

Contact Us

For assistance, please contact:

[Eric Wiseman](#)

Program Coordinator

Department of Forest Resources and

Environmental Conservation

Virginia Tech

540-231-5148

pwiseman@vt.edu

[Tracey S. Sherman](#)

Program Support Technician

Department of Forest Resources and

Environmental Conservation

Virginia Tech

540-231-7671

tracey@vt.edu

[John Peterson](#)

Database Manager

Department of Forest Resources and

Environmental Conservation

Virginia Tech

540-231-8942

jopeters@vt.edu

bigtree.cnre.vt.edu



Big Tree Volunteers Gary Williamson (l) and Byron Carmean (r) with the national champion overcup oak that they discovered and nominated in Isle of Wight, VA.

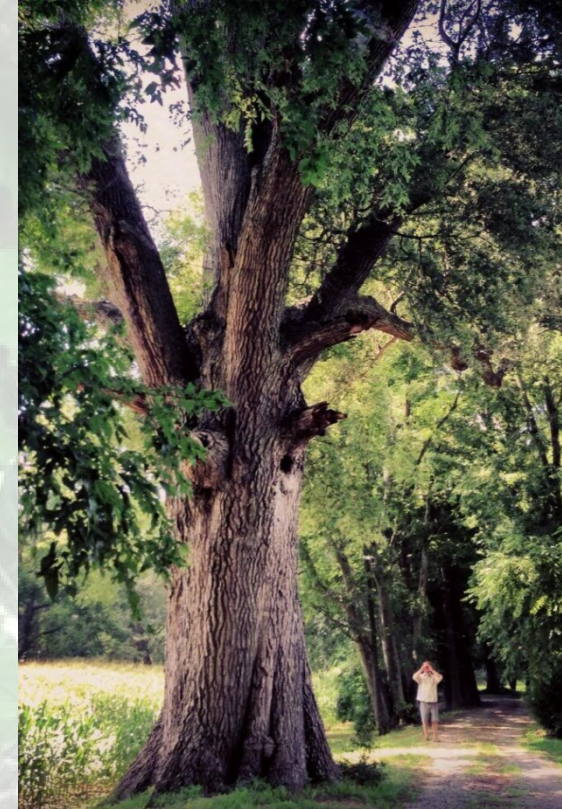
Become a Big Tree Volunteer

Find your champion tree

Being the first person to discover a champion tree is very exciting. For over forty years, there have been countless volunteers who have searched around the state for their champion tree.

If you enjoy spending time outdoors among trees, whether it be a walk in the neighborhood or a hike through the woods, consider becoming a Big Tree Volunteer. All it takes is a basic training session on the measuring and nomination process before you are able to claim your own champion tree.

See the back of our pamphlet for contact information if you are interested in hunting big trees, tracking our existing champs, or simply helping raise awareness about Virginia's forest resources.



VIRGINIA BIG TREE PROGRAM

*Promoting the care and
appreciation of trees —
big and small —
since 1970*



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

What We Do

The Virginia Big Tree Program maintains a register of the 5 largest specimens of over 300 native, non-native, and naturalized tree species. The register includes information about each tree's size, location, and heritage. Trees are scored based on their height, trunk circumference, and crown spread. Champion trees must be re-certified every 10 years. To view trees in the register, visit <http://bigtree.cnre.vt.edu>.

The Virginia Big Tree Program is affiliated with the National Big Tree Program, which is administered by American Forests. Virginia has consistently ranked among the top-5 states for national champion trees.



The national champion willow oak in Northampton, VA.

How to Nominate a Big Tree

There are always big trees out there waiting to be discovered. If you come across a tree you believe to be a champion, you can nominate it for the Virginia Big Tree Register. The first step is to measure the tree and calculate its score.

Every tree in the Virginia Big Tree Register is scored based on 3 characteristics:

- Trunk circumference
- Tree height
- Average crown spread

The Big Tree Score is calculated using this formula:

Trunk circumference (1 point per inch) +
Tree Height (1 point per foot) +
Average Crown Spread (1/4 point per foot) =
Total Point Score

The tree with the highest score for its species is recognized as the state or even the national champion.

Anyone may nominate a tree to the Virginia Big Tree Register. If you need assistance with measuring or nominating a tree, please contact us.

Instructions for measuring and nominating big trees and an online nomination form can be found at: <http://bigtree.cnre.vt.edu/report.html>

*"I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree."*

~Joyce Kilmer



Program coordinator Eric Wiseman (center left) and former student intern Michelle Dowling (center right) with members of the Roanoke Tree Stewards.

Who We Are

The Virginia Big Tree Program is a natural resources outreach and education program of Virginia Cooperative Extension. It began in 1970 as a 4-H and FFA project to engage youth in forestry. Today the program is coordinated by the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech.

We are a passionate community of tree enthusiasts that includes Virginia Tech faculty and staff, Extension Agents, and numerous Big Tree Volunteers from around the state. The non-profit group Trees Virginia provides financial support each summer for a student intern who assists the program coordinator with public outreach and recertifying champion trees.

Our mission is to increase the care and appreciation for all trees – big and small – and educate the Commonwealth about the value of trees and forests.