

Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 1st, 2024

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

Attendees:

Gabrielle Oldham	Ron Anderson	Kathie Jarmon
Dori Murphy	Tom Frederick	Matt Spiroff
Emilio Concari	Lauren Gilbert	

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

The April 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board via email on 4/15/2024.

NRCC Alumni Highlight – Lauren Gilbert

- The Cecil Forestry Board welcomed Lauren Gilbert, a former NRCC camper and camp counselor to the meeting. Lauren is currently employed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.
- Lauren recounted NRCC experiences and described academic and professional accomplishments since attending NRCC.
- Lauren is exploring options to assist NRCC 2024.

Treasurer's report

- John provided the treasurer's report, and Matt presented it at the meeting.
- No new changes were made to the Board's accounts.

Maryland Big Tree Program Update:

- John provided the report, and Matt presented it at the meeting. John's report is provided below:

MBTP Report –Cecil –Certificates were mailed for all trees measured in March. Three remaining trees to be re-measured in '24. Two at Elk Neck State Park can wait until the fall. Suggest we move to "inactive" the sycamore at Northrop Grumman due to the difficulty in obtaining permission and the restricted access.

In Maryland, 17 trees were measured; all new trees:

Queen Anne's County – 13 – all at Wye Island Natural Resources Management Area

Baltimore County – 4 – Three at Hemlock Gorge Area of Prettyboy Watershed; 1 at St. Timothy's School

Wye Island NRMA is a tidal recess of the Chesapeake Bay between the Wye River and the Wye East River. Of Wye Island's 2,800 acres, 2,450 are managed by the Maryland Park Service for resource management, recreation and agriculture. A portion of the property is also in the Old Growth Forest Network, Dr. Joan Maloof, Director. **Marc Lipnick** made two measuring trips there in April—one with **Wanda Dade** and the second with **Linda Barker**—both Baltimore County volunteers.

1 new State Champion – a Cherrybark oak at 406 points

4 new QA County Champions – white oak, mockernut hickory, bitternut hickory, loblolly pine

Marc and Linda measured 3 new trees at Hemlock Gorge. As the name implies, the landscape is very steep and has the best growth of old hemlocks in Maryland. Although not independently documented by MD Wildlife and Heritage, Hemlock Gorge also appears to have the largest collection of yellow birch. Six of the 8 registered examples are found in the Gorge; including this new State-co-champion.

1 new State co-Champion at 200 points

1 new Baltimore County Champion mockernut hickory at 235 points

St. Timothy's School is a private girls' school in Stevenson, Baltimore County. It now owns the new Maryland State Champion Kwansan cherry at 202 points. A former employee of the school remembers when it was planted in the 1970's—making it about 50 years old.



Kwansan cherry – St. Timothy's



Cherrybark oak – Wye Island

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

Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) Update:

Gabrielle provided the update.

- Applications for NRCC 2024 are continuing to come in and boards are working to approve them. Spots are still available for NRCC 2024.
- A NRCC Fellow has submitted a press release regarding NRCC to various media outlets in Cecil, in hopes of generating additional applications for NRCC 2024. That information has been shared to other news sources within the APG network.
- Gabrielle has obtained an Assistant Director for NRCC 2024 and plans to show them the ropes of running camp.

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:

4/4/2024 – added requirement of MT. Harmon Day Pass to info pages of BT-3335 thru BT-3342 and BT-4544

4/7/2024 – added BT-4547 English Walnut to CC Champ page and to map of Publicly Accessible Tree Map

4/21/2024 – added April Meeting Minutes to CCFADB Minutes Page

4/30/2024 – updated website agenda for 5/1/2024 meeting

Figure 2. Changes made to the Cecil County Forestry Board website.

Old Business:

- The 2024 Maryland Forestry Board Summit planned for June 10,11, and 12th. Interested members of the board are invited to attend, if interested let Matt Spiroff know. The event allows for two representatives from each board. Gabrielle will be attending the meeting.

New Business:

- The Board reviewed 1 Forest Conservation Act (FCA) Timber Harvest Plan for properties owned by Daniel Lapp in Rising Sun, MD. The Board recommended the approval of the harvest plan to the County Planning and Zoning, and included comments to the final approvers of the harvest plan.
- Continued discussion about the 2024 St. Mary Anne's Garden Market. The schedule for the Board's booth was distributed.
- Prior to the meeting the board members met to bag tree seedlings for the board to give away at the Garden Market. Booth materials for the garden market were loaded in preparation for the weekends Garden Market event.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM.

The next meeting will be held on June 5th, at 6:00 PM.