

ANCIENT TREES OF CALVERT
COUNTY

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Eighty years ago, a series of books appeared telling of the geology, mineral resources, soils, climate and forests of the various counties of Maryland. Calvert County was included in this series, and the section on forests was written by H.M. Curran, who was then a member of the U.S. Forest Service.

Mr. Curran noted that that 37% or 51,000 acres of the total area of Calvert County was timbered. Scrub pine wa abandoned fields was not included in this compilation, and the valuable timber (called slope timber) was, he said, to be found "on wooded slopes of stream depressions".

Once upon a time, as most of us know, the entire surface of Calvert County was submerged aand "deposits of mud, sand, gravel and ice-borne boulders floated down the rivers on huge ice blocks". The cliffs of Calvert bear striking evidence of this. However, gradually, the region began to rise again above the water add the deposits began to be cut away. Large streams like rivers opened up deep valleys in Calvert and then submergence occurred again. This drained these rivers and turned them into estuaries which ran all the way across the county.

From what is now Hunting Creek there was one open waterway all the way across to the mouth of Fishing Creek at Chesapeake Beach. Parkers Creek and Battle Creek met, also.

Over millions of years, this type of rise and fall occurred many times, according to geologists. At some spots along the river and bay, as erosion made the county as we know it today, large stumps which had been covered by ten to fifteen feet of clay, sand and gravel protruded from the soil. As years passed, bars built up across the mouths of estuaries, mud washed in and began to fill in area. Eventually, swamps and meadows came into being so that cypress swamps and trees began to evolve.

When Curran compiled his material, he indicated a typical stand of timber as on of a 61-acre tract with sound trees five inches and over in diameter. He found in that the following percentages of trees: Chestnut--26.5%, beech--12%, white oak--10.7%, red oak--10.3%, red gum--8%, hickories--5.6%, chestnut oak--3.8%, scrub pine--3.8%, yellow poplar--3%, ashes--.7% and other species--15.6%. These trees varied in size from a average of 9.5 inches in diameter (breast high) for ash to 16.6 inches for chestnut. Second in size to the chestnut was the white oak at 15.4 inches diameter.

In addition to the slope timber, a table was made for stream bottom growths, one predominantly ash and the other a cypress swamp from which most of its large trees had recently been removed. The ash bottom trees noted were: Ash--46.5%, elm--8.6%, sycamore--12.29%, red maple--0.68%, red gum--8.24%, willow--10.98%, and others--3.61%. The largest trees in this ash bottom were: Sycamore--34 inch diameter, elm--23 inches, and red maple--30 inches. In the cypress swamp, 92.88% were cypress and 7.12% were others. Maximum diameter of the cypress was 60 inches. Pines measured included the scrub pine, the shortleaf and the loblolly. Scrub pine was predominant at 89.47% and the loblolly was the greatest in diameter at 28 inches.

Curran noted that woodlands had been cut so much that quantity had been greatly reduced and no attempt was made to replant for worthwhile crops. He stated that since some timbered areas of farm holdings had been in families for generations "taxes were paid whether they yield revenue or not". He felt that the only reason a timber crop could not be grown was "lack of interest and information".

Fortunately, there were some farmers who, in later years, decided our forests should be cared for and plans were made for tree farms.

Calvert County established its first forestry board in the late 1930s with T. Reid Hutchins as its first chairman. Not until 1968, however, was there a resident forester assigned to Calvert with an office ready to assist those interested in the growth of timber. Philip R. Mohler began his duties in that position in that year and served for several years when he became a regional extension specialist. He was succeeded by John Markovich, and now Calvert has as its first female resident forester, Chris Lynch.

There are now 29 certified tree farms in Calvert as of January, 1986. Owners, location of the tree farm and acreage are as follows:

George Garman--Port Republic--
128 acres
Walter Johnson--Lusby--10a.
Mrs. Bennett Hughes--Prince
Frederick--205a.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cory--
Lusby--20a.
Mr. and Mrs. John Berezoski--
Owings--77a.
- Russell Walter--Mackall Rd--
12a.
- David Harper--Calvert Beach--
88a.
Henry and Alice Dorshow--
Sollers Rd.--170a.
Thomas M. Ray--Mackall Rd.--
11a.

Paul and Judy Sellers--
 St. Leonard--89a.
 Est. of Katherine Fowler--
 St. Leonard--189a.
 June Henning--St. Leonard--
 117a.
 Evelyn Mackall--St. Leonard--
 90a.
 James L. Rosser--Adelina--21a.
 Donald Barrett--Huntingtown--
 20a.
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fulk--
 Huntingtown--18a.
 Patrick Ogden--Lusby--351a.
 Mr. and Mrs. George Button--
 Mutual--220a.
 Mr. and Mrs. Benedict Fiore--
 Olivet--22a.
 Arthur Merrion--Huntingtown--
 22a.
 Mrs. Parran Yada--Lusby--59a.
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Nickerson--
 Broomes Island--11a.
 Gerald Sterner--Huntingtown--
 13a.
 Mr. and Mrs. Steuart Vaughan--
 Prince Frederick--363a.
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ursic--
 Fallville--17a.
 Marge Ratliff--Chesapeake
 Beach--68a.
 Carrow Prout Jr.--Mt. Harmony--
 180a.
 Warren Powell--Harbor Hills--
 30a.
 Total number of acres in Calvert
 in tree farms--2633 acres.

Fifty-one species of forest trees were found in Calvert County in 1907. These trees are listed at the end of this booklet. The list appeared in the county papers at various times and requests were made for people to submit names and sizes of trees on their property. Unfortunately, response was very poor. However, with the cooperation of the County Forester's office, some information was obtained. The SEARCH FOR SUCH trees in Maryland began in 1925, and booklets were published in 1937 and 1956, listing the champions. Then, in 1973, another booklet of big tree champions was published by the Department of Natural Resources. This booklet listed the trees in alphabetical order, gave circumference at 4½ feet, and also height and spread as well as the location of the tree and the owner of the property. The 1973 booklet indicated that in 1940, Maryland led the nation in these big trees and again in 1955, with 45 champions. Some of these trees have now been lost to storms and/or age.

Now, for Calvert County, here is a similar compilation, based on the research obtained as indicated above. Several of these trees are bi-centennial ones, i.e. at least 200 years old in 1976. The list will show the Maryland champion of 1973 and the comparable one in Calvert.

Bitternut Hickory	12'10"	-----	-----	Stewart Gordon Sunderland
> Cal. Co.				
American Holly	12'1"	51'	45'	St. Marys College St. Marys County Huntingfields Est. Huntingtown
> Cal. Co.	6'4"	43'	-----	
Am. Linden	18'1"	110'	77'	St. Pauls School Brooklandville
Md.				
Cal. Co.				
Magnolia	10'4"	57'	51'	J.F. Donoho Easton
Grandiflora				
Md. 1				
Cal. Co.				
Red Maple	13'8"	90'	76'	J.A. Wagner Monkton
Md.				
Cal. Co.	10'8½"	50'	-----	Mrs. George Hardesty Dunkirk
Silver Maple				
American Holly, Md.	12'1"	51'		
--10--				
Silver Maple	21'8"	84'	103'	Wilbur S. Smith Silver Spring
Md.				
Cal. Co.	12'9"	-----	-----	D. Davidson Chesapeake Beach
Mimosa	7'3"	33'	70'	C.N. Bliss Darlington
Md.				
Cal. Co.	5'5"	-----	-----	R.G. Sieder Solomons
Black Oak	19'7"	88'	84'	I.K. Silverman
Md.				
Cal. Co.	14'6"	114'	-----	Mrs. Earl Hicks Owings
Pin Oak	19'	95'	84'	M. Duke Darlington.
Md.				
Cal. Co.	8'6"	75'	-----	J. Buckley Huntingtown
Post Oak	14'2"	90'	74'	Methodist Church Trappe
Md.				
Cal. Co.	11'	76'	---	T. Reid Hutchins Pr. Frederick

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Southern Red Oak					
Md.	27'3"	128'	149'	E. Bridgman	
Cal. Co.	21'2"	100'	149'	Harwood	
				Smithville Methodist	
				Church	
White Oak Md.	32'2"***	108'	160'	Dunkirk	
Cal. Co.	(National Champion)			Wye Oak State Park	
	20'5"	80'		Wye Mills	
Willow Oak				R. E. Nicholson	
Md.	23'6"	125'	106'	Huntingtown	
Cal. Co.				W. R. Burgess	
Osage Orange				Queenstown	
Md.	13'10"	72'	74'	Walter Bay	
Cal. Co.	12'8"			Westminster	
				Albert Grosvenor	
Peach				Lusby	
Md.				Dr. John Cumberland	
Cal. Co.				Lusby	

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Loblolly Pine					
Md.	13'4"	116'	82'	J. Donoho	
				Easton	
Longleaf Pine				John Mitchell	
Md.	3'6"	27'	21'	Marbury	
Cal. Co.	6'9"			E. M. Rabenold	
				Lusby	
Shortleaf Pine				Forrest Bowie Est.	
Md.	8'10"	56'	41'	Largo	
Cal. Co.					
Carolina Poplar				D. Ebersole	
Md.	17'1"	106'	114'	Hagerstown	
Cal. Co.				Judge John B. Gray	
Sycamore				Prince Frederick	
M d.	7'2"	55'	--	Carrie B. Early Est.	
Cal. Co.	24'4"	119'	81'8"	Westminster	
				Robert Conlyn	
	13'3"			Battle Creek	

→ Tulip Poplar Md.	25'2"	136'	105'	Gunpowder State Park Baldwin
English Walnut Md.	16'6"	76'	80'	F.C.Buckout St. Michaels
→ Cal. Co.	6'11"	45'	-----	M.C. Rejes Huntingtown
Weeping Willow Md.	11'4"	55'	77'	J.R. Davis Silver Spring
→ Cal. Co.	15'2"	54'	-----	K. Clark Solomons

SPECIES OF FOREST TREES IN CALVERT
COUNTY IN 1907

MARYLAND TREES SUITABLE
FOR MEASURING

Conifers

Loblolly Pine
Scrub Pine
Shortleaf Pine
Cypress
Red Cedar

Hardwoods

Black Walnut
Bitternut Hickory
Mockernut Hickory
Pignut Hickory
Black Willow
River Birch
Blue Beech
Beech
Chinquapin
Chestnut
White Oak
post Oak
Chestnut Oak
Cow Oak
Red Oak
Scarlet Oak
Yellow Oak
Spanish Oak
Pin Oak
Black Jack
Willow Oak
Slippery Elm
White Elm
Hackberry
Red Mulberry
Sweet Magnolia

Hardwoods (cont.)

Yellow Poplar
Papaw
Sassafras
Witch Hazel
Red Gum
Sycamore
Cockspur Thorn
Scarlet Haw
Black Cherry
Red Bud
Locust
Staghorn Sumac
American Holly
Red Maple
Flowering Dogwood
Black Gum
Mountain Laurel
Persimmon
White Ash
Red Ash
Nannyberry

Ailanthus

(Tree of Heaven)
Green Ash
White Ash
Am. Beech
Copper Beech
Cutleaf Beech
Purple Beech
Weeping Beech
Black Birch
Red Birch
White Birch
English Boxwood
Boxelder
Common Buckeye
(Horse Chestnut)
Yellow Buckeye
Catalpa
Caucasian Wing Nut
Incense Cedar
Deodar Cedar
Eastern Red Cedar
Lebabon Cedar
N. White Cedar
Oriental Cedar
Wild Black Cherry
Japanese Cherry
Am. Chestnut
Chinese Chestnut
Japanese Chestnut
Chinaberry
Coffee tree
Siberian Crabapple
Crape-Myrtle
Cryptomeria

Bald Cypress

Dawn Redwood
Flowering Dogwood
American Elm
Chinese Elm
English Elm
Siberian Elm
Smooth Leaved Elm
Fig
Douglas Fir
Nordman Fir
European Silver Fir
Ginko
Black Gum
Sweet Gum
Hackberry
Eastern Hemlock
Hercules Club
Bitternut Hickory
Pignut Hickory
Shagbark Hickory
Shellbark Hickory
Pale Leaved Hickory
American Holly
Ironwood Hornbeam
Blue Beech Hornbeam
American Larch
European Larch
American Linden
European Linden
Bigleaf Linden
Littleleaf Linden
Black Locust
Honey Locust

Cucumber Magnolia
Evergreen Magnolia
Large Leaf Magnolia
Saucer Magnolia
Swamp Magnolia
Black Maple
Japanese Maple
Norway Maple
Red Maple
Silver Maple
Sugar Maple
Sycamore Maple
Mimosa
Mountain Ash
Black Mulberry
White mulberry
Mountain Laurel
Black Oak
Blackjack Oak
Burr Oak
Chestnut Oak
Chinkapin Oak
Laurel Oak
Northern Red Oak
Overcup Oak
Pin Oak
Post Oak
Saus Oak
Sawtooth Oak
Scarlet Oak
southern Red Oak
Swamp Chestnut Oak
Swamp White Oak
Water Oak
White Oak
Willow Oak
Osage Orange
Pagoda

Paulownia
Pecan
Persimmon
Austrian Pine
Himalayan White
Pine
Loblolly Pine
Longleaf Pine
Pitch Pine
Shortleaf Pine
Table Mt. Pine
Virginia Pine
White Pine
Carolina Poplar
European White
Poplar
Quaking Aspen
Sassafras
Serviceberry
Smoke Tree
Blue Spruce
Norway Spruce
Sycamore
Tamarix
Tulip Poplar
Black Walnut
English Walnut
Black Willow
Weeping Willow
Yellowwood Willow
English Yew
Irish Yew

References:

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Earl L. Yingling

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