

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 9th, 2023

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham	Ron Anderson	Tom Frederick
John Bennett	Kathie Jarmon	Matt Spiroff

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

The July meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board via email on 7/17/23.

Treasurer's report

- John gave the treasurers report.
- One of the board's CD accounts was closed, and the funds were placed into the board's checking account.
- Discussion regarding the board transferring a CD account to another bank to secure a higher interest rate on the account. John will follow up with Cecil Bank to explore the feasibility of this transfer.

Maryland Big Tree Program Update:

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

MBTP Report – July 2023

For Cecil – I asked some people in the Calvert area who is now responsible for the Calvert Oak and was given the name of the current contact person. This outreach is in response to a request to harvest acorns from the tree this year. I visited the tree; it has a heavy mast crop.

State – 14 trees were measured in July; 10 new trees and 4 re-measurements. Eight of the trees were in Montgomery County, four in Baltimore City and two in Frederick .

The Montgomery County team of Joli McCathran, Joe Howard and Vince Fillah measured/re-measured 8 trees in Montgomery. 4 are re-measurements and 4 are new trees. The smoothleaf elm and goldenraintree remain as State Champions. A new devil’s walkingstick is the State-co-champion.

Fred Chalfant and Amanda Cunningham measured four newly nominated trees in Baltimore City. The white oak and Kwansan cherry are new city champions. The owner of the yellow poplar had a photo of his tree from 1929.

Bruce Phillips measured two new trees in Frederick County. The white oak belongs to an historic church, St. Josephs on Carrollton Manor Catholic Church— dating back to the Carrollton family whose member Charles Carrollton signed the Declaration of Independence. Unfortunately we have no record of the big white oak in church records.

Sadly the Bicentennial Linden white oak in Montgomery was taken down July 18th. It had died last year and it took a year for all necessary permits to be issued. A local artisan will carve a sculpture from the usable parts of the trunk. Both Joli and I were interviewed by a reporter from the Washington Post—article and video online. There are 8 remaining living Bicentennial trees that are publicly accessible—including the Calvert Oak in Cecil.

Smoothleaf elm

Goldenraintree



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

Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) Update:

- Gabrielle reported that NRCC 2023 was successful and discussed events, successes, and challenges of the week.
- Gabrielle plans to find photos suitable to be posted on the Cecil FB website.

Website Update:

Ron gave the update:

- The July meeting minutes were posted to the board's website in August.
- The August meeting agenda was uploaded to the website in August.

Old Business:

- Southern Cecil County Big Tree Driving Tour – Continued general discussion regarding the feasibility and interest for a second driving tour covering trees on the southern half of Cecil County.

New Business:

- Tree seed collection for the Maryland state tree nursery- The 5 Million Trees staff of the DNR Forest Service requested leads for sources of seed for a number of tree species. Matt requested that board members pass along any trees that they may find with suitable seed for collection if they see them.

The meeting was adjourned approximately 9:05 PM.

The next meeting will be held on September 6th, at 6:00 PM.