

# THE BIG NEWS

Happenings in the World of Texas Champion Trees

Fall 2006

## A Tribute to Nominators

The search for the biggest trees in Texas is too big a task for one person or even group alone. That's why we depend on others to find big trees and tell us about them. Some are tree owners, like Sky Lewey at Open V Ranch near Uvalde (see list of new champions, below) – who are rightfully proud of their own trees – but others are plant aficionados whose sharp eyes spot something unusual wherever they go around the state, or even their hometown.

One such gentleman is Bill Graves of Uvalde, TX. Bill is listed as the nominator of two national champion trees – Texas Persimmon (*Diospyros texana*) and Evergreen Sumac (*Rhus virens*) – and has been nominating trees for over 40 years! Thanks, Bill, and thanks to all the big tree nominators who keep their eyes open for the next big find.



Bill Graves measures the national champion Texas Persimmon in 1965



Bill Graves stands next to the former national champ Wright Catclaw in 2006

## Quarterly List Published

TFS publishes the latest Texas Big Tree Registry quarterly, at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/>. Here's a snapshot of the new champs or co-champs crowned since July 1, 2006:

Species	Cir.	Height	Spread	Tree Index	County	Owner
Boxelder	106	52	59	173	Tarrant	City of Grapevine
Catalpa, Southern	265	56	71	339	Dallas	Michael Pollina
Catclaw (Acacia), Wright	91	33	41	134	Uvalde	Open V Ranch
Hickory, Pignut	126	97	57	237	Liberty	Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge
Mountain-laurel, Texas	50	35	18	90	Uvalde	Open V Ranch
Oak, Chinkapin	156	45	74	220	Bandera	Lost Maples State Natural Area
Redbud, Texas	81	20	39	111	Parker	Bill & Debbie Postier
Sumac, Evergreen	37	15	16	56	Uvalde	B. F. Dickinson
Waxmyrtle	17	29	18	51	Gregg	City of Longview

## In Memorium

In our search for champion trees in Uvalde County, the owner of the state and national champion Gregg Catclaw Acacia reported that the tree had died during the extended drought since 2000. If you know of a possible replacement, fill out a nomination form or contact the program coordinator at [bigtrees@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:bigtrees@tfs.tamu.edu).