



Trail Tree Newsletter

April 2015

This is the Volume 28 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

Thanks to our technical guru, Dr. Mickey Nardo, we have overcome the problems created by our web site host company and got the Trail Tree database back on line. We are now working at updating the files and fixing the problems remaining in the database. As time permits, we are going back through the database to remove trees that were put in ten years ago that should not be there. It will take years to clean the database but in the meantime, the new trees being submitted are being added to the database.

With a lot of recent publicity, the interest in Trail Trees has picked up remarkably so a lot of trees are being submitted from across the country. The next section will report on some of the more interesting trees being submitted including the “Big’uns.”

Trees of Interest

Arkansas Trees

Bob Gaut and his side-kick, Barnett, continue searching central AR for Indian Trees and have submitted a large number of them past few months. One of their trips was to Sugar Loaf Island in Greer Ferry Lake, AR. There they found three major trees plus one that had been reported previously. The trees on Sugar Loaf Island were from 23 inches to 28 inches in diameter.



Sugar Loaf Island Tree, AR

Missouri Tree

Dale DeSalvo submitted a tree he found in Montgomery County, MO. The tree is almost 27 inches in diameter. This tree is pointing toward a creek about 100 yards away.

Kentucky Tree

Susan sent in her tree located in Kentucky which points to a shelter about 200 feet away in a rock area. The tree is 33 inches in diameter.

Tennessee Tree

Bob Walden sent in a tree from near Sevierville, TN. The tree is on a high ridge and may point toward water but it is hard to tell. It is estimated that the tree is at least 36 inches in diameter but may be bigger.

Oklahoma Tree

The OK tree was located near Jay, OK . The tree is located on what might have been a ridge trail above a creek area. We have found very few Indian Trees in OK so this one has opened the door to knowledge that they do exist in OK.



Sugar Loaf Island Tree, AR



Missouri Tree



Kentucky Tree



Tennessee Tree



Oklahoma Tree

Indian Trails Mapping Program

Eddie Lanham, our researcher in Central GA has been researching and mapping the McIntosh Trail from GA to its end in AL. He has uncovered a lot of supporting documentation and visited some of the sites where the trail can be located. He has also been mapping a trail used by Benjamin Hawkins, the Indian Agent, from a location in Oconee County, SC to AL. Eddie and I traveled to Haralson County GA near Tallapoosa GA where we located a part of the trail that crosses through that part of GA.

We recently received data about the Indian Trails in the state of Wisconsin from the Wisconsin Archaeological Society. We have now plotted that Indian Trails data onto Google Earth so that we can compare trees data with the trails. These data will help us in any research we can do in Wisconsin and adjoining states.

In April, we traveled to AR and have started some research on Searcy County looking at Shawnee and Delaware Indian activities in that area. We also followed part of the Bengé Route of the Trail of Tears between Harrison and Hobbs State Park, AR.

Mystery of the Trees Documentary

We held the world premiere for the *Mystery of the Trees* documentary in Jasper, GA on Saturday Feb 7 to a standing room only crowd of over 225 people. Since that event, we have held three more screenings of the film in Westminster, SC, Harrison, AR and Hobbs State Park, AR. These are locations where parts of the documentary were filmed. The next screening is scheduled for Red Clay State Park in Tennessee on Saturday 16 May with another one scheduled for Huntsville, AL on Saturday 13 June. 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. Other screenings are in the works as well as planned submittals to film festivals later this year. Other showings can be scheduled by contacting Don Wells at mountainman93@gmail.com.

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

We began our 2015 schedule in Pigeon Forge, TN where we are participating in the 25th Annual Wilderness Wildlife Week which attracted 40,000 visitors this year, an increase of 12,000 from last year. We made two presentations attended by almost 200 people for each lecture. Since Pigeon Forge, we have been on the road making a number of other presentations for 2015 and the list is growing. 2015 will also include the screenings of the film so it should be another busy year.

The sale of the *Mystery of the Trees* book continues at a reasonable pace but we are approaching the end of sales for the 2nd printing with less than 50 books left now. Before we reprint the book, it will have to be rewritten to add in all of what we have learned since the original publication of the book. It is likely that the book will be out of print from about June 2015 to sometime in 2016.

If you wish to schedule a visit to your area, please contact us at mountainman93@gmail.com. There is no cost for the presentations. However, traveling long distances to present the information to only a few

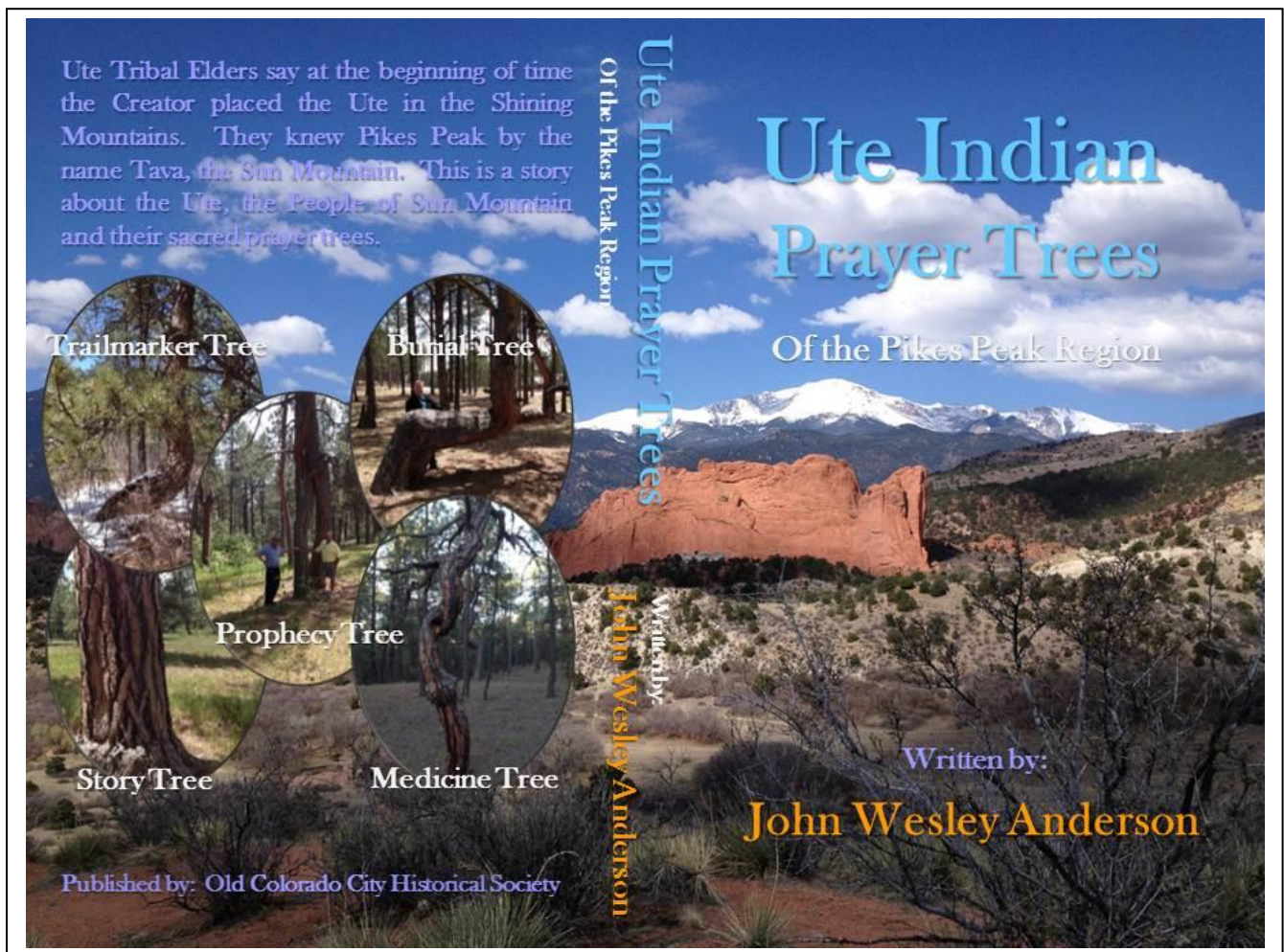
people is cost prohibitive. The current talk schedule can be found on the Mountain Stewards web site near the bottom left of the main page, (www.mountainstewards.org).

Facebook

To stay in touch with our activities in between Newsletter issues, follow us on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mysterytrees which provides a running account of our weekly activities. Please log on to the site and **LIKE** the page. This opens our information to a larger audience and helps educate folks about the program. Currently, we have well over 1,100 **LIKES**. We are now striving for the 2,000 mark.

New Book Available

Our fellow research associate, John Anderson, from Colorado Springs, CO has been working for a number of years independently and also in association with elders of the Ute Nation to document the Indian Trees associated with their way of life.



He has been instrumental in helping get the Annual Ute Prayer Tree Conference started in Colorado Springs. This conference brings together members from the Ute Reservations and those interested in Indian culture to create an environment dedicated to the education, appreciation and preservation of Ute Indian Prayer Trees cultivated in the Shining Mountains. Further, the conference works to generate respectful life-long relationships for young people from different backgrounds dedicated to exploring cultural values they share in common. Diane and I attended last years' conference and will attend this year as well.

John's book will soon be on the market and we recommend it. The book can be ordered from the Old Colorado Historical Society, 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. The telephone number is 719-636-1225. Current sales are pre-production sales at a cost of \$37.00. When the book goes on sale officially, the cost will be \$39.99.