

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

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

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 6th, 2024

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station



Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham Ron Anderson John Bennett

Kathie Jarmon Katie Kranich Matt Spiroff

Emilio Concari

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

The February 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board via email on 2/14/2024.

Treasurer's report

- John gave the treasurers report.
- No new changes were made to the Board's accounts.
- One check was written at the February 7th, 2024 board meeting for the St. Mary Anne's Garden Market registration. The check was in the amount of \$100.

Maryland Big Tree Program Update:

- John gave the county report, and his report is provided below:

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MBTP Report –Cecil – On 2/23/24 Tom Frederick, Dori Murphy, Leslie Leader and John Bennett re-measured 4 trees and measured 2 new trees at **Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area**. Leslie allowed us to drive to most sites. Leslie nominated two new trees at Fair Hill and one tree at **Bohemia River State Park**.

On 2/25/24 **Dori Murphy, Kathie Jarmon, John Bennett, Jim Sherring, Greg O'Hare, Marc Lipnick and John Biedenback (Maintenance Chief)**, re-measured 12 trees and measured 3 new trees at **Donaldson Brown Center**. The Japanese snowbell remained the Maryland State Champion. The shingle oak became the new Maryland State co-Champion. New trees included an American holly (new county co-champion), persimmon and beech. The ID of the beech has yet to be determined. Since then John Biedenback has nominated an additional tree.

STATE – 49 trees were either measured or re-measured in February. That includes 21 trees in Cecil. **16** were re-measured—all in Cecil—and 33 were new trees—as follows:

Baltimore County – 11

Howard County – 8

Carroll County – 6

Cecil County – 5

Frederick County- 2

Montgomery County – 1

The **14** trees in Howard and Carroll were all in **Patapsco Valley State Park**. In Baltimore, **3** were in **Gunpowder Falls State Park**, **3** in the **Irvine Nature Center**, **2** at **Soldiers Delight NEA**, **1** each at **Cromwell Valley Park** and **North Point State Park**. 1 tree is privately owned.

The **2** trees in Frederick belong to the **City of Frederick** and were nominated by the Chief Arborist **Josh Dunk**. The **1** tree in Montgomery is owned by **The National Institutes of Standards and Technology** and was nominated by its arborist **Richard Wilkinson**.

Trees measured include 5 pignut hickories, 3 white oaks, 3 black walnut, 3 yellow poplar, 2 pin oaks, 2 blackjack oaks, 2 bigtooth aspen. The blackjack oaks are the rarest of the bunch but are prolific at **Soldiers Delight**.

The **pignut hickory at Irvine Nature Center** is the new **State Champion** at 291 points (See Figure 1.). It is 20 points larger than the previous State Champion. It is a public access tree as are 48 of 49 measured in February. To visit **Donaldson Brown**, one must make an appointment. The visitation hours are limited at the **Irvine Nature Center**.

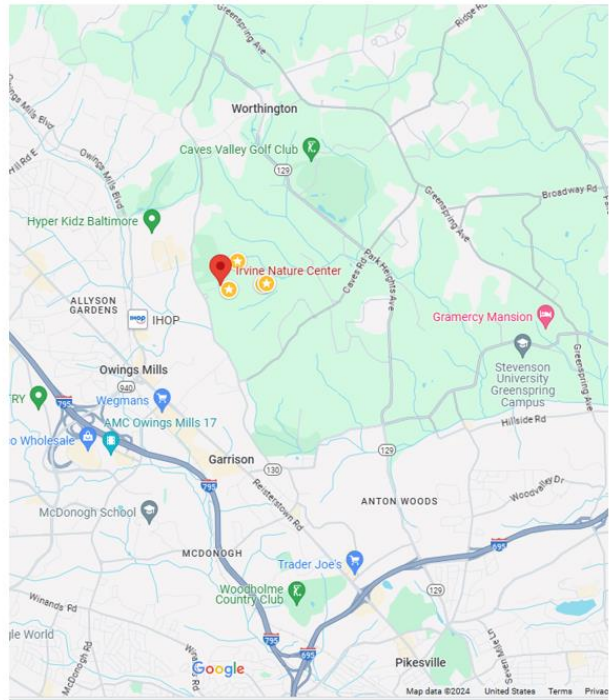


Figure 1. Tree referenced in MD Big Tree Program Report and a map showing the location of the property in which the tree is found.



Figure 2. A photo of the Irvine Nature Center referenced in the report.

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Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) Update:

Gabrielle provided the update.

- Gabrielle gave a report on the NRCC booth at the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) 2024 conference held in Towson, MD.
- A former NRCC camper from Cecil County that now works for the Maryland Department of Agriculture has offered to come back to visit NRCC and be an example of camp alumni finding employment in a field of natural resources.

Website Update:

Ron gave the update:

- Several items were uploaded to the board's website, and a number of trees had their records updated on the board's website.
- A list of changes to the board's website since the February meeting includes:

2/16/24 – Added February meeting minutes to the CCFADB Minutes Page

2/25/24 – Installed BT-1669 as new county champ Osage Orange – picture, measurements, [GPS](#)

2/25/24 – updated picture, measurements, GPS for county co-champ BT-1668 Fair Hill Yellow Poplar

2/25/24 – updated measurements and GPS for BT-2104 Fair Hill White Oak

2/25/24 – updated picture, measurements, and GPS for BT-1336 Fair Hill White Oak 2

2/25/24 – updated GPS listings for BT-1336, BT-1668, BT-1669, BT-2104 in Satellite Map of P/A Big Trees

2/27/24 – updated measurements for D/B Cecil Champ BT-1651 – American Elm – CC page, info page

2/27/24 – updated measurements for D/B MD Champ Jap Snowbell BT-2675 on CC page, info page

2/27/24 – updated measurements for D/B Cecil Champ Jap False-cypress BT-1650 On CC page, info page

2/27/24 – added BT-4500 FH Sugar Maple and info page to Pub Access list in satellite [map](#)

2/28/24 – updated BT-1654 Shingle Oak (MD Champ) – CC page and info page

2/28/24 – updated BT-2676 [Honeylocust](#) on CC page and info page (same pic)

2/28/24 – updated BT-2678 Common Pear on CC page and info page (same pic)

2/29/24 – added D/B BT-4502 American Holly to CC page and made new info [page](#)

2/29/24 – Cecil County contains 22/286 MD State Champion trees – matches data on [mdbigtrees.org](#)

Figure 3. Changes made to the Cecil County Forestry Board website.

Old Business:

- The board continued discussion on the All Trails app and the ongoing efforts to design an All Trails map for the publicly accessible Maryland Big Trees at the Fair Hill NRMA near the Appleton North Parking Area.

New Business:

- Continued discussion about the 2024 St. Mary Anne's Garden Market. The board will prepare a schedule for members to sign up to support the boards table.
- Ron displayed QR codes that he generated and will link users to the Board's website. General discussion about the use of these QR codes for the Board's table at the Garden Market.
- The May meeting of the Cecil FB is tentatively scheduled for May 1st, 2024. Prior to the meeting the board members will meet to bag tree seedlings for the board to give away at the Garden Market.
- Matt will be available for a portion of the day on Friday to work at the Garden Market booth. Matt is going to be inviting other DNR employees to also staff the table alongside forestry board members.
- The board discussed the 2024 Maryland Forestry Board Summit planned for June 10, 11 and 12. Interested members of the board are invited to attend. The event allows for two representatives from each board.
- John discussed a County Champion Big Tree Scavenger Hunt in 2025 to help celebrate the 100th year of the Maryland Big Tree Program. Those who complete the scavenger hunt and visit all the trees in a given location would be eligible to receive a patch denoting their accomplishments.
- The board discussed Beach Leaf Disease and the latest reports of impacts and affects on the beech tree population.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.

The next meeting will be held on April 3rd at 6:00 PM.