

THE BIG NEWS

Happenings in the World of Texas Champion Trees

Summer 2006

National Register Published

In May, American Forests published the **2006-'07 National Register of Big Trees**. Texas retained its fourth place national ranking among states with 78 national champs or co-champs found here. New additions include a Chisos oak (*Quercus graciliformis*) and a Mexican pinyon pine (*Pinus cembroides*) from Big Bend National Park, a Texas mountain-laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*) from San Antonio, and an evergreen sumac (*Rhus virens*) from New Braunfels. To order your copy, go to <http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/>.

New Rules Adopted

American Forests, with guidance from their Big Tree Steering Committee, has adopted several changes to the rules that help determine which trees make the National Register every two years. Beginning in 2008, the following policy changes will take place:

- **Ten-Year Rule:** to remain on the list, a tree must be measured within the past ten years. This will affect 17 Texas trees, some of which haven't been visited in 30 years!
- **Measurement Rules:** after years of committee work, the national and Texas Big Tree Steering Committees finalized changes in the way big trees are measured. The biggest of these is the way trunk circumference is measured: trees will now be measured at the *narrowest point* between the ground and 4.5 feet, but below any low fork. For complete measurement rules and a new nomination form, go to <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/>.

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 January 2006:

Species	Cir.	Height	Spread	Tree Index	County	Owner
Ash, Gregg	11	23	11	37	Brewster	Big Bend National Park
Birch, River	118	65	69	200	Lamar	Texas Army National Guard
Boxelder	106	52	59	173	Tarrant	City of Grapevine
Buckeye, Texas	59	39	35	107	Gillespie	McKinley Ranch
Catalpa, Southern	265	56	71	339	Dallas	Michael Pollina
Douglas-Fir, Rocky Mountain	120	98	29	225	Culberson	Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Hophornbeam, Knowlton	34	42	31	84	Culberson	Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Magnolia, Pyramid	29	53	12	85	Newton	Mark and Susan Karpel
Maple, Red	105	79	60	199	Morris	Dennis Townsend
Oak, Black	129	60	61.5	204	Van Zandt	Thomas Newsome
Oak, Blackjack	113	57	65	186	Franklin	B.F. Hicks
Oak, Bur	218	81	105	325	Tarrant	Crawford Edwards
Oak, Chinkapin	132	51	72	201	Edwards	Nancy Bowermaster
Oak, Chisos	56	34	43	101	Brewster	Big Bend National Park
Oak, Silverleaf	75	47	36	131	Jeff Davis	Davis Mountains Preserve
Persimmon, Common	79	80	50	172	Cass	Charles Peacock
Pine, Mexican Pinyon	74	49	37	132	Brewster	Big Bend National Park
Pine, Ponderosa	134	110	46	256	Jeff Davis	Davis Mountains Preserve
Pine, Southwestern White	98	86	43	195	Jeff Davis	Davis Mountains Preserve
Sophora, Texas	74	41	44	126	Real	Scott and Carol Kolb
Waxmyrtle	17	29	18	51	Gregg	City of Longview
Yucca, Beaked	57	19	11	79	Dallas	Alexandra Huerta

In Memorium

Hurricane Rita took a heavy toll on the big trees of Southeast Texas. To date, four state champs have been reported down by the storm: white ash, black cherry, waxmyrtle, and river birch. Species reported to us that have died from a variety of other causes include hazel alder, Texas honeylocust, pignut hickory, and mockernut hickory. If you know of a possible replacement for one of these species, fill out a nomination form or contact the program coordinator at bigtrees@tfs.tamu.edu.