

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 8th, 2023

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham	Ron Anderson	Michael Morgan
John Bennett	Tom Frederick	Matt Spiroff
Emilio Concari		

Gabrielle brought the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

The October meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board via email on 10/23/23.

Treasurer's report

- John gave the treasurers report.
- John followed up with Cecil Bank regarding the board's CD account. Cecil Bank increased the board's CD account rate to 5% until June 2024. The CD account will not transferred to another bank.
- The board approved 1 check to be written in the amount of \$272. The check will be used to pay for tree seedlings for Cecil County Schools Arbor Day giveaways, and other board sponsored seedling giveaways in Spring 2024.

Maryland Big Tree Program Update:

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

MBTP Report – October

For Cecil – Gabrielle visited several churches, graveyards and one school setting to look for big trees that could be included on our Driving Tour South. She identified a half dozen or so and then began obtaining signed permission forms.

John Hudock made several trips thru the property between the Susquehanna River and River Road and has identified a half dozen potential county and State Champions. John B. has asked Jim Sherring for tax maps of the area to determine

ownership. Some of that property was donated by Constellation Energy to various State and local governments in 2022.

State – 50 trees were measured or re-measured in October—a new record!

19 were new trees and 31 were re-measurements. Specifics below:

St. Mary's – 3 new – 15 re-measure

Wicomico - 7 new – 7 re-measure

Howard – 5 new – 5 re-measure

Worcester – 2 new – 2 re-measure

Charles – 2 new – 2 re-measure

The St. Mary's, Wicomico, Worcester & Charles trees were measured by Joli McCathran and Geary Schwemmer—who reserved camping spots in Worcester and Charles to save money on back-and-forth travel. The Howard trees were measured by Joli and Vince Fillah.

6 trees belong to Historic St, Mary's City and are public access. The new State Champion winged sumac is on Point Lookout State Park property. The continuing State Champion loblolly pine and its twin is found at Milburn Landing Area, Pocomoke City State Park. The State co-champion Atlantic white cedar is the oldest tree (by registry date) from the October list and is found at the City of Salisbury water treatment plant.

In addition to the winged sumac, new State Champions include a privately-owned black oak in Howard County (361 points) and two pond pines owned by the Nature Conservancy in Worcester County. The slightly smaller pond pine at 176 points can be viewed by the public along the Ron Wilson Memorial Trail. The 180-point pond pine is not available to the public.

It should be noted that Joli and Geary made several “cold calls” to properties where owners had not responded to phone calls and mailings for permission to re-measure. In some cases they found the trees removed or dead. In some other cases property appeared abandoned. Prior to their visits, we had moved 6 trees in Wicomico and 6 trees in St. Mary's to “Inactive” status as the point value from 2013 suggested the trees would no longer qualify as the minimum score—even considering some point gain.

Winged Sumac



Pond Pine



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

Black oak



Atlantic White Cedar



Figure 2. Additional trees referenced in MD Big Tree Program Report.

Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) Update:

- Gabrielle gave the NRCC Update:
- Gabrielle recapped her presentation at the Association of Forestry Board's meeting that was held in Baltimore on 11/2/23. At the Association meeting, she reported on 2023's NRCC, and provided recommendations for future NRCC's.

Website Update:

Ron gave the update:

- The October meeting minutes were posted to the board's website in October.
- The November meeting agenda was uploaded to the website in November.
- Updated the silver maple county champion tree listing

Old Business:

New Business:

- The state Association of Forestry Boards held a meeting on November 2nd. General discussion about the meeting and presentations held at the meeting.
- Discussion regarding the 2024 5th Grader Arbor Day Poster Contest. The contest will resume in the spring of 2025, due to changing levels of staff support.
- The board welcomed and met Emilio Concari, who is MD Forest Service's watershed forestry planner for the Cecil & Harford Project.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 PM.

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