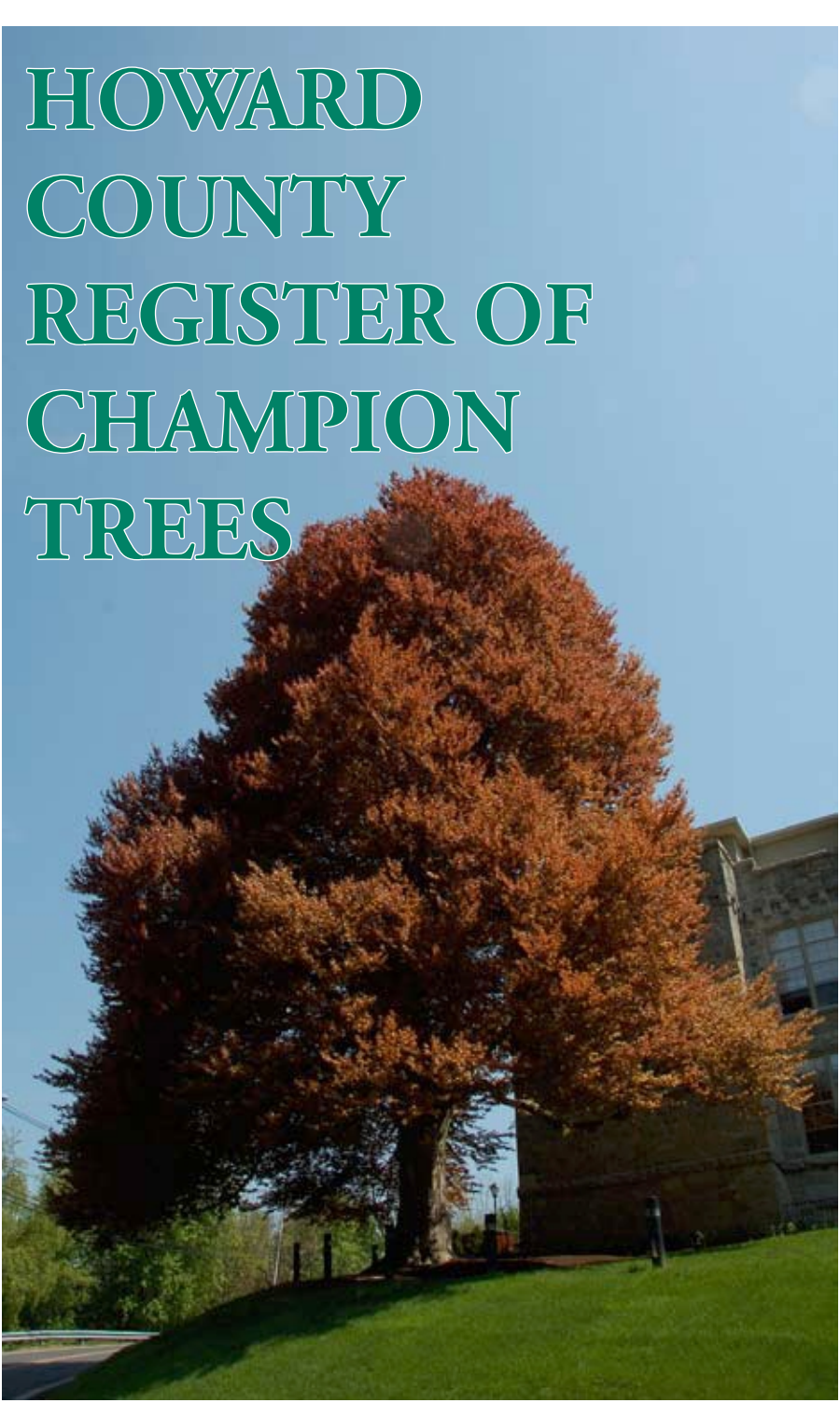
HOWARD COUNTY REGISTER OF CHAMPION TREES



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE
3430 Courthouse Drive ▪ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ▪ 410-313-2013

Ken Ulman,
Howard County Executive
kulman@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov
FAX 410-313-3051
TDD 410-313-2323

August 1, 2007

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to present the third edition of "Champion Trees of Howard County, Maryland" featuring a collection of 89 trees, all recognized "champions" located right here in our community. Of the total number of trees highlighted in the pages that follow, 28 are new champion trees and one is a new Maryland State champion tree.

We are also pleased to announce that a big leaf magnolia located in West Friendship was recently named a National Champion – Howard County's first! This magnolia received a rating of 213, has a 145-inch circumference, is 55 feet tall with an average crown spread of 53 feet – very impressive!

The "Champion Trees" program is just one of the reasons Howard County has earned the "Tree City USA" designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation for the past 17 consecutive years. Absolutely amazing and something we are all very proud of!

We also opened our 8th arboretum this year in Wilde Lake, this one in partnership with the Columbia Foundation. An arboretum is a collection of native and exotic trees in an environment dedicated to education. Each "outdoor classroom" helps visitors become more familiar with a wide variety of trees and learn more about how they benefit our environment.

I want to acknowledge the fine work of Howard County's Forest Conservancy Board who devote so much of their time to our champion tree and arboretum programs and the preservation of our trees and forests. They are good stewards of the land, as are the owners of our champion trees. Thanks to their combined efforts, these trees will stand for future generations to enjoy!

Sincerely,

Ken Ulman
Howard County Executive

TREE CITY USA.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF BIG TREES

"Let every tree lover, every forester, every lumberman fight for the preservation of our biggest tree specimens."

Joseph Stearns, Forester, 1940

This is the rally cry that launched the National Register of Big Trees in 1940. Since that time, American Forests, the oldest national non-profit conservation organization in the United States, has documented the largest known specimens of every native and naturalized tree in the country. The largest tree of its species is the National Champion. The latest issue of the National Register of Big Trees celebrates 826 national champion trees.

Maryland's Big Tree Program

Most states have their own champion tree program. Maryland occupies a historic role in the annals of the big tree competition. Our first state forester, Fred Besley, sponsored the very first Big Tree Champion Contest in the country when he organized the Maryland Statewide Competition in 1925. 450 entries were received and 155 different species appeared on that first Maryland Big Tree Champion list including the Wye Oak, the largest white oak ever recorded. Mr. Besley also devised a point system to judge champion trees which measures a tree's trunk circumference, height and average crown spread. His system was adopted for the National Big Tree program in 1940 and is still used today.

Maryland's famous Wye Oak was toppled by a thunderstorm on June 6, 2002.

Cover Photo: County Champion Copper Beech is located in Ellicott City, Maryland.

Howard County National Champion

Maryland has 12 National Champion trees listed in the latest edition of the National Register of Big Trees, but a 13th will be added to the next edition. In 2007, amateur botanist Joseph Goohar of Catonsville discovered a bigleaf magnolia tree on a West Friendship farm in western Howard County that has been certified as a new National Champion. The bigleaf magnolia is known for its huge leaves, which can grow up to 30 inches long, and its aromatic white flowers which can open up to be a foot wide. Usually found in some south central and Gulf Coast States, the species had not been documented as far north as Maryland and was only recently recorded in our state.

Bigleaf magnolias are known for their huge leaves which can grow more than two feet long and aromatic white flowers which can be a foot wide.

Tim Overstreet, Howard County Parks and Recreation, examines new National Champion bigleaf magnolia growing on a farm in western Howard County.

HOWARD COUNTY CHAMPION TREES

Big trees are special. They capture our imagination with their size and strength. They are a link to our past and vital to our future. We hope this register of Howard County Champion Trees will serve to not only remind you of their beauty and grace, but also of their importance in our daily lives.

This Howard County Champion Tree Register recognizes 76 trees in our county as champions of their species. Eleven of these trees are current Maryland State Champions and one, the newly crowned Bigleaf Magnolia, is a National Champion.

Howard County Champion Tree

United States National Champion Tree

Maryland State Champion Tree

New Champion Tree

Ash, White
Fraxinus americana
20 feet 3 inches-circumference
73 feet-height
61 feet-spread, 331.2 points
Nicholas Badart
Elkridge

Ash, White
Fraxinus americana
19 feet 4 inches-circumference
84 feet-height
80 feet-spread, 330 points
Dr & Mrs John Martelli
Ellicott City

Beech, American
Fagus grandifolia
13 feet 1 inch-circumference
95 feet-height
104 feet-spread, 278 points
Steve Parker
Howard Community College

Beech, Copper
Fagus sylvatica
15 feet 8 inches-circumference
87 feet-height
70 feet-spread, 284.5 points
Steve Parker
Ellicott City

County Champion Copper Beech

County Champion European Cutleaf Beech

Beech, European Cutleaf
Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'
13 feet 2 inches-circumference
57 feet-height
69 feet-spread, 232.3 points
Tim Overstreet
Lynwood Center
Ellicott City

Birch, River
Betula nigra
7 feet 4 inches-circumference
75 feet-height
54 feet-spread, 169.2 points
Tim Overstreet/ Steve Parker
Blandair Property
Columbia

Blackhaw *Viburnum prunifolium*
2 feet-circumference; 29 feet-height; 25 feet-spread; 59.25 points
Howard County Rec. & Parks, Ellicott City

Blueberry, Highbush *Vaccinium corymbosum*
6 inches-circumference; 14 feet-height; 7 feet-spread, 21.8 points
Howard County Rec. & Parks, Ellicott City

Boxelder
Acer negundo
10 feet 4 inches-circumference
52 feet-height
65 feet-spread, 192.2 points
Steve Parker
Howard County Court House
Ellicott City

Catalpa, Southern
Catalpa bignonioides
14 feet 1 inches-circumference
68 feet-height
88 feet-spread, 259 points
Al & Shannon Angarita
West Friendship

Cedar, Blue Atlas
Cedrus atlantica
8 feet 8 inches-circumference
36 feet-height
55 feet-spread, 195 points
Carl Fugate
Elkridge

County Champion Southern Catalpa

Chestnut, American

Castanea dentata
5 feet 1 inch-circumference
39 feet-height
32 feet-spread, 108 points
Jan Clark
Hobbit's Glen Golf Course
Columbia

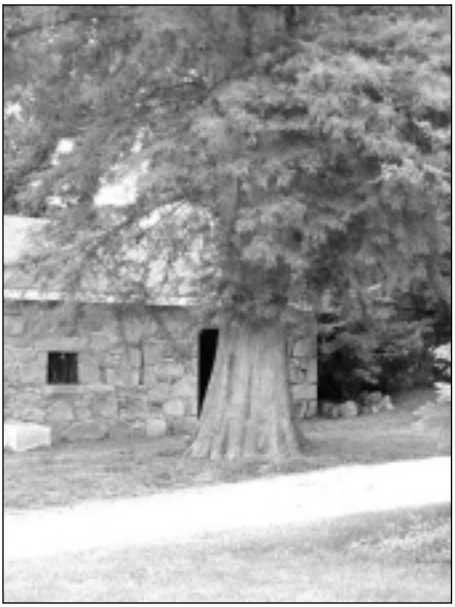
Chestnut, Chinese

Castanea mollissima
9 feet 1 inch-circumference
62 feet-height
49 feet-spread, 183.2 points
Tim Overstreet/ Steve Parker
Blandair Property
Columbia

Cherry, Black

Prunus serotina
11 feet 5 inch-circumference
97 feet-height
71 feet -spread, 253.2 points
Tim Overstreet
Font Hill Park
Ellicott City

County Champion Blue Atlas Cedar



County Champion Bald Cypress

Cherry, Sweet

Prunus avium
7 feet 5 inches-circumference
68 feet-height
51 feet-spread, 169.7 points
Tim Overstreet
Patapsco Female Institue
Ellicott City

Cypress, Bald

Taxodium distichum
11 feet 1 inch-circumference
72 feet-height
34 feet-spread, 212.2 points
Bebe Breen
Ellicott City

Dawn Redwood

Metasequoia glyptostroboides
6 feet 5 inches-circumference
65 feet-height
33 feet-spread, 150.3 points
Suzanna Merritt
Wilde Lake Dock

Dawn Redwood

Metasequoia glyptostroboides
4 feet 6 inches-circumference
32 feet-height
47 feet-spread, 107.7 points
Tim Overstreet
Patapsco Female Institute
Ellicott City

Dogwood, Kousa

Cornus kousa
3 feet 6 inches-circumference
35 feet-height
34 feet-spread, 85.5 points
John & Kathleen Liparinia
Columbia

Elm, American

Ulmus americana
16 feet 4 inches-circumference
98 feet-height
95 feet-spread, 313.7 points
Andrew Mihm
Marriottsville

Abby and Bella Mihm helping measure County Champion American Elm

Elm, English

Ulmus procera
21 feet 3 inches-circumference
72 feet-height
99 feet-spread
348.7 points
Belmont Conference Center
Elkridge

County Champion English Elm graces front lawn of historic Belmont Manor, circa 1738

Elm, Lacebark

Ulmus parvifolia
5 feet 2 inches-circumference
51 feet-height
60 feet-spread
235 points
Tim Overstreet
Waverly Mansion

Elm, Siberian

Ulmus pumila
9 feet 7 inches-circumference
45 feet-height
52 feet-spread
183 points
Richard Newell
Laurel

Fir, Balsam

Abies balsamea
7 feet 4 inches-circumference
81 feet-height
42 feet-spread
179.5 points
Patapsco Valley State Park

County Champion Gingko

Fir, Nordmann
Abies nordmanniana
9 feet 5 inches-circumference
83 feet-height
36 feet-spread, 205 points
Tim Overstreet
Blandair Farm Columbia

Franklin Tree
Franklinia alatamaha
4 feet 5 inches-circumference
32 feet-height
27 feet-spread, 92.7 points
Bruno W. Reich
Dayton

Gingko *Gingko biloba*
16 feet 9 inches-circumference, 95 feet-height, 80 feet-spread, 316 points
Dale Shumacher, Elkridge

Gum, Black *Nyssa sylvatica*
13 feet 1 inch-circumference, 60 feet-height, 65 feet-spread, 233 points
Dennis & Rebbeca Lytle, Glenelg

Hickory, Mockernut
Carya tomentosa
10 feet 3 inches-circumference
92 feet-height
36 feet-spread, 224 points
Tim Overstreet / Steve Parker

Hickory, Pignut
Carya glabra
8 feet 11 inches-circumference
91 feet-height
73 feet-spread, 206.2 points
Steve Parker / Tim Overstreet

County Champion Black Gum

County and State Champion American Holly Tree being measured by Tim Overstreet and Dave Reinecke

Holly, American
Ilex opaca
10 feet 7 inches-circumference
56 feet-height
54 feet-spread, 196.5 points
Meadowridge Memorial Park
Dorsey

Holly, American
Ilex opaca
8 feet 9 inches-circumference
67 feet-height
34 feet-spread, 171.5 points
Courtney Watson
Clarksville

Honeylocust *Gleditsia triacanthos*
3 feet 6 inches-circumference, 52 feet-height, 30 feet-spread, 101.5 points
Tim Overstreet, East Columbia Library

Hornbeam, American *Carpinus caroliniana*
3 feet-circumference, 45 feet-height, 35 feet-spread, 89.75 points
Howard Co. Rec. & Parks, Ellicott City

Horsechestnut
Aesculus hippocastanum
10 feet 4 inches-circumference
76 feet-height
30 feet-spread, 207.5 points
Steve Parker
Ellicott City

Japanese Tree Lilac
Syringa reticulata
5 feet-circumference
38 feet-height
28 feet-spread, 105 points
Linwood Children's Center
Ellicott City

Kentucky Coffeetree
Gymnocladus dioicus
10 feet 11 inches-circumference
86 feet-height
61 feet-spread, 232.2 points
Donald Sekira
Columbia

County Champion Horsechestnut

Linden, American (Basswood)
Tilia americana
16 feet 6 inches-circumference
110 feet-height
67 feet-spread, 325 points
James Pfefferkorn
West Friendship

Linden, American (Basswood)
Tilia americana
17 feet 5 inches-circumference
88 feet-height
88 feet-spread, 318 points
Janet Griesman
Elkridge

Linden, European
Tilia europaea
13 feet 11 inches-circumference
106 feet-height
82 feet-spread, 293.5 points
Elkridge Furnace Inn

County Champion Kentucky Coffeetree

Linden, Littleleaf *Tilia cordata*
13 feet 7 inches-circumference, 92 feet-height, 66 feet-spread, 271.5 points
Larry Moore, Woodbine 1994

County and State Champion American Linden (Basswood)

Magnolia, Bigleaf
Magnolia macrophylla
12 feet 1 inch-circumference
55 feet-height
53 feet-spread, 213 points
James Pfefferkorn
West Friendship

Magnolia, Kobus
Magnolia kobus
8 feet-circumference
37 feet-height
25 feet-spread, 139.2 points
Tim Overstreet
Howard County Courthouse
Ellicott City

County Champion European Linden

Magnolia, Saucer
Magnolia x soulangiana
3 feet 5 inches-circumference
42 feet-height
33 feet-spread, 91.2 points
Tim Overstreet
Patapsco Female Institute
Ellicott City

Magnolia, Southern
Magnolia grandiflora
4 feet 8 inches-circumference
51 feet-height
50 feet-spread, 119 points
Brian & Sheri Sandberg
Ellicott City

Maple, Japanese *Acer japonicum*
11 feet 10 inches @ 2 feet Height-circumference, 27 feet-height, 64 feet-spread, 88 points
Doug Fuhrman, Sisters of Bon Secours, Marriottsville

Maple, Chalk *Acer leucoderme*
5 feet 6 inches-circumference, 56 feet-height, 37 feet-spread, 131.2 points
Tim Overstreet, Patapsco Female Institute, Ellicott City

Maple, Norway
Acer platanoides
11 feet-circumference
60 feet-height
56 feet-spread, 206 points
Mr. Bender
Ellicott city

Maple, Red
Acer rubrum
11 feet 9 inches-circumference
85 feet-height
56 feet-spread, ***240 points***
Steve Parker / Tim Overstreet
Centennial Park

County, State, and National Champion
Bigleaf Magnolia

Maple, Silver
Acer saccharinum
18 feet 8 inches-circumference
83 feet-height
95 feet-spread, 330.7 points
Brian & Florence Gapsis
Ellicott City

County Champion Japanese Maple

Maple, Silver *Acer saccharinum*
18 feet 4 inches-circumference, 83 feet-height, 43 feet-spread, 313 points
George Kielman, Clarksville

Mountain, Laurel *Kalmia latifolia*
1 foot-circumference, 17 feet-height, 14 feet-spread, 32.5 points
Howard Co. Rec. & Parks, Elkridge

Mulberry, Paper *Broussonetia papyrifera*
4 feet-circumference, 35 feet-height, 30 feet-spread, 80.5 points
Tim Overstreet , PFI

County Champion Shingle Oak

Oak, Black
Quercus velutina
12 feet 3 inches-circumference
115 feet-height
97 feet-spread
287.3 points
Tim Overstreet
David Force Park

Oak, Chestnut
Quercus prinus
14 feet 3 inches-circumference
76 feet-height
75 feet-spread
265.7 points
Steve Parker
Woodbine

County Champion White Oak

Oak, Chestnut
Quercus prinus
12 feet 13 inches-circumference
77 feet-height
60 feet-spread, 239 points
Steve Parker

Oak, Pin
Quercus palustris
15 feet 1 inch-circumference
78 feet-height
103 feet-spread, 283.7 points
M. Davis Streaker
West Friendship

Oak, Pin
Quercus palustris
8 feet 4 inches-circumference
74 feet-height
68 feet-spread, 191 points
Martha & Joe Brodsky
Woodbine

Oak, Shingle *Quercus imbricaria*
12 feet 8 inches-circumference, 76 feet-height, 90 feet-spread, 223.5 points
David Earle, Daisy

Oak, Swamp White *Quercus bicolor*
17 feet 4 inches-circumference, 100 feet-height, 109 feet-spread, 333.3 points
Warren Raymond, Columbia Association

Oak, White
Quercus alba
25 feet-circumference
73 feet-height
101 feet-spread, 398.2 points
Mr. & Mrs. Franz Hartig
Ellicott City

Oak, White
Quercus alba
18 feet 9 inches-circumference
97 feet-height
115 feet-spread, 350.8 points
William Filbert
Ellicott City

County Champion Osage Orange

Oak, White
Quercus alba
18 feet 9 inches-circumference
60 feet-height
100 feet-spread, 312.5 points
Chris Lentz
Howard County Landfill

Oak, White *(Wye offspring?)*
Quercus alba
5 feet 2 inches-circumference
44 feet-height
35 feet-spread, 107.3 points
Stanley Beam
Fulton

County Champion Eastern White Pine

Olive, Autumn *Elaeagnus umbellata*
1 foot 6 inches-circumference, 27 feet-height, 37 feet-spread, 55 points
Tim Overstreet, David Force Park

Osage Orange *Maclura pomifera*
17 feet 1 inch-circumference, 63 feet-height, 62 feet-spread, 283.5 points
Scott & Lora Vaszil, Fulton

County Champion Yellow Poplar requires youthful reach

Osage Orange
Maclura pomifera
12 feet 6 inches-circumference
68 feet-height
47 feet-spread, 229.7 points
Howard Co. Rec. & Parks
Ellicott City

Paulownia
Paulownia tomentosa
7 feet-circumference
63 feet-height
42 feet-spread, 157.5 points
Betsy Gould
Columbia

County Champion Dawn Redwood

Pecan
Carya illinoiensis
9 feet 10 inches-circumference
93 feet-height
89 feet-spread, 223.2 points
Robert W. Clegern
Elkridge

Persimmon
Diospyros virginiana
6 feet 8 inches-circumference
80 feet-height
40 feet-spread, 170 points
Bill Mitchell
Dayton

Pine, Eastern White
Pinus strobus
11 feet 6 inches-circumference
93 feet-height
73 feet-spread, 249.2 points
Steve Parker

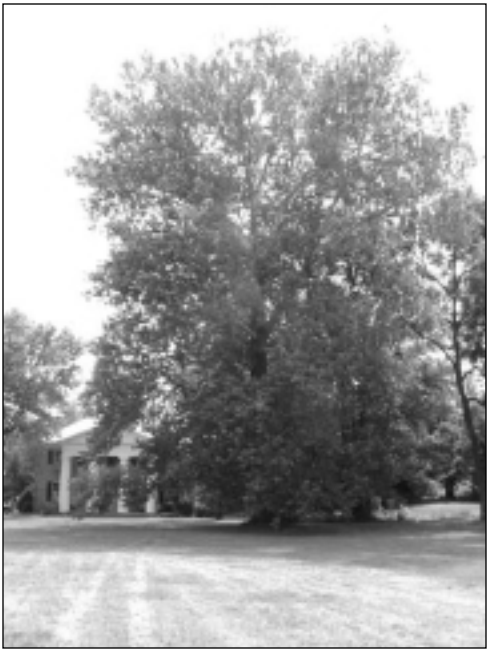
Pine, Japanese Umbrella *Sciadopitys verticillata*
4 feet 6 inches-circumference, 32 feet-height, 20 feet-spread, 91 points
Theresa Kaminski, Clarksville

Pine, Loblolly
Pinus taeda
8 feet 1inch-circumference
78 feet-height
56 feet-spread, 89 points
Kurt Merkle/Tim Brix

Pine, Mugo
Pinus mugo
5 feet 5 inches-circumference
29 feet-height
31 feet-spread, 104 points
Tim Overstreet
Guilford Road

Pine, Pitch
Pinus rigida
5 feet 8 inches-circumference
72 feet-height
36 feet-spread, 149 points
Kurt Merkle

County Champion Norway Spruce



County Champion Sycamore

Pine, Virginia
Pinus virginiana
6 feet 8 inches-circumference
63 feet-height
48 feet-spread, 155 points
Tim Brix

Poplar, Yellow
Liriodendron tulipifera
21 feet 4 inches-circumference
117 feet-height
73 feet-spread, 391.2 points
Tim Overstreet
Gwynn Acres Trail

Poplar, Yellow
Liriodendron tulipifera
20 feet 3 inches-circumference
98 feet-height
87 feet-spread, 362.8 points
Howard County Conservancy
Woodstock

Sourwood *Oxydendrum arboreum*
3 feet 6 inches-circumference, 21 feet-height, 25 feet-spread, 69.2 points
Tim Overstreet, Ellicott City

Spicebush
Lindera benzoin
8 inches-circumference
13 feet-height
15.5 feet-spread
25 points
Tim Overstreet
David Force Park
Ellicott City

Spruce, Norway
Picea abies
9 feet 11 inches-circumference
82 feet-height
40 feet-spread
211 points
Sister Ann Macram
Sisters of Bon Secours

County Champion Black Walnut

Spruce, Norway
Picea abies
9 feet 2 inches-circumference
80 feet-height
44 feet-spread, 201 points
Donald Graham
Marriottsville

Sycamore
Platanus occidentalis
17 feet 9 inches-circumference
76 feet-height
100 feet-spread, 314 points
Mrs. Ellen Stanley
Ellicott City

Sweetgum
Liquidambar styraciflua
9 feet 3 inches-circumference
85 feet-height
54 feet-spread, 209.5 points
Tim Overstreet
PFI

Tree of Heaven
Ailanthus altissima
7 feet 2 inches-circumference
78 feet-height
64 feet-spread, 180 points
Tim Overstreet
Ellicott City

Walnut, Black
Juglans nigra
15 feet 5 inches-circumference
82 feet-height
83 feet-spread, 287.8 points
Stephan D. Simms
Ellicott City

Walnut, Black
Juglans nigra
13 feet 8 inches-circumference
90 feet-height
97 feet-spread, 283.5 points
Belmont Conference Center
Elkridge

Walnut, English
Juglans regia
1 foot-circumference
17 feet-height
14 feet-spread, 32.5 points
Howard Co. Rec. & Parks
Elkridge

Witchhazel
Hamamelis virginiana
9 inches-circumference
17 feet-height
18 feet-spread, 30.5 points
Tim Overstreet
Allenwood

Howard County Forestry Board volunteer members at County Cherrybration event

BENEFITS OF TREES AND FORESTS

When asked about the benefits of trees, many of us would think of the beauty that trees provide. That's a great start, but the list of benefits that trees provide goes on and on.

Social Benefits

Trees play an important role in our lives. We often become personally attached to trees that we spend time around. We may remember a favorite climbing tree from our childhood. We look forward to the annual show of fall color in our yards and parks. We like trees around us because they make our lives more pleasant and comfortable. In addition to the beauty they provide, trees offer many practical benefits.

- Trees are an important and renewable economic resource. We use forest products in countless ways in our everyday life.
- Trees serve architectural and engineering purposes. They can provide privacy, emphasize or screen out views. They reduce glare. And they soften or complement architecture.
- Trees moderate harsh weather. Forested lands are cooler in summer. Trees provide shade and also pump out water vapor through their leaves. This process absorbs huge amounts of heat. Forested lands are warmer in winter since trees are excellent wind breaks and reduce the wind chill factor. Well-placed trees can significantly increase human comfort and reduce energy costs.

Environmental Benefits

Trees help repair much of the damage that humans cause to our natural systems. Just consider:

- Trees improve air quality. Tree leaves absorb pollutants. And trees convert carbon dioxide, a byproduct of burning fossil fuels, into oxygen during photosynthesis. So we can all breathe a little easier.
- Trees improve water quality. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into our streams. Tree roots hold soil in place and prevent stream bank erosion. Trees reduce the speed of storm water runoff. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply and even reduces flooding.
- Trees provide wildlife habitat. Countless species of insects and animals live in trees or depend on them for food. Trees also provide many indirect benefits for wildlife. For example, trees along waterways keep the water cool, optimizing habitat for aquatic creatures.

HOW TO PLANT A TREE

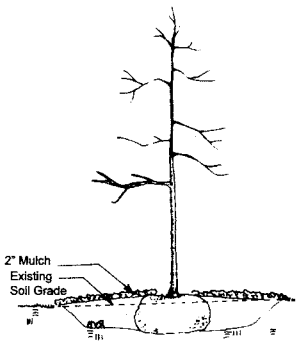
It is possible to successfully plant trees, whether balled, burlapped or in containers, any time of the year. However, the two preferred times are in early spring and in the fall when weather conditions are more conducive to root growth and establishment is more rapid. The exceptions are oak and pine trees, which should not be planted in the fall.

Planting Procedure

1. Prepare site by loosening soil in an area 5 times larger than the actual root ball. Do not dig deeper than the root ball or the tree might sink in the ground too deeply as the soil and tree settle. The sides of the hole should slope outwards when planting in heavy clay soils.

2. Do not add soil amendments such as compost or peat moss directly into the planting hole. This is a different recommendation than you will see in most literature. In clay soils these amendments can draw water into the hole where it can get trapped and cause root rot. A better method is to incorporate organic matter throughout the entire planting area.

3. Remove the cords on top of balled and burlapped trees and cut the burlap away from the top of the ball. Do not remove wire baskets and do not loosen the root ball. Plastic or synthetic burlap should be completely removed.



In heavy clay soils, plant with top of root ball higher than existing soil line

4. In heavy clay soils, plant the tree with the top of the root ball about 10% higher than the existing soil line. Grade the soil out gradually to secure root ball and keep it from drying out (see illustration).

5. Fertilization of newly planted trees is helpful. Use a fertilizer low in nitrogen and high in phosphorus and potassium, such as 5-10-5, to promote root growth.

Care After Planting

1. Do not stake newly planted trees. If a tree has an adequately sized root ball and is properly planted it will not fall over or lean. Occasionally, under very windy conditions and soft soil, staking may be needed for the first season.

2. Do not prune a tree after planting. The tree needs the top growth to generate new roots.

3. Mulch newly planted trees as far out as the branch spread.

4. Keep newly planted trees properly watered. Water when the soil below the mulch and in the root ball feels dry.

Source: Maryland Cooperative Extension, University of Maryland

HOW TO PRUNE A TREE

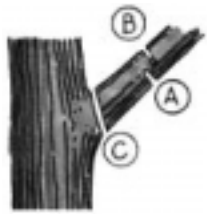
Pruning can be used to remove diseased, damaged or dead branches, to improve structure and to increase vigor. But no matter what the reason, always have a plan. Improper pruning is worse than no pruning at all.

Large heavy limbs can tear loose during pruning and create jagged edges that are unsightly and invite disease. Follow these steps when pruning large limbs:

A. Cut part way through the bottom of the branch to prevent the bark from tearing when the branch comes off.

B. Make a second cut on top of the branch, several inches out from the first undercut. This will allow the limb to fall cleanly.

C. Make a final cut next to the trunk just outside the branch collar, with the lower edge farther away from the trunk than at the top.



Never prune or climb a tree or put a ladder near power lines. Instead, report any problems to your local power company and let the experts do the job.

DON'T TOP YOUR TREES

One of the cardinal rules of pruning is never "top" a tree for any reason. Topping or cutting off the branches horizontally at the top of the tree's crown is not only unsightly, but also puts the tree under great stress and increases the risk to its health. Many arborists and tree experts now believe that topping is the absolute worst thing you can do for the health of your trees.

Here are six good reasons why not to top your trees:

1. Large stubs of topped trees are highly vulnerable to insect infestation, disease and decay.
2. Topping can put trees into shock and can kill some species of trees like Beeches.
3. Topping removes so much of the crown that the whole photosynthesis process is badly disrupted.
4. New sprouts are weaker than the original limbs and grow so rapidly that the tree will return to its original size in a very short time.
5. A topped tree is a disfigured tree and never regains the beauty and character of its species.
6. While topping may cost less in the short run, the true expense of topping includes reduced property value, increased maintenance costs, and removal and replacement if the tree dies.

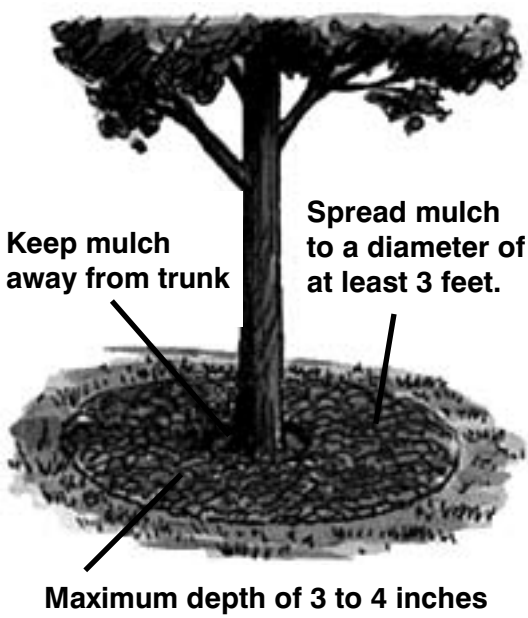
Source: National Arbor Day Foundation

HOW TO MULCH YOUR TREES

Properly used, mulch stops the growth of weeds and grasses that compete with the roots of trees and shrubs for water and nutrients. This is especially important during the first few years while plants are getting established. Proper mulching also slows down the evaporation of moisture in the soil and makes it easier for surface water from rain or sprinklers to penetrate the soil, reducing runoff and conserving water. These are especially important benefits during periods of droughts.

How Much To Mulch

With mulch, as with many good things, too much can be deadly. If you are using a finely ground mulch, 1 to 2 inches is adequate. For coarse mulch use 4 inches. This coverage will keep the soil cool, reduce evaporation, give your landscape a neat appearance and allow water to more easily seep into the soil. Replace the mulch only when it has decomposed and the soil begins to show, but don't overdo it. Shallow raking of existing mulch will give your landscape a freshly mulched appearance.



Deep Mulch Can Cause Problems

The heavy application of mulch, such as piling it into volcano-shaped piles around the trunk, can create several severe problems, even the death of the mulched plant. Deep mulch can suffocate roots, block the penetration of water and fertilizer, encourage disease-causing organisms and provide nest sites for mice and other rodents that will feed on the bark. Death from over mulching is very gradual but can be prevented if the mulch is removed before the plant's decline progresses too far.

Source: The National Arbor Day Foundation

WHERE TO GET HELP FOR YOUR TREES

In addition to their natural beauty and many environmental benefits, trees are a valuable addition for many homeowners. Studies have shown that trees can increase the value of residential property by as much as 27%.

If you have questions about how to protect and maintain your trees, here is where you can get help.

1. Home & Garden Information Center
   Maryland Cooperative Extension
   University of Maryland
   1-800-342-2507
2. Howard County Bureau of Highways
   Steve Parker, Treecare Supervisor
   410-313-7251
3. Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Forest Service
   Dan Lewis, Project Forester
   410-442-2080
4. Baltimore Gas and Electric Co.
   (Emergency Service for Trees on Power Lines)
   410-685-0123

Information is also available on these web sites:

1. Home & Garden Information Center
   Maryland Cooperative Extension
   University of Maryland
   http://www.hgic.umd.edu
2. Howard County Forest Conservancy District Board
   http://www.hcforest.sailorsite.net
3. Howard County
   http://www.co.ho.md.us
4. Maryland Department of Natural Resources
   http://www.dnr.state.md.us
5. Maryland State Association of Forest Conservancy Districts
   http://www.mdforest.sailorsite.net
6. Maryland Forests Association
   http://www.mdforests.org
7. Mid-Atlantic Chapter, International Society of Arborculture
   http://www.mac-isa.org
8. To find an arborist in your area
   http://www.goodtreecare.com
9. National Arbor Day Foundation – TreeCity
   http://www.arborday.org
10. American Association of Amateur Arborists
    http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Academy/4901

HOW TO SEND A KID TO CAMP

The Howard County Forestry Board invites you to nominate a high school student to attend the Forestry and Natural Resource Career Week held every summer at the Hickory Environmental Education Center in Garrett County. This week-long co-educational workshop is designed to acquaint Maryland high school students with careers in forestry and natural resource management through first hand contact with professionals in a variety of conservation fields. Participants will learn about forest ecology, fisheries management, soil and water conservation and reforestation.

Students attending Maryland high schools, in grades 9-11, who are interested in natural resources careers, are eligible to apply. Applications are available beginning in February each year and may be obtained by calling your local forest service office at 410-313-7251 or visiting. www.mdforest.sailorsite.net.

One Kid Who Went to Camp

Dave Keane attended Camp Hickory as a high school student. Today he is a Project Forester in the Natural Resources Division of the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. Here is his story:

Forestry is not one of those things that a high school student normally hears about as a career path. That is why my experience at Camp Hickory was so important. It gave me the information I needed to pursue a career in forestry.

My current position with the Natural Resources Division of Howard County involves coordinating and administering the county's Forest Mitigation Program. The primary objective of the program is planting new forests in stream valleys, on steep slopes and to form contiguous blocks of forest and wildlife corridors. Through the fall of 2007 we will have planted 71,190 trees creating 242 acres of new forests.

I really enjoy my forestry job. I like the variety, the challenge and spending time outdoors away from my desk in some of the most beautiful areas in the county. It is also very gratifying because I believe my work is important to the very quality of life for everyone who lives or works in Howard County.

Howard County Project Forester, Dave Keane, first learned about forestry careers at Camp Hickory

My experience at Camp Hickory profoundly impacted my decision to pursue a career in forestry. I would encourage any student interested in forestry or natural resources to apply for this very informative camp program. Just as it was for me, it may be an important first step on the path to a very rewarding career.

HOW TO NOMINATE A CHAMPION TREE

Do you know a tree larger than the ones listed in this Howard County Register of Champion Trees, or a tree species that is not listed? If you do, you may have discovered a new County Champion. To nominate it for the next Register of Champion Trees, simply fill out and mail in this self-addressed nomination form. To be eligible, a tree must be located in Howard County and have a single trunk for at least 4½ feet above the ground and a total height of at least 15 feet. Trees of any species may be nominated.

How A Champion Tree Is Determined

Champion tree candidates are evaluated by adding the circumference of the trunk in inches (at 4½ feet above the ground) to the height and average crown spread in feet to arrive at a number of points for each tree. This point total is then used for comparison to other trees in the same species to determine the champion.

The formula is: Circumference (inches) + Height (feet) + 25% Average Crown Spread (feet) = Total Points

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City:_____ Zip:_____

Phone: _____

Best Time to Call: _____

Location of Tree: _____

_____

_____

Species: _____

Circumference of Trunk (measured 4 ½ feet above the ground): _____ (in.)

Height: _____ (ft.)

Average Crown Width: _____ (ft.)

Champion Trees

Return Address:

_____

_____

_____

Howard County Forest Conservancy District Board
P.O. Box 819
Clarksville, Maryland 21029

HOWARD COUNTY CHAMPION TREE NOMINATION

HOWARD COUNTY FORESTRY BOARD

In 1943 the Maryland Legislature passed an act creating 24 Forest Conservancy Boards, one in each county and one in Baltimore City. The Boards, made up of all volunteer members, act as advocates of sound forest management practices and promote conservation of Maryland's forest resources.

The Howard County Forestry Board Members volunteer more than 600 hours each year sponsoring several programs including:

School Reforestation

As a participant in the Chesapeake Bay School Reforestation Project, the Board has established school forests at four Howard County elementary and middle schools.

Howard County Arboreta

This program adds identification tree tags and interpretive signs and other educational services to parks and public gardens in the County.

Public Education

The Board donates educational materials to County libraries, provides forest landowners with forest management information, participates in the annual Howard County Fair and maintains an informational web site.

Arbor Day

Board activities include visits to County elementary schools to talk about the importance of trees and to distribute tree seedlings to students and sponsorship of the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest for County third graders.

Camp

The Board annually sponsors up to two local students to attend a week long natural resources camp in western Maryland.

Champion Trees

The Board maintains a register of Champion Trees in the County to promote greater awareness of our forestry resources.

Howard County Forestry Board Members

Steve Parker, Chair	Dan Lewis	Jim Rose
Jan Clark	Wanda MacLachlan	John Scribner
Tod Ericson, DNR	Miriam Mahowald	Silas Sines
Secretary	Lynn Matson	Patricia Valentine
Dave Keane	Betsy McMillion	Harry Wainwright

Howard County Forest Conservancy District Board
P.O. Box 819
Clarksville, Maryland 21029
www.hcforest.sailorsite.net

CHAMPION SPONSORS

Bartlett Tree Expert Company
Freestate Petroleum Corporation
Howard County Government
Howard County Forestry Board
Howard County Parks and Recreation
Turf Equipment and Supply Company, Inc.

SPONSORS

Redmiles Services, Inc.

SUPPORTERS

A & A Tree Experts, Inc.
Aqua Force Pressure Washing
Clear Ridge Nursery, Inc.
Foster's Country Store
Jimmy's Lawn and Landscape Maintenance

The Howard County Forestry Board would like to thank Board Members Jan Clark, Wanda MacLachlan, Lynn Matson, Steve Parker and Jim Rose for their tireless efforts compiling this publication and identifying and measuring our Howard County Champion Trees.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF FOREST CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARDS

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