



Trail Tree Newsletter

April 2018

This is Volume 40 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

I mentioned in the January Newsletter that articles continued to be published on the Marker Trees and tree submissions had become a major task of getting them researched and into the database. There are now over 2,370 Marker Trees in the database covering 46 states. I don't see an end to the finding of Marker Trees. The trees in this newsletter are from the ones submitted in Oct to Nov 2017. At some point I'm going to have to skip over several months to catch up with the date of the newsletter.

Trees of Interest

I've selected some of trees from all over the United States submitted in the fall of 2017 to show the extent of Marker Trees nationwide. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are learning more about interpreting the trees and learning to look for common configurations which help to understand their purpose.

KY Tree

So far, KY seems to be the state with the largest Marker trees. Deborah sent this 46-inch Marker tree in from near the Ohio River in KY. The largest tree found so far also comes from central KY. I look forward to seeing the next large tree from there.



KY Tree

KS Tree

Matt sent in his tree from KS. Didn't get the measurement on this tree but it is probably in the 30 to 36-inch diameter range.

VA Trees

There have not been a lot of Marker Trees found in VA until recently and then it exploded. We have a new group of researchers working the VA area and many trees are now being found and researched. The trees are being identified to the tribes that most likely created them based on the historical tribal location of the VA tribes. The VA tree shown below is from Sherri in eastern VA.

A second VA tree was found by Matt near Minlothian, VA. It is in an area where there has been a lot of development but fortunately, the tree has survived all of the construction. The tree is located in the right-a-way of a major highway so its amazing it still remains.

NC Tree

One of the states in which a lot of Marker Trees have been found is NC. We seem to get one from that state at least every other week. David submitted his tree back in Nov 2017. His tree is a poplar species tree. We don't find many Marker Trees bent using poplar but the Indians did use this species on occasion.



KS Tree



Eastern VA Tree

This tree is a bit unusual in that the tree is bent all the way to the ground level before going back up vertically. Trees that are in contact with the ground tend to deteriorate sooner but this one has lasted.



NC Tree

TN Tree

Desiree sent in her tree from TN near the Pinson Mound site. The Pinson Mounds is one of the largest earth mound sites in the US located in western, TN.



Central VA Tree



TN Tree



PA Trees

PA Trees

Robert located two Marker Trees on a slope area in PA. Unusual to find two trees marking a site when one tree would serve the purpose. However, in this case, either the person bending the trees decided they needed two or two different people bent the trees because they did not like the other one's tree.

MO Tree

Matt sent in this nice "4" Tree from MO. This shape tree is often marking a water source but the tree configuration has also been used for marking a grave site.



MO Tree

GA Tree

Dave teaches a class each semester at Augusta University, GA in camping and backpacking. Each year, he took his class to a state park near Augusta to see this tree and to get out into nature. Some of last year's students are seen with the tree. We think this tree is marking an old Indian trail.

Indian Heritage Sites Mapping Program

I mentioned in the last newsletter how we are now learning to use Native Science in our mapping of sacred sites.

We began mapping the old Indian Trail used by Col. Marinus Willett in 1790 last year. Willett was George Washington's secret agent to convince the Creek Nation to sign a treaty in New York in 1790 to stop the war on-going in GA at that time. We completed the mapping of the trail with the



GA Tree

exception of the last 20 miles in GA and will get that done soon. Throughout GA where we mapped the trail, we have found remnants of the old trail and also located several of the Cherokee and Creek villages Willett stopped at on his trip westward.

More recently, we started researching Indian Sacred Healing sites marked with carved rocks used in ceremonial healing. The first site we located was in KY and related to the Shawnee. The second site is in AL and related to the Cherokee. The third site has yet to be researched and it is in GA most likely related to the Creek Indians. Each of these sites has a distinctive carved rock with a pattern that seems to be similar to a turkey's foot. Each site has an underground stream directly under the carved rock and also has two Earth Energy lines passing through the carved rock. It is believed the sites was located in these areas because of the possible spiritual connection associated with the water and energy lines. Other healing sites have also been found which do not have the carved rock symbols but do have the water and energy lines. It is believed that the medicine to be used in the healing ceremony was prepared on the rock with the carved symbol.



KY Carved Rock Symbol



AL Carved Rock Symbol

New Non-Profit Organization Founded in CO

The Association for Native American Sacred Trees and Places (NASTaP) organization has been established in Bailey, CO. It will be housed at the Glen Isle Resort in Bailey. This organization is like Mountain Stewards but focused on the Indian sites in the southwest. The Association for Native American Sacred Trees and Places (NASTaP) was created to inspire discovery, appreciation, and conservation of culturally modified trees and places held sacred to Native Americans now or in the past. Dr. James Jefferson, Southern Ute elder is President of the organization. You can learn more about the organization by going here: <http://ja2153.wixsite.com/nastap>. Their annual conference is scheduled for 2-4 August 2018 at Glen Isle Resort.

Comanche Nation Honors Marker Tree in Holiday, TX

The Comanche Nation with support from The Texas Historic Tree Coalition (<http://www.txhtc.org/>) has authenticated one of the Comanche Trees located in TX in 2011. The Comanche celebrated that tree in March 2018. A number of other potential Comanche trees have been located in Texas and are currently being researched to authentic them as well.

Osage Marker Tree Ceremony

On March 29, the Osage Nation will be celebrating one of their Marker Trees located at the Smallin Cave in MO just south of Springfield. A Marker tree was located at that site over a hundred years ago pointing to the location of the Smallin Cave used by the Osage and possibly the Cherokee. Elders of the Osage Nation will preform a ceremony at the Smallin Cave to bless another marker tree being started on its journey.

VA to Honor Their Indian Tribes

For many years the Indian tribes that occupied the VA Commonwealth area were all but forgotten even though several of them had reservations in VA. In 2018, the federal government finally recognized six of these tribes which are now added to the list of federally recognized tribes in the US.

In recognition of their lasting legacy and significance, as well as to ensure that the rich and inspiring stories of our native peoples will endure, the Virginia Indian Commemorative Commission was established with the purpose of erecting a permanent monument on Capitol Square to honor the VA Tribes. More can be



Holiday, TX Comanche Tree



learned about this site by going here: <http://indiantribute.virginia.gov/monument.html>. Pictures of the site are provided by Jo Freeman. The ceremony is scheduled for 17 April, 2018.



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

We are now only doing a few presentations each year based on requests or invited conference presentations. We have sold out of the third printing of the *Mystery of the Trees* book and will no longer have it available. We still have a number of the DVD's of the same title available. We dropped the price of that item to \$12.00 and will have it for sale until supplies are gone.

We will be back at the Wilderness Wildlife Week Conference in Pigeon Forge, TN on the 2nd week of May. We have been invited to present two lectures this year, one on learning to interpret the Marker Trees and the 2nd lecture on using dowsing to research the sacred Indian sites.

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