

THE BIG NEWS

Happenings in the World of Texas Champion Trees

Fall 2007

(Almost) Everything's Bigger in Texas!

Every two years, *American Forests* publishes the National Register of Big Trees as part of the spring issue of their magazine. To get the most accurate list for the 2008 edition, AF asked each state coordinator to find and remeasure champions in their state that hadn't been visited since 1998. Over the past two years, Texas Forest Service foresters worked diligently to accomplish this task and I'm pleased to report that we were largely successful in relocating many of these long-forgotten trees. Along the way, we found some new possible national champions. The list below shows the new and remeasured national champions we sent to AF by the October 31 deadline:

Species	Cir.	Height	Spread	Tree Index	County	Owner
Anacua	148	42	46	202	Victoria	June Pettis
Anacua	141	55	46	207	Hidalgo	Carlos Ibarra
Anacua	146	42	59	203	DeWitt	Pat Dolan
Baretta	17	24	16	45	Hidalgo	Lower Rio Grande NWR
Baldcypress, Montezuma	301	68	99	394	Cameron	Thomas Watkins
Bluewood, Brazilian	85	29	28	121	Hidalgo	Olivia Rodrigaez
Bully, gum (gum bumelia)	87	55	56	156	Tarrant	City of Fort Worth
Farkleberry (tree sparkleberry)	62	18	31	88	Houston	Willette Rosson
Guajillo (Berlandier acacia)	18	20	25	44	Uvalde	John K. Berry, Open V Ranch
Hawthorn, blueberry	95	42	35	146	Nacogdoches	John Pounds
Hawthorn, green	50	38	33	97	Tarrant	Fort Worth Botanical Gardens
Hercules-club, Texas	33	41	18	79	Tarrant	City of North Richland Hills
Mountain-laurel, Texas	50	35	18	90	Uvalde	John K. Berry, Open V Ranch
Oak, Chisos red (Graves oak)	32	39	43	112	Brewster	Big Bend National Park
Oak, Mohr's	37	21	22	64	Culberson	Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Oak, Vasey	60	33	34	102	Brewster	Big Bend National Park
Oak, white shin (Bigelow oak)	121	45	72	184	Travis	Skyline City Homes
Oak, Chisos	56	34	43	101	Brewster	Big Bend National Park
Palmetto, Rio Grande	61	50	11	114	Hidalgo	Frontera Audubon
Palmetto, Rio Grande	59	48	18	112	Cameron	Thomas Watkins
Pine, shortleaf	151	91	68	259	Smith	Lindale Fishing & Hunting Club
Plum, Mexican	65	21	31	94	Harris	University of Houston
Potatotree	21	24	25	51	Hidalgo	Valley Nature Center
Privet, Chinese	36	23	24	65	Tarrant	Green Mama's Nursery
Redbud, Texas	81	20	39	111	Parker	Bill & Debbie Postier
Saffron-plum (Coma)	58	27	39	95	Hidalgo	Lower Rio Grande NWR
Sophora, Texas	74	41	44	126	Real	Scott & Carol Kolb
Sweetgum	244	91	96	359	Van Zandt	Tommy & Sherry Barton
Sugarberry	162	92	79	274	Nacogdoches	Duane & Sandra Stephens
Yucca, Faxon	72	23	10	97	Brewster	City of Alpine
Yucca, Faxon	73	19	7	94	Jeff Davis	Texas Dept. of Transportation

Quarterly List Published

Additionally, here are the new state champs or co-champs crowned in the 3rd quarter of 2007:

Species	Cir.	Height	Spread	Tree Index	County	Owner
Smoketree, American	39	12	18	55	Gillespie	Jeffrey Morin
Juniper, oneseed	37	25	22	68	Potter	Miles Childers
Pine, Afghanistan	105	68	45	184	Jeff Davis	Moon Ranch
Sumac, winged	11	23	10	37	Walker	Eunice Hinson

More Photo Essays Available

To see pictures from Guadalupe Mountains National Park and other big tree hunting trips, check out the new photo galleries at <http://texaschampiontrees.snapfish.com>. Just type in the user name "bigtrees@tfs.tamu.edu" and the password "champion" to gain access to the site, or create your own account to get automatic updates when new trips are added.

In Memorium

During our statewide search for national champions, we discovered several had died (or we didn't "discover" them at all). These included guajillo (*Acacia berlandieri*), a Texas mountain-laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*), Chisos red oak (*Quercus gravesii*), Texas paloverde (*Parkinsonia texana*), tallowtree (*Triadica sebifera*), and Trecul yucca (*Yucca treculeana*).