



Trail Tree Newsletter

July 2015

This is the Volume 29 of the Quarterly Trail Tree Project Newsletter. We hope the topics in this newsletter will be of interest to you. If you want us to report on other things, just let us know and we will be happy to do that. Below is all the latest news.

Trail Tree (TT) Database

Trail Tree Database

One would think that at some time the flow of tree submissions would slow down. But, that has not happened. In fact, it even may have increased as more articles are being published. Also the recent release of the film *Mystery of the Trees* has brought more attention to the trees. The next section will report on some of the more interesting trees being submitted in the past several months. Most of these are the “Big’uns.”

Trees of Interest

Georgia Tree

Judy and Ken Menzies are our newest team of researchers working the far northeastern part of GA. They have been traveling the back roads and have found a number of new Marker Trees. The tree to the right is near the site of the Cherokee village called Nacoochee. Several Marker Trees were discovered in the vicinity of this tree. This tree is over 21 inches in diameter.



Georgia Tree

Florida Tree

Joe Ski has been searching the northern Florida area near the Alapaha River for Indian history and discovered a Marker Tree pointing to a spring. This tree is estimated to be around 25-30 inches in diameter.

Ohio Tree

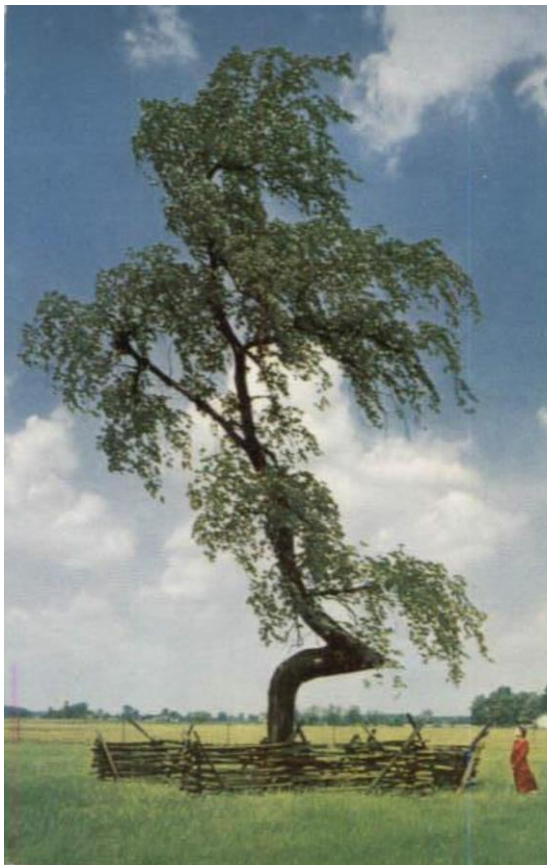
Tiffany Hughes was enjoying some recreational time in a park in northern Ohio when she discovered a very large Marker Tree that points toward a small stream, possibly a water source. The tree is 50.3 inches in diameter. Near that tree in Upper Sandusky, OH, another marker Tree existed that we found years ago on an old Post Card issued by SOHIO Oil Company. That tree marked a trail used by the Wyandot Indians who occupied the upper part of Ohio.



Florida Tree



Ohio Tree



Upper Sandusky Tree

North Carolina Trees

David and Kamali Chance sent in a large tree from North Carolina that is 32.5 inches in diameter. This tree points to a spring. This tree is one of the more unique trees with a double vertical and a 45 degree downward pointer.

A second tree was sent in by Larry Johnson from eastern North Carolina. This tree is 27 inches in diameter and has a hawk sitting on the tree. The tree points toward a creek now dammed up to make a lake.

Another Georgia Tree

Stan Cartwright took us to see a tree in Upson County, GA near the Flint River. This tree, seen on the next page, points to a spring about 100 feet to the northeast. The tree also points to a rock formation that may be a solstice ceremonial place. Nearby were rock cairns that may be grave sites. These will have to be further investigated in the fall when the conditions are better for seeing things - when the leaves are off the trees etc.

Indian Trails Mapping Program

It is difficult to map Indian Trails in the summer months due to so much vegetation and snakes and ticks being about. We did however do some preliminary mapping recently in Troup County, GA when invited onto a section of property that has the Grierson Indian Trail located on it. Robert Grierson was an Indian Trader and connected to the Hillabee Tribe, a part of the Creek Indian Nation. His trail branches off of the McIntosh Trail near Newnan, GA and goes westward to the Hillabee mother



North Carolina Tree



North Carolina Tree

town south of Talladega, AL. Eddie Lanham and I had mapped a portion of this trail over the past two years but had to stop when we ran out of time and out of public property. We found the trail on the private property and will return to the site in the fall to do the extensive mapping of the trail.

Mystery of the Trees Documentary

Since we held the world premiere for the *Mystery of the Trees* documentary in Jasper, GA on Saturday Feb 7, we have had screenings of the film in Westminster, SC, Harrison, AR, Hobbs State Park, AR., Red Clay State Park, TN. and Huntsville, AL. The film will also be shown in Colorado Springs, CO as part of the 3rd Annual Ute Prayer Tree Conference in the 2nd week of August. Several other screenings are in the planning for GA and elsewhere. We have also submitted the film to two film festivals for consideration. Our film has been selected for screening at the Gwinnett Center International Film Festival to be held 31 July – 2 August in Duluth, GA. We will be notified in September about the 2nd film festival. Other showings can be scheduled by contacting Don Wells at mountainman93@gmail.com.



Georgia Tree

***Mystery of the Trees* Presentations and Book Signings**

We usually make 30-35 presentations of the Mystery of the Trees lecture series annually. However, after a large number of scheduled presentations through June, **we have sold out the book and its now out of print.** We are investigating the possibility of republishing it as an eBook if the cost is within reason. Because of the large number of high quality four-color pictures in the book, we may not be able to republish it without a high cost.

We do have a number of additional lectures scheduled for the remainder of the year but will not have books to sell at the lectures. We will however, have copies of the DVD for sale. Copies of the DVD can be purchased at www.mysterytrees.org. If you wish to schedule a visit to your area, please contact us at mountainman93@gmail.com.

New Book in the Works

*Stories of Our Indian and Pioneer
Cultural Heritage - In the Southeast*
A Cultural Way of Life that is Fast Disappearing



Don & Diane Wells

With Eddie Lanham

Edited by Barbara Schneider

For the last five years, Diane and I with fellow author, Eddie Lanham, have been writing stories mostly about Indian and pioneer culture in the southeast. These multiple-part stories have been published in the mountain community newspaper, *Smoke Signals*. With a circulation of 20,000, the newspaper is

widely read in northeast GA but does not go beyond that region except through a small electronic circulation. We have therefore decided to collect all these stories plus some others and put them in a new book to be published for a larger audience. The book will likely be an eBook but that remains to be determined when it is finished. We hope that will be before the end of 2015.

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