

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 1, 2021
Black Hill Ranger Station

Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham	Dori Murphy	Tom Frederick
Ron Anderson	Kathie Jarmon	
Michael Morgan	Katie Kranich	
John Bennett	Rob Feldt	

Big Tree Program Update:

John reported:

I was contacted by a homeowner in the Port Deposit area who wanted to nominate a dawn redwood and a holly. I explained that we have minimum size standards; sent him the minimum circumference size for each species and asked him to provide photos of each tree. John has received a couple permission forms for trees in Conowingo, MD. He requested assistance and received interest from several boardmembers depending on the date.

In the State it has been a busy month with 31 trees measured/re-measured. I personally have helped with 23 of them, with trips to St. Mary's County, the lower Eastern Shore all the way to Princess Anne, and in Baltimore and Harford for a total of 844 miles driven. This is as a result of postponing re-measuring far-flung trees in hopes a closer volunteer(s) would agree to handle them. Now is the time that I am scrambling to get as many of these trees re-measured before the year ends and/or we run out of funding.

There are still 50 trees needing re-measurement, mainly in Harford, Baltimore, Frederick and Washington Counties. Unfortunately a number of these do have signed permission forms, so we need to get them done, or under DNR policy, we would have to send out new permission forms in 2022. Since we have 191 trees to re-measure in 2022, having to re-measure trees from 2021 puts us even further behind.

Volunteers tend to be more motivated to find and measure new trees, so we added a number of very nice new trees. Photos are below:

Dawn redwood, Baltimore County,



Scarlet oak, Baltimore County Champion



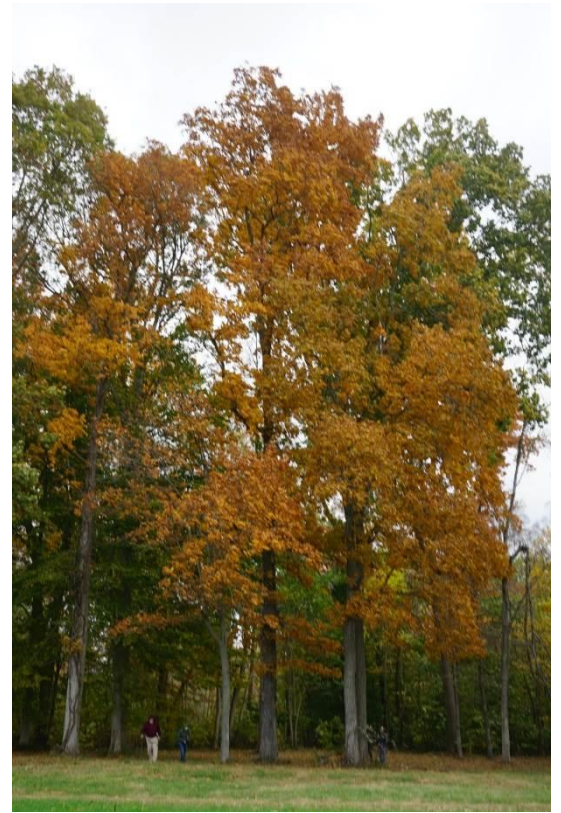
Bitternut Hickory, Baltimore County Champion

Willow oak, St. Mary's County





Shagbark Hickory, Talbot County Champion



Pignut Hickory, Talbot County Champion

Central Region Update:

Rob Feldt, Central Regional Forester (and new Cecil Board Secretary), gave an update on some Central Region issues.

Anne Hairston-Strang is currently Acting State Forester/Director in Annapolis.

The Budget looks to be stable at the present time.

2 Board Secretaries will be retiring as of January 1, 2022 in the Region. These include Tom Frederick (Cecil Board) and Donna Davis (Carroll Board).

Including these retirements there will be 4 vacancies in the Region. They will be filled as soon as possible, however it will take time to fill them.

The Region should be able to hire 3 contractals to assist with the “5 Million Trees Planting Initiative” passed last year. One of the goals of the Program is to plant trees in areas that have been historically underserved in the past including urban, suburban and rural areas.

Website Update:

Ron reported that he updated the website as follows:

1. Added November minutes and December agenda

He also requested some photos of this summer's Camp Conference to add to the site.

NRCC Report:

Gabrielle reported that this year's Natural Resources Career Conference went very well. A few students did not attend but there were over 30 students.

Most everyone was vaccinated and the few who were not, were tested.

The students were well-behaved and did a good job through the week. And there were no urgent care visits!

There were a few new presenters this year and they did an excellent job.

Gabrielle will be attending the MAEOE conference (Environmental Studies teachers). She will need to get the display from Rob Prenger in Baltimore County.

State Association Meeting Report:

Gabrielle and John both attended the State Association virtual meeting. They also both gave presentations at the meeting.

They reported that Jim Bardsley has stepped down as State Association President. Jim served over 10 years leading the Association. Joli McCathran, Montgomery County has accepted the new position as State Association President. Everyone thanked Jim for his extended service and wished Joli success in her new leadership role.

Anne Hairston-Strang, Acting State Forester/Director gave a presentation on "Current News" from the Forest Service.

Jack Perdue, Maryland Forest Service gave a presentation on State Forest Lands Management and Certifications.

Continuing/New Business:

Ron reported that his "grandchild" of the Wye Oak did not produce acorns this year.

Kathie reported that her State Champion Black Oak is still doing well.

