

# Cecil Forest Conservancy District Board

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



## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 11th, 2023

6PM @ Black Hill Ranger Station

### Attendees:

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

Gabrielle brought the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

The August meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board via email on 8/23/23.

### Treasurer's report

- John gave the treasurers report.
- No changes to the board's accounts.
- 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.
- Following the October meeting of the board, it was determined that the board will not pursue a CD at another bank. Instead, a higher rate was obtained through Cecil Bank.

### Maryland Big Tree Program Update:

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

### **MBTP Report – August-September**

**For Cecil** – Dori, Kathie, Gabrielle and John visited Bethel Cemetery on 8/27. We measured 7 trees; only one tree qualified as a Maryland big tree—a common pear at 109 points. The short height on the other trees handicapped them as to total points. We could apply for a waiver as a couple are close and would meet the waiver requirements but I did not request them. I did prepare the section for the Cecil Driving Tour South.

**State – 9** trees were measured in **August**—all new trees. Six of the trees were in Montgomery County, one each in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll. None were State or county champions.

**37** trees have been measured and reported in **September**; at least a dozen trees have been measured but not yet reported. 15 trees were measured/re-measured in Wicomico County by McCathran & Schwemmer. Eleven of the 15 were at **Salisbury University**. Two staff members and 3 SU students assisted in the measurements. The two State co-champion baldcypress at Bear Creek Swamp were re-measured by McCathran/Schwemmer with assistance from three staff from **The Nature Conservancy**. The remaining two trees were re-measurements on private land. There are still at least a dozen trees that Joli has yet to report.

Seven new trees were measured at Rock Run Methodist Church/cemetery in Harford County near Susquehanna State Park by Harford County FB members Jim Sherring, Geoff Graff & Greg O'Hare with John Bennett. A European white birch became the new State Champion.

Six new trees were measured in Carroll County by CCFB members Geary Schwemmer and Jim Cobb. Jim owns a drone and the two men experimented with measuring the height of some of the trees with the drone. The initial results were unsuccessful, but they will continue experimenting. Four of the six are new county champions. Four of the trees are at a retirement community in Sykesville.

Six new trees were measured by BCFB members Linda Barker and Marc Lipnick. Five are new county champions. The sixth, a Higan cherry, is the new State Champion. Most were nominated by a new volunteer, Larry Young.

One new tree, a silver maple, was measured on private land in Frederick by FCFB members Bruce Phillips and Dave Hunter. The tree becomes the new State champion at 435 points, surpassing the Cecil tree. It is covered in English ivy, so Bruce subtracted 9 inches from the circumference. It is hoped the owner will hire an arborist to clean it up.

One new tree, a yellow poplar, in Caroline County, known as **The Witness Tree**, was measured by McCathran, Schwemmer and Jim Bardsley. It is on land thru

which **Harriet Tubman** led her family to safety. It became the new Caroline County champion.

One new tree was measured in Howard County—a sugar maple.



**Two State co-champion Crimean lindens – Salisbury U.**



**State Champion European white birch – Rock Run Cemetery**

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



**Weeping Higan Cherry – Baltimore County**

**Silver maple – Frederick**

**Yellow Poplar “Witness Tree”**

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

**Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) Update:**

- Gabrielle reported that NRCC committee met and discussed the 2024 camp, including recommendations for personnel additions for camp.

**Website Update:**

Ron gave the update:

- The August meeting minutes were posted to the board’s website in August.
- The October meeting agenda was uploaded to the website in October.
- General discussion regarding Cecil Big Tree Driving Tours, and the need to update GPS coordinates on certain trees within the county. Tentatively GPS coordinates will be checked, and updated before Summer of 2024.

**Old Business:**

- Southern Cecil County Big Tree Driving Tour –Discussion about location of possible trees to include in the southern county driving tour. Specific trees are to be visited and have species confirmed by board members.
- Board members discussed a number of trees across the county on public and private property that need to have access permissions checked prior to including on the driving tour, and/ or measured for the Maryland Big Tree Program.
- Maryland Big Tree Program Logo Vote- The board completed a vote for an updated 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo of the Maryland Big Tree Program. Matt will submit the board’s vote for their selected logo.

**New Business:**

- The state Association of Forestry Boards will have a meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion about the board attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 PM.

The next meeting will be held on November 8th, at 6:00 PM.