos Mountains, Texas
Robust oak	<i>Quercus robusta</i>	Chisos Mountains, Texas
Netleaf white oak	<i>Quercus polymorpha</i>	Val Verde County, Texas
African sumac	<i>Rhus lancea</i>	Ariz.

*Species that might be deleted: if so, save your tape measure for something else!*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reason Deleted
Kearney sumac	<i>Rhus kearneyi</i>	only a shrub in the U.S.
McDonald oak	<i>Quercus macdonaldii</i>	hybrid
Black Hills spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i> var. <i>densata</i>	grouped w/white spruce
Arizona smooth cypress	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>glabra</i>	grouped w/Arizona cypress
Florida elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i> var. <i>floridana</i>	grouped w/American elm
Florida chinkapin	<i>Castanea alnifolia</i>	grouped w/Allegheny chinkapin
Northwestern paper birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i> var. <i>subcordata</i>	grouped w/paper birch
Deering tree-cactus	<i>Cereus robinii</i> var. <i>deeringii</i>	grouped w/Key tree-cactus
Hinds willow	<i>Salix hindsiana</i>	grouped w/sandbar willow
Simpson stopper	<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i> var. <i>simpsonii</i>	grouped w/twinberry stopper
Florida elder	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i> var. <i>laciniata</i>	grouped w/American elder
Carneros yucca	<i>Yucca carnerosana</i>	grouped w/Faxon yucca
Hawthorns (many)	<i>Crataegus</i> species	nationwide, mostly in the East



COURTESY THE DAVEY TREE EXPERT COMPANY



WHIT BRONAUCCI

**From  
the Big Tree  
Coordinator**



**S**ince its beginning in 1940 there have been many changes to the National Register of Big Trees. And although 65 years of big tree hunters and state coordinators have helped shape the program into what it is today, the mission and message have remained constant: to protect our nation's big trees and recognize the values that trees and forests provide.

AMERICAN FORESTS has continued the program's evolution with the sponsorship of The Davey Tree Expert Company, the help of a grant from the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, and a partnership with Virginia Tech's forestry department. A two-year process begun in the fall of 2004 has helped us to assess and update our measurement standards and show the value of our Champions on the web. Our thanks to all those who took part in our surveys, forums, and discussions, and special thanks to our Big Tree Advisory Committee and particularly Jeff Kirwan at Virginia Tech for their continued dedication to the world of Big Trees. The changes brought about through this process are yet another set of stepping stones in a program that we hope will continue to touch and inspire people for generations to come. Please enjoy AMERICAN FORESTS' 2006-2007 National Register of Big Trees and join us in celebrating the importance and value of our trees by discovering new champs, helping maintain those you have nominated in the past, and planting future champions. To learn more about AMERICAN FORESTS' Big Tree program—and our many other programs to plant and care for our arboreal neighbors—visit us at [www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org).—Ethan Kearns, Big Tree coordinator



# THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2006

## Acacia

Blackbrush, <i>Acacia rigidula</i> , ★ 1998*	16	26	29	49	Casa Grande, Ariz.	William Kinnison
Blackbrush, <i>Acacia rigidula</i> , 1999*	14	27	31	49	Glendale, Ariz.	Ken Morrow
Long-spine, <i>Acacia macracantha</i> , 2003	32	24	46	68	Monroe, Fla.	Joseph Nemece

## Ailanthus

Tree-of-heaven, <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> , 2005Δ	200	63	76	282	Milan, Mich.	Elwood B. Ehrie
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## Alaska-cedar

<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i> , 1979	451	126	27	584	Olympic NP, Wash.	Robert L. Wood & John Aho
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## Alder

Arizona, <i>Alnus oblongifolia</i> , ★ 1982	199	129	50	341	Cibola NF, N. Mex.	Jerald Lopeman & Solomon Peralta
European, <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , ★ 1992Δ	108	70	41	188	Davenport, Iowa	Mark D. Rouw
Hazel, <i>Alnus serrulata</i> , 2005*	46	60	28	113	Huntington, N.Y.	Daniel Karpen
Hazel, <i>Alnus serrulata</i> , 2005*	49	60	30	117	Bayard Cutting Arbortm SP, Huntington, N.Y.	Daniel Karpen
Mountain, <i>Alnus tenuifolia</i> , ★ 1995	94	71	39	175	Umatilla NF, Wash.	Slim Stillman
Red, <i>Alnus rubra</i> , 2005	288	87	100	400	Golden Gate Nat'l Recreation Area, Calif.	Eric Ettlinger
Sitka, <i>Alnus sinuata</i> , ★ 1993	33	30	39	73	Maury Island, King Co., Wash.	Mike Lee
Speckled, <i>Alnus rugosa</i> , ★ 1984	38	66	56	118	St. Clair Co., Mich.	W. Brennan, P. Thompson, R. Kilgore
White, <i>Alnus rhombifolia</i> , 1986	149	92	40	251	Polk Co., Ore.	Maynard Drawson

## Allthorn

<i>Koeberlinia spinosa</i> , 1993	27	23	21	55	Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Ariz.	Bob & Glenda Zahner
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## Alvaradoa

Mexican, <i>Alvaradoa amorphoides</i> , ★ 1983	25	15	9	42	Miami, Fla.	John C. Cordy & Jim Eggert
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## Anacahuite

<i>Cordia boissieri</i> , 1995	76	25	38	111	Camino Real Viejo, Mercedes, Texas	William MacWhorter
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## Anacua

<i>Ehretia anacua</i> , 2003	146	42	52	201	Victoria Co., Texas	Bob McVey
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## Anise-tree

Florida, <i>Illicium floridanum</i> , ★ 1991	15	29	20	49	Prairie Cr. & County Dirt Rd., Perry Co., Ala.	Thomas Wilson
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## Apple

Common, <i>Malus sylvestris</i> , ★ 1986Δ	141	70	45	222	Burke's Garden, Va.	Louise G. Hoge
Oregon crab, <i>Malus fusca</i> , ★ 1989*	66	79	47	157	Nisqually NWR, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
Oregon crab, <i>Malus fusca</i> , 2003*	102	41	45	154	Gifford Pinchot NF, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
Oregon crab, <i>Malus fusca</i> , 2003*	90	48	55	152	Gifford Pinchot NF, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
Prairie crab, <i>Malus ioensis</i> , ★ 1976	38	46	68	101	Oakland Co., Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Southern crab, <i>Malus angustifolia</i> , ★ 1996*	96	47	60	158	Chestertown, Md.	Eleanor P. Colston
Southern crab, <i>Malus angustifolia</i> , ★ 2001*	115	30	61	160	Monroe Co., Ga.	Randy Bingham

## Arborvitae

Oriental, <i>Thuja orientalis</i> , ★ 1997*Δ	74	65	24	145	Natural Bridge, Va.	Jimmy and Sandra Mock
Oriental, <i>Thuja orientalis</i> , 2003*Δ	83	54	28	144	Portsmouth, Ohio	Brian P. Riley

## Ash

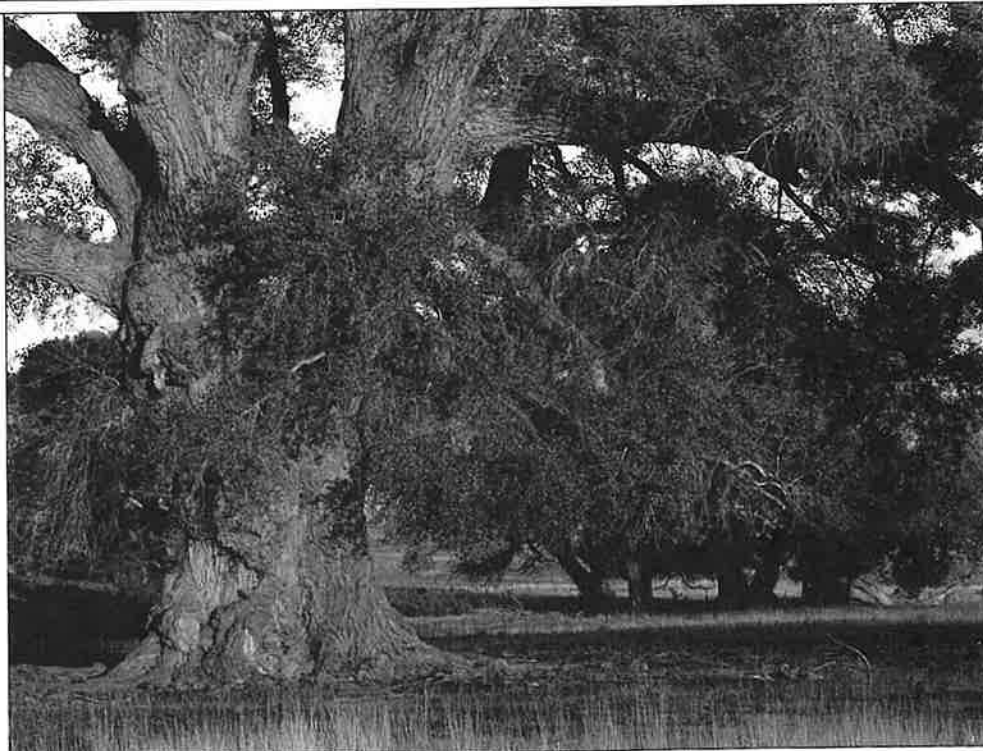
Berlandier, <i>Fraxinus berlandierana</i> , 1995	252	48	72	318	Los Fresnos, Texas	Brian Sichel
Black, <i>Fraxinus nigra</i> , ★ 2005	58	82	25	146	Montgomery County, Va.	Byron Carmean & Gary Williamson
Blue, <i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i> , 2005	155	120	132	308	Mays Lick, Ky.	Kevin Galloway
Carolina, <i>Fraxinus caroliniana</i> , ★ 2004*	56	58	24	120	O'Leno State Park, Fla.	Robert W. Simons & Daniel B. Ward
Carolina, <i>Fraxinus caroliniana</i> , 2005*	43	74	15	121	Columbia, N.C.	Sid Shearin
Chihuahua, <i>Fraxinus papillosa</i> , 2003	33	49	17	86	Coronado NF, Ariz.	David & Paul Thornburg
Fragrant, <i>Fraxinus cuspidata</i> , 2004	46	40	37	95	Coconino NF, Ariz.	David Thornburg
Goodding, <i>Fraxinus gooddingii</i> , ★ 1995	25	30	22	61	Coronado NF, Ariz.	Josh Tewksbury
Green, <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> , ★ 1981	259	95	95	378	Cass Co., Mich.	D. Steen, S. Heaney, E.B. Ehrie
Gregg, <i>Fraxinus greggii</i> , 2003	17	27	26	51	Univ. of Arizona, Ariz.	Libby Davidson
Lowell, <i>Fraxinus anomala</i> var. <i>lowellii</i> , 2003	58	33	21	96	Prescott NF, Ariz.	David Thornburg & Harry Untiedt
Oregon, <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i> , 1975	284	65	66	366	Sauvie Island, Ore.	Eldon Boge & Robert Heilman
Pumpkin, <i>Fraxinus profunda</i> , 1995	188	150	77	357	Big Oak Tree SP, Mo.	Bruce Palmer
Singleleaf, <i>Fraxinus anomala</i> var. <i>anomala</i> , 1999	52	31	15	87	Highway 141, on Dolores River, Colo.	Vince Urbina
Texas, <i>Fraxinus texensis</i> , 2001	76	72	67	165	Bandera Co., Texas	Billy Walker
Two-petal, <i>Fraxinus dipetala</i> , 1986	39	32	34	80	Lake Co., Calif.	Frank T. Callahan

SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFERENCE*	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
Velvet, <i>Fraxinus velutina</i> , 2001*	189	90	85	300	Fossil Springs WA, Ariz.	Jerry Nash & Mike Hallen
Velvet, <i>Fraxinus velutina</i> , 1996*	202	76	88	300	Santa Cruz, Ariz.	Kenneth A. Porter
Velvet, <i>Fraxinus velutina</i> , 2005*	218	60	76	297	Prescott NF, Ariz.	David Thornburg
White, <i>Fraxinus americana</i> , ★ 1983	304	95	82	420	Montebello Restaurant, Palisades, N.Y.	Mike DeBonis
<b>Aspen</b>						
Bigtooth, <i>Populus grandidentata</i> , 2005	169	93	51	275	Appleton, Maine	Bruce Kauffman
Quaking, <i>Populus tremuloides</i> , 1971	120	136	44	267	Umatilla NF, Ore.	Bill Collar
<b>Avocado</b>						
<i>Persea americana</i> , 1999Δ	185	72	59	272	Mission at San Juan Capistrano, Calif.	Art Cowley & Camille Newton
<b>Baccharis</b>						
Eastern, <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> , 2001	14	21	19	40	Lincoln Co., Ga.	Doug & Jess Riddle
<b>Baldcypress</b>						
Common, <i>Taxodium distichum</i> var. <i>distichum</i> , 2001*	644	83	85	762	Cat Island, La.	Jeff Hunt & Desmond Clapp
Common, <i>Taxodium distichum</i> var. <i>distichum</i> , 2005*	660	82	65	758	Holmes, Miss.	Norman Haigh & Barry Scott
Montezuma, <i>Taxodium mucronatum</i> , 1995	287	68	89	377	San Benito, Cameron Co., Texas	Sue Griffin
<b>Barreta</b>						
<i>Helietta parvifolia</i> , ★ 1989	18	34	25	58	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, Palmview, Texas	Terry Rossignol
<b>Basswood</b>						
American, <i>Tilia americana</i> , 1991	277	89	87	388	Montgomery County, Pa.	Sherman Perkins & Halfred Wertz
Carolina, <i>Tilia caroliniana</i> , 2001*	124	107	60	246	Caddo Parish, La.	Ken Jeane
Carolina, <i>Tilia caroliniana</i> , 2001*	155	75	57	244	East Feliciana Parish, La.	Brain Chandler
White, <i>Tilia heterophylla</i> , ★ 1997	223	116	57	353	Pisgah NF, N.C.	C. Woodard, M. Davie, W. Blozan
<b>Bayberry</b>						
Northern, <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i> , 1999	11	15	10	28	Jockey's Ridge SP, N.C.	Sid Shearin
Odorless, <i>Myrica inodora</i> , ★ 1994	33	18	23	57	Bellingrath Gardens, Theodore, Ala.	Richard Salzer
Pacific, <i>Myrica californica</i> , 2003	66	35	39	111	Prairie Creek Redwoods SP, Calif.	Robert Van Pelt
Southern, <i>Myrica cerifera</i> , 2005	72	51	84	144	Machipongo, Va.	Rick Gregor & Charles Stant
<b>Baycedar</b>						
<i>Suriana maritima</i> , ★ 1995	10	12	23	28	Big Pine Key, Fla.	Vincent P. Condon & William G. Miller
<b>Beech</b>						
American, <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> , ★ 1995	279	115	138	429	Lothian, Md.	Gary Heinz
<b>Birch</b>						
Alaska ppr., <i>Betula papyrifera</i> var. <i>neoalaskana</i> , 2005	99	63	47	174	Trapper Creek, Alaska	Terrence P. Cooney
Gray, <i>Betula populifolia</i> , 2005	72	69	54	155	Kalamazoo, Mich.	Stu Bassett & E.B. Ehrle
Mtn paper, <i>Betula papyrifera</i> var. <i>cordifolia</i> , ★ 1973	112	67	80	199	Sleeping Bear Dunes, Leelanau, Mich.	Elwood B. Ehrle & John Spencer
Nrthwstrn ppr, <i>Betula papyrifera</i> var. <i>subcordata</i> , ★ 1975* 46	66	30	120		Minam River, Ore.	Frank T. Callahan
Nrthwstrn ppr, <i>Betula papyrifera</i> var. <i>subcordata</i> , ★ 1967* 46	65	32	119		Hell's Canyon NRA, Idaho	F.D. Johnson & M. Newell
Paper, <i>Betula papyrifera</i> var. <i>papyrifera</i> , ★ 1991*	220	107	76	346	Black Lake, Cheboygan Co., Mich.	Robert Stein
Paper, <i>Betula papyrifera</i> var. <i>papyrifera</i> , ★ 1996*	222	107	76	348	Point aux Barques, Mich.	John J. Chorzal
River, <i>Betula nigra</i> , 1981	208	105	112	341	Lawrence Co., Tenn.	Dan & David Shires
Roundleaf, <i>Betula uber</i> , 1978	34	49	15	87	Jefferson NF, Va.	Paul Shrauder
Sweet, <i>Betula lenta</i> , ★ 1961	182	78	80	280	New Boston, N.H.	Philip Harvell
Water, <i>Betula occidentalis</i> , 1973	113	53	46	178	Wallowa Co., Ore.	Maynard Drawson
Wstrn paper, <i>Betula papyrifera</i> var. <i>commutata</i> , 2003	172	70	77	261	Bellingham, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
Yellow, <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i> , 2005	186	104	78	310	Gould City, Mich.	D. Milarch & E.B. Ehrle
<b>Black-mangrove</b>						
<i>Avicennia germinans</i> , 2003	123	54	60	192	Everglades NP, Fla.	Thomas J. Smith
<b>Blackbead</b>						
Catclaw, <i>Pithecellobium unguis-cati</i> , ★ 2002	150	72	49	234	Sarasota, Fla.	William J. Schilling
Ebony, <i>Pithecellobium flexicaule</i> , 1991	171	50	64	237	McAllen, Hidalgo Co., Texas	Joe Ideker
Guadeloupe, <i>Pithecellobium guadalupense</i> , ★ 1992*	11	16	16	31	No Name Key, Fla.	R.W. Simons & M.L. Eletz
Guadeloupe, <i>Pithecellobium guadalupense</i> , ★ 1995*	9	19	16	32	National Key Deer Refuge, Fla.	T. Ann Williams & Vincent P. Condon
<b>Blackhaw</b>						
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> , ★ 1985*	64	24	33	96	Geo. Washington Birthplace NM, Wakefield, Va.	Richard Salzer
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> , ★ 1991*	64	24	28	95	Roanoke, Va.	Richard Salzer
Rusty, <i>Viburnum rufidulum</i> , ★ 1999	47	30	23	83	Knox Co., Tenn.	Jim Cortese
<b>Bladdernut</b>						
American, <i>Staphylea trifolia</i> , ★ 1966	19	36	37	64	Macomb Co., Mich.	H.J. Nett & Paul W. Thompson
Sierra, <i>Staphylea bolanderi</i> , ★ 1986	14	28	12	45	Fresno Co., Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
<b>Blolly</b>						
Longleaf, <i>Guapira discolor</i> , ★ 1975	54	21	11	78	Lignumvitae Key Botanical SP, Fla.	Charlotte Neidhauk

SPECIES; MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
<b>Blueblossom</b>						
Blue-myrtle, <i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i> , ★ 1976	32	41	20	78	Curry Co., Ore.	Frank T. Callahan
<b>Bluewood</b>						
<i>Condalia hookeri</i> , ★ 1989	77	30	26	114	San Juan, Texas	Joe Ideker
<b>Boxelder</b>						
<i>Acer negundo</i> , 2003	230	120	84	371	Monrovia, Md.	Kevin Moore
<b>Buccaneer-palm</b>						
<i>Pseudophoenix sargentii</i> , ★ 1997	26	25	8	53	Elliott Key, Biscayne NP, Fla.	Carol L. Lippincott
<b>Bucida</b>						
<i>Bucida buceras</i> , ★ 1997Δ	139	50	48	201	Charles Deering Estate, Fla.	J. Valenta, A. Lupus, R. Hammer
<b>Buckeye</b>						
Bottlebrush, <i>Aesculus parviflora</i> , ★ 1993	34	14	20	53	Virginia Beach, Va.	Richard Salzer
California, <i>Aesculus californica</i> , 2001	176	46	60	237	Santa Cruz Co., Calif.	Jeff Reimer & Walter Mark
Ohio, <i>Aesculus glabra</i> var. <i>glabra</i> , 2003	140	77	64	233	Greenwich, Ohio.	Brian P. Riley
Painted, <i>Aesculus sylvatica</i> , 2001	18	34	16	56	Mountain Park, Fulton Co., Ga.	Jess & Doug Riddle
Red, <i>Aesculus pavia</i> , ★ 1994	95	58	48	165	Roanoke, Va.	William S. Hubard
Texas, <i>Aesculus glabra</i> var. <i>arguta</i> , ★ 1986	51	30	24	87	Harper, Texas	Bob & Lou Ellen O'Kennon
Yellow, <i>Aesculus octandra</i> , ★ 1995	229	136	53	378	Gabes Mount Tr., Great Smoky Mtns. NP, Tenn.	Will Blozan & Michael Davie
<b>Buckthorn</b>						
California, <i>Rhamnus californica</i> , ★ 1976*	24	30	25	60	Sunol Reg'l Wilderness, Alameda Co., Calif.	E. Lagel
California, <i>Rhamnus californica</i> , 2003*	23	23	39	56	Prescott NF, Ariz.	David & Judy Thornburg
Carolina, <i>Rhamnus californica</i> , 2001	40	25	24	71	Clarksville, Tenn.	Phil & Claudette Brown
Cascara, <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i> , ★ 1977*	99	37	50	149	Seaside, Ore.	Steve Ferguson
Cascara, <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i> , ★ 1980*	109	27	43	147	Siuslaw NF, Ore.	Ray Cross
European, <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> , 2005Δ	217	27	41	254	Halifax, N.C.	Sid Shearin
Glossy, <i>Rhamnus frangula</i> , ★ 1976Δ	20	40	25	66	Cranbrook Institute, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Hollyleaf, <i>Rhamnus crocea</i> , 1976	26	26	44	63	Greenfield, Calif.	Frank T. Callahan & Art Cowley
<b>Buckwheat-tree</b>						
<i>Cliftonia monophylla</i> , 2000	49	57	38	115	Wakulla Co., Fla.	David Roddenberry
<b>Buffaloberry</b>						
Silver, <i>Shepherdia argentea</i> , ★ 1975	78	22	20	105	Malheur Co., Ore.	Frank T. Callahan
<b>Bumelia</b>						
Buckthorn, <i>Bumelia lycioides</i> , 1999	48	31	29	86	Shelby Park, Nashville, Tenn.	Mark S. Hackney
Gum, <i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i> , ★ 1977	93	80	66	190	Robertson Co., Texas	E. G. Marsh
Saffron-plum, <i>Bumelia celastrina</i> , ★ 1991	55	30	32	93	Lower Rio Grande NWR, Texas	William MacWhorter
Tough, <i>Bumelia tenax</i> , ★ 1987	41	41	28	89	Amelia Island SRA, Fla.	Buford Pruitt Jr.

## RIO GRANDE COTTONWOOD }

**T**exas's 489-point behemoth, near Fort Davis, has reigned as national champ since 1976. The biggest *Populus fremontii* var. *wislizeni* has a 367-inch circumference and stands 92 feet tall with a 118-foot average crown spread. The Lone Star State stands out for its number of champs. It boasts a total of 78<sup>3</sup>, making it fourth in line for bragging rights, surpassed only by Florida, California, and Arizona. The Rio Grande is one of two national champion cottonwoods in Texas.



SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUM-FERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
<b>Burningbush</b>						
Eastern, <i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i> , 2002	90	40	34	139	Norwood Hills Country Club, St. Louis, Mo.	Lorri Grueber
<b>Bustic</b>						
Willow, <i>Dipholis salicifolia</i> , ★ 1994	72	57	29	136	Barnacle State Historical Site, Dade Co., Fla.	John T. Valente & Rodger Hammer
<b>Butternut</b>						
<i>Juglans cinerea</i> , 1989	265	80	86	367	Chester, Conn.	Edward A. Richardson
<b>Button-mangrove</b>						
<i>Conocarpus erectus</i> , ★ 1974	174	51	68	242	Palm Beach, Fla.	K. Van der Hulse & D. L. Lockhart
<b>Buttonbush</b>						
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> , 1999	60	26	38	96	Buttonwillow, Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
<b>Byrsonima</b>						
Key, <i>Byrsonima lucida</i> , ★ 1997*	31	35	17	70	Big Pine Key, Fla.	T.A. Williams & Vincent P. Condon
Key, <i>Byrsonima lucida</i> , ★ 1995*	31	35	17	70	Monroe, Fla.	Eloise Boon & Vincent P. Condon
<b>Caesalpinia</b>						
Mexican, <i>Caesalpinia mexicana</i> , 1995	48	45	60	108	Hidalgo Co., Texas	Joe Ideker
<b>California-laurel</b>						
<i>Umbellularia californica</i> , 1997	536	108	119	674	San Francisco, Calif.	Dave Grabner & Leo Martin
<b>Canella</b>						
<i>Canella winterana</i> , 1998	25	30	19	60	Crocodile Lake NWR, Fla.	Joseph Nemec
<b>Canotia</b>						
<i>Canotia holocantha</i> , 2005	65	32	20	102	Wikieup, Ariz.	John Carr & David Thornburg
<b>Caper</b>						
Jamaica, <i>Capparis cynophallophora</i> , ★ 1986	25	15	20	45	Lee Co., Fla.	David Fox & Dee Slinkard
<b>Casuarina</b>						
Horsetail, <i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> , ★ 1968Δ	207	89	56	310	Olowalo, Maui, Hawaii	L.W. Bryan
<b>Catalpa</b>						
Northern, <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> , 2003	285	81	84	387	Knight Township, Ind.	Thomas E. Westfall
Southern, <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> , 2000	271	88	68	376	Yalobusha Co., Miss.	J. Ferguson, J. Edwards, G. Byrd
<b>Catclaw</b>						
Gregg, <i>Acacia greggii</i> , ★ 1971*	77	49	46	138	Red Rock, N. Mex.	Samuel Lamb
Gregg, <i>Acacia greggii</i> , 2002*	98	28	40	136	Uvalde, Texas	G.C. Carlile
Roemer, <i>Acacia roemeriana</i> , 1991	61	22	24	89	The Alamo, San Antonio, Texas	Richard Salzer
Wright, <i>Acacia wrightii</i> , ★ 1986	72	36	42	119	Uvalde Co., Texas	Virgil Helm
<b>Cercocarpus</b>						
Alderleaf, <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> , 1999	26	21	11	50	Neff's Canyon, Wasatch-Cache NF, Utah	Tony Dietz
Birchleaf, <i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> , ★ 1972	44	34	29	85	Central Point, Ore.	Frank T. Callahan
Catalina, <i>Cercocarpus traskiae</i> , 2003	30	18	25	54	Catalina Island Conservancy, Calif.	Art Cowley
Curleaf, <i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i> , 2001	116	23	28	146	Sequoia NF, Calif.	Loren Ross
Hairy, <i>Cercocarpus breviflorus</i> , ★ 1996	32	20	17	56	Coronado NF, Ariz.	Robert Zahner & Sid Jackson
<b>Chastetree</b>						
Common, <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> , 2003Δ	111	26	37	146	Johnson City, Texas	Robert Edmondson
<b>Cherry</b>						
Alabama blk, <i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>alabamensis</i> , ★ 1997	40	35	27	82	Bristol, Fla.	Robert T. Ing & Daniel B. Ward
Bitter, <i>Prunus emarginata</i> , 1999	65	86	40	161	Centralia, Wash.	Marshall Murray
Black, <i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>serotina</i> , 2005*	216	85	61	316	West Portsmouth, Ohio	Ben Hamilton
Black, <i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>serotina</i> , 2003*	187	112	78	319	Du Quoin, Ill.	Maurice O'Keefe
Black, <i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>serotina</i> , ★ 1997*	169	132	51	314	Great Smoky Mountains NP, Tenn.	Will Blozan & Jan Stykar
Catalina, <i>Prunus lyonii</i> , 1996	115	43	45	169	Catalina Island Conservancy, Calif.	A. Douglas Propst & Bill Hartley
Chokecherry, common,						
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> var. <i>virginiana</i> , 1999	168	74	88	264	Owings Mills, Md.	Frank X. Rurka
Chokecherry, western,						
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> var. <i>melanocarpa</i> , ★ 1991	54	73	18	132	Kootenai Co., Idaho	J.D. Pratt & D. Van Natter
Escarpment, <i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>eximia</i> , 2003*	102	51	53	166	Real Co., Texas	Lee Haile
Escarpment, <i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>eximia</i> , 1998*	102	51	53	166	Kerr Co., Texas	Mark Duff & Robert Edmonson
Hollyleaf, <i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> , 1993	54	50	56	118	Jolon, Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
Mahaleb, <i>Prunus mahaleb</i> , 2005*Δ	84	36	38	130	VanWert Co., Ohio	Brian P. Riley & Barry L. Weber
Mahaleb, <i>Prunus mahaleb</i> , ★ 1993*Δ	78	36	47	126	Lake Stevens, Wash.	Ron Brightman & Robert Van Pelt
Mazzard, <i>Prunus avium</i> , 1989Δ	290	96	73	404	West Chester, Penn.	M. Hobaugh, P. & C. Youngblood
Pin, <i>Prunus pensylvanica</i> , 2005*	60	75	50	148	Kalamazoo, Mich.	Emma Pitcher & Elwood B. Ehrle
Pin, <i>Prunus pensylvanica</i> , 1999*	58	75	41	143	Great Smoky Mountains NP, Tenn.	Gerald Shelton
Sour, <i>Prunus cerasus</i> , ★ 1972Δ	119	68	75	206	Calhoun Co., Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Southwestern black, <i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>rutula</i> , 2004	136	66	50	215	Prescott NF, Ariz.	David Thornburg & Harry Untiedt





SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUM-FERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
West Indies, <i>Prunus myrtifolia</i> , ★ 1989 <b>Chestnut</b>	65	53	50	131	Miami, Fla.	Carol Lippincott
American, <i>Castanea dentata</i> , 2005 <b>Chinaberry</b>	288	70	70	376	Clarkston, Wash.	Wayne Bunce
<i>Melia azedarach</i> , ★ 1967Δ <b>Chinkapin</b>	222	75	96	321	Kaohe, South Kona, Hawaii	L.W. Bryan
Florida, <i>Castanopsis ainifolia</i> , ★ 2005	76	42	47	130	Columbia Co., Fla.	Joe McGrath
Giant, <i>Castanopsis chrysophylla</i> , ★ 1996 <b>Cholla</b>	153	122	37	284	Mendocino Co., Calif.	Paul A. Violett
Jumping, <i>Opuntia fulgida</i> , 2001 <b>Cinnecord</b>	32	21	15	57	Pinal Co., Ariz.	Mike Hallen
<i>Acacia choriophylla</i> , ★ 1986 <b>Clethra</b>	14	20	24	40	Sugarloaf Key, Fla.	David Sinclair & Mike Cullen
Cinnamon, <i>Clethra acuminata</i> , ★ 1995 <b>Cliffrose</b>	10	33	12	46	Caldwell Fork Tr., Great Smoky Mtns. NP, N.C.	Will & Carl Blozan, Jan Stykar
<i>Cowania mexicana</i> , 2003 <b>Clusia</b>	28	19	17	51	Grand Canyon NP, Ariz.	Mike Hallen
Florida, <i>Clusia rosea</i> , ★ 1995 <b>Coconut</b>	25	40	37	74	Hugh Taylor Birch SP, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	Jim Higgins
Palm, <i>Cocos nucifera</i> , ★ 1979Δ <b>Coffeetree</b>	60	93	27	159	between Pauahi & Ponohawai, Hilo, Hawaii	Jane & Bryce Robinson
Kentucky, <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> , 2001 <b>Condalia</b>	206	82	77	307	Lake Co., Ohio	Mark Ervin
Bitter, <i>Condalia globosa</i> , 2003*	44	18	16	66	Little Ajo Mountains, Ariz.	Jim Malusa

## Rounding up Big Trees in the Buckeye State

Ohio is a state rich in biodiversity and biological wonders—not to mention big trees. Brian Riley realized that in 2000 shortly after graduating from high school in Ashville when he learned that since 1955, Ohio has had a big tree program modeled after AMERICAN FORESTS' National Register of Big Trees.

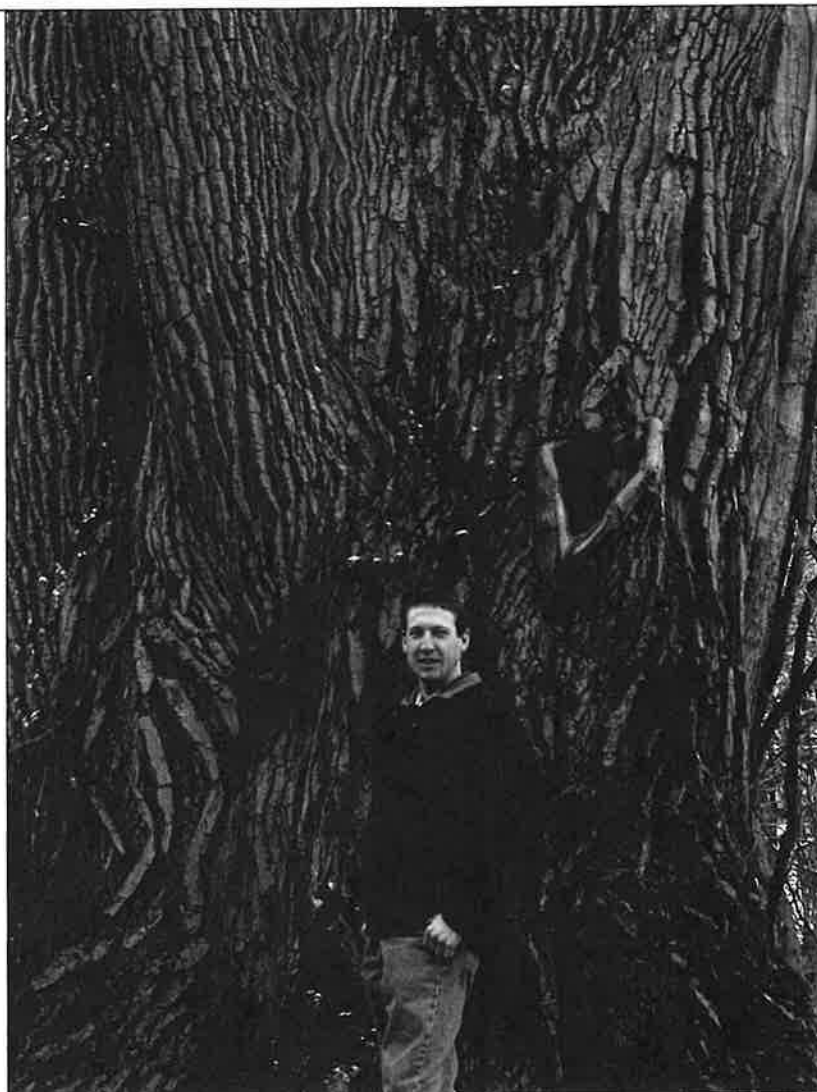
"As soon as I learned that the Ohio Division of Forestry was keeping official records of the largest trees of each species throughout the state, both native and exotic, I became instantly hooked and devoted to contributing to the Ohio Big Tree Program," he says.

Little did Riley realize what was in store when he set his sights on seeking champs. "I still cannot believe that my first nominated state champion turned out to be a European alder my Grandpa Skinner had planted in his backyard (in Columbus) more than 50 years ago," he remembers.

When Riley was not in forestry class at Ohio State University, he was out hunting big trees. His efforts to seek out and nominate numerous overgrown trees did not go unnoticed by officials at the state Division of Forestry. In 2003 they hired Riley as an intern to travel the state certifying new nominations and recertifying existing champs.

That internship turned into a job as a service forester after he graduated with a degree in forestry in 2004. And the state Big Tree Program is still his responsibility. "Being paid to do something I thoroughly enjoy is an honor I cannot put into words," he says.

To date Riley is responsible for finding five of Ohio's 11 national champs and 122 of the 256 champs on its state register. His greatest program achievement to date was finding a monster Ohio buckeye while following a posted detour. His discovery allowed Ohio to claim the champion title for its state tree. Says Riley, "I guess some things are just meant to be."



RILEY WITH OHIO'S STATE CHAMPION EASTERN COTTONWOOD

SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
Bitter, <i>Condalia globosa</i> , 2001*	42	17	25	65	Eagletail Mountains WA, Ariz.	Central Arizona College Hiking Club
<b>Coralbean</b>						
Southeastern, <i>Erythrina herbacea</i> , ★ 1995	40	32	30	79	J.N. "Ding" Darling NWR, Fla.	Richard Workman
Southwestern, <i>Erythrina flabelliformis</i> , 1999	11	15	12	29	Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, Ariz.	George Montgomery
<b>Corkwood</b>						
<i>Leitneria floridana</i> , ★ 1989*	8	16	7	26	Waccasassa Bay State Preserve, Fla.	Robert Simons & Thomas Rooks
<i>Leitneria floridana</i> , 2000*	8	15	8	25	Waccasassa Bay State Preserve, Fla.	R. Simons, C. Lippincott, K. McPherson
<b>Cottonwood</b>						
Black, <i>Populus trichocarpa</i> , ★ 1982	320	158	110	506	Willamette Mission SP, Ore.	Maynard C. Drawson
Eastern, <i>Populus deltoides</i> var. <i>deltoides</i> , 2001	444	93	103	563	Seward, Neb.	Daryl Hackbart
Fremont, <i>Populus fremontii</i> var. <i>fremontii</i> , 1996	504	92	108	623	Santa Cruz Co., Ariz.	Mark Rouw & Don Richard
Meseta, <i>Populus fremontii</i> var. <i>mesetae</i> , 1986	211	49	84	281	Brewster Co., Texas	James E. Liles
Narrowleaf, <i>Populus angustifolia</i> , ★ 1973	314	79	80	413	Malheur Co., Ore.	Donald Oakes
Plains, <i>Populus deltoides</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i> , 1967	432	105	93	560	Hygiene, Colo.	Allegra Collister
Rio Grande, <i>Populus fremontii</i> var. <i>wislizeni</i> , 1976	367	92	118	489	Fort Davis, Texas	Steve Runnels
Swamp, <i>Populus heterophylla</i> , 2000	151	93	50	257	Yazoo NWR, Miss.	Lamar Dorris & David Linden
<b>Cranberrybush</b>						
American, <i>Viburnum trilobum</i> , ★ 1977*	10	32	31	50	Bloomfield Hills, Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
American, <i>Viburnum trilobum</i> , ★ 1985*	18	25	25	49	Wayne, Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
American, <i>Viburnum trilobum</i> , ★ 1989*	10	32	31	50	Westcroft Gardens, Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
<b>Cupania</b>						
Florida, <i>Cupania glabra</i> , ★ 1976	25	31	22	62	Monroe Co., Fla.	Clifford Shaw & George Avery
<b>Cypress</b>						
Arizona, <i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>arizonica</i> , 1955	244	93	48	349	Coronado NF, Ariz.	James Mielke
Arizona smooth, <i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>glabra</i> , 2003	215	70	52	298	Coconino NF, Ariz.	David Thornburg & Harry Untiedt
Baker, <i>Cupressus bakeri</i> , ★ 1976	129	129	29	265	Rogue River NF, Ore.	Frank T. Callahan
Cuyamaca, <i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>stephensonii</i> , ★ 1976	70	37	28	114	Cleveland NP, Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
Gowen, <i>Cupressus goveniana</i> var. <i>goveniana</i> , 1996	66	40	52	119	Point Lobos SP, Calif.	Alan R. Washburn
MacNab, <i>Cupressus macnabiana</i> , ★ 1981	155	55	45	221	Amador Co., Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
Mendocino, <i>Cupressus goveniana</i> var. <i>pigmaea</i> , 1986	238	150	49	400	Mendocino Co., Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
Monterey, <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> , 1994	553	102	111	683	San Mateo, Pescadero Co., Calif.	R. Huntington & Fiesta Garden Schl.
Piute, <i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>nevadensis</i> , 2005	112	74	60	201	Sequoia NF, Calif.	Loren Ross
Santa Cruz, <i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>abramsiana</i> , 2003*	113	56	41	179	Santa Cruz, Calif.	Whit Bronaugh
Santa Cruz, <i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>abramsiana</i> , 2003*	99	68	40	177	Santa Cruz, Calif.	Whit Bronaugh
Santa Cruz, <i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>abramsiana</i> , 2003*	97	67	45	175	Santa Cruz, Calif.	Whit Bronaugh
Sargent, <i>Cupressus sargentii</i> , 2001	244	58	64	318	Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, Calif.	Rory Nichols
Tecate, <i>Cupressus guadalupensis</i> var. <i>forbesii</i> , 2001	93	71	48	176	San Diego Co., Calif.	Art Cowley
<b>Cypress-pine</b>						
Blue, <i>Callitris hugelii</i> , ★ 1975Δ	180	60	50	253	Bradenton, Fla.	Steven Spezia
<b>Cyrilla</b>						
Swamp, <i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i> var. <i>racemiflora</i> , ★ 1980	51	44	30	103	Washington Co., Fla.	Charles R. Reeves
<b>Dahoon</b>						
<i>Ilex cassine</i> , ★ 1984*	55	40	36	104	St. Lucie Co. near Ft. Pierce, Fla.	Paul G. Williams
<i>Ilex cassine</i> , ★ 1995*	32	68	31	108	San Carlos Park, Fla.	Chris Anderson
<i>Ilex cassine</i> , ★ 1995*	54	42	36	105	Immokalee, Fla.	Chris Anderson
<i>Ilex cassine</i> , ★ 1994*	34	61	34	104	San Carlos Park, Fla.	Sam Allison
<i>Ilex cassine</i> , 1999*	44	57	21	106	Picayune Strand SF, Fla.	Chris Anderson
Myrtle, <i>Ilex cassine</i> , 1999	77	55	35	141	St. Marks NWR, Fla.	David Roddenberry
<b>Darling-plum</b>						
<i>Reynosa septentrionalis</i> , ★ 1975	21	28	13	52	Lignumvitae Key Botanical SP, Fla.	Charlotte Niedhauk
<b>Desert-willow</b>						
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> , 1976	165	68	54	247	Pinal Canyon Drive, Gila Co., Ariz.	Mitchell Holder
<b>Devils-walkingstick</b>						
<i>Aralia spinosa</i> , ★ 1997	23	74	16	101	Great Smoky Mountains NP, Tenn.	Katherine Johnson & Will Blozan
<b>Devilwood</b>						
<i>Osmanthus americanus</i> , 2003	88	39	47	139	Keystone Heights, Fla.	John & Janet Sloane
<b>Dogwood</b>						
Alternate-leaf, <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> , ★ 1997	41	49	27	97	Madison, N.J.	Dave Johnson & Jon Rafalowski
Blackfruit, <i>Cornus sessilis</i> , 1986	20	18	16	42	Shasta Co., Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
Flowering, <i>Cornus florida</i> , ★ 1988*	110	33	42	154	Glenwood Park, Norfolk, Va.	P & G Williamson, B. Carnean, D. Leibman
Flowering, <i>Cornus florida</i> , 2003*	107	36	39	153	Williamson Co., Tenn.	Jerry Greenshaw
Flowering, <i>Cornus florida</i> , 2002*	107	35	42	153	Hampton, Va.	Sabastian Velilla & Sandra Burke

SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUM-FERENCE*	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
Gray, <i>Cornus racemosa</i> , ★ 1975	18	38	24	62	Oakland Co., Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Pacific, <i>Cornus nuttallii</i> , ★ 1975	169	60	58	244	Clatskanie, Ore.	John E. Makela
Red-osier, <i>Cornus stolonifera</i> , ★ 1983	13	26	15	43	White Bird, Idaho	F.D. Johnson
Roughleaf, <i>Cornus drummondii</i> , 2001	40	22	33	70	Shelby Co., Tenn.	David Smith
Roundleaf, <i>Cornus rugosa</i> , ★ 1975	11	40	16	55	Leland, Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Smooth, <i>Cornus glabrata</i> , 1991/2001	16	42	16	62	Jefferson NF, Va.	Richard Salzer
Swamp, <i>Cornus stricta</i> , 2003*	13	24	17	42	Madison, Miss.	Ed Brown & Jack Herring
Swamp, <i>Cornus stricta</i> , 2001*	12	19	22	37	Fayette Co., Tenn.	David Smith
Swamp, <i>Cornus stricta</i> , ★ 1989*	12	23	22	41	Indian Creek Rd., Chesapeake, Va.	Byron Carmean & Gary Williamson
Swamp, <i>Cornus stricta</i> , ★ 1989*	10	22	28	39	Indian Creek Rd., Chesapeake, Va.	Byron Carmean & Gary Williamson
Western, <i>Cornus occidentalis</i> , 2003	32	25	35	66	Polk Co., Ore.	Barbra Rupers
<b>Douglas-fir</b>						
Bigcone, <i>Pseudotsuga macrocarpa</i> , 1945	269	165	94	458	Mt. Baldy Village, Angeles NF, Calif.	William Maxwell
Coast, <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> var. <i>menziesii</i> , 1999*	512	301	65	829	Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP, Calif.	Robert Van Pelt
Coast, <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> var. <i>menziesii</i> , 1999*	505	281	71	804	Olympic NP, Wash.	Preston P. Macy
Rocky Mountain, <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> var. <i>glauca</i> , ★ 1999	316	139	55	469	Deschutes NF, Jefferson Co., Ore.	Mark Corbet & Ben Benhower
<b>Elder</b>						
American, <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> var. <i>canadensis</i> , ★ 1989	38	16	22	60	Jefferson NF, Va.	Richard Salzer
Blackbead, <i>Sambucus melanocarpa</i> , ★ 1972	39	42	30	89	Columbia Co., Ore.	Oliver Matthews
Blue, <i>Sambucus cerulea</i> , 2005	136	30	38	176	Porterville, Calif.	Art Cowley
Florida, <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> var. <i>laciniata</i> , ★ 1994	26	18	12	47	Marion Co., Fla.	Robert W. Simons
Mexican, <i>Sambucus mexicana</i> , 2005	95	41	26	143	Patagonia, Ariz.	Ken Morrow
Pacific red, <i>Sambucus callicarpa</i> , 2001	56	27	32	91	Tillamook Co., Ore.	William Schoppert
<b>Elephant-tree</b>						
<i>Bursera microphylla</i> , 2005	34	16	28	57	Cabeza Prieta NWR, Ariz.	James W. Cain
<b>Elliottia</b>						
<i>Elliottia racemosa</i> , 1989	36	47	20	88	Glennville, Ga.	Howard Stanley & Red Castleman
<b>Elm</b>						
American, <i>Ulmus americana</i> , 2001*	277	122	84	420	Meeman-Shelby SP, Tenn.	David Smith
American, <i>Ulmus americana</i> , ★ 2002*	282	122	68	421	Fountain Creek, Va.	Byron Carmean & Gary Williamson
Cedar, <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i> , 2001	156	120	68	293	Meeman-Shelby SP, Tenn.	David Smith
Florida, <i>Ulmus americana</i> var. <i>floridana</i> , 2003	174	72	62	261	Jacksonville, Fla.	David Holley
Rock, <i>Ulmus thomasii</i> , ★ 1989	202	117	122	350	Cassopolis, Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Siberian, <i>Ulmus pumila</i> , ★ 1999*Δ	239	95	97	358	Grand Junction, Colo.	Bob Ely
Siberian, <i>Ulmus pumila</i> , 2001*Δ	238	86	128	356	Londonderry, Ohio	Brian Riley
Slippery, <i>Ulmus rubra</i> , 2003	232	103	93	358	Frederick, Md.	Stuart Frazier
Winged, <i>Ulmus alata</i> , ★ 1983	132	114	112	274	Fanning Springs, Fla.	Robert Simons & Dennis Andrews
<b>Esenbeckia</b>						
Berlandier, <i>Esenbeckia berlandieri</i> , ★ 1995	41	24	21	70	Cameron Co., Texas	Brownsville Beautification Comm.
<b>Eucalyptus</b>						
Bluegum, <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> , 2000Δ	586	141	126	759	Petrolia, Calif.	Loren Salladay & Robert Bush
Longbeak, <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , 2003Δ	276	112	84	409	Chandler, Ariz.	Mike Hallen & Sylvia Escudero
<b>False-mastic</b>						
<i>Mastichodendron foetidissimum</i> , ★ 1973	105	118	94	247	Castellow Hammock Park, Fla.	Albert H. Hetzell & Ron Smith
<b>Falsebox</b>						
<i>Gyminda latifolia</i> , ★ 1995	10	19	13	32	Florida Keys Refuge, Fla.	Niko Reisinger & Dianna Stevenson
<b>Fiddlewood</b>						
Florida, <i>Citharexylum fruticosum</i> , ★ 1986	17	27	12	47	Lignumvitae Key Botanical SP, Fla.	Ken Roundtree & Frank L. Zickar
<b>Fig</b>						
Florida strangler, <i>Ficus aurea</i> , 2005	446	54	158	540	Palm Beach Co., Fla.	Gael Silverblatt
Shortleaf, <i>Ficus citrifolia</i> , ★ 1986	248	41	57	303	Lignumvitae Key Botanical SP, Fla.	David M. Sinclair & Frank L. Zickar
<b>Fir</b>						
Balsam, <i>Abies balsamea</i> , 1992	151	104	48	267	Fairfield, Pa.	R.O. Brooks & C. Keeran
California red, <i>Abies magnifica</i> , ★ 1999	365	172	41	547	Yosemite NP, Calif.	R. Van Pelt, R. Knight, M. Rudnicki
California white, <i>Abies concolor</i> var. <i>lowiana</i> , 1997	276	217	39	503	Merced Lake, Yosemite NP, Calif.	Robert Van Pelt
Corkbark, <i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> var. <i>arizonica</i> , ★ 1969	157	95	33	260	Lincoln NF, N. Mex.	Earl Aldon
Fraser, <i>Abies fraseri</i> , 2005	134	100	58	249	Cahiers, N.C.	Ken & Pam Knox
Grand, <i>Abies grandis</i> , ★ 1997	245	257	36	511	Redwood NP, Calif.	Robert Van Pelt & Dale Thornburg
Noble, <i>Abies procera</i> , 1964*	359	227	41	596	Gifford Pinchot NF, Wash.	Harold Coates & Bob Smith
Noble, <i>Abies procera</i> , 1989*	313	272	49	597	Mt. St. Helens NM, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
Pacific silver, <i>Abies amabilis</i> , 1999	260	218	37	487	Olympic NP, Bogachiel Valley, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt & Steve Sillett

SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFER- ENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
Rocky Mtn. white, <i>Abies concolor</i> var. <i>concolor</i> , 2005	180	156	41	346	Cochita, N.M.	Charles Wickland
Subalpine, <i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> var. <i>lasiocarpa</i> , 1965	252	130	26	389	Olympic NP, Wash.	Stephen Arno & Oscar Sedergren
<b>Fishpoison-tree</b>						
Florida, <i>Piscidia piscipula</i> , ★ 1986	101	41	48	154	Lee Co., Fla.	David Fox & Dee Slinkard
<b>Florida-boxwood</b>						
<i>Schaefferia frutescens</i> , ★ 1986	24	27	16	55	Lignumvitae Key Botanical SP, Fla.	Ken Roundtree & David M Sinclair
<b>Flowerfence</b>						
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> , ★ 1991*Δ	20	12	15	36	Terrace Broward Co., Fla.	John Kern
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> , ★ 1991*Δ	16	16	14	36	Crescent Dr., Hollywood, Calif.	D. Spicer, W. Harms, W. Tesauro
<b>Forestiera</b>						
Desert-olive, <i>Forestiera phillyreoides</i> , ★ 1997	10	17	17	31	Buenos Aires NWR, Ariz.	Roseann Hanson
<b>Franklinia</b>						
<i>Franklinia alatamaha</i> , 1986	42	33	40	85	Wyndmoor, Montgomery Co., Penn.	John Swartley
<b>Fremontia</b>						
California, <i>Fremontodendron californicum</i> , 2003	54	25	28	86	Sequoia NF, Calif.	Art Cowley
<b>Fringetree</b>						
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> , ★ 1987*	42	41	31	91	Telford Spring County Park, Fla.	Buford Pruitt Jr.
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> , 2001*	57	25	43	93	Salt Lake City, Utah	Art Scott & Shirley Hawkins
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> , 2003*	64	20	20	89	Elmwood Cemetery, Tenn.	Carlyle Page
<b>Gallberry</b>						
Large, <i>Ilex coriacea</i> , 2004	16	33	21	54	Vernon Parish, La.	Charles Allen

## MONTEREY CYPRESS }

**C**alifornia's striking national champion *Cupressus macrocarpa* is located near San Mateo in Pescadero County. The tree has a 553-inch circumference and stands 102 feet tall with an 111-foot average crown spread for a total of 683 points. The tree has reigned as national champ since 1994. California deserves special recognition as a home for Big Trees. Not only does the Golden State boast the second highest total in number of champs (101, second only to Florida), but it is home to seven of the 11 largest species overall. The Monterey cypress is No. 9 on that list.







WILLI BROWN

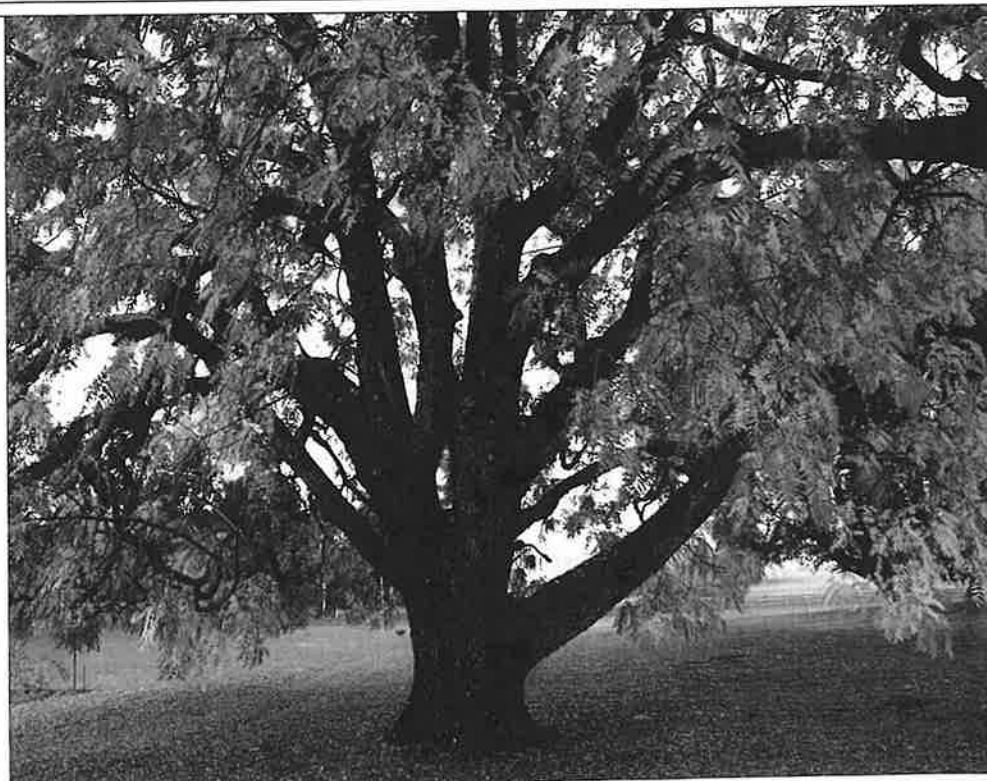
SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
<b>Geiger-tree</b>						
<i>Cordia sebestena</i> , ★ 1988Δ	27	24	19	56	Tarpon Bay Marina, Lee Co., Fla.	Eric H. Hoyer & Chris J. Anderson
<b>Guajillo</b>						
<i>Acacia berlandieri</i> , ★ 1989	18	15	12	36	Albert Schwarz Ranch, Mercedes, Texas	Fleet Lentz
<b>Gumbo-limbo</b>						
<i>Bursera simaruba</i> , ★ 1992*	108	55	52	176	Captiva Island, Fla.	Jeff Mangun
<i>Bursera simaruba</i> , ★ 1992*	125	41	48	178	St. Mary's Star of the Sea, Key West, Fla.	W. Hubbard & Beverlee Wang
<i>Bursera simaruba</i> , ★ 1995*	99	64	57	177	Snider Park, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	Kathy Preston & Frank Zickar
<b>Hackberry</b>						
Common, <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> , 2003	248	126	112	402	Wayland, Mich.	Elwood B. Ehrle
Georgia, <i>Celtis tenuifolia</i> , 2005	38	54	28	99	Buncombe Co., N.C.	Ron Lance & Ken Knox
Netleaf, <i>Celtis reticulata</i> , ★ 1989	180	69	75	268	Catron Co., N. Mex.	Ralph A. Fisher Jr.
Spiny, <i>Celtis pallida</i> , 2000	25	31	23	62	Tucson, Ariz.	Bob and Rita Cote
<b>Hawthorn</b>						
Biltmore, <i>Crataegus intricata</i> , ★ 1982	90	23	42	124	Warrenton, Va.	Richard Salzer
Black, <i>Crataegus douglasii</i> , ★ 1993	111	41	57	166	Beacon Rock SP, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
Blueberry, <i>Crataegus brachyacantha</i> , ★ 1993	98	36	46	146	Etoile, Nacogdoches Co., Texas	Keith Cook
Broadleaf, <i>Crataegus dilatata</i> , 2003	51	23	34	83	Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Ill.	Edith Makra
Cerro, <i>Crataegus erythropoda</i> , ★ 1997	24	16	21	45	Rolland Moore Park, Fort Collins, Colo.	Tim Buchanan
Cockspur, <i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> , ★ 1981/2001	60	40	48	112	Manassas, Va.	Richard Salzer
Columbia, <i>Crataegus columbiana</i> , ★ 1992	38	24	23	68	Nez Perce Co., Idaho	Ken & Brant Steigers
Dotted, <i>Crataegus punctata</i> , 2005	77	28	38	115	Smyth Co., Va.	R. Salzer & Richard Alan Salzer
Downy, <i>Crataegus mollis</i> , ★ 1972	105	52	62	173	Grosse Ile, Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Fanleaf, <i>Crataegus flabellata</i> , 2001	47	36	35	92	Harrison Co., W. Va.	Dan Cooley & Michael Plevich
Fireberry, <i>Crataegus chrysocarpa</i> , 2003	15	10	20	30	Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Ill.	Edith Makra
Fleshy, <i>Crataegus succulenta</i> , 1991	54	32	35	95	University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Tenn.	Jim Cortese
Frosted, <i>Crataegus pruinosa</i> , ★ 1991*	64	30	36	103	Shenandoah Co., Va.	Richard Salzer
Frosted, <i>Crataegus pruinosa</i> , ★ 1991*	63	32	32	103	Shenandoah Co., Va.	Richard Salzer
Green, <i>Crataegus viridis</i> , 2005*	45	41	34	95	Gilchrist Co., Fla.	C. Houder, R. Heeke, R. Simons
Green, <i>Crataegus viridis</i> , ★ 2005*	39	44	38	93	Southampton, Va., Fla.	Byron Carmean & Gary Williamson
Kansas, <i>Crataegus coccinioides</i> , 2003	36	16	40	62	Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Ill.	Edith Makra & Kunso Kim
Littlehip, <i>Crataegus spathulata</i> , 1981	42	35	32	85	Hapeville, Fulton Co., Ga.	Jim L. Chance
May, <i>Crataegus aestivalis</i> , 2001	54	34	43	99	Meeman-Shelby SP, Tenn.	David Smith
Oneflower, <i>Crataegus uniflora</i> , ★ 1992	14	18	16	36	Gainesville, Fla.	Robert T. Ing & Daniel B. Ward
Oneseed, <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , ★ 1993*Δ	111	37	58	163	Mount Vernon, Wash.	Ron Brightman
Oneseed, <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , 1991*Δ	100	44	56	158	Old Saybrook, Conn.	Donald Swan
Parsley, <i>Crataegus marshallii</i> , 1997	53	28	30	89	Covington Co., Miss.	Bryant E. Brown & Jon Wallace
Pear, <i>Crataegus calpodendron</i> , ★ 1991	23	20	25	49	Pope, Ill.	Larry Stritch & Scott Grigoroff
Riverflat, <i>Crataegus opaca</i> , 2001	58	30	35	97	Union, Parish Co., La.	Stephen Pagans
Scarlet, <i>Crataegus coccinea</i> , 1980	62	34	32	104	Oneida, N.Y.	Charles McFadden
Texas, <i>Crataegus texana</i> , 2003	28	25	28	60	Harris Co., Texas	Lynn Lowery
Tracy, <i>Crataegus tracyi</i> , 2003	43	27	26	77	Jeff Davis County, Texas	Thomas R. Mangren
Washington, <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i> , 1988*	61	33	44	105	Chattanooga National Cemetery, Tenn.	Bruce Kauffman
Washington, <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i> , ★ 1989*	54	36	38	100	Abingdon, Va.	Richard Salzer
Washington, <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i> , ★ 1989*	62	30	32	100	Abingdon, Va.	Richard Salzer
Yellow, <i>Crataegus flava</i> , 2000	38	41	34	87	Nassau Co., Fla.	Christian S. Noble
<b>Hazel</b>						
California,						
<i>Corylus comuta</i> var. <i>californica</i> , ★ 1993	66	50	42	127	Lincoln Co., Ore.	Tom Morgan
Hazelnut, <i>Corylus americana</i> , 1999	30	27	21	62	Prince Frederick, Md.	John Zyla
<b>Hemlock</b>						
Carolina, <i>Tsuga caroliniana</i> , ★ 2005	86	88	40	184	Montgomery County, Va.	James C. Clark
Easter, <i>Tsuga canadensis</i> , 1995	202	165	39	377	Great Smoky Mountains NP, Tenn.	W. Blozan, J. Boetsch, M. Davie
Mountain, <i>Tsuga mertensiana</i> , ★ 2001*	277	113	44	401	Alpine Co., Calif.	Allen Miller
Mountain,						
<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i> , ★ 1995/2001*	234	152	41	396	Olympic NP, Wash.	R. Van Pelt, R. Wood, A. Jacobson
Western, <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i> , 1954/2001*	335	172	65	523	Olympic NP, Wash.	Preston Macy
Western, <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i> , 1987/2001*	273	237	67	527	Olympic NP, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
Western, <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i> , 1989/2001*	342	195	47	549	Olympic NP, Wash.	Robert L. Wood & Robert Van Pelt
<b>Hercules-club</b>						
<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i> , ★ 2000	53	68	29	128	Buena Vista Island, Miss.	Bill Brown & Mac Walters
Texas, <i>Zanthoxylum hirsutum</i> , 1999	22	17	24	45	Gillespie Co., Texas	Mark Duff

SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUM- FERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
<b>Hibiscus</b>						
Sea, <i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> , ★ 1994Δ	102	50	74	171	Boca Raton Garden Club, Boca Raton, Fla.	Evelyn Somerville
Shrub althea, <i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> , 2005*Δ	10	18	16	32	Jefferson, Ga.	Jimmy Mock
Shrub althea, <i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> , 2005*Δ	10	17	16	31	Jefferson, Ga.	Jimmy Mock
Shrub althea, <i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> , 1999*Δ	8	19	13	30	Arnold, Md.	Colby B. Rucker
Shrub althea, <i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> , 2001*Δ	17	16	9	35	Pulaski, Tenn.	Dwayne Estes
<b>Hickory</b>						
Bitternut, <i>Carya cordiformis</i> , 1999	182	120	100	327	LaGrange, Fayette Co., Tenn.	William David Smith
Black, <i>Carya texana</i> , 1980	118	127	70	263	Sabine NF, Texas	Mahler, Fant, Baggett, Fritz
Carolina, <i>Carya ovata</i> var. <i>australis</i> , ★ 1997	94	150	65	260	Near Gallant, Etowah Co., Ala.	J. Lawrence Brasher
Mockernut, <i>Carya tomentosa</i> , 2003	178	108	65	302	Upper Marlboro, Md.	Md. Nat'l Capital Park & Plan. Comm.
Nutmeg, <i>Carya myristiciformis</i> , ★ 1985	132	145	80	297	Lowndes Co., Ala.	Danny Howard
Pignut, <i>Carya glabra</i> var. <i>glabra</i> , 1997	209	90	125	330	St. Simons Island, Ga.	Ken Knox & Sam Hocott
Red, <i>Carya glabra</i> var. <i>odorata</i> , 2001	154	153	79	327	Great Smoky Mtns. NP, Tenn.	Bill Korn
Sand, <i>Carya pallida</i> , 2005	132	129	60	276	Greenville Co., S.C.	Steven D. Smith
Shagbark, <i>Carya ovata</i> var. <i>ovata</i> , 2005*	156	120	100	301	Cedartown, Ga.	Richard & Teresa Ware
Shagbark, <i>Carya ovata</i> var. <i>ovata</i> , 2002*	142	145	56	301	Sumter NF, S.C.	Claude J. Moody
Shagbark, <i>Carya ovata</i> var. <i>ovata</i> , 2003*	177	90	116	296	Edgewater, Md.	James & Kathleen Suite
Shellbark, <i>Carya laciniosa</i> , 1994	171	141	80	332	Greenup, Ky.	Charles Wilburn & Rick Crooks
Water, <i>Carya aquatica</i> , ★ 1981*	228	101	85	350	Barr's Landing, Lake George, Fla.	Betty Rich
Water, <i>Carya aquatica</i> , 1996*	194	143	46	349	Congaree Swamp NM, S.C.	Robert Jones & Lee Reynaud
<b>Holacantha</b>						
<i>Holacantha emoryi</i> , 2000	38	25	23	69	Organ Pipe Cactus NM, Ariz.	Jim Malusa
<b>Holly</b>						
American, <i>Ilex opaca</i> , 2003	139	68	48	219	Cumberland, Va.	Edward H. Robertson
Carolina, <i>Ilex ambigua</i> , ★ 1996	18	27	30	53	New Port Richey, Pasco Co., Fla.	D. Robinson & M.W. Kenton
<b>Honeylocust</b>						
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> , 1999	236	114	93	373	Frederick Co., Md.	Gary Schmidt
<b>Hopbush</b>						
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> , 1999	14	22	13	39	Key Largo Hammocks Botanical SP, Fla.	Joseph Nemec
<b>Hophornbeam</b>						
Chisos, <i>Ostrya chisosensis</i> , 1983	27	34	24	67	Big Bend NP, Texas	James E. Liles
Eastern, <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> , 1976	115	74	111	217	Grand Traverse Co., Mich.	Arvid Tesaker
Knowlton, <i>Ostrya knowltonii</i> , 2005	62	48	44	121	Coconino NF, Ariz.	D. Thornburg, A. Allgood, H. Untiedt
<b>Hoptree</b>						
California, <i>Ptelea crenulata</i> Greene, ★ 1991	49	22	20	76	Lake Co., Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
Common, <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> , ★ 1972	33	35	40	78	Ada, Mich.	Paul W. Thompson & C. Rogers
<b>Hornbeam</b>						
American, <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> , ★ 2001	119	75	68	211	Westchester Co., N.Y.	Robert Messenger
<b>Huajillo</b>						
<i>Pithecellobium pallens</i> , 2001	18	41	27	66	University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.	Kathryn Stiles
<b>Huisache</b>						
<i>Acacia farnesiana</i> , 1989	160	29	43	200	Atascosa County Jail, Tex.	Martin Soward
<b>Huisachillo</b>						
<i>Acacia tortuosa</i> , 2003	49	31	30	88	Phoenix, Ariz.	Ken & Kathy Morrow
<b>Hypelate</b>						
<i>Hypelate trifoliata</i> , 1999*	54	39	8	95	Key Largo Hammocks Botanical SP, Fla.	Joseph Nemec
<i>Hypelate trifoliata</i> , ★ 1994*	46	39	25	91	Coral Coast subdivision, Key Largo, Fla.	V. Condon & W. Miller
<b>Incense-cedar</b>						
<i>Libocedrus decurrens</i> , ★ 1969	468	165	49	645	Marble Mountains Wilderness, Calif.	J. Herr, D. McHardy, D. Wright
<b>India-almond</b>						
<i>Terminalia catappa</i> , ★ 1986Δ	135	61	71	214	Monroe Co., Fla.	D. Sinclair & M. Cullen
<b>Indian-fig</b>						
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> , 1999Δ	36	14	16	54	Tucson Medical Center, Ariz.	Ken Porter
<b>Inkwood</b>						
<i>Exothea paniculata</i> , ★ 1999	40	44	21	89	Key Largo Hammocks Botanical SP, Fla.	Albert Hetzell & Ron Smith
<b>Jerusalem-thorn</b>						
<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> , 2003	78	45	50	136	Arcadia Park, Phoenix, Ariz.	Larry B. Wright & Russell T. Gates
<b>Joewood</b>						
<i>Jacquinia keyensis</i> , ★ 1997	23	13	13	39	Cudjoe Key, Fla.	Dianna Stevenson & Vince Condon
<b>Joshua-tree</b>						
<i>Yucca brevifolia</i> , 1999	168	48	44	227	Stanford Univ., Santa Clara Co., Calif.	Art Cowley

SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
<b>Jujube</b> Common, <i>Ziziphus jujuba</i> , 2002Δ	93	61	51	167	U.S. Capitol grounds, Washington, DC	Rod Roysse
<b>Juniper</b> Alligator, <i>Juniperus deppeana</i> , 2004	318	66	74	402	Prescott NF, Ariz.	C. Walton, D. Emerson, T. Wright, J. Simich, C. Murvosh, G. Jones, T. Erwin, D. Mosser
Ashe, <i>Juniperus ashei</i> , 1999	139	41	49	192	New Braunfels, Comal Co., Texas	Mark Peterson
California, <i>Juniperus californica</i> , ★ 1976	94	33	40	137	Colusa Co., Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
Common, <i>Juniperus communis</i> , ★ 1993	37	46	28	90	Washtenaw Co., Mich.	M. Huemann & Paul W. Thompson
Drooping, <i>Juniperus flaccida</i> , ★ 1982	102	55	35	166	Big Bend NP, Texas	James E. Liles
Oneseed, <i>Juniperus monosperma</i> , ★ 1981	168	29	28	204	Jicarilla Mountains, N. Mex.	Tom Guck
Pinchot, <i>Juniperus pinchotii</i> , 1977	138	28	33	174	Alpine, Texas	Frank T. Callahan
Redberry, <i>Juniperus erythrocarpa</i> , 2005*	106	35	48	153	Cottonwood, Ariz.	David & Judy Thornburg
Redberry, <i>Juniperus erythrocarpa</i> , 2001*	119	28	33	155	Organ Pipe Cactus NM, Ariz.	John Stiles
Rocky Mountain, <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> , ★ 1940	247	40	21	292	Cache NF, Utah	R.P. McLaughlin
Utah, <i>Juniperus osteosperma</i> , 1996	260	40	56	314	Crowley Lake, Inyo NF, Calif.	R. Witters & K. "Witters" Fritsche
Western, <i>Juniperus occidentalis</i> , 1940	481	78	56	573	Stanislaus NF, Calif.	J.R. Hall
<b>Kidneywood</b> <i>Eysenhardtia polystachya</i> , ★ 1993	49	21	25	76	Coyote Mountain WA, Ariz.	Peter Gierlach
Texas, <i>Eysenhardtia texana</i> , 2003	17	27	14	48	Superior, Ariz.	K. Morrow, K. Stiles, M. Hallen
<b>Larch</b> European, <i>Larix decidua</i> , 1997Δ	188	90	78	298	Northfield, Washington Co., Vt.	Robert Stanton
Subalpine, <i>Larix lyallii</i> , 1993	265	103	75	387	Wenatchee NF, Wash.	Stephen Arno & Jeff Hart
Western, <i>Larix occidentalis</i> , 1995	273	162	34	444	Lolo NF, Missoula Co., Mont.	Helen Smith & Micha Krebs
<b>Laurelcherry</b> Carolina, <i>Prunus caroliniana</i> , 1996	132	48	46	192	Harris Co., Texas	Paul Kisel
English, <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> , 1985Δ	109	33	52	155	Seattle, Wash.	Arthur Lee Jacobson
<b>Leadwood</b> <i>Krugiodendron ferreum</i> , ★ 1986	70	37	27	114	Monroe Co., Fla.	R. Rose
<b>Lebbek</b> <i>Albizia lebbek</i> , ★ 1968Δ	257	65	95	346	Lahaina, Hawaii	L.W. Bryan
<b>Leucaena</b> Great, <i>Leucaena pulverulenta</i> , 1994	33	27	26	67	Audubon Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary, Texas	Joe Ideker
Littleleaf, <i>Leucaena retusa</i> , ★ 1986	33	21	26	61	Terrell Co., Texas	Frank T. Callahan
<b>Lidflower</b> Pale, <i>Calyptanthus pallens</i> , ★ 1993	49	40	24	95	Vascaya Museum and Gardens, Miami, Fla.	Carol L. Lippincott

## BLACK WALNUT }

**T**his spreading black walnut, on Sauvie Island, Oregon, has reigned as national champ since its initial measurement in 1991. The national champion *Juglans nigra* is 130 feet tall with a 278-inch circumference and a 140-foot crown spread. It has a total of 443 points. It is one of 36 national champs for the state of Oregon, which ranks tenth on the list for total number of champs.





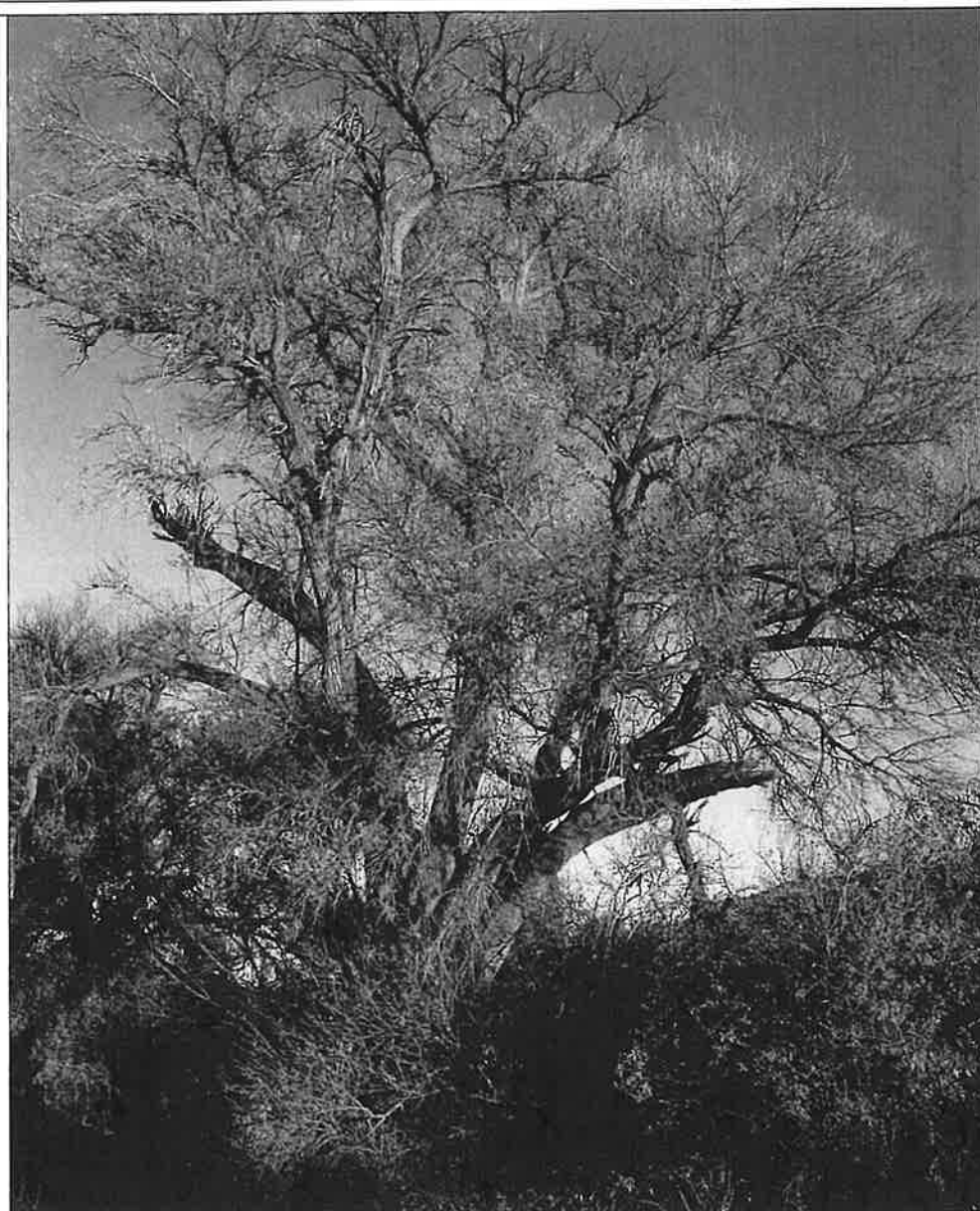


SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
<b>Lignumvitae</b>						
Roughbark, <i>Guaiacum sanctum</i> , ★ 1997	37	31	39	78	St. Mary's Star of the Sea, Key West, Fla.	Vincent Condon & Mike Miller
Texas, <i>Guaiacum angustifolium</i> , 1974	31	27	15	62	Alamo, Texas	Terry Fears
<b>Lime</b>						
<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> , 2003Δ	14	21	15	39	Phoenix, Ariz.	Larry B. Wright & Russell T. Gates
<b>Loblolly-bay</b>						
<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i> , ★ 1963	164	95	60	274	Ocala NF, Fla.	Robert Simons & Daniel B. Ward
<b>Locust</b>						
Black, <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> , 1974	312	94	68	423	Livingston Co., N.Y.	G. Weidman
Clammy, <i>Robinia viscosa</i> , 1996	23	23	13	49	Botanical Gardens, Highlands, N.C.	Bill Wykle
New Mexico, <i>Robinia neomexicana</i> , 2005*	84	81	35	174	Coconino NF, Ariz.	Judy Thornburg
New Mexico, <i>Robinia neomexicana</i> , 1997*	92	76	42	179	Tonto NF, Ariz.	Mike Hallen & George Kieren
<b>Lotebush</b>						
<i>Ziziphus obtusifolia</i> , 1999	14	26	20	45	San Pedro River, Pima Co., Ariz.	Tom Butler
<b>Lyonia</b>						
Tree, <i>Lyonia ferruginea</i> , 1998	35	45	30	88	Seminole Ranch Conservation Area, Fla.	Mary Keim & Randy Snyder
<b>Lyontree</b>						
<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus</i> , 2003	34	46	16	84	Catalina Isl. Conservancy, Los Angeles, Calif.	Art Cowley
<b>Lysiloma</b>						
Bahama, <i>Lysiloma latissilicium</i> , 2003	166	49	62	231	Dade County, Fla.	Robert F. Mulgrew & Susan Formenth
Littleleaf, <i>Lysiloma microphyllum</i> , 2005	64	32	41	106	Paradise Valley, Ariz.	Ken & Kathy Morrow
<b>Madrone</b>						
Arizona, <i>Arbutus arizonica</i> , 1997	176	42	46	230	East Sawmill Canyon, Coronado NF, Ariz.	Tom Harlan
Pacific, <i>Arbutus menziesii</i> , 2003	316	88	116	433	Big Sur Land Trust, Carmel Valley, Calif.	Alan Washburn
Texas, <i>Arbutus texana</i> , 1999	175	26	50	214	Lincoln NF, N. Mex.	Mark Rossacker
<b>Magnolia</b>						
Ashe, <i>Magnolia ashei</i> , 2005	62	44	44	117	Montgomery Co., Pa.	Betsy Davis, Scott Wade
Bigleaf, <i>Magnolia macrophylla</i> , 2005	73	84	50	170	Biltmore Estate, Asheville, N.C.	B. Alexander, R. Lance, K. Knox
Cucumbertree, <i>Magnolia acuminata</i> , 2003	288	79	88	389	North Canton, Stark Co., Ohio	Jeremy R. Felland
Frasier, <i>Magnolia fraseri</i> , 1998	118	121	33	247	Great Smoky Mountains NP, Tenn.	Jess & Doug Riddle
Pyramid, <i>Magnolia pyramidata</i> , 1999	46	84	30	138	Greensboro, Gadsden Co., Fla.	Arthur & Meredith Frassand
Southern, <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> , ★ 1994	268	98	90	389	Jones Co., Miss.	Jeff Yelverton
Sweetbay, <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> , 2002	176	93	71	287	Cumberland Island, Ga.	C. Ruckdeschel, C.R. Shoop, M.N. Hopkins
Umbrella, <i>Magnolia tripetala</i> , 1969	139	59	50	211	Bucks Co., Pa.	John Swartley
Yellow cucumbertree, <i>Magnolia acuminata</i> var. <i>subcordata</i> , 1970	155	84	65	256	Chester Co., Pa.	John Swartley & Scott Wade
<b>Mahogany</b>						
West Indies, <i>Swietenia mahagoni</i> , ★ 1992	175	79	96	278	St. Mary's Star of the Sea, Key West, Fla.	William S. Hubbard & B. Wang
<b>Manchineel</b>						
<i>Hippomane mancinella</i> , ★ 1976	56	46	51	115	Watson Hammock, Fla.	J. Parks, J. Andrew, D. Ward
<b>Mango</b>						
<i>Mangifera indica</i> , ★ 1993Δ	346	94	91	463	Hilo, Hawaii	Robert & Katherine Van Pelt
<b>Mangrove</b>						
Red, <i>Rhizophora mangle</i> , ★ 1995	47	58	42	116	J.N. "Ding" Darling NWR, Fla.	Amy Bennett & R. Workman
<b>Manzanita</b>						
Big, <i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i> , 2005	119	30	27	156	Chico, Calif.	Jim Brobeck
Bigberry, <i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i> , 2005	79	32	27	118	Alameda Co., Calif.	Paul Furman
Pringle, <i>Arctostaphylos pringlei</i> , 2003*	36	17	23	59	Coconino NF, Ariz.	David & Judy Thornburg
Pringle, <i>Arctostaphylos pringlei</i> , 1999*	37	18	14	59	Coconino NF, Ariz.	K. Morrow, M. Hallen, C. Mills
Whiteleaf, <i>Arctostaphylos viscida</i> , 2001	91	24	24	121	Pierpoint Springs, Tulare Co., Calif.	Art Cowley
<b>Maple</b>						
Bigleaf, <i>Acer macrophyllum</i> , ★ 1995	419	101	90	543	Clatsop Co., Ore.	Maynard Drawson
Black, <i>Acer nigrum</i> , ★ 1976	198	118	127	348	Allegan Co., Mich.	Harold Nett & Paul W. Thompson
Canyon, <i>Acer grandidentatum</i> , 1998	140	80	58	235	Tonto NF, Ariz.	Rick Heffernon
Chalk, <i>Acer leucoderme</i> , 2003*	38	50	42	99	Mount Berry, Ga.	Richard & Teresa Ware
Chalk, <i>Acer leucoderme</i> , 1996*	34	54	50	101	Thompson Mills Forest, Jackson Co., Ga.	Bill Lott & Jimmy Mock
Florida, <i>Acer barbatum</i> , 2003	146	91	75	256	Mount Berry, Ga.	R. & T. Ware, Pat Tomlinson
Mountain, <i>Acer spicatum</i> , ★ 1982*	33	58	31	99	Houghton Co., Mich.	R. Krentzer & Pat Thompson
Mountain, <i>Acer spicatum</i> , 2001*	34	62	20	101	Tray Mountain, Ga.	Jimmy Mock
Norway, <i>Acer platanoides</i> , ★ 1985*Δ	230	70	78	320	Cornwall, Pa.	R. Heilman, G. Odato, F. Heilman, T. Fry, C. Huber
Norway, <i>Acer platanoides</i> , 2001*Δ	212	79	100	316	Kenyon College, Ohio	John Aughanbaugh & Brian P. Riley
Red, <i>Acer rubrum</i> , ★ 1994	276	141	88	439	Great Smoky Mountains NP, Tenn.	Will Blozan

SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUM- FERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
Rocky Mountain, <i>Acer glabrum</i> , ★ 1997	107	67	55	188	Guemes Island, Island Co., Wash.	Robert Van Pelt & Ron Brightman
Silver, <i>Acer saccharinum</i> , 2003	347	115	61	477	Newberry, Luce Co., Mich.	Charles Wade & David Mitchell
Striped, <i>Acer pensylvanicum</i> , ★ 1997	44	77	31	129	Trillium Gap Trail, Great Smoky Mountains. NP, Tenn.	Will Blozan
Sugar, <i>Acer saccharum</i> , 2003	223	115	89	360	Lyme, Conn.	Glenn Dreyer
Vine, <i>Acer circinatum</i> , 1989	38	64	37	111	Olympic NP, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
<b>Mayten</b>						
Florida, <i>Maytenus phyllanthoides</i> , 2003	22	19	26	48	Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Superior, Ariz.	K. Morrow, K. Stiles, M. Hallen
<b>Mesquite</b>						
Honey, <i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> var. <i>glandulosa</i> , 1984	172	55	89	249	Near Leakey, Real Co., Texas	Ronnie W. Pendley
Velvet, <i>Prosopis velutina</i> , 1949	196	46	60	257	Santa Cruz Co., Ariz.	Gilbert Sykes
Wstrn honey, <i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> var. <i>torreyana</i> , 2001	106	34	82	161	Tulare, Calif.	Art Cowley
<b>Mexican-buckeye</b>						
<i>Ungnadia speciosa</i> , 2003	12	22	17	38	Fort Worth, Texas	Steven Houser
<b>Milkbark</b>						
<i>Drypetes diversifolia</i> , ★ 1994	39	46	18	90	Key Largo, Fla.	Vincent P. Condon & William G. Miller
<b>Mountain-ash</b>						
American, <i>Sorbus americana</i> , ★ 1979	55	50	34	114	Middle Point Trail, Monongahela NF, W. Va.	T. Rovello
European, <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> , 2003Δ	121	46	47	179	Seattle, Wash.	R. Van Pelt & A. L. Jacobson
Greene, <i>Sorbus scopulina</i> , ★ 1993	24	14	20	43	Finch Arboretum, Spokane, Wash.	A. L. Jacobson & R. Brightman

## VELVET ASH }

**T**his velvet ash, located in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, is one of the state's three national champion *Fraxinus velutina*. The other two are in Prescott National Forest and Coconino National Forest. The Santa Cruz County tree, a title-holder since 1996, stands 76 feet tall with a 202-inch circumference and a 88-foot crown spread for a total of 300 points. Arizona is one of the Big Three for Big Trees—only Florida and California have more national champions. One reason for Arizona's success: its unique climate; many of its champs grow nowhere else. Another reason is long-time state coordinator Bob Zahner, who retired in 2005. Read more about Bob's work on behalf of the state's Big Trees in the Earthkeeper section of *American Forests* magazine (p. 47).



SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFERENCE*	HEIGHT*	SPREAD*	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
Showy, <i>Sorbus decora</i> , ★ 1968	57	58	32	123	Mackinac Co., Mich.	William J. Mahalak
Sitka, <i>Sorbus sitchensis</i> , ★ 1981	19	50	18	74	Gardiner, Ore.	Lance Morgan
<b>Mountain-holly</b>						
<i>Nemopanthus collinus</i> , ★ 1976	13	20	10	36	Oakland Co., Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
<b>Mountain-laurel</b>						
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i> , 1999*	56	20	19	81	Suches, Fannin Co., Ga.	George C. Hoffman
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i> , 2003*	48	25	18	78	Great Smoky Mtns. NP, Tenn.	Will Blozan
<b>Mulberry</b>						
Black, <i>Morus nigra</i> , 1999Δ	252	78	76	349	Westminster, Carroll Co., Md.	Beth Sanders
Red, <i>Morus rubra</i> , 1999	301	52	52	366	Fayette Co., Tenn.	David Smith
Texas, <i>Morus microphylla</i> , 2001	100	30	48	142	Presidio Co., Texas	Oscar Mestas
White, <i>Morus alba</i> , 2002Δ	197	46	59	258	Woodstock Co., Va.	William R. Warren
<b>Mullein nightshade</b>						
Potato-tree, <i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i> , 2003	13	16	17	33	Hidalgo County, Texas	William MacWhorter
<b>Myrtle-of-the-river</b>						
<i>Calyptanthus zuyugium</i> , ★ 1999	9	22	4	32	Key Largo Hammocks Botanical SP, Fla.	Joseph Nemec
<b>Nannyberry</b>						
<i>Viburnum lentago</i> , ★ 1976	34	50	40	94	Oakland Co., Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
<b>Nolina</b>						
Bigelow, <i>Nolina bigelovii</i> , ★ 1997	125	13	8	140	Cabeza Prieta NWR, Yuma Co., Ariz.	Tom & Anita Harlan
<b>Oak</b>						
Ajo, <i>Quercus turbinella</i> var. <i>ajoensis</i> , 1993	82	35	40	127	Organ Pipe Cactus NM, Ariz.	R. & G. Zahner, K. Morrow
Arizona white, <i>Quercus arizonica</i> , 2003	210	42	65	268	Santa Cruz Co., Ariz.	David & Paul Thornburg
Arkansas, <i>Quercus arkansana</i> , 1997	150	100	104	276	Covington Co., Miss.	Bryant E. Brown & Jon Wallace
Bear, <i>Quercus ilicifolia</i> , 1985	49	41	34	99	Shenandoah NP, Va.	Richard Salzer
Bigelow, <i>Quercus durandii</i> var. <i>breviloba</i> , 1999	113	41	52	167	Travis Co., Texas	Mark Baker
Black, <i>Quercus velutina</i> , 1989	322	86	105	434	East Granby, Conn.	Edward A. Richardson
Blackjack, <i>Quercus marilandica</i> , 1996	144	94	65	254	Byron Methodist Church, Peach Co., Ga.	David Preston
Blue, <i>Quercus douglasii</i> , 2001	276	112	83	409	Tulare Co., Calif.	Art Cowley & Dan Busby
Bluejack, <i>Quercus incana</i> , 2003*	83	68	45	162	Mixon, Cherokee Co., Texas	Gregory Dean Stockton
Bluejack, <i>Quercus incana</i> , 2003*	87	61	45	159	Mineola, Wood Co., Texas	William Godwin
Bluejack, <i>Quercus incana</i> , ★ 2001*	88	56	65	160	Pasco Co., Fla.	Michael W. Kenton
Bur, <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> , ★ 1980	322	96	103	444	Paris, Ky.	Owen H. Robinson
California black, <i>Quercus kelloggii</i> , ★ 1972	338	124	115	491	Siskiyou NF, Ore.	Ralph King
Canyon live, <i>Quercus chrysolepis</i> , 2001	345	69	121	444	Tulare Co., Calif.	Mike Cobb & Art Cowley
Chapman, <i>Quercus chapmanii</i> , 1963	83	51	57	148	Ocala NF, Fla.	Robert W. Simons
Cherrybark, <i>Quercus falcata</i> var. <i>pagodifolia</i> , 2003*	332	123	122	486	Tipton Co., Tenn.	David Smith
Cherrybark, <i>Quercus falcata</i> var. <i>pagodifolia</i> , ★ 1991*	324	124	136	482	Sussex Co., Va.	Byron Carmean & Gary Williamson
Chestnut, <i>Quercus prinus</i> , 2003	272	99	98	396	Arnold, Md.	Tom Mayer & Jeanine Ove
Chinkapin, <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> , 2001	289	80	107	396	Marietta, Ohio	Jim Noe & Marilyn Orrt
Chisos, <i>Quercus graciliformis</i> , 1982	65	34	40	109	Big Bend NP, Texas	Oscar Mestas
Coast live, <i>Quercus agrifolia</i> , 1999	338	58	75	415	Julian, Calif.	Clint Powell
Darlington, <i>Quercus hemisphaerica</i> , ★ 2002*	226	99	134	359	Alachua, Fla.	Gordon Ward & Daniel Ward
Darlington, <i>Quercus hemisphaerica</i> , 2001*	216	108	119	354	Follow-Me Golf Course, Ft. Benning, Ga.	Daniel Milburn & Scott Long
Delta post, <i>Quercus stellata</i> var. <i>paludosa</i> , 2005	192	115	97	331	near Florence, Ga.	Joel Robertson
Dunn, <i>Quercus dunni</i> , 1995	95	39	36	143	Yavapai Co., Ariz.	Lora Morrow
Durand, <i>Quercus durandii</i> var. <i>durandii</i> , 2003	76	70	35	155	Oakey Woods WMA, Ga.	Marshall & Scott Adams
Dwarf chinkapin, <i>Quercus prinoides</i> , 2001	41	25	22	72	Salem, Neb.	G. Sternberg, J. Evertson, J. Locklear
Emory, <i>Quercus emoryi</i> , 2001	222	81	72	321	Catron Co., N. Mex.	M. Melendrez, G. Sternberg, T. Buchanan
Engelmann, <i>Quercus engelmannii</i> , 2003*	214	27	43	252	Julian, San Diego Co., Calif.	Clinton S. Powell
Engelmann, <i>Quercus engelmannii</i> , 1951*	144	84	106	255	Pasadena, Calif.	Woodbridge Metcalf
English, <i>Quercus robur</i> , 1993Δ	209	108	103	343	State Capitol, Olympia, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
Gambel, <i>Quercus gambelii</i> , 2003	219	106	64	341	Coconino NF, Ariz.	S. Poppenberger, H. Untiedt, D. Thornburg
Georgia, <i>Quercus georgiana</i> , 1996	73	75	63	164	Athens, Ga.	Lucia Duncan-Harrison
Graves, <i>Quercus gravesii</i> , ★ 1976	145	51	41	206	Amistad Recreation Area, near Del Rio, Texas	B. Simpson, J.J. McEntire, J.B. Norris
Gray, <i>Quercus grisea</i> , 2001	237	55	37	301	Coronado NF, N. Mex.	G. Sternberg, T. Buchanan, M. Melendrez
Havard, <i>Quercus havardii</i> , ★ 1986	40	30	23	76	Plains, Yoakum Co., Texas	C. Murrell Thompson
Interior live, <i>Quercus wislizeni</i> , 1982	252	51	73	321	Near Stockton, Calif.	Darold Mac Dannald
Lacey, <i>Quercus glaucooides</i> , 1989	114	53	74	186	Magic Springs Ranch, Blanco Co., Texas	David Vaughn
Laurel, <i>Quercus laurifolia</i> , ★ 1987*	257	82	106	366	Chesapeake, Va.	R. & E. Lehman & Byron Carmean
Laurel, <i>Quercus laurifolia</i> , ★ 1987*	258	80	114	367	Okaloosa Co., Fla.	Geoffrey A. Cummings
Live, <i>Quercus virginiana</i> var. <i>virginiana</i> , 1976*	439	55	132	527	Near Lewisburg, La.	John deMarche & La. Forestry Assoc.



SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUM- FERENCE*	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
Live, <i>Quercus virginiana</i> var. <i>virginiana</i> , 2001*	411	77	140	523	Ware Co., Ga.	Jimmy Mock
Mexican blue, <i>Quercus oblongifolia</i> , 1999	120	65	69	202	Hidalgo Co., N. Mex.	Samuel Lamb
Mohr, <i>Quercus mohriana</i> , 2001	37	18	20	60	Guadalupe Mountains NP, Texas	T. Buchanan, M. Melendrez, G. Sternberg
Myrtle, <i>Quercus myrtifolia</i> , 2005	27	37	16	68	St. Marys, Ga.	Jimmy Mock
Netleaf, <i>Quercus rugosa</i> , 1998	90	47	36	146	Coronado NF, Ariz.	Robert Zahner & James W. Smith
Northern red, <i>Quercus rubra</i> , 2001	405	80	102	511	Monroe Co., N.Y.	Dan Dinero
Nuttall, <i>Quercus nuttallii</i> , 1986/2001	288	113	81	422	Vernon, La.	William E. Burns
Oglethorpe, <i>Quercus oglethorpensis</i> , 1968	120	79	82	220	Near Lexington, Ga.	Samuel Jones
Oregon white, <i>Quercus garryana</i> , ★ 1970/2000	272	98	72	388	Douglas Co., Ore.	Allen Silveus
Overcup, <i>Quercus lyrata</i> , 2005*	218	122	113	368	Congaree NP, S.C.	John E. Cely
Overcup, <i>Quercus lyrata</i> , 2005*	209	136	104	371	Congaree NP, S.C.	Robert H. Jones, Lee Reynaud
Pin, <i>Quercus palustris</i> , 2003*	238	129	121	397	Davies Co., Ky.	Scott Eckstein
Pin, <i>Quercus palustris</i> , 2001*	240	134	88	396	Middlesboro County Club, Middlesboro, Ky.	M. Harp, L. Johnson, D. Carmical
Post, <i>Quercus stellata</i> var. <i>stellata</i> , ★ 1996	237	84	88	343	Jefferson, Ga.	Jimmy Mock
Sand live, <i>Quercus virginiana</i> var. <i>geminata</i> , ★ 1985	189	81	106	297	Gainesville, Fla.	Robert W. Simons
Sand post, <i>Quercus stellata</i> var. <i>margaretta</i> , ★ 1997	157	87	92	267	Marianna, Fla.	Robert T. Ing & Daniel B. Ward
Sandpaper, <i>Quercus pungens</i> var. <i>pungens</i> , 2003	13	18	29	38	Coronado NF, Ariz.	Ken Morrow
Scarlet, <i>Quercus coccinea</i> , 2005	189	114	179	348	Middlesboro, Ky.	Lem Johnson, Brandon Howard
Shingle, <i>Quercus imbricaria</i> , 1989	219	105	62	340	Cincinnati, Ohio	A. P. Newman & R. Bernhard
Shumard, <i>Quercus shumardii</i> var. <i>shumardii</i> , 2002	332	96	96	452	Anna, Ill.	Larry Mahan
Silverleaf, <i>Quercus hypoleucoides</i> , 2001	158	85	52	256	Coronado NF, Ariz.	Ken Porter & Mike Hallen
Southern red, <i>Quercus falcata</i> var. <i>falcata</i> , 1996	312	150	156	501	Thomaston, Upson Co., Ga.	C. Bowie, J.A. Osbolt, G. Hill
Swamp chestnut, <i>Quercus michauxii</i> , 2003	266	140	115	435	Big Oak Tree SP, Mo.	Bruce Palmer
Swamp white, <i>Quercus bicolor</i> , 2001	300	68	49	380	Highland Co., Va.	P. & G. Williamson, B. Carmean
Texas, <i>Quercus shumardii</i> var. <i>texana</i> , 2003	198	70	82	289	Fort Worth, Tarrant Co., Texas	Matthew & Michael Blevins
Texas live, <i>Quercus virginiana</i> var. <i>fusiformis</i> , 2002	357	48	80	425	Graham, Young Co., Texas	Jay Burkett
Toumey, <i>Quercus toumeyi</i> , 2005	64	24	31	96	Santa Cruz Co., Ariz.	Ken & Kathy Morrow
Turbinella, <i>Quercus turbinella</i> var. <i>turbinella</i> , 1993	81	51	48	144	Spring Mountain Ranch SP, Nev.	John Jones
Valley, <i>Quercus lobata</i> , ★ 1979	348	163	99	536	South of Covelo, Calif.	Willis Linn Jepsen
Vasey, <i>Quercus pungens</i> var. <i>vaseyana</i> , 1982*	47	50	34	106	Big Bend NP, Texas	James E. Liles
Vasey, <i>Quercus pungens</i> var. <i>vaseyana</i> , ★ 1976*	61	39	32	108	Del Rio, Texas	B. Simpson, J.J. McEntire, J.B. Norris
Water, <i>Quercus nigra</i> , ★ 1996*	278	120	111	426	Roseland Plantation, Concordia Parish, La.	Kevin Bridgewater
Water, <i>Quercus nigra</i> , 2001*	286	118	108	431	Jones Co., Miss.	Herman Smith
White, <i>Quercus alba</i> , 2004*	312	86	116	427	Lawrenceville, Va.	Frank E. McKeever
Willow, <i>Quercus phellos</i> , 2003	305	112	136	451	Eastville, Northhampton Co, Va.	Ralph Dodd & Jack Wilkins
<b>Oleander</b>						
<i>Nerium oleander</i> , 2003Δ*	55	28	25	89	Sun City, Ariz.	Larry B. Wright & Russell T. Gates
<i>Nerium oleander</i> , 1997Δ*	51	32	36	92	Exeter, Calif.	Art Cowley
<b>Orange</b>						
<i>Citrus sinensis</i> , 2001Δ	61	34	31	103	Kern Co., Calif.	Art Cowley
Sour, <i>Citrus aurantium</i> , 2004Δ	44	28	24	78	Tucson, Ariz.	Judy Nantell, Chris Maloney
<b>Osage-orange</b>						
<i>Maclura pomifera</i> , 1969	326	60	64	402	Charlotte Co., Va.	Red Hill Shrine
<b>Oysterwood</b>						
<i>Gymnanthes lucida</i> , 1998	15	24	11	41	Lignumvitae Key Botanical SP, Fla.	Michael Cullen & David Sinclair
<b>Palmetto</b>						
Cabbage, <i>Sabal palmetto</i> , ★ 1999	69	60	14	133	Lafayette Co., Fla.	Jerry N. Livingston
Dwarf, <i>Sabal minor</i> , 2003*	43	28	13	74	Brazoria, Texas	Mickey Merritt
Dwarf, <i>Sabal minor</i> , 2003*	42	24	12	69	Brazoria, Texas	Edward C. Fritz
Mexican, <i>Sabal mexicana</i> , ★ 1989*	61	50	15	115	Weslaco, Texas	Joe Ideker & Bill McWhorter
Mexican, <i>Sabal mexicana</i> , ★ 1995*	61	45	20	111	San Benito, Texas	Sue Griffin
<b>Palo verde</b>						
Blue, <i>Cercidium floridum</i> , 2003	87	42	62	145	Hyder, Maricopa Co., Ariz.	Mike Hallen & Chuck Hockaday
Texas, <i>Cercidium texanum</i> , ★ 1995	37	34	34	80	Las Palomas WMA, Texas	Joe Ideker
Yellow, <i>Cercidium microphyllum</i> , 2003	43	29	43	83	Mobile, Maricopa Co., Ariz.	Mike Hallen
<b>Papaya</b>						
<i>Carica papaya</i> , ★ 1973Δ	27	17	11	47	Homestead, Fla.	R. Workman
<b>Paper-mulberry</b>						
<i>Boussonetia papyrifera</i> , 2005Δ	217	27	41	254	Halifax, N.C.	Sid Shearin
<b>Paradise-tree</b>						
<i>Simarouba glauca</i> , ★ 1994	109	63	59	187	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	A. Buckley, Hendrickson, R. Trickle

SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
<b>Parasol tree</b>						
Chinese, <i>Firmiana simplex</i> , 1999Δ	141	47	36	197	San Diego Co., Calif.	Art Cowley
<b>Paulownia</b>						
Royal, <i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> , 1989Δ	285	57	66	359	Reitz Memorial High School, Evansville, Ind.	Scott C. Wagner & Mary Ellen Jones
<b>Paurotis-palm</b>						
<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i> , ★ 1989*	13	32	4	46	West Palm Beach, Fla.	Michael Zimmerman
<i>Acoelorrhaphe wrightii</i> , ★ 1995*	10	34	4	45	Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, Fla.	Don Evans & Daniel B. Ward
<b>Pawpaw</b>						
Common, <i>Asimina triloba</i> , 2004	62	62	43	135	Ann Arbor, Mich.	Margaret Leary
Smallflower, <i>Asimina parviflora</i> , ★ 1980	21	24	17	49	Lake Jem Co. Park, Fla.	H. Terrell Davis
<b>Peach</b>						
<i>Prunus persica</i> , ★ 1986*Δ	72	18	32	98	Bealton, Va.	Richard Salzer
<i>Prunus persica</i> , ★ 1995*Δ	50	37	25	93	Lusby, Md.	John Zyla
<b>Pear</b>						
Common, <i>Pyrus communis</i> , ★ 1991Δ	174	59	56	247	Waitsburg, Wash.	R. Van Pelt, S. Muse, M. Dawson
<b>Pecan</b>						
<i>Carya illinoensis</i> , 2000	267	136	111	431	Cocke Co., Tenn.	W.K. Remine
<b>Peppertree</b>						
<i>Schinus molle</i> , 1969Δ	367	57	72	442	San Juan Capistrano, Calif.	Ray Wheeler
<b>Persimmon</b>						
Common, <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> , 2002	142	82	58	239	Portsmouth, Ohio	Brian P. Riley
Texas, <i>Diospyros texana</i> , ★ 1965	68	26	32	102	Uvalde Co., Texas	William Graves
<b>Pigeon-plum</b>						
<i>Coccoloba diversifolia</i> , ★ 1965	84	49	22	139	Simpson Park, Miami, Fla.	Harold Nett

## A Watchful Eye Brings Rewards

**L**oren Ross' flirtation with the now-champion digger pine began in 1972 when he was in forestry school at Humboldt State University in California. When he spotted the tree, located in Kern County, California, he mentioned it to his professor, who introduced him to AMERICAN FORESTS' Social Registry of Big Trees (now the National Register of Big Trees).

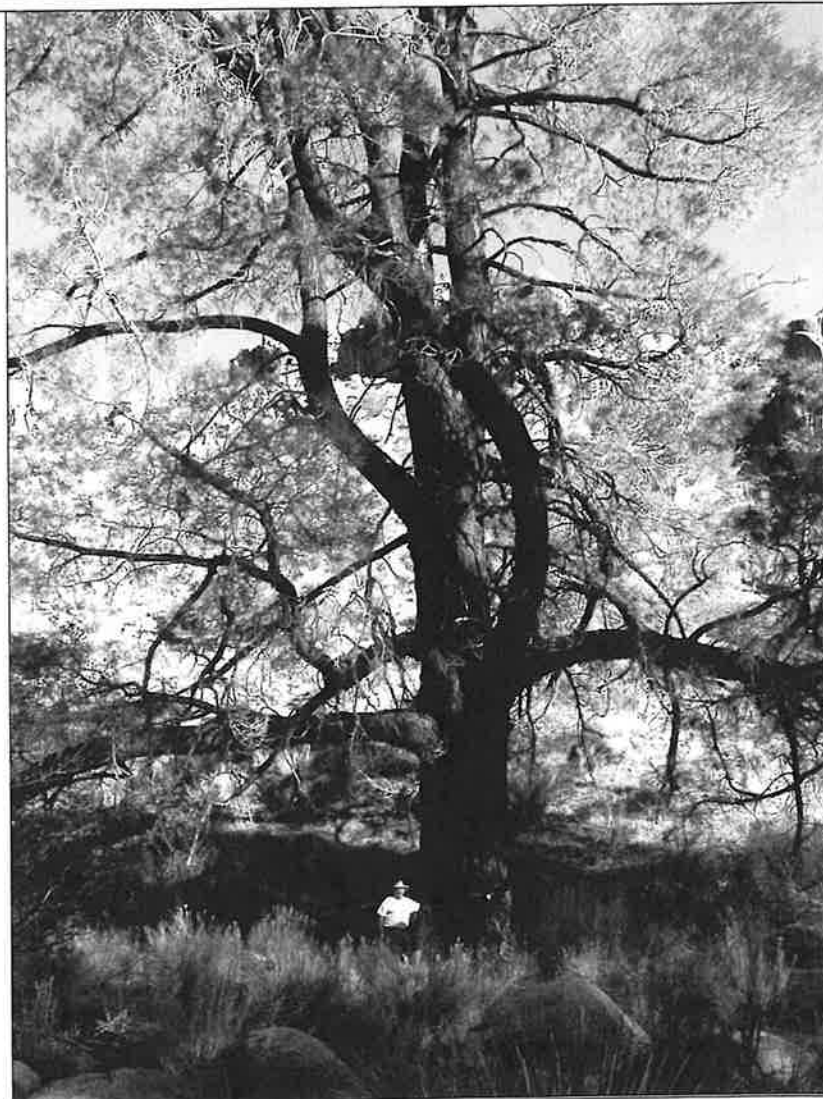
"Unfortunately," Ross recalls, "my tree was topped by a smaller-diameter but much taller tree. This continued to be the case for the next 25 years."

Ross' 348-point digger pine—126 feet tall with a 200-inch circumference and an 86-foot crown spread—was one of five trees he nominated for the 2006-2007 Register. Three of those are new champions, including the digger pine, a 201-point piute cypress in Sequoia National Forest, and a 146-point curl-leaf cercocarpus, also in Sequoia National Forest.

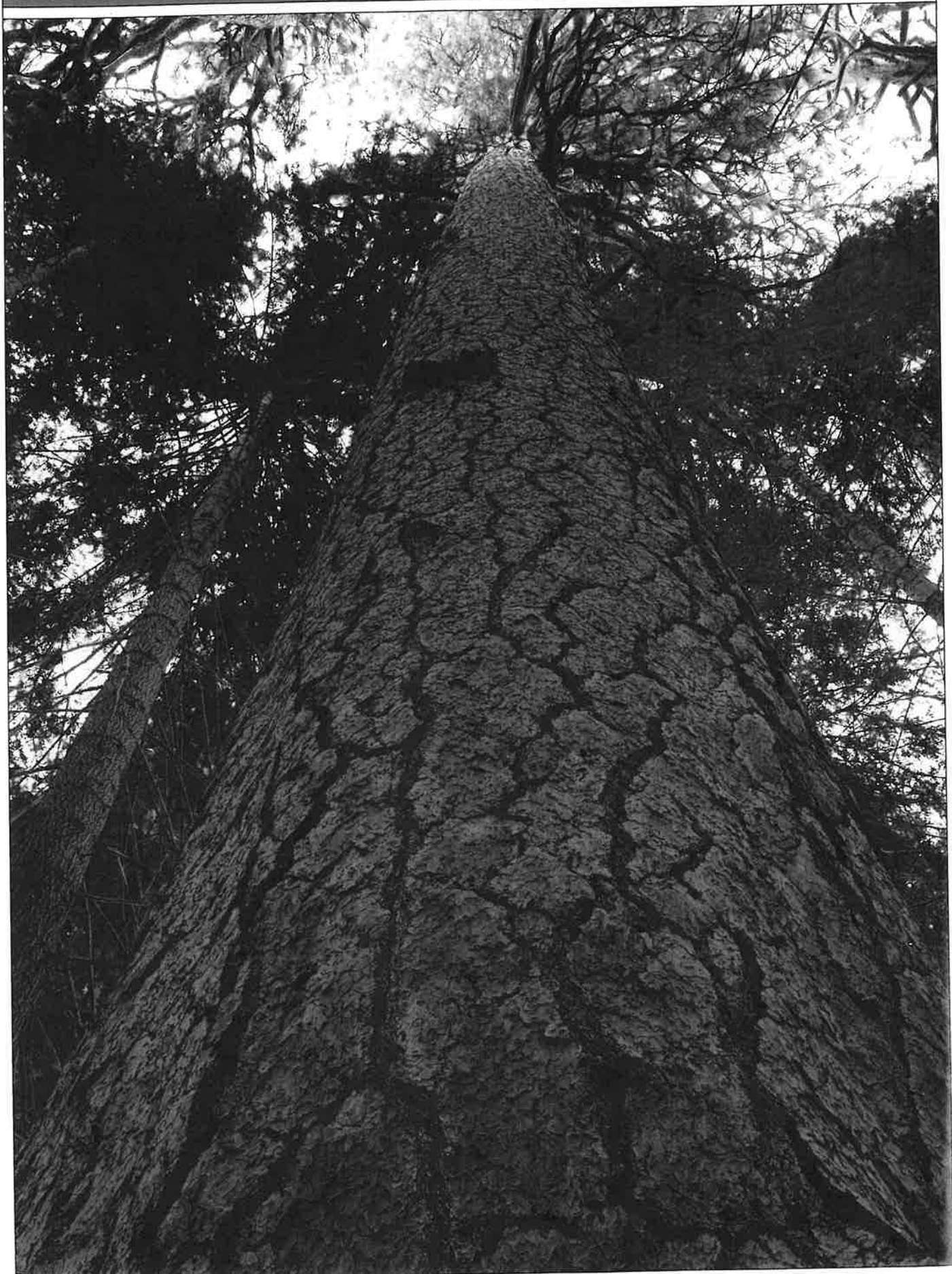
Over the years, Ross says he spent a lot of time in the woods—"working for the Forest Service and, later, hiking during my days off from my job as a fire captain with a local agency fire department."

Along the way, he made notes about exceptional trees he came across. One nolina he saw, for example, he says was "much bigger than anything I had ever seen, I just never thought of it as a tree." He discovered the current national champ curlleaf cercocarpus "last summer, on the last large wildland fire of my career."

"I would like to think that my retirement will have me out looking for more big trees, but the truth is my 'to do' list is quite long," Ross says from his home in Lake Isabella, California. "But my experience from the last 30 years shows that all you have to do is be aware when you are out doing your thing and you never know what might pop up."



LOREN ROSS



SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
<b>Pinckneya</b>						
<i>Pinckneya pubens</i> , ★ 2005*	10	21	7	33	Marion Co., Fla.	Robert T. Ing & Daniel B. Ward
<i>Pinckneya pubens</i> , 1991*	10	18	8	30	Nahunta, Ga.	Jimmy Mock & Richard Gill
<b>Pine</b>						
Apache, <i>Pinus engelmannii</i> , 1998*	127	108	44	246	Mt. Wrightson WA, Coronado NF, Ariz.	R. & G. Zahner & K. Morrow
Apache, <i>Pinus engelmannii</i> , 1999*	121	112	38	243	Mt. Wrightson WA, Coronado NF, Ariz.	Ken Morrow & Mike Hallen
Arizona, <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> var. <i>arizonica</i> , 1998	153	127	57	294	Santa Catalina Mtns., Coronado NF, Ariz.	R. & G. Zahner & K. Porter
Austrian, <i>Pinus nigra</i> , 1995Δ	128	95	55	237	Lincoln Park, Tacoma, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
Bishop, <i>Pinus muricata</i> , 2005	198	72	86	292	Oakland, Calif.	Art Cowley
Bolander's, <i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>bolanderi</i> , ★ 1983	58	76	18	139	Jughandle State Reserve, Calif.	Robert E. Sholars
Border pinyon, <i>Pinus discolor</i> , 2005	61	46	28	114	Chiricahua NM, Ariz.	John Titus
Chihuahua, <i>Pinus leiophylla</i> var. <i>chihuahuana</i> , 1998	121	87	34	217	White Mountain Apache Reservation, Ariz.	Dave Borland & Lucky Holden
Colorado bristlecone, <i>Pinus aristata</i> , ★ 1985*	132	76	39	218	Carson NF, N. Mex.	S. Edmonds, J. Crellin, W. Hurst
Colorado bristlecone, <i>Pinus aristata</i> , ★ 1986*	138	72	33	218	Colfax Co., N. Mex.	Joel B. Cotton
Coulter, <i>Pinus coulteri</i> , 2001	152	141	72	311	San Diego Co., Calif.	Art Cowley & Clint Powell
Digger, <i>Pinus sabiniana</i> , 2005	200	126	86	348	Kelso Creek, Kern Co., Calif.	Loren Ross
Eastern white, <i>Pinus strobus</i> , 2003	229	125	72	372	Morrill, Maine	Elsie Bowen
Foxtail, <i>Pinus balfouriana</i> , ★ 1982	316	76	34	401	Trinity NF, Calif.	Stanley G. & Richard S. Moore
Great Basin bristlecone, <i>Pinus longaeva</i> , 2003	455	52	44	518	Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, Nev.	Robert Van Pelt
Jack, <i>Pinus banksiana</i> , ★ 1980	116	56	61	187	Lake Bronson SP, Minn.	Steve Morgan & Rick Olson
Jeffrey, <i>Pinus jeffreyi</i> , 2005	306	192	90	521	Dardanelle, Stanislaus NF, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
Knobcone, <i>Pinus attenuata</i> , ★ 1976	135	117	66	269	Shasta Co., Calif.	Paul Caster
Limber, <i>Pinus flexilis</i> , ★ 1968	275	58	46	345	Uinta NF, Utah	T.A. Walker, W. Crawford, T. Dietz
Loblolly, <i>Pinus taeda</i> , 2001	176	167	71	361	Congaree Swamp NM, S.C.	Doug Riddle, Jess Riddle, Will Blozan
Lodgepole, <i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>latifolia</i> , 1980	132	155	32	295	Valley Co., Idaho	S. Keaffer & T. McManus
Longleaf, <i>Pinus palustris</i> , 2005*	145	106	36	260	Montgomery Co., N.C.	Johnny Mabe
Longleaf, <i>Pinus palustris</i> , 1996*	127	120	66	264	Macon, Bibb Co., Ga.	Terrell L. Brooks
Mexican pinyon, <i>Pinus cembroides</i> , 1982*	74	49	37	132	Big Bend NP, Texas	Robert Edmondson
Mexican pinyon, <i>Pinus cembroides</i> , 1982*	67	57	40	134	Big Bend NP, Texas	James E. Liles
Monterey, <i>Pinus radiata</i> , 2003	334	167	106	528	Carmel, Calif.	Alan Washburn
Parry pinyon, <i>Pinus quadrifolia</i> , ★ 1976	86	53	42	150	Riverside Co., Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
Pinyon (two-leaf), <i>Pinus edulis</i> , ★ 1982	213	69	52	295	Cuba, N.Mex.	Joseph P. Szimhart
Pitch, <i>Pinus rigida</i> , 1998*	146	114	70	278	White Co., Helen, Ga.	K. Jackson, P. Todd, J. Mock
Pitch, <i>Pinus rigida</i> , 1999*	170	99	42	280	Bradford, Merrimack Co., N.H.	William Weiler
Pond, <i>Pinus serotina</i> , 2001	119	132	52	264	Patterson, Ga.	Jimmy Mock & Chris Mock
Ponderosa, <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> var. <i>ponderosa</i> , ★ 1974*	293	227	68	537	Plumas Co., Calif.	John Bell & Philip Intorf
Ponderosa, <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> var. <i>ponderosa</i> , ★ 1997*	294	223	59	532	Trinity Alps Wilderness, Shasta-Trinity NF, Calif.	Robert Van Pelt & Al Groncki
Red, <i>Pinus resinosa</i> , ★ 1968*	124	124	60	263	Watersmeet, Mich.	E.B. Ehrlé, R. Zelinski, P. Thompson
Red, <i>Pinus resinosa</i> , 1967*	120	126	48	258	Clearwater Co., Itasca SP, Minn.	Sidney Frissell & Stephen McCool
Rocky Mtn. ponderosa, <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> var. <i>scopulorum</i> , 1997	246	194	64	456	Lolo NF, Mont.	Donald M. Wood & Don Campbell
Sand, <i>Pinus clausa</i> , ★ 1997	97	91	42	199	Welaka SF, Fla.	Ned D. Neenan
Scotch, <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> , 2005Δ	174	53	73	245	Beatrice, Neb.	Christine Meyer
Shore, <i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>contorta</i> , ★ 1993	138	101	37	248	Bryant, Snohomish Co., Wash.	Ron Brightman
Shortleaf, <i>Pinus echinata</i> , 2003*	123	105	66	245	Demorest, Habersham Co., Ga.	Jimmy Mock
Shortleaf, <i>Pinus echinata</i> , 1980*	135	87	70	240	Myrtle, Union Co., Miss.	Glenn H. Coffey
Sierra lodgepole, <i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>murrayana</i> , 1963*	245	116	50	374	San Bernadino NF, Calif.	Miles Gulik
Sierra lodgepole, <i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>murrayana</i> , ★ 1985*	238	124	42	373	Stanislaus NF, Calif.	Mr. & Mrs. C. Grinstead
Singleleaf pinyon, <i>Pinus monophylla</i> , 2005	167	50	52	230	Washoe Co., Nev.	Dian Mercier, Harley Moe
Slash, <i>Pinus elliotii</i> var. <i>elliottii</i> , 2001*	143	129	59	287	Alachua Co., Fla.	R. W. Simons & M. Meisenburg
Slash, <i>Pinus elliotii</i> var. <i>elliottii</i> , ★ 1985*	130	138	55	282	Jacksonville, Fla.	James R. Karels
South Florida slash, <i>Pinus elliotii</i> var. <i>densa</i> , 2005*	127	74	55	215	Sarasota, Fla.	Jono Miller, Julie Morris
South Florida slash, <i>Pinus elliotii</i> var. <i>densa</i> , 2005*	130	69	69	216	Dunedin, Fla.	Michael Kettles
South Florida slash, <i>Pinus elliotii</i> var. <i>densa</i> , 2005*	122	76	74	216	Sarasota, Fla.	Jono Miller
Southwestern white, <i>Pinus strobfornis</i> , ★ 1974	185	111	62	312	Lincoln NF, N. Mex.	Thomas Dix
Spruce, <i>Pinus glabra</i> , 2003	146	156	70	319	Bienville NF, Miss.	Grace & Art Bradshaw
Sugar, <i>Pinus lambertiana</i> , ★ 1994	435	209	59	659	Dorrrington, Calif.	Herbert E. McLean & Gary Whitson
Table mountain, <i>Pinus pungens</i> , 1988	104	120	41	234	Stokes Co., N.C.	M. Pell, S. Williams, K. Knox, S. Knox
Torrey, <i>Pinus torreyana</i> , ★ 1973	245	126	130	404	Carpenteria, Calif.	Edward Scanlon
Virginia, <i>Pinus virginiana</i> , 2005	112	103	56	229	Shepherdsville, Ky.	Lisa Armstrong
Washoe, <i>Pinus washoensis</i> , ★ 1997	243	145	64	404	South Warner Wilderness, Modoc Co., Calif.	H.F. Bowman
Western white, <i>Pinus monticola</i> , ★ 1984	394	151	52	558	El Dorado NF, Calif.	Henry Carsten & Maynard Drawson



SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUM-FERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
Whitebark, <i>Pinus albicaulis</i> , ★ 1980	331	69	47	412	Sawtooth NRA, Idaho	Allan W. Ashton & David O. Lee
<b>Pisonia</b>						
<i>Pisonia rotundata</i> , 1994	38	28	14	69	Monroe Co., Fla.	Robert W. Ehrig
<b>Pistache</b>						
Texas, <i>Pistacia texana</i> , 2003	32	21	31	61	Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center, Langtry, Texas	Mark Duff
<b>Plum</b>						
Allegheny, <i>Prunus alleghaniensis</i> , ★ 1991*	37	37	24	80	Jefferson NF, Va.	Richard Salzer
Allegheny, <i>Prunus alleghaniensis</i> , ★ 1991*	52	24	32	84	Lock Haven Swim & Beach Club, Roanoke, Va.	Richard Salzer
American, <i>Prunus americana</i> , ★ 1994	39	48	36	96	Gadsden Co., Fla.	R. Simons, J. Buckner, A. Gholson, R. Godfrey
Chickasaw, <i>Prunus angustifolia</i> , 2001	130	86	48	228	Clatsop SF, Ore.	William Schoppert
Flatwoods, <i>Prunus umbellata</i> , ★ 1992	18	34	24	58	Gainesville, Fla.	R. Ing, D. Ward, R. Simons
Garden, <i>Prunus domestica</i> , ★ 1993Δ	130	47	48	189	Portland, Ore.	Phyllis Reynolds
Hortulan, <i>Prunus hortulana</i> , 2004*	30	20	24	56	Newark, Ohio	Brian P. Riley
Hortulan, <i>Prunus hortulana</i> , 2005*	25	28	26	60	Clermont Co., Ohio	Brian P. Riley
Klamath, <i>Prunus subcordata</i> , ★ 1972	42	28	19	75	Klamath Falls, Ore.	Frank T. Callahan
Mexican, <i>Prunus mexicana</i> , 1992/2000/2004	68	17	18	90	Hood Co., Texas	Frank L. Saffarrans Jr.
Wildgoose, <i>Prunus munsoniana</i> , 2003	25	36	35	70	Dallas County, Texas	Steve Houser
<b>Poinciana</b>						
Royal, <i>Delonix regia</i> , ★ 1972Δ	102	61	57	177	Ft. Denaud Road, Hendry Co., Fla.	Michael W. Kenton
<b>Poison-sumac</b>						
<i>Toxicodendron vernix</i> , 2000*	18	30	19	52	Arnold, Md.	Colby B. Rucker
<i>Toxicodendron vernix</i> , ★ 1992*	23	23	21	51	Chesapeake, Va.	B. Carmean & G. Williamson
<b>Poisontree</b>						
Florida, <i>Metopium toxiferum</i> , ★ 1986	81	39	32	128	Lignumvitae Key Botanical SP, Fla.	Ken Roundtree & David M. Sinclair
<b>Pond-apple</b>						
<i>Annona glabra</i> , 1989	125	44	47	181	Miami, Fla.	Carol L. Lippincott
<b>Pondcypress</b>						
<i>Taxodium distichum</i> var. <i>nutans</i> , ★ 2004	344	32	24	382	Hyde Co., N.C.	John P. Bittner
<b>Poplar</b>						
Balsam, <i>Populus balsamifera</i> , ★ 1994	165	128	57	307	Champion, Mich.	Elwood B. Ehrle & Paul W. Thompson
White, <i>Populus alba</i> , 2004	207	119	88	348	St. Clair, Mich.	Elwood B. Ehrle
<b>Portiatree</b>						
<i>Thespesia populnea</i> , ★ 1968Δ	108	42	69	167	Kekaha, Hawaii	L.W. Bryan
<b>Port-Orford-cedar</b>						
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> , ★ 1968	452	229	39	691	Siskiyou NF, Ore.	Donald Denniston
<b>Possumhaw</b>						
<i>Illex decidua</i> , 1981	37	38	49	87	Richland Co., S.C.	Robert H. Jones, Lee Renaud
<b>Prickly-ash</b>						
Common, <i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i> , ★ 1980	15	28	38	53	Beverly Hills Rouge Park, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Lime, <i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i> , ★ 1988	21	26	38	57	Lee Co., Fla.	Eric H. Hoyer & Norma Jean Byrd
<b>Princewood</b>						
<i>Exostema caribaeum</i> , 1998	22	33	19	60	Crocodile Lake NWR, Key Largo, Fla.	Joseph Nemecek
<b>Privet</b>						
California, <i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> , 1999Δ	96	30	38	136	Roanoke, Va.	Richard Salzer
Japanese, <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> , 2005Δ	51	41	39	101	Lynchburg, S.C.	Chisolm Beckham
<b>Rapanea</b>						
Florida, <i>Rapanea punctata</i> , ★ 1992	29	30	17	63	Sanibel, Fla.	Ferrell Johns
<b>Redbay</b>						
Redbay, <i>Persea borbonia</i> var. <i>borbonia</i> , ★ 1994	152	77	52	242	Hamilton Co., Fla.	Norman Nichols
<b>Redbud</b>						
California, <i>Cercis occidentalis</i> , 1980	71	45	38	126	Santa Rosa, Calif.	E. Lagel
Eastern, <i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>canadensis</i> , 2005	113	26	35	148	Wayne, Mich.	Woody Ehrle
Texas, <i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>texensis</i> , 2003	52	28	40	90	Kendall Co., Tex.	Steve Lowe
<b>Redcedar</b>						
Eastern, <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> , ★ 1989	242	57	69	316	Lone Hill Church Cemetery, Coffee Co., Ga.	Richard Johnston
Southern, <i>Juniperus silicicola</i> , ★ 1995	195	75	52	283	Archer, Alachua Co., Fla.	Robert W. Simons & Bill Russell
Western, <i>Thuja plicata</i> , 1945	761	159	45	931	Olympic NP, Wash.	F.W. Mathias
<b>Redshank</b>						
<i>Adenostoma sparsifolium</i> , 1997	48	23	26	78	Warner Springs, Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
<b>Redwood</b>						
Coast, <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> , ★ 1993*	867	311	101	1203	Prairie Creek Redwoods SP, Calif.	Ron Hildebrant & Michael Taylor
Coast, <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> , 1998*	895	307	83	1223	Jedidiah Smith Redwoods SP, Calif.	R. Hildebrant, M. Taylor, S. Sillett

SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFERENCE*	HEIGHT*	SPREAD*	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
Coast, <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> , ★ 1998*	950	321	75	1290	Jedidiah Smith Redwoods SP, Calif.	R. Hildebrandt, M. Taylor, S. Sillett
<b>Rhododendron</b>						
Catawba, <i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i> , 2005	15	25	15	43	Baxter Crk Trail, Great Smoky Mtns NP, N.C.	Jess Riddle
Pacific, <i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i> , 1976	22	28	17	54	Fort Bragg, Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
Rosebay, <i>Rhododendron maximum</i> , 2005*	28	28	36	65	Clayton, Ga.	Jimmy & Sandra Mock
Rosebay, <i>Rhododendron maximum</i> , 2005*	31	28	28	66	Biltmore Estate, Asheville, N.C.	K. Knox, B. Alexander, R. Lance
Rosebay, <i>Rhododendron maximum</i> , 1981*	28	34	28	69	Sumter NF, S.C.	Steve Muzal
<b>Royalpalm</b>						
Florida, <i>Roystonea elata</i> , ★ 1995	50	99	18	154	Fakahatchee Stand, near Copeland, Fla.	Daniel B. Ward
<b>Russian-olive</b>						
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> , 1991Δ	160	47	61	222	Spin City, Pennington Co., S.D.	Royce King
<b>Sagebrush</b>						
Big, <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> , 2003*	22	10	12	35	On BLM land near Carson City, Nev.	John Copeland
Big, <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> , 2002*	25	11	12	39	Cedar City, Utah	Ron Larson
Big, <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> , ★ 1991*	17	17	16	38	Franklin Co., Wash.	R. Noggles, B. Glodowski, F. Johnson
Big, <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> , ★ 1995*	20	13	17	37	Crooked River National Grassland, Ore.	Mark R. Corbet
<b>Saguaro</b>						
<i>Cereus giganteus</i> , 2003*	108	32	16	144	Mammoth, Pinal Co., Ariz.	Charley Blank
<i>Cereus giganteus</i> , 2003*	94	46	10	143	Tonto NF, Ariz.	J. Pleggenkuhle, C. Seymour, C. Hockaday
<b>Sapodilla</b>						
<i>Manilkara zapota</i> , ★ 1992*Δ	156	72	62	244	Key West, Fla.	William S. Hubard & B. Wang
<i>Manilkara zapota</i> , ★ 1973*Δ	174	56	53	243	Matheson Preserve, Miami, Fla.	Miller, Hammer, Flynn

## CALIFORNIA SYCAMORE }

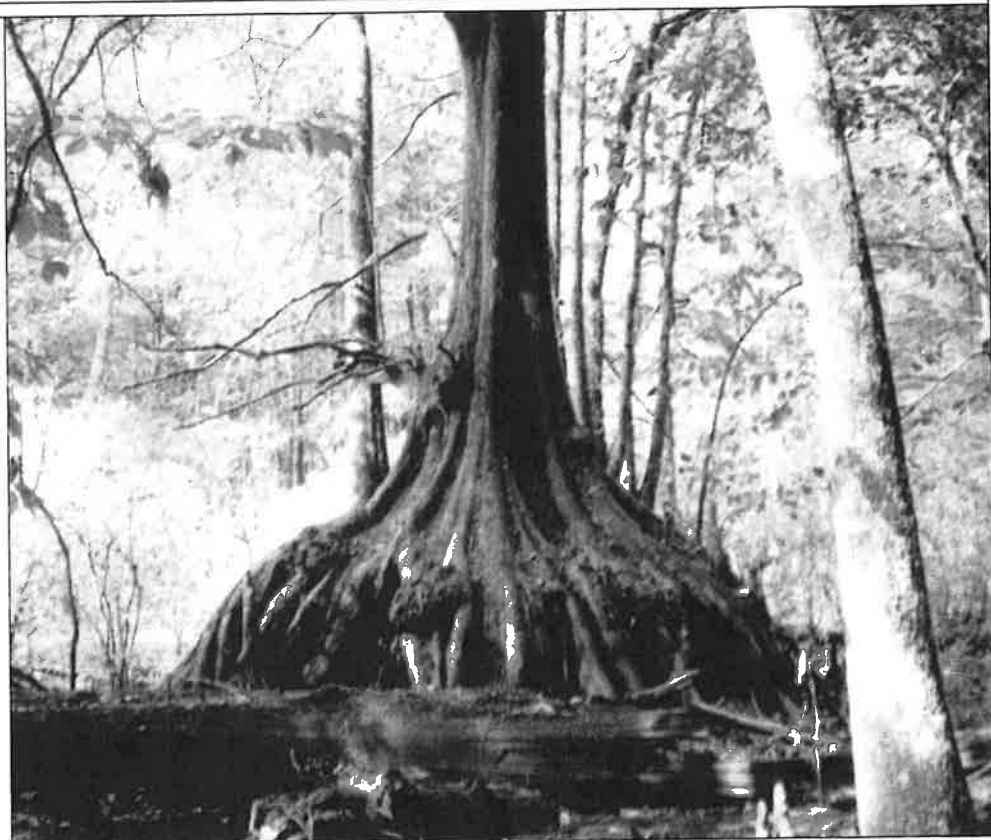
The national champion California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) has reigned from its throne in San Juan Capistrano, California, since 1998. The graceful tree, which shades a walk with its 108-foot crown spread, rises to a height of 95 feet and has a 350-inch circumference. It boasts a point total of 472. It is one of 101 national champs for the state of California and one of three for San Juan Capistrano, which is also home to the national champ avocado and national champ peppertree. The Mission at San Juan Capistrano is known for the yearly return of its famous swallows, but at this rate the area should be known for its big trees!



SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUM-FERENCE*	HEIGHT	SPREAD*	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
<b>Sassafras</b>						
<i>Sassafras albidum</i> , ★ 1954	271	77	67	364	Owensboro, Ky.	O.W. Rash
<b>Satinleaf</b>						
<i>Chrysophyllum oliviforme</i> , ★ 1976	73	41	34	123	Miami, Fla.	W. Miller & J. Valenta
<b>Satinwood</b>						
West Indies, <i>Zanthoxylum flavum</i> , 2005	35	29	11	67	Key West, Fla.	Rebekah Stewart
<b>Saw-palmetto</b>						
<i>Serenoa repens</i> , ★ 1982*	22	20	13	45	Withlacoochee SF, Fla.	Buford C. Pruitt & D. Fogler
<i>Serenoa repens</i> , ★ 1987*	27	21	8	50	Ft. Pierce, Fla.	Steve Fousek & Paul Williams
<b>Scarletbush</b>						
<i>Hamelia patens</i> , 2005*	18	13	17	35	Melbourne Beach, Fla.	Blair & Dawn Witherington
<i>Hamelia patens</i> , ★ 1996*	15	13	16	32	Big Pine Key, Fla.	Jean F. De St. Croix
<b>Seagrape</b>						
<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i> , ★ 1971	149	62	66	228	Miami, Fla.	Don McGarthy
<b>Sequoia</b>						
Giant, <i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> , 1975	1020	274	107	1321	Sequoia NP, Calif.	Isabelle F. Story
<b>Serviceberry</b>						
Allegheny, <i>Amelanchier laevis</i> , ★ 1997	77	101	36	187	Blvd. Prong, Great Smoky Mtns. NP, Tenn.	Will Blozan & Amy Gamerman
Downy, <i>Amelanchier arborea</i> , ★ 1986	108	60	53	181	Burke's Garden, Va.	Louise G. Hoge
Roundleaf, <i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i> , 1978	58	39	34	106	Clarendon, Vt.	Dave Potter
Utah, <i>Amelanchier utahensis</i> , 2005	14	21	25	41	Flagstaff, Ariz.	David & Judy Thornburg
Western, <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> , ★ 1993	39	42	43	92	Beacon Rock SP, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
<b>Silkbay</b>						
<i>Persea borbonia</i> var. <i>humilis</i> , ★ 1991	55	38	46	105	Ocala NF, Fla.	Robert W. Simons
<b>Silktassel</b>						
Wavyleaf, <i>Garrya elliptica</i> , ★ 1972	28	29	22	63	Brookings, Ore.	Frank T. Callahan
Wright, <i>Garrya wrightii</i> , ★ 1997	28	22	22	56	Buenos Aires NWR, Ariz.	Robert Zahner
<b>Silktree</b>						
Mimosa, <i>Albizia julibrissin</i> , ★ 1997Δ	179	56	74	254	Orlando, Fla.	Marsha S. Roepe
<b>Silverbell</b>						
Carolina, <i>Halesia carolina</i> , 2001	152	110	43	273	Great Smoky Mountains NP, Tenn.	Jess & Doug Riddle
Little, <i>Halesia parviflora</i> , 2005	19	16	25	42	Hamilton Co., Ohio	Brian P. Riley
Two-wing, <i>Halesia diptera</i> , 1989	57	44	41	111	Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum, Cincinnati, Ohio	Len Thomas & Tom Smith

## COMMON BALDCYPRESS }

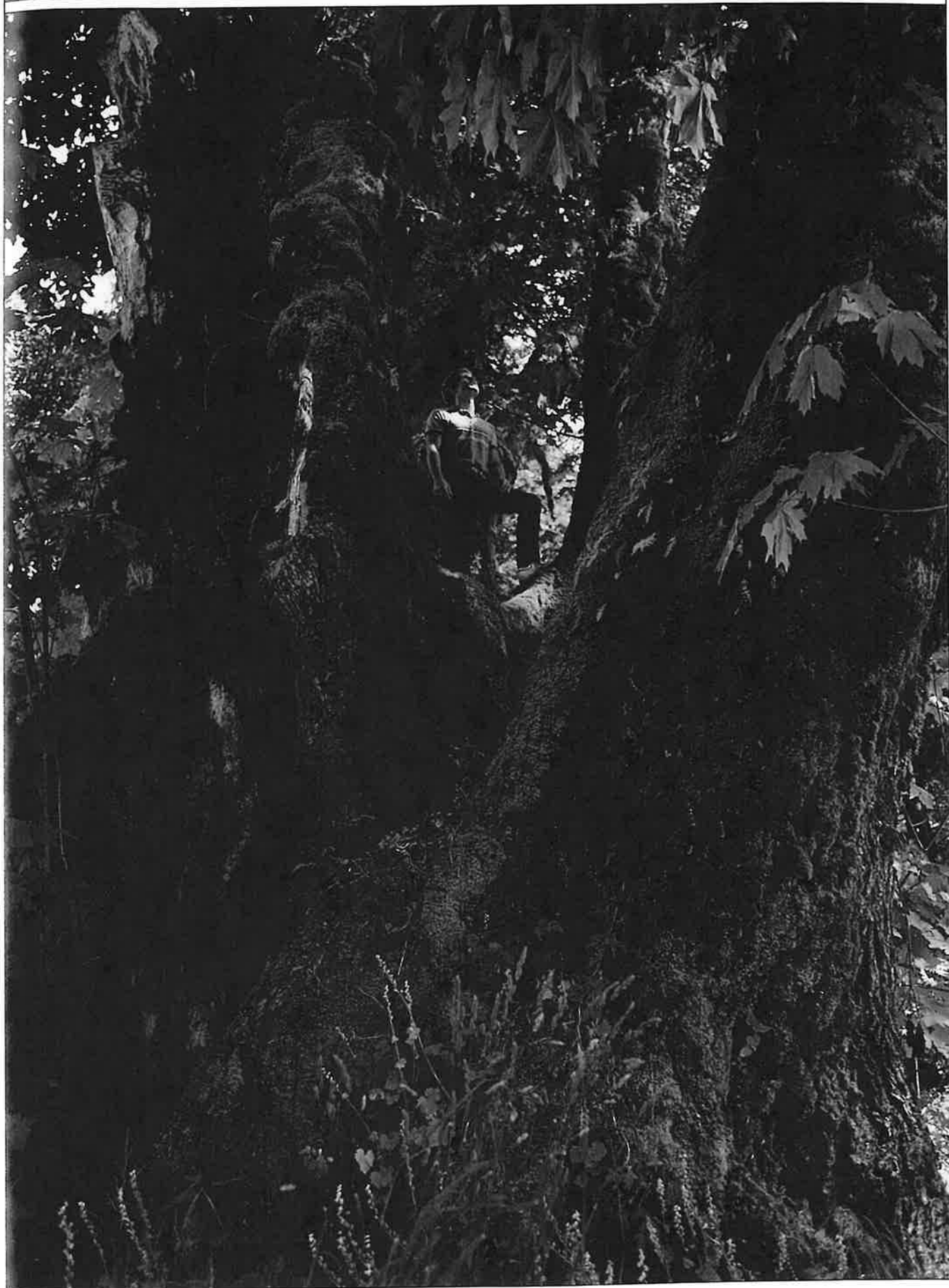
**M**ississippi's new co-champion *Taxodium distichum* var. *distichum* in Holmes, was discovered during a hike through the cotton farm's property to find areas that could be enhanced for wildlife and waterfowl potential. The site, Quofaloma Plantation, was inherited a few years ago by Arthur Abercrombie Jr. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and his sister Betty Epley, of Magnolia, Arkansas, upon the death of their aunt. They recall spending summer vacations there when they were young—not realizing they were playing in the presence of royalty.



SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
<b>Silverpalm</b>						
Florida, <i>Coccothrinax argentata</i> , ★ 1979*	19	29	6	50	Bahia Honda SP, Fla.	John A. Baust
Florida, <i>Coccothrinax argentata</i> , ★ 1976*	21	25	7	48	Bahia Honda SP, Fla.	Clifford Shaw & George Avery
<b>Smokethorn</b>						
<i>Dalea spinosa</i> , ★ 1976	48	17	12	68	Anza Borrego SP, Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
<b>Smoketree</b>						
American, <i>Cotinus obovatus</i> , 1984	74	56	32	138	Perdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.	S.A. Jamieson & A.T. Grossman
<b>Soapberry</b>						
Western, <i>Sapindus drummondii</i> , 2003	108	61	65	185	Aransas Co., Texas	Karl Bartels
Wingleaf, <i>Sapindus saponaria</i> , ★ 1977	88	72	36	169	Paynes Prairie State Preserve, Fla.	Robert Simons
<b>Soldierwood</b>						
<i>Colubrina elliptica</i> , 1998*	24	41	9	67	John Pennekamp Coral Reef SP, Fla.	Joseph Nemec
<i>Colubrina elliptica</i> , 1998*	25	30	29	62	Crocodile Lake NWR, Fla.	Joseph Nemec
<i>Colubrina elliptica</i> , ★ 1991*	22	41	13	66	John Pennekamp Coral Reef SP, Fla.	Jeanne M. Parks
<b>Sophora</b>						
Mescalbean, <i>Sophora secundiflora</i> , 2005*	60	19	27	86	San Antonio, Texas	Ben McPherson
Mescalbean, <i>Sophora secundiflora</i> , 1983*	63	15	20	83	New Braunfels, Texas	Kathy Thieleman & Ann Holland
Texas, <i>Sophora affinis</i> , 1999	65	36	36	110	Llano Co., Texas	Bill Edwards
<b>Sourwood</b>						
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> , 1998	132	95	70	245	Amelia Co., Va.	John Anderson & Joseph Humphreys
<b>Sparkleberry</b>						
Tree, <i>Vaccinium arboreum</i> , ★ 1991*	52	29	45	92	Evergreen Country Club, Evergreen, Ala.	Nell Stuart
Tree, <i>Vaccinium arboreum</i> , ★ 1997*	33	47	30	88	DeSoto NF, Miss.	Gary H. Lott & Wayne R. McCardle
<b>Spicebush</b>						
<i>Lindera benzoin</i> , 1999*	14	26	19	45	Ames Plantation, Fayette Co., Tenn.	David Smith
<i>Lindera benzoin</i> , ★ 2001*	12	32	24	50	Nassau Co., N.Y.	Mike Urban
<b>Spruce</b>						
Black, <i>Picea mariana</i> , 1989	68	78	21	151	Meford, Wis.	Nick Risch
Black Hills, <i>Picea glauca</i> var. <i>densata</i> , 2004	117	103	30	228	Black Hills NF, S. Dak.	Mark Rouw
Blue, <i>Picea pungens</i> , 2001	190	127	43	328	Ashley NF, Utah	A.J. Frandsen & Sherel Goodrich
Brewer, <i>Picea brewerana</i> , 1999	272	137	44	420	Shasta-Trinity NF, Calif.	Leonard Herzstein & Neal Hadley
Engelmann, <i>Picea engelmannii</i> , 2005	292	181	50	486	Lowman, Idaho	Christopher Wagner & Penny Myers
Norway, <i>Picea abies</i> , ★ 2005Δ	180	120	66	317	Hamilton College, N.Y.	Charles McFadden
Red, <i>Picea rubens</i> , ★ 1986*	169	123	39	302	Great Smoky Mountains NP, N.C.	Jim Renfro & Chris Blakeman
Red, <i>Picea rubens</i> , ★ 1997*	144	146	34	299	Thicket Branch, Great Smoky Mtns. NP, N.C.	Will Blozan
Sitka, <i>Picea sitchensis</i> , 1973*	629	204	93	856	Kloutchy Creek Park, Seaside, Ore.	Maynard Drawson
Sitka, <i>Picea sitchensis</i> , 1987*	668	191	96	883	Quinalt Lake, Olympic NF, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt
White, <i>Picea glauca</i> var. <i>glauca</i> , 1975	126	130	30	264	Littlefork, Koochiching Co., Minn.	Richard Stapleton
<b>Stewartia</b>						
Mountain, <i>Stewartia ovata</i> , 2001	34	16	11	53	Virginia Beach, Va.	Richard Salzer
Virginia, <i>Stewartia malacodendron</i> , ★ 1994	10	19	28	36	Ponce de Leon, Fla.	Murdock "Ray" Gillis
<b>Stopper</b>						
Boxleaf, <i>Eugenia foetida</i> , 1998*	16	19	14	39	Marathon, Monroe Co., Fla.	Dianna Stevenson & Jeanette Hobbs
Boxleaf, <i>Eugenia foetida</i> , 1999*	11	24	8	37	Key Largo Hammock Botanical SP, Fla.	Joseph Nemec
Red, <i>Eugenia rhombea</i> , 1999	19	23	14	46	Crocodile Lake NWR, Key Largo, Fla.	Joseph Nemec
Redberry, <i>Eugenia confusa</i> , ★ 1993	60	46	26	113	Viscaya Museum & Gardens, Miami, Fla.	C. Lippincott
Simpson,						
<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i> var. <i>simpsonii</i> , ★ 1995	34	51	40	95	Fern Forest Nature Cntr., Pompono Beach, Fla.	Jim Higgins
White, <i>Eugenia axillaris</i> , ★ 1994*	15	28	9	45	Barnacle State Historical Site, Fla.	John T. Valenta & Rodger Hammer
White, <i>Eugenia axillaris</i> , ★ 1993*	15	25	11	43	Sanibel Island, Fla.	Richard R. Workman
<b>Strongback</b>						
Bahama, <i>Bouyeria ovata</i> , 1999	32	28	14	64	Crocodile Lake NWR, Key Largo, Fla.	Joseph Nemec
Rough, <i>Bouyeria radula</i> , ★ 1995	22	23	19	50	Key West, Fla.	Vincent P. Condon
<b>Sugarberry</b>						
<i>Celtis laevigata</i> , 2005	139	111	50	263	Taylorsville, Ky.	Lisa Armstrong
<b>Sumac</b>						
Evergreen, <i>Rhus virens</i> , 2005	31	14	27	52	New Braunfels, Texas	RaeAnn & Loddie Roeder
Mearns, <i>Rhus choriophylla</i> , ★ 1995	24	20	19	49	Coronado NF, Ariz.	Robert Zahner
Prairie, <i>Rhus lanceolata</i> , 1994	72	26	45	80	Kerrville, Texas	Raymond C. Doggett
Shining, <i>Rhus copallina</i> var. <i>copallina</i> , 2000	38	29	32	75	Pontotoc Co., Miss.	Rickey Harwell & G.W. Poyner
Smooth, <i>Rhus glabra</i> , 2001	36	52	28	95	Drybranch, Ga.	Roger Blount
Southern, <i>Rhus copallina</i> var. <i>leucantha</i> , ★ 1970	13	22	15	39	Arcadia, Fla.	Arden Streit Jr.



SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUM- FERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
Staghorn, <i>Rhus typhina</i> , ★ 1985	50	61	20	116	Tallapoosa Co., Ala.	Ted Kretschmann
Sugar, <i>Rhus ovata</i> , 1995	71	34	36	114	Superstition WA, Tonto NF, Ariz.	Ken Morrow
<b>Swampbay</b>						
<i>Persea borbonia</i> var. <i>pubescens</i> , 2005	40	68	25	114	Creswall, N.C.	Sid Shearin
<b>Swamp-privet</b>						
<i>Forestiera acuminata</i> , ★ 1997	100	41	49	153	Yazoo NWR, Washington Co., Miss.	David Linden
<b>Sweetleaf</b>						
<i>Symplocos tinctoria</i> , ★ 1986	35	70	36	114	Chesapeake, Va.	Byron Carmean & Gary M. Williamson
<b>Sycamore</b>						
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> , 2001	440	85	68	542	Montgomery Co., Ky.	Charles Saunders & Chuck Wilburn
Arizona, <i>Platanus wrightii</i> , 2005	373	71	73	462	Camp Verde, Coconino NF, Ariz.	David Thornburg & Harry Untiedt
California, <i>Platanus racemosa</i> , 1998	350	95	108	472	San Juan Capistrano, Calif.	Art Cowley
<b>Tallowtree</b>						
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i> , 1996Δ	137	68	68	222	Vidor, Texas	Robert N. Norton
<b>Tallowwood</b>						
<i>Ximenia americana</i> , ★ 1998	16	18	14	38	Crocodile Lake NWR, Fla.	Joseph Nemec
<b>Tamarack</b>						
<i>Larix laricina</i> , 2005	143	92	31	243	Wels, Maine	Mike Debonis
<b>Tamarind</b>						
<i>Tamarindus indica</i> , ★ 1986Δ	167	75	84	263	Key West, Fla.	Michael J. Cullen & David M. Sinclair
<b>Tamarisk</b>						
<i>Tamarix chinensis</i> , 1999Δ	170	45	50	228	Albuquerque, N. Mex.	Robert Squires
French, <i>Tamarix gallica</i> , 2005Δ	57	25	50	95	Dallas, Texas	David Richardson
<b>Tanoak</b>						
<i>Lithocarpus densiflorus</i> , ★ 1997	275	144	59	434	Ophir, Curry Co., Ore.	George Miller
<b>Tesota</b>						
<i>Olnya tesota</i> , 2005	198	33	55	245	Riverside Co., Calif.	Art Cowley
<b>Tetrazygia</b>						
Florida, <i>Tetrazygia bicolor</i> , 2005	24	22	15	49	Coral Gables, Fla.	David L. Lysinger
<b>Thatchpalm</b>						
Florida, <i>Thrinax radiata</i> , ★ 1991	17	28	2	46	Hollywood, Fla.	D. Spicer, W. Harms, W. Tesauro
Key, <i>Thrinax morrisii</i> , ★ 1996	19	19	9	40	Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, Fla.	Don Evans & Daniel B. Ward
<b>Torchwood</b>						
<i>Amyris elemifera</i> , ★ 1986	18	22	15	44	Key West, Fla.,	Mike Cullen & David Sinclair
<b>Torreyia</b>						
California, <i>Torreyia californica</i> , ★ 1993	251	96	68	364	Swanton, Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
Florida, <i>Torreyia taxifolia</i> , 1972	124	53	40	187	Norlina, N.C.	Robert Simons
<b>Toyon</b>						
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> , 1992*	54	28	39	92	Orange, Calif.	Art Cowley
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> , ★ 1993*	58	32	28	97	Santa Barbara Co., Calif.	Frank T. Callahan
<b>Tree-cactus</b>						
Deering,						
<i>Cereus robinii</i> var. <i>deeringii</i> , ★ 1994	11	23	2	35	Monroe Co., Fla.	Michael K. Hennessey
Key, <i>Cereus robinii</i> var. <i>robinii</i> , ★ 1999*	11	23	1	34	Nat'l Key Deer Refuge, Monroe Co., Fla.	Michael K. Hennessey
Key, <i>Cereus robinii</i> var. <i>robinii</i> , ★ 1999*	12	17	2	30	Nat'l Key Deer Refuge, Monroe Co., Fla.	Vincent P. Condon
<b>Trema</b>						
Florida, <i>Trema micrantha</i> , ★ 1995	18	39	30	65	Collier Co., Fla.	Chris Anderson & Lisa Moore
<b>Trifoliolate-orange</b>						
<i>Poncirus trifoliata</i> , ★ 1995Δ	43	18	20	66	Roanoke, Va.	William S. Hubard
<b>Tupelo</b>						
Black, <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> var. <i>sylvatica</i> , 2001	232	110	81	362	Wood Co., Texas	William Godwin
Ogeechee, <i>Nyssa ogeche</i> , ★ 1981*	166	93	41	269	Apalachicola NF, Fla.	Robert W. Simons & Dale Allen
Ogeechee, <i>Nyssa ogeche</i> , ★ 1993*	174	81	48	267	Apalachicola NF, Fla.	R. Simons, D. Ward, D. Allen, G. Hegg
Swamp,						
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> var. <i>biflora</i> , ★ 1988	238	102	57	354	Dismal Swamp NWR, Suffolk Co., Va.	Byron Carmean & Gary Williamson
Water, <i>Nyssa aquatica</i> , 2005*	382	85	62	483	Southampton Co., Va.	Byron Carmean & Gary Williamson
Water, <i>Nyssa aquatica</i> , 2005*	386	82	43	479	Southampton Co., Va.	Byron Carmean & Gary Williamson
<b>Vauquelinia</b>						
Torrey, <i>Vauquelinia californica</i> , 1993	78	47	40	135	Organ Pipe Cactus NM, Ariz.	Robert Zahner
<b>Velvetseed</b>						
Elliptic-leaf, <i>Guettarda elliptica</i> , ★ 1993	36	23	24	65	Simpson Park, Miami, Fla.	William G. Miller & John Valenta
Roughleaf, <i>Guettarda scabra</i> , 1998	11	17	11	31	Key Largo Hammock Botanical SP, Fla.	Joseph Nemec



SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUM- FERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
<b>Viburnum</b>						
Possumhaw, <i>Viburnum nudum</i> , 2003	17	33	20	55	Watkinsville, Oconee Co., Ga.	Larry Morris & Scott Bryant
Walter, <i>Viburnum obovatum</i> , 2000	22	32	31	62	Suwannee River Water Mgmt. District, Fla.	Robert & Erika Simons
<b>Walnut</b>						
Arizona, <i>Juglans major</i> , 1999	215	73	88	310	Aravaipa Canyon Preserve, Ariz.	Ken Morrow & Mike Hallen
Black, <i>Juglans nigra</i> , ★ 1991	278	130	140	443	Sauvie Island, Ore.	Dan Tillman
Little, <i>Juglans microcarpa</i> , ★ 1986	160	53	65	229	Picacho, Lincoln Co., N. Mex.	Tommy Roybal
Northern California, <i>Juglans hindsii</i> , 1986	304	76	107	407	Napa, Calif.	John Britton Tree Service
Southern California, <i>Juglans californica</i> , 1973	259	112	106	398	Chico, Calif.	Gordon R. Foster
<b>Washingtonia</b>						
California (fanpalm), <i>Washingtonia filifera</i> , ★ 1991*	120	83	21	208	Sacramento State Capitol Grounds, Calif.	R. Van Pelt & A.L. Jacobson
California (fanpalm), <i>Washingtonia filifera</i> , 1991*	121	86	21	212	Sacramento State Capitol Grounds, Calif.	R. Van Pelt & A.L. Jacobson
California (fanpalm), <i>Washingtonia filifera</i> , 1997*	142	66	19	213	Sacramento State Capitol Grounds, Calif.	Art Cowley
<b>Waterlocust</b>						
<i>Gleditsia aquatica</i> , 1993*	121	74	63	211	Wyndmoor, Pa.	Maurice E. Hobaugh
<i>Gleditsia aquatica</i> , 2000*	103	93	45	207	Suwannee River Water Mgmt. District, Fla.	C. Houder, R. Heek, R. Simons
<b>White-cedar</b>						
Atlantic, <i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i> , ★ 1961	186	88	42	285	Brewton, Ala.	James M. McGouglin Sr.
Northern, <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> , ★ 1953	216	113	42	340	Leelanau Co., Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
<b>Wild-dilly</b>						
<i>Manilkara bahamensis</i> , 1998	43	33	10	79	Key West, Fla.	Key West Botanical Garden Society

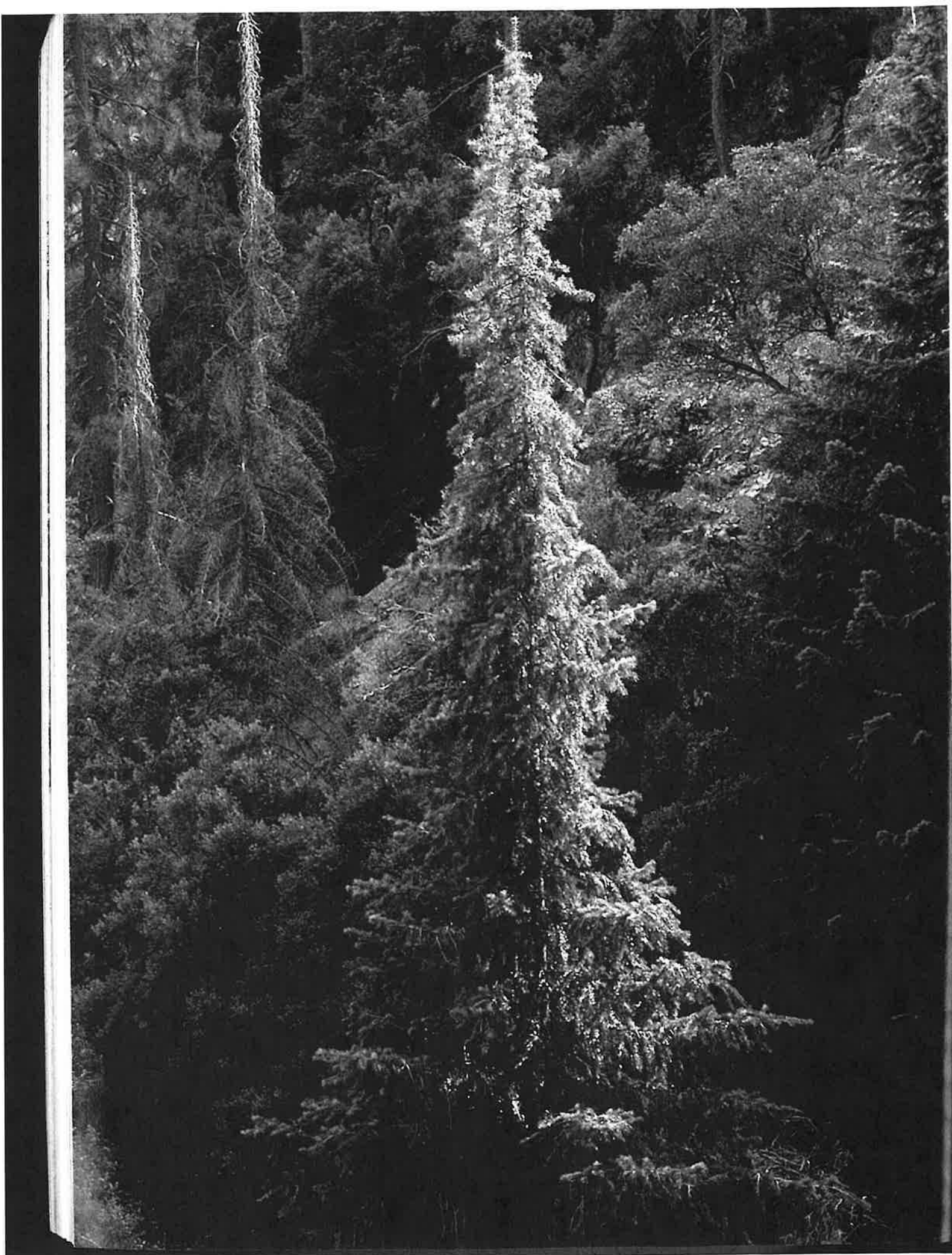
## SIERRA LODGEPOLE PINE }

**C**alifornia's towering national co-champion Sierra lodgepole pine stands tall in San Bernardino National Forest. It has a 245-inch circumference and stands 116 feet tall with a 50-foot crown spread for a total of 374 points. It has reigned as national champ since its nomination in 1963. Its co-champ, at 373 points, is in Stanislaus National Forest. You can find many national champs among the sprawling trees in the country's national forests. In California alone, there are 16 champs in national forests, four in national parks, and nine in state parks.



SPECIES/MEASUREMENT	CIRCUMFERENCE	HEIGHT	SPREAD	TOTAL POINTS	LOCATION	NOMINATOR
<b>Willow</b>						
Arroyo, <i>Salix lasiolepis</i> , 2003	89	41	49	142	San Juan Capistrano, Calif.	Art Cowley
Autumn, <i>Salix serissima</i> , ★ 1976	35	48	44	94	Oakland Co., Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Bebb, <i>Salix bebbiana</i> , ★ 1983	101	23	27	131	Sawtooth NF, Idaho	Bill Little & Howard Hudak
Black, <i>Salix nigra</i> , ★ 1973	400	76	92	499	Grand Traverse Co., Mich.	Elwood B. Ehre & John Spencer
Bonpland, <i>Salix bonplandiana</i> , 1999	169	63	74	251	Gila Box Riparian NCA, Ariz.	Ken Morrow & Mike Hallen
Coastal plain, <i>Salix caroliniana</i> , ★ 2005	56	30	9	88	Virginia Beach, Va.	Richard Salzer
Crack, <i>Salix fragilis</i> , ★ 1985*Δ	310	116	131	459	Beverly Hills, Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Crack, <i>Salix fragilis</i> , ★ 1964*Δ	305	122	124	458	Clinton Rd., north of Utica, Mich.	H.J. Nett & Paul W. Thompson
Feltleaf, <i>Salix alaxensis</i> , 2001	41	36	24	83	Fort Wainwright, Alaska	Mark R. Corbet
Florida, <i>Salix floridana</i> , ★ 1993	11	20	23	37	Ocala NF, Fla.	Jeff Overby & Ilke Toklu
Goodding, <i>Salix gooddingii</i> , ★ 1993	354	45	89	421	Walsh Ranch, Luna Co., N. Mex.	Ralph Fisher Jr.
Hinds, <i>Salix hindsiana</i> , ★ 1986	58	50	32	116	Jackson Co., Ore.	Frank T. Callahan
Hooker, <i>Salix hookerana</i> , 2001	65	50	39	125	Tillamook Co., Ore.	Joe Travers
Mackenzie, <i>Salix mackenzieana</i> , 1999	17	30	27	54	Lake Sammamish SP, Wash.	R. Van Pelt, A. Jacobson, R. Brightman
Meadow, <i>Salix petiolaris</i> , ★ 1976	13	34	18	52	Traverse Lake, Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Pacific, <i>Salix lasiandra</i> , 1999*	157	70	65	243	Dry Creek Regional Park, Alameda Co., Calif.	Howard R. Cooley
Pacific, <i>Salix lasiandra</i> , 2001*	171	54	84	246	Kern Co., Calif.	Art Cowley
Peachleaf, <i>Salix amygdaloides</i> , 1989	396	80	77	495	Greenfield Park, West Allis, Wis.	Eugene Zanow
Purple-osier, <i>Salix purpurea</i> , ★ 1972Δ	15	37	49	64	Leelanua Co., Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Pussy, <i>Salix discolor</i> , ★ 1991*	74	25	48	111	Jamestown, R.I.	Patrick M. Dorcus
Sandbar, <i>Salix exigua</i> , ★ 1984	69	36	46	117	Criglersville, Va.	Richard Salzer
Scouler, <i>Salix scoulerana</i> , ★ 1995	144	64	47	220	Maury Island, Wash.	Robert Van Pelt & Ron Brightman
Shining, <i>Salix lucida</i> , ★ 1960	130	74	81	224	Traverse City, Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
Sitka, <i>Salix sitchensis</i> , 1999	32	35	37	76	Gene Coulon Park, Renton, Wash.	R. Van Pelt, A. Jacobson, R. Brightman
Tracy, <i>Salix tracyi</i> , ★ 1975	36	20	15	60	Central Point, Ore.	Frank T. Callahan
Weeping, <i>Salix babylonica</i> , ★ 1966*Δ	309	117	116	455	Detroit, Mich.	Mr. & Mrs. J. Kropp
Weeping, <i>Salix babylonica</i> , ★ 1991*Δ	344	86	93	453	Hartland, Livingston Co., Mich.	J. Pergament & Paul W. Thompson
White, <i>Salix alba</i> , ★ 1985*Δ	316	118	131	467	west of New Hudson, Oakland Co., Mich.	Paul W. Thompson
White, <i>Salix alba</i> , ★ 1991*Δ	301	133	142	470	New Hudson, Oakland Co., Mich.	R. Turner, S. Lyons, P. Thompson
Yellow, <i>Salix lutea</i> , ★ 1985	25	24	16	53	Lemhi Co., Idaho	S. J. Brunsfeld & F. D. Johnson
Yewleaf, <i>Salix taxifolia</i> , 1996*	74	35	30	117	Lochiel, Ariz.	Robert Zahner
<b>Winterberry</b>						
Common, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> , ★ 1994*	24	13	16	41	Virginia Beach, Va.	Richard & Richard Alan Salzer
Common, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> , ★ 1994*	21	13	16	38	Virginia Beach, Va.	Richard & Richard Alan Salzer
Mountain, <i>Ilex montana</i> , 2005	31	26	34	66	Helen, Ga.	Jimmy Mock & Gary Hooper
<b>Witch-hazel</b>						
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> , ★ 1984	52	35	30	95	Bedford, Va.	Richard Salzer
<b>Yaupon</b>						
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> , 2003*	31	32	29	70	Guido Gardens, Metter, Ga.	Justin Taylor
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> , 2003*	30	30	53	73	Autaugaville, Autauga Co., Ala.	John Pirtle
<b>Yellow-elder</b>						
<i>Tecoma stans</i> , 2003	20	23	19	48	Tonto NF, Ariz.	Ken Morrow
<b>Yellow-poplar</b>						
Tuliptree, <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> , ★ 1972	374	111	125	516	Bedford, Va.	Kenneth E. Crouch & Glenn Garrett
<b>Yellowwood</b>						
<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i> , 2005	192	78	67	287	Louisville, Ky.	Lisa Armstrong
<b>Yew</b>						
Florida, <i>Taxus floridana</i> , ★ 1986	25	20	26	52	Torreya SP, Fla.	Joey T. Brady & Jerome Bracewell
Pacific, <i>Taxus brevifolia</i> , ★ 1959*	180	54	30	242	Mineral, Wash.	B. Malcomb, L. Barnhouse, A. Storkman, R. Levitt
Pacific, <i>Taxus brevifolia</i> , ★ 2001*	160	70	40	240	Washington Co., Ore.	Oliver Matthews
<b>Yucca</b>						
Aloe, <i>Yucca aloifolia</i> , 2001	18	14	4	33	Hortense, Brantley Co., Ga.	Jimmy Mock
Beaked, <i>Yucca rostrata</i> , 1994	48	16	9	66	San Antonio Zoo, Texas	Steve Lowe
Cameros (Spanish-dagger), <i>Yucca camerosana</i> , ★ 1977	51	25	10	79	Sierra Blanca, Texas	Frank T. Callahan
Faxon, <i>Yucca faxoniana</i> , ★ 1991	91	18	9	111	Puett Ranch, Hudspeth Co., Texas	Nelson Puett
Mojave, <i>Yucca schidigera</i> , ★ 1987	66	24	7	92	Needles Resource Area, Calif.	R. Alexander, G. Meckfessel, K. Nosstrom, L. Persson
Moundlilly, <i>Yucca gloriosa</i> , 1998	118	32	38	160	Library Grounds, Huntington Beach, Calif.	Art Cowley
Schott, <i>Yucca schottii</i> , 2005	44	20	12	67	Patagonia, Ariz.	Ken Morrow
Soaptree, <i>Yucca elata</i> , ★ 1991/2001	60	26	12	89	Deming, N.Mex.	Frank T. Callahan
Torrey, <i>Yucca torreyi</i> , ★ 1987	86	23	6	111	Sacramento Mountains, Lincoln NF, N. Mex.	John McNelly
Trecul, <i>Yucca treculeana</i> , ★ 1991	24	30	9	56	Lower Rio Grande NWR, Cameron Co., Texas	William MacWhorter





# EMPTY THRONES

Somewhere out  
there royalty is just  
waiting to be  
recognized. Long  
live the king—  
wherever it is.  
Story and photos  
by Whit Bronaugh

They are out there. Some may live their entire lives without ever being seen by human eyes. Others may live among us, seen by thousands yet unrecognized, like royalty dressed as paupers. They are the biggest trees of their kind but they cannot lay claim to their rightful throne until someone discovers, measures, and nominates them.

Most of these true kings and queens of the forest are represented by lesser nobility, or even the occasional servant of the court who spends a few surreptitious and gleeful moments on the throne. The National Register of Big Trees lists the biggest known trees and can rarely claim absolute knowledge of the absolute ruler of a given species. We honor these surrogates, just as we honor Olympian gold medalists in spite of the probability that there are faster and stronger people somewhere in the world whose potential remains hidden. But the current Register lists 94 species for which the throne is completely empty. No king. No queen. Not even a naughty page.

Of course, before 1940, when AMERICAN FORESTS initiated the Big Tree Program, all thrones were empty. For the first several decades it was essentially left to nominators to choose which trees needed a champion. Most were native or naturalized species but quite a few ornamentals and hybrids were crowned. In 1980, after adopting Elbert Little Jr.'s *Checklist of United States Trees* as the authority for which species to include, AMERICAN FORESTS began to print a list of Species Without Champs in each installment of the Register. Over the next 20 years, nominators reduced the number of empty thrones by an average of eight per year, from 257 in 1980, to 93 in 2000. During that period, each successive Register saw a reduction in crownless species with highs of 28 found in 1984, 36 in 1994, and 44 in 2000.

But in 2002, for the first time in Register history, we gained empty thrones and shot up to 99. The 2004 Register established an all-time low of 85, but this year we're back up to 94. Actually, 12 empty thrones in 2004 were filled in 2006, but another 24 species were dethroned and left without a successor.

Upon closer examination, 94 empty thrones isn't that bad. Twenty-four of these were occupied in 2004 but those champs have since either died (17), couldn't be found (2), had been misidentified (2), or were too small to be a tree (3). Crucially, none had potential successors waiting in the files of AMERICAN FORESTS for their chance at glory. Until the current Register came out (the one you are holding), big tree hunters didn't know to look for a replacement. So a small number of temporarily empty thrones are to be expected.

With two years between published Registers, you might also expect the more unfamiliar or rare species to stay on the empty thrones list for a few rounds before a tree is nominated. Of the 94 empty thrones, 37 were once occupied. Most had a crowned tree within the last decade but a royal Pensacola hawthorn was last recognized in 1982. The last Fallax pinyon pines king finished its reign in 1978; the guava's throne has been empty since 1971.

Another nine empty thrones were formerly filled but not with true monarchs. The species they represented—like American snowbell, Georgia holly, and Florida crossopetalum—infrequently attain the stature of trees. In the 1990s the philosophy at AMERICAN FORESTS was that any specimen, no matter how small, could be the champion if was the biggest one reported at that time. Later, after a number of twiggy things were crowned, it was decided that a specimen should meet accepted standards for being a tree—at least 9.5 inches in circumference and 13 feet tall. After all, this is not the National Register of Big Trees and Shrubs.



Trees in  
search of a  
titleholder:  
bristlecone  
fir (left) and  
Shumard  
oak (above).

In Florida, look for  
graytwig (right).

Below, Key Largo's



This means that, out of 94 currently empty thrones, 57 species have never had a true champion, and 48 have never even had a nominee.

Out of a possible 826 species and varieties in the Register, that's not too bad. But the goal has always been to have a full roster of big trees so here is some information to help you find a lost champion, and get yourself in the record books.

Let's start with the easy ones. These are the thrones of recently dead or disqualified trees that had no backup wannabes. Sometimes quite a few thrones are vacated because of a concentrated effort by state big tree coordinators to relocate their state's champs. They often find that some champs have died, some have lost points due to damage, or some have been mismeasured or misidentified.

Empty thrones in 2006 include only a few familiar species like sweet crabapple, turkey oak, northern pin oak, and sweetgum. You are welcome to nominate a tree to replace them, but keep in mind the former champs scored 116, 218, 335, and 431 points, respectively. Other recently vacated thrones, with the previous champ's point totals: cajeput-tree (300), castorbean (49), Allegheny chinkapin (155), Ozark chinkapin (124), littleleaf cyrilla (61), September elm (271), Lindheimer hackberry (127), scrub hickory (121), screwbean mesquite (84), and water-elm (313). Your tree doesn't have to beat those numbers but, unless it's the only nominee, it must be close to have a chance at royal fame.

The next category of empty thrones are species that may or may not be common; the trick is to find

a specimen that is actually a tree. According to my field guides, these species rarely grow taller than 15 or 20 feet, but that's tall enough to be a champion. It is tempting, and allowed, to fill a throne with the first tree-sized specimen you happen upon. But as the Chinese philosopher Mencius said, "To give the throne to another man would be easy; to find a man who shall benefit the kingdom is difficult."

Tree species that are usually shrubs are scattered across the country. Hunt for tree-sized laurel sumac, lemonade sumac, or greenbark ceanothus in the chaparral of coastal southern California. The littleleaf sumac grows on dry slopes and plains from southeastern Arizona to central Texas. In south Texas, look for Texas forestiera. Any Geyer willow in western mountains, or any silky willow in the East, is a potential champ if more than 15 feet tall. Actually, most of the nine willows without champions are shrubs more often than trees; you'd be lucky to find specimens of any taller than 30 feet. Some Florida species reach just above tree size, some with telltale names like bitterbush and maidenbrush.

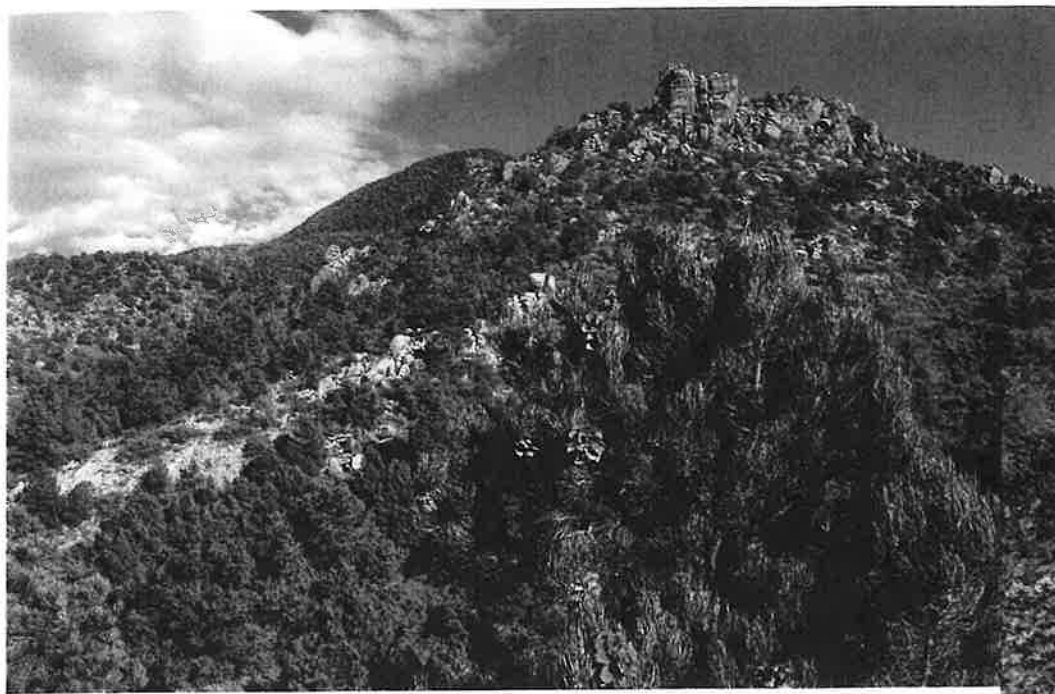
Many champion trees are discovered casually by people who happen to know a big whatever-it-is when they see it. But others, like quite a few with empty thrones, require a special and targeted effort to find because their species is very rare, isolated, or found only in a small part of the country. The range of the seaside alder includes Oklahoma, Maryland, Delaware, and Georgia, but it occupies only a few small areas in those states and is found nowhere in between. The last champion Kenai birch grew 47 feet tall, but to fill its vacated throne you'll have to search in Alaska. The rare and critically imperiled Kelsey locust, a small relative of black locust with narrow leaves and pink flowers, grows in the wild only in the western mountains of North Carolina.

California is touted as one of the floristic hotspots of the world with more than 1,400 plant species, including at least 25 trees, found nowhere else in the world. The distinctive bristlecone fir, easily recognized by its very narrow spirelike crown, is restricted to the Santa Lucia Mountains south of Monterey. Try looking in the Cone Peak area, but keep in mind the former champ was more than 4 feet thick and 182 feet tall. To find the first-ever champion feltleaf ceanothus, take a boat out to Santa Cruz or Santa Catalina Island. Go in February when they stand out in their coat of pale blue flowers. Other Channel Island endemic species will be added to the Register soon (see page 10). North of the border, extreme southern California is also the only place to find the first national champion desert apricot and Mexican fremontia. However, a nomination for the latter species is best left to botanists and conservationists, since the U.S. population has declined to fewer than 100 individuals.

subtropical West

indies hardwood

hammock.



Among the species without a champion in the



Florida also has a large number of species found nowhere else in the U.S. In fact, the Sunshine State is the only place to look for about one-third of the species without a champion. Half of those are found only in the southern counties of Collier, Dade, and Monroe. The trick, and joy, is to learn how to identify subtropical trees. Would you know a cocoplum, graytwig, guiana-plum, seven-year-apple, long-stalk stopper, or balsam torchwood if you saw one?

This leads us to our last category of empty throne species, the ones which are hard to identify. In a few cases, the problem lies in a lack of easily available information. The Fallax pinyon pine, listed in the Register as *Pinus edulis* var. *fallax*, a variety of two-leaf pinyon pine, has not had a champion since a 98-point tree wore the crown in 1978. It's not even mentioned in my field guides. But with some Internet sleuthing I found out that it is now treated as a variety of singleleaf pinyon pine (*Pinus monophylla*), and that it is primarily found in Arizona, although its range spills over a bit into each of the neighboring states. If you stay away from extreme western and northwestern Arizona, any big singleleaf pinyon pine you find in that state should be eligible to wear the Fallax pinyon pine crown.

Nine of the empty thrones are willows: balsam, basket, dusky, geyer, littletree, northwest, river, satiny, and silky. Only the balsam (28 points), dusky (87), and silky (97) have had former champions. Willows are usually found along streams and lakes, although they form upland thickets in the mountains and subarctic regions. They are readily identified as a group but the species sometimes fall into that field guide category of "notori-

ously difficult to distinguish." To do better than "*Salix* sp." you may need a good hand lens—or an expert botanist.

If willow identification gives you a headache, you can either chew the bark (the original source of aspirin) or just be grateful you are not trying to identify a hawthorn. In North America, these are the most notorious of all trees. If field guides were like old maps, hawthorns would be placed near the edge with the warning: *Here there be monsters!*

You know you're in trouble when the number of species recognized by different authorities varies from 35 to over 1000! Even George Petrides, author of the *Peterson Field Guides* to eastern and western trees, throws up his hands and includes only four species. The implication is if your tree isn't one of those four, surrender at '*Crataegus* sp.' Unless you're a skilled botanist, you'll probably have to find one to identify and nominate a barberry, beautiful, Pensacola, Brainerd, Gregg, Harbison, Reverchon, threeflower, or (yikes!) *willow* hawthorn. For all but the first three, you'd be the first to fill their throne.

Fortunately, most of the empty thrones are *not* hawthorns. And with a concentrated effort, we can reduce the Species Without Champs list to just the recent dethronees that lack an immediate successor.

In J. R. R. Tolkien's Middle Earth, the people of Gondor waited a thousand years for the return of the king. The people of AMERICAN FORESTS await the return of 91 kings. But with your help, it won't be long until "the crownless again shall be king." AF

Whit Bronaugh writes from Eugene, Oregon.

2006 Register:  
Arizona singleleaf  
pinyon pine  
(above, left) and  
feltleaf ceanothus  
(above).



# HELP US FIND CHAMPS FOR THESE }

There are 94 trees included  
on AMERICAN FORESTS'

National Register of Big Trees that  
do not currently have a champion  
rooted to the throne. Grab your tree  
ID book, this list, and maybe your  
favorite botanist and start hunting!  
Species with a ♣ after their names  
have never had a champion. Look in  
the parentheses for a list of states in  
which the species can be found. A Δ  
indicates a naturalized species.

Species	Common Name	Scientific Name
ALDER	Seaside	<i>Alnus maritima</i> (OK, MD, DE, GA)
ANISE-TREE	Yellow	<i>Illicium parviflorum</i> ♣ (FL)
APPLE	Sweet Crab	<i>Malus coronaria</i> (NY, IN, MO, KS, TN, AL, GA, SC, NC)
APRICOT	Desert	<i>Prunus fremontii</i> ♣ (CA)
ARAUCARIA	Cunningham	<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> (HI)
BAYBERRY	Evergreen	<i>Myrica heterophylla</i> ♣ (NJ, PA, DE)
BIRCH	Kenai	<i>Betula papyrifera</i> var. <i>kenaica</i> (AK)
BITTERBUSH		<i>Picramnia pentandra</i> ♣ (FL)
BURNINGBUSH	Western	<i>Euonymus occidentalis</i> ♣ (WA, OR)
CAJUPUT-TREE		<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> Δ (FL)
CAMPHOR-TREE		<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> Δ (FL)
CAPER	Limber	<i>Capparis flexuosa</i> ♣ (FL)
CASTORBEAN		<i>Ricinus communis</i> (FL)
CEANOTHUS	Feltleaf	<i>Ceanothus arboreus</i> ♣ (CA)
CEANOTHUS	Bristlecone	<i>Ceanothus spinosus</i> ♣ (CA)
CHINKAPIN	Allegheny	<i>Castanea pumila</i> (NJ, PA)
CHINKAPIN	Ozark	<i>Castanea ozarkensis</i> (MO, AR, OK)
COCOPLUM		<i>Chrysobalanus icaco</i> ♣ (FL)
COLUBRINA	Coffee	<i>Colubrina arborescens</i> ♣ (FL)
COLUBRINA	Cuba	<i>Colubrina cubensis</i> ♣ (FL)
CROSSOPETALUM	Florida	<i>Crossopetalum rhacoma</i> ♣ (FL)
CYRILLA	Littleleaf	<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i> var. <i>parvifolia</i> (GA, FL)
DOWNY-MYRTLE		<i>Rhodomyrtus tomentosa</i> Δ ♣ (FL)
ELDER	Velvet	<i>Sambucus velutina</i> (CA, NV, AZ)
ELM	September	<i>Ulmus serotina</i> (KY, IL, TN, AL, GA, AR, OK)
FLORIDA-PRIVET		<i>Forestiera segregata</i> (FL)
FIDDLEWOOD	Berlandier	<i>Citharexylum berlandieri</i> ♣ (TX)
FIR	Bristlecone	<i>Abies bracteata</i> (CO, ID, OR, CA)
FORESTIERA	Texas	<i>Forestiera angustifolia</i> ♣ (TX)
FREMONTIA	Mexican	<i>Fremontodendron mexicanum</i> ♣ (CA)
GRAYTWIG		<i>Schoepfia chrysophylloides</i> (FL)
GUAVA		<i>Psidium guajava</i> Δ (FL, CA)
GUIANA-PLUM		<i>Drypetes lateriflora</i> (FL)
HACKBERRY	Lindheimer	<i>Celtis lindheimeri</i> (TX)
HAWTHORN	Barberry	<i>Crataegus berberifolia</i> ♣ (IL, KS, TX, MS, KY, MO, LA, AR)
HAWTHORN	Beautiful	<i>Crataegus pulcherrima</i> (FL)
HAWTHORN	Brainerd	<i>Crataegus brainerdii</i> ♣ (MI, OH, PA)
HAWTHORN	Gregg	<i>Crataegus greggiana</i> ♣ (TX)
HAWTHORN	Harbison	<i>Crataegus harbisonii</i> ♣ (TN, AL, MS)
HAWTHORN	Pensicola	<i>Crataegus lacrimata</i> (FL)
HAWTHORN	Reverchon	<i>Crataegus reverchonii</i> ♣ (MO, KS)
HAWTHORN	Threeflower	<i>Crataegus triflora</i> ♣ (GA, AL, MS)
HAWTHORN	Willow	<i>Crataegus saligna</i> ♣ (CO)
HICKORY	Scrub	<i>Carya floridana</i> (FL)
HOLLY	Dune	<i>Ilex opaca</i> var. <i>arenicola</i> ♣ (FL)
HOLLY	Georgia	<i>Ilex longipes</i> ♣ (SC, GA, LA)
HOLLY	Sarvis	<i>Ilex amelanchier</i> ♣ (NC, SC, GA, FL, LA)
HOLLY	Tawnberry	<i>Ilex krugiana</i> (FL)
LICARIA	Florida	<i>Licaria triandra</i> ♣ (FL)
LOCUST	Kelsey	<i>Robinia kelseyi</i> ♣ (NC, TN, KY)
MAIDENBRUSH		<i>Savia bahamensis</i> ♣ (FL)
MAIDENBRUSH	Marlberry	<i>Ardisia escallonioides</i> ♣ (FL)
MESQUITE	Screwbean	<i>Prosopis pubescens</i> (TX, NM, AZ, UT, NV, CA)
NECTANDRA	Florida	<i>Nectandra coriacea</i> ♣ (FL)
OAK	McDonald	<i>Quercus macdonaldii</i> ♣ (CA)
OAK	Northern pin	<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i> (MI, WI, MN)
OAK	Turkey	<i>Quercus laevis</i> (VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA)
PAWPAW	Bigflower	<i>Asimina obovata</i> ♣ (NC, SC, GA, FL)
PEPPERTREE	Brazil	<i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i> Δ (TX, CA)
PINE	Fallax pinyon	<i>Pinus edulis</i> var. <i>fallax</i> (CO, UT)
PLUM	Canada	<i>Prunus nigra</i> (MI, MN, IA, IL, IN, OH, WV, CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, ME)
PRICKLY-ASH	Biscayne	<i>Zanthoxylum coriaceum</i> ♣ (FL)
PRICKLY-PEAR	Brazil	<i>Opuntia brasiliensis</i> Δ ♣ (FL)
PRIVET	Chinese	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i> Δ (NC, LA)
SAPIUM	Jumping-bean	<i>Sapium biloculare</i> ♣ (AZ, CA)
SEVEN-YEAR-APPLE		<i>Genipa clusiifolia</i> (FL)
SNOWBELL	American	<i>Styrax americanus</i> ♣ (VA, NC, SC, GA)
SNOWBELL	Bigleaf	<i>Styrax grandifolius</i> ♣ (VA, FL, TX, KY)
SNOWBELL	Sycamore-leaf	<i>Styrax platanifolius</i> ♣ (TX)
STOPPER	Long-stalk	<i>Psidium longipes</i> ♣ (FL)
STOPPER	Twinberry	<i>Myrcianthes fragrans</i> var. <i>fragrans</i> ♣ (FL)
SUGAR-APPLE		<i>Annona squamosa</i> Δ ♣ (FL)
SUMAC	Kearney	<i>Rhus kearneyi</i> ♣ (CA)
SUMAC	Laurel	<i>Rhus laurina</i> ♣ (CA)
SUMAC	Lemonade	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i> ♣ (CA)
SUMAC	Littleleaf	<i>Rhus microphylla</i> ♣ (TX, OK, NM, AZ)
SWEETGUM		<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> Δ (NJ, MD, DE, PA, VA, OH, IL, AK, TX, FL, WV)
TAMARISK	Small-flower	<i>Tamarix parviflora</i> Δ (CA)
TORCHWOOD	Balsam	<i>Amyris balsamifera</i> ♣ (FL)
TREE TOBACCO		<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> (FL, TX, NM, AZ, CA)
TREMA	West Indies	<i>Trema lamarckiana</i> ♣ (FL)
VAUQUELINIA	Fewflower	<i>Vauquelinia pauciflora</i> ♣ (AZ)
WATER-ELM		<i>Planera aquatica</i> (NC, SC, FL, GA, AL, MS, LA, TX, OK, MO, IL, KY, TN)
WHITE-MANGROVE		<i>Laguncularia racemosa</i> (FL)
WILLOW	Balsam	<i>Salix pyrifolia</i> (MN, WI, MI, NY, ME)
WILLOW	Basket	<i>Salix viminalis</i> ♣ (MS, ME, CT, RI, VT)
WILLOW	Dusky	<i>Salix melanopsis</i> (WA, OR, UT, CA, WY)
WILLOW	Geyer	<i>Salix geyerana</i> ♣ (MT, AZ, CO, WY)
WILLOW	Littletree	<i>Salix arbusculoides</i> ♣ (AK)
WILLOW	Northwest	<i>Salix sessilifolia</i> ♣ (WA, OR)
WILLOW	River	<i>Salix fluviatilis</i> ♣ (ME, MN, SD, KS, VA)
WILLOW	Satiny	<i>Salix pellita</i> ♣ (MN, WI, MI, NY, ME, VT, NH)
WILLOW	Silky	<i>Salix sericea</i> (AK, WA, OR, CA, ID, MT)
WINTERBERRY	Smooth	<i>Ilex laevigata</i> ♣ (NY, ME, SC)

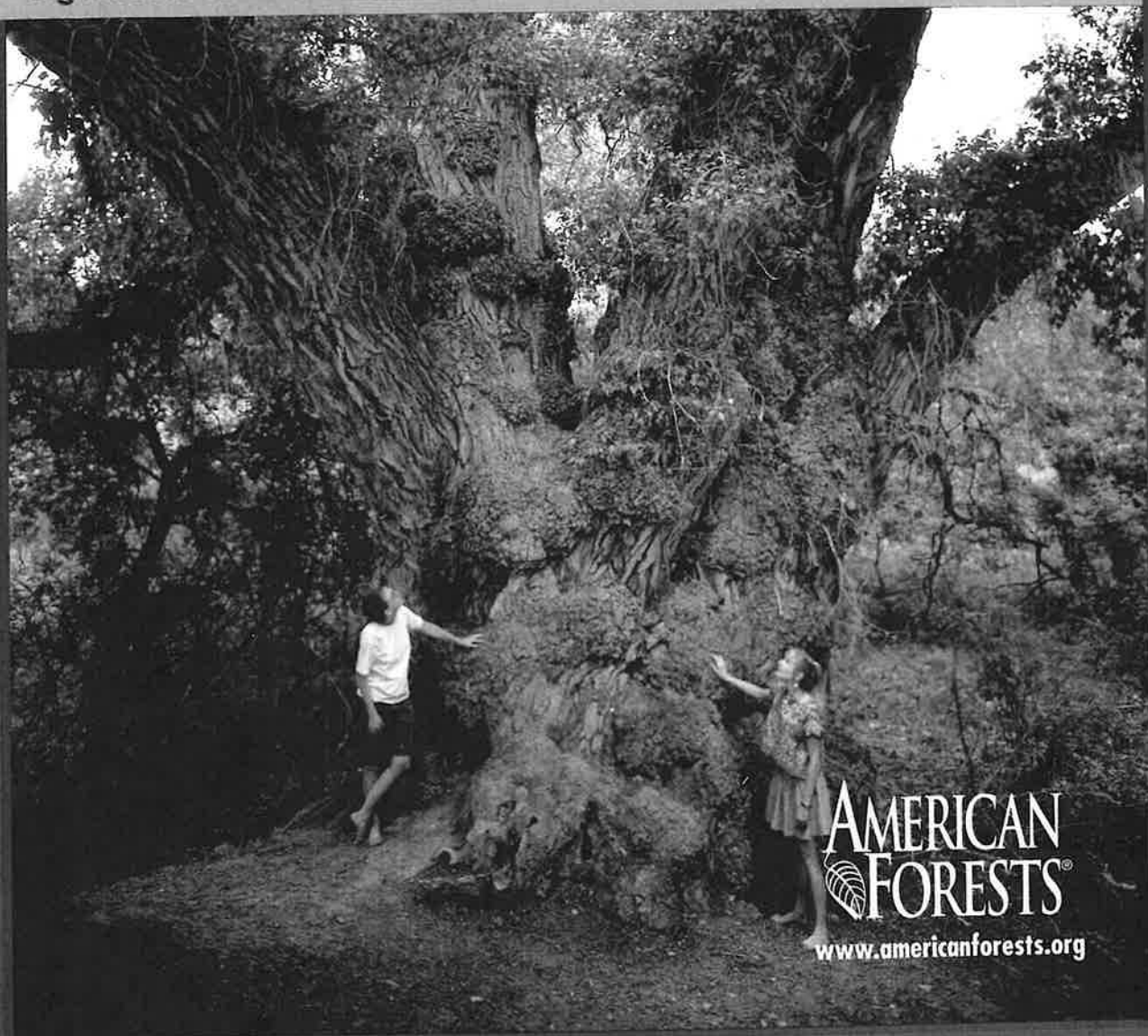
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**The view into  
Cream Lake Basin™  
and the author's  
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**to the national  
champion  
subalpine fir.**



# A N OLYMPIC U N D E R T A K I N G

In the holy grail of arborism, in search of a national champ.  
Story and photos by Tyler Williams

**M**y father often admonished, "Son, nothing worthwhile comes easily." Lottery winners might take exception to this dictum, but in the realm of big tree hunting, Dad's advice rings true. As I stood beneath the world's biggest subalpine fir, deep in Washington's Olympic Mountains, it was clear that my reward was more than just another big tree.

The place held the aura of a sacred archaeological site, a sort of holy grail of arborism. I felt the presence not only of the stately trees around me, but also that of the people who had come to this remote locale before. We share a brotherhood of spirit because this place is not reached on a mere whim. It is a destination.

The champion subalpine fir sits in the heart of the Olympic Peninsula, near a postcard-perfect mountain pond called Cream Lake. The surrounding wilderness is an alpine dreamscape: crevassed glaciers, glistening snowfields, craggy peaks, steep mountainsides thick with timber, blue lakes, wildflower meadows, tumbling creeks, raging rivers—most painted in various shades of surreal green. This is the landscape I had struggled through over the course of two and a half days.

My route started in the Elwa River Valley along the northern edge of Olympic National Park. From here, a 13-mile, 4,000-vertical-foot slog up a beaten path brought me to an alpine bowl where a black bear spooked away at my scent.

On day two, the broad trail degenerated into a narrow footpath, and the hiking got serious. Traversing a 50-degree slope and near-vertical fins of rock, the vague trail offered virtually the only route of travel in the steep plant-covered world. Just as I began to revel in its relative ease, it stopped. A slide path of loose crumbling rock obliterated any sign of a trail.

I continued across the gully hoping the route might reappear and found myself clawing through a tangle of shrubby yellow cedar. Clearly, this was not the way. I



turned and carefully edged my way back. The only other direction the route could have led was down. Ironically, this way was blocked by a small dead subalpine fir, its fallen prickly crown pointing at me like a bayonet. Casting off any thought that the tree was a sign I should turn back, I threw it out of the way and continued down. Within feet, I was no longer on any discernible route.

The suddenly disappearing trail rang eerily familiar, recalling the time I lost a trail in Idaho's Bitterroot Mountains. Darkness was falling along

with the first flakes of an approaching storm. Tentless, I crawled under the tightly bunched boughs of a grand old subalpine fir in an open meadow. Its dark cave-like womb sheltered me from two inches of wet snow that fell overnight. The next morning I found the trail.

This time, despite my searching I could not find any route whatsoever. A tree-assisted descent ensued as I lowered myself ape-like from branch to branch down the steep slope. Progress slowed. Two hours of scary downclimbs and frustrating bushwhacks brought me to a pass in the wild mountains, where the game-traveled trail magically reappeared. By this point in the day I was pretty exhausted. It was 11 a.m.

This type of backcountry beat-down is par for reaching the champion subalpine fir. Renowned big tree hunter Robert Van Pelt, Washington state coordinator for the National Register of Big Trees, visited the Cream Lake tree in 1992. Attempting an out and back dash from their basecamp seven miles distant, Van Pelt and his partner underestimated the rigorous route and were forced to spend the night out, lacking so much as a sleeping bag. The next morning brought blinding fog.

"We could only see about 30 feet," Van Pelt recalls. The duo climbed nearby Mt. Ferry to ascertain their position in the soup and from there regained the route and made it back to camp and cherished shelter.

Inclement weather is the norm in this region and

probably a big reason why Cream Lake grove such giants. Perched at the head of the Hoh River Valley, the Cream Lake Basin is a perfect bulls-eye for Pacific storms. Saturated air masses funnel up the Hoh before emptying their pregnant loads on the blockade of mountains at the head of the drainage. The valley below gets 135 inches of precipitation annually. Extrapolating to the higher Cream Lake Basin yields 170 inches or more a year, much of that snow.

Violent thunderstorms hit the area prior to the tree's initial reported discovery in 1963. Young Stephen Arno and his two companions had to endure a night of "horrendous roars of lightning," as Arno recalls. They steered clear of any big tree lightning rods that night, but the next morning, as they emerged from their rain-soaked canvas tent, they were immediately drawn to the champion tree.

"We were just kinda looking around, and this thing stood out," Arno recalls. The trio went over to measure the tree's circumference and discovered they weren't the first to reach the great tree.

At the base of the massive trunk hung a hinged wooden door that concealed an old fire scar opening. Above the door was a mysterious note intended for someone who was expected to pass this way. Arno and his party were stunned. Here they were, miles from the nearest trail, staring at a wilderness message board.

Arno copied the note and investigated its origin after the trip. His detective work revealed that Herb and Lois Crisler, who shot the footage for the Disney True-Life Adventure film *The Olympic Elk*, were behind both the note and the door. They had used the great tree as a cache for their cumbersome camera equipment between filming forays in the early 1950s.

Half a century after the Crislens used the Cream Lake tree for their filming exploits, the notched-out fire scar remains, and perplexing remnants of past visitors seem to be inextricably linked to the tree.

When I departed the Cream Lake grove in the summer of 2005, it was with the exaltation that I had discovered a new champion. Just minutes earlier, I had uncovered a broken, moss-covered sign for the record tree—at the base of another gargantuan subalpine fir, 300 yards upslope from the real record holder. It was only after wandering through the grove looking for other giants that I came across the fire-scarred true champ. Apparently someone had moved the sign in the past 23 years, because Van Pelt reports it was in front of the correct tree on his '92 visit. Whatever motivated someone to hide the sign remains a mystery.

The magnetism of the king *Abies lasiocarpa* should not surprise those familiar with this species. After all, subalpine firs are nurturing trees. Grizzly bears strip the bark to get at nutritious cambium buried in the inner tissues. Numerous small mammals and birds eat



the seeds, and humans have used the trees many ways throughout history.

Subalpine fir resin has long been chewed as a remedy for halitosis, and the upright purple female cones can be crushed into powder and mixed with fat to produce a digestive cure. Some native American tribes called the subalpine fir "medicine plant" for its multiple uses. They used the firm boughs as bedding and burned its soft wood during the cold winters synonymous with subalpine fir country.

The deep snows that accumulate in alpine fir habitat often form massive drifts on the trees' downwind sides. In response, subalpine firs grow a thick mat of branches beneath the drifted snow pillows. On some trees in exposed locales, the leeward thicket can extend 20 feet from the trunk of the tree. This dense cluster of vegetation provides canopy for various forest dwellers: birds, snakes, deer, bear, lost hikers.

A labyrinth of branches sweeps downward from the trunk, diving beneath the duff of the forest floor before struggling back upward in a manicured looking hedge of green shrubbery. These wild hedges have just enough randomness, however, to make them more beautiful and unique than any human's clipper work.


The cylindrical shape of *Abies lasiocarpa* does give the distinct impression that it has been trimmed. The perfect form is the archetype of what most might conjure when they hear the word conifer. A tightly packed cone of short stout branches taper to a distinct point at the top, like a rocket set to pierce the sky.

Not all subalpine firs get the opportunity to grow into 100-foot tall natural Christmas trees. A large percentage of the species takes root at the very limit of timberline, clinging to windswept ridges buried in snow for nine months of the year. These hardy specimens sprawl shrub-like, some only growing a few feet in height over their entire 130-year life span. Even in this stunted state, an alpine fir is easily identified by its short one- to two-inch upturned needles and its compact shape. The bark is usually smooth silver/gray, although on big old trees like the 130-foot tall Cream Lake champion, it can be brown and scaly.


Squishy cork-like bark is a dead giveaway for *Abies lasiocarpa arizonica*, a variety commonly known as corkbark fir that grows at high elevations in Arizona and New Mexico. From these southern locales, the subalpine fir's range extends northward across mountainous areas of the West all the way to Alaska. Like an old friend, subalpine fir is always there to signal one's arrival in the high country, a place—as those lucky enough to see the Cream Lake tree know—we rarely visit without effort. AF

*Tyler Williams is a guidebook author and photographer from the ponderosa pines of Flagstaff, Arizona.*





**The author, Tyler Williams, with the national champ subalpine fir.**



**Inset: a broken sign signifying the national champ, uncovered at the wrong tree.**



**EARTHKEEPERS**  
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DIFFERENCE  
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# Arid Advocate

Deserts, wildfires, shrubby species, amazing finds: such is the life of Arizona Big Tree Coordinator.

By Bob Zahner

**A**s a kid growing up in the Southern Appalachians I loved the forests and was interested in their conservation. This interest was expressed eventually as I became a professional forester and university professor of forest ecology.

On retirement from teaching in the eastern forests at the University of Michigan and at Clemson University, my wife Glenda and I discovered the wonders of dry climate trees in the deserts and mountains of southern Arizona. From our home near Tucson we hiked many wildland trails, learning all we could about plants and their habitats. This activity soon led me to the Arizona Register of Big Trees (ARBT), newly organized in 1991 by horticulturist Richard Harris.

Through my forest research I had become fully aware of AMERICAN FORESTS' Big Tree Program. When I first joined the ARBT group, the

National Register listed 16 champion trees for this state, most of them nominated by people just passing through Arizona. And most locations were in or near urban areas and along highways. There were also an amazing number of "species without champs" that occur in Arizona. It seemed to me that the potential for new champions was great.

In 1993 I volunteered to be our state coordinator. I knew we needed to get out of the urban areas, into the mountains, canyons, and deserts. But I had to adjust my sights to the small sizes of these dry climate "trees." Even the champions of most desert species don't grow very large, and many of these are endemic to just the Southwest. On the other hand, the streamside and mountain forests are different; there we have discovered champion sycamore, cottonwood, ash, cypress, pine, oak, maple, and juniper, all trees any state

**I knew  
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and deserts.**

*Retired Arizona Big  
Tree Coordinator Bob  
Zahner.*



COURTESY THE AUTHOR



**We have lost to  
wildfire an average  
of one [champion]**



**a year, which  
the ARBT must try  
to replace.**

*Two nominations during  
Zahner's tenure:  
Arizona walnut  
(above) and alligator  
juniper (right).*

would be proud to boast.

Within two years Glenda (a botanist) and I had added 10 new national champions to the Arizona tally. Our technique was simple. We already knew many field botanists, birders, federal and state forest and park rangers, and passed the word to them to be on the lookout for large specimens of any tree species. Then I consulted herbarium specimens, species range maps, and notes from trail guides. Suggestions soon began pouring in. We now have many big tree hunters from all over the state, and coordinating their discoveries has become a major job.

By 1996 we had 48 national champions, and published our first "Arizona Register of Big Trees," with full-color photographs. In the year 2000 we published our second big tree



register, then with 72 national champions. In 2002 my health began to fail for fieldwork, and I knew I'd soon have to retire from my job as the ARBT coordinator. I wanted to publish one more state register, which we did in 2005 with 88 national champions (2006 total: 82 national champs).

Of all of my nominations, the most exciting was the national champion Torrey vauquelinia. Like so many of our southwestern tree species, the vauquelinia is normally a large shrub, with a few stems reaching minimum tree size. Glenda and I had heard from a park ranger that there were some nice vauquelinia trees far up a remote canyon in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, down near the Mexican border. After backpacking several miles up the canyon, we began to pass a few tree-sized vauquelinias, and then suddenly, there it was, its huge crown emerging from giant boulders, towering 47 feet over all surrounding

vegetation. We couldn't believe it, that this desert species could grow into a tall single bole tree over 2 feet in diameter!

A big tree coordinator's job is a roller coaster of expectations and disappointments. Arizona is a state with frequent severe wildfires, which keeps us on the alert monitoring our many champions out there. We have lost to wildfire an average of one a year, which the ARBT must try to replace. On the other hand, it is a thrill to find that a champion tree has in fact survived a holocaust. In the desert, lightning strikes are tree killers, and our giant saguaro cacti are the tallest things out there. Three times over the past 10 years it has been devastating to find our champion saguaro splattered on the ground.

"This has got to be the largest cottonwood tree in the world," I shouted. We had just rediscovered the gigantic Fremont cottonwood that used to be the national champion decades ago, but had been bested by a somewhat larger tree in New Mexico. We remeasured it, and sure enough it had grown

significantly in the years since it had been dethroned. We re-instated it not only to national champion, but at 42 feet in girth and 623 points it turned out to be largest specimen of any cottonwood species in the U.S., and possibly in the world.

I (often with Glenda) have nominated probably 20 or more trees that have become national champions, but many of them have subsequently been

dethroned. There were still 12 listed on the 2004 National Register (10 for 2006). The amazing record of the ARBT is due in large part to the zealous fieldwork of three very motivated men and their very understanding wives: Ken and Kathy Morrow of Patagonia (Morrow has taken over as Arizona's state coordinator), Mike and Sylvia Hallen of Chandler, and David and Judy Thornburg of Cottonwood. Each of these couples has more than a dozen champions listed on the current National Register. And they are still out there scouring the state to ensure that Arizona (currently #3 in number of national champs) stays among the champions of champion trees. **AF**

*AMERICAN FORESTS salutes Bob Zahner, who recently retired as our Arizona state Big Tree Coordinator. The National Register of Big Trees is better off because of you, Bob; we'll miss you.*