

Arkansas Champion Tree Program, 2015

A program from the Arkansas Forestry Commission

www.forestry.arkansas.gov



What is the Arkansas Champion Tree Program?

Arkansas is a renowned state for its scenic, natural beauty and abundant forested areas. The trees of this great little state are pieced together across a varied landscape and offer huge diversity. The Arkansas Champion Tree Program is a recognition program for the largest trees of each tree species. Champions are unique from one another in size, width, and even color – as they represent entirely different species from one tree to the next. It's important to remember that not all Arkansas Champions are necessarily tree giants; rather, they are the largest for that tree species. For example, the Champion Ginkgo Tree is much smaller in comparison than say the Champion Bald Cypress Tree. They are equally magnificent, however, in their own unique ways. At this time, there are 123 current State Champion Trees, with several nominations pending.

This program has grown in popularity and recognition thanks to the shared interest of Arkansas landowners, the work of AFC personnel across the state, and the work of two special visionaries: Linda Williams Palmer and Peggy Clark.

Linda Williams Palmer, Hot Springs Artist and long-time Arkansan, was so inspired by Arkansas Champion Trees that she created an entire collection of artwork, featuring large, detailed, colored pencil-drawn images to document and artistically interpret selected Arkansas Champions. Palmer's exhibit, "Arkansas Champion Trees: An Artist's Journey," has been selected for numerous juried exhibitions and collections across the state. Palmer's work has captured in time the intricate detail and splendor of each Champion Tree featured, so that even as they age, their memory does not. An Arkansas Arts Council grant along with donations from Plum Creek and Domtar enabled the Arkansas Committee of the National Women in the Arts to make Palmer's series available to 16 venues across the state from 2012 to 2014. To view the drawings visit: www.lindawilliamspalmer.com

Peggy Clark, Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) Board Member, Ross Foundation Trustee, and former Commissioner with the AFC, saw Linda's exhibit and was met with a challenge—how could Champion Trees be better identified as Champions of their species by the public? Peggy forged a cooperative effort between the Ross Foundation, AFA, AFC, and the U.S. Forest Service to create hand-crafted, native stone monuments to commemorate and identify Champion Trees.

Stone Mason, Jack Culpepper, of Garvan Woodland Gardens, worked with partners to mount Champion Tree plaques on the stones, identifying the tree species and its status. Thanks to Ms. Clark's ingenuity, as well as the wonderful partnerships, begun by participation and support from the Ross Foundation, many Champion Trees are now easily visible for visitors and marked handsomely during their reign.

In 2014, the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) created a documentary film, "Arkansas Champion Trees," about Palmer's work and exhibitions. The film includes historical background for the landowner of each featured tree, a forester's perspective (told by AFC Forester, Matthew Voskamp) about measuring and documenting trees, as well as the stone monuments. This film has gained national attention and has won several awards.

Furthermore, the Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts produced classroom materials, with the support of Entergy Arkansas grants in 2013 and 2014, and a 2013 grant from the School of Forest Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, in order to bring Palmer’s collection to Arkansas students. Materials include complete lesson plans and posters to accompany each work of art. Materials are free and available online at the AFA website: www.arkforests.org.

Champion Trees and Their Measurement

Trees are measured in three dimensions: the trunk circumference, height, and average crown spread. Circumference—or diameter if a diameter tape is available—is taken at breast height, 4½ feet from the ground level. The formula below is provided by the American Forestry Association as the official calculation of a Champion Tree:

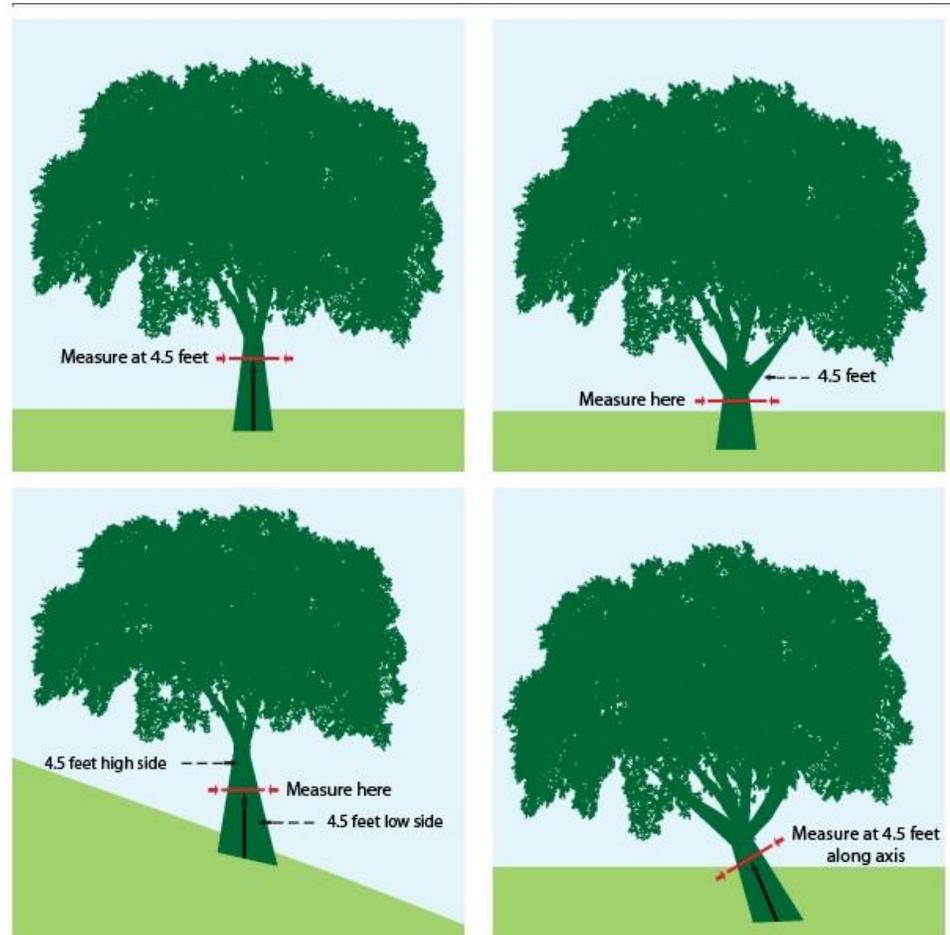
$$C_{ii} + H_{if} + \frac{1}{4} a_{Sif} = B.I.$$

Circumference in inches (**Cii**), plus Height in feet (**Hif**), plus 1/4 the average spread in feet (**1/4aSif**) = Bigness Index (**B.I.**)

There is also a national listing of Tree Champions, identifying the Champion Tree specimen for each species from the entire United States. Visit www.americanforests.org.

Who May Nominate a Champion Tree?

Arkansans from anywhere in the state may nominate a tree for measurement as a possible new Champion. Local forestry officials use the Bigness Index discussed at right to evaluate tree measurements. Should the measurements of a nominated tree be larger than those of the current state Champion, that tree becomes a new Champion for that species.



Arkansas Champion Trees by County (125)

Arkansas County

- Baldcypress
- Water Hickory
- Osage-Orange

Ashley County

- Red Mulberry

Benton County

- Black Cherry
- Blackgum
- American Chestnut
- Downy Serviceberry
- Siberian Elm
- Slippery Elm
- Black Oak
- Eastern White Pine
- Yellowwood

Bradley County

- Cedar Elm
- Hawthorn

Calhoun County

- Sweetbay Magnolia
- Blackjack Oak
- Yaupon

Chicot County

- Live Oak

Conway County

- Ozark Chinkapin

Crawford County

- Blue Ash

Cross County

- Southern Red Oak

Dallas County

- Spruce Pine

Desha County

- Bottomland Post Oak
- Nuttall Oak

Drew County

- Carolina Beech
- Pignut Hickory

Garland County

- American Basswood
- Horse Chestnut
- Umbrella Magnolia
- Serviceberry
- Sourwood

Grant County

- Eastern Hophornbeam
- Winged Sumac

Hempstead County

- Southern Catalpa
- Durand Oak

Hot Spring County

- Longleaf Pine

Howard County

- Loblolly Pine

Independence County

- Chinkapin Oak

Jackson County

- Flowering Dogwood

Jefferson County

- Swamp Privet

Logan County

- Sassassfras
- Western Soapberry

Lonoke County

- English Walnut
- Swamp Chestnut Oak
- Sweetgum

Madison County

- Green Ash
- Eastern Hemlock
- Tulip Tree

Miller County

- Southern Magnolia

Mississippi County

- American Elm
- Hackberry
- Overcup Oak
- Willow Oak

Monroe County

- Arborvitae
- Carolina Cherrylaurel
- Eastern Redbud
- Eastern Red Cedar
- Fig
- Goldenraintree
- Incense-cedar
- Possum Haw

Montgomery County

- Devil's Walkingstick

Newton County

- American Smoketree
- Ashe's Juniper
- Red Hickory
- Shagbark Hickory
- Northern Red Oak

Ouachita County

- Gum Bumelia
- Hercules Club

Phillips County

- China-Fir
- Ginkgo
- Cherrybark Oak
- American Sycamore

Pike County

- Post Oak

Polk County

- Water Oak
- Silverbell

Prairie County

- White Ash
- Honey Locust
- Red Maple
- Oriental Persimmon
- Redwood Dawn

Pulaski County

- Amur Corktree
- Crapemyrtle
- Nutmeg Hickory
- Persian Ironwood
- Oriental Persimmon
- Redwood Dawn
- Shagbark Hickory
- Northern Red Oak

Sharp County

- Longleaf Pine

Stone County

- Boxelder
- River Birch

Union County

- Winged Elm
- Mockernut Hickory
- Bigleaf Magnolia
- Pine Sonderegger

Washington County

- Black Locust
- Sugar Maple
- Norway Spruce
- Bur Oak

White County

- American Holly
- American Hornbeam
- Swamp Cottonwood
- Deodar Cedar
- Silver Maple
- Planertree
- White Poplar
- Water Tupelo

Woodruff County

- Cucumbertree
- Sweet Pecan

Yell County

- Northern Catalpa
- Eastern Cottonwood
- Black Hickory
- White Oak
- Persimmon
- Yellow Poplar
- Black Walnut

Arkansas Forestry Commission

Serving Arkansas Since 1931



Champion Trees of Arkansas, 2015

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index	County	Location	Landowner	Re-Measurement Year
American Basswood <i>Tilla Americana</i>	108	51	86	207	Garland	101 Reserve Street, Hot Springs 34.51647, -93.06434	Hot Springs National Park	2018
American Holly <i>Ilex opaca</i>	165	75	63	247	White	204 Valley View Road, 3 miles south of Rosebud 35.30645, -92.09044	Kim Floyd	2018
American Hornbeam <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	43	37	55	107	White	1439 Coal Chute, Bald Knob 35.19101, -91.49722	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	2015
American Smoketree <i>Cotinus obavatus</i>	26	10	20	49	Newton	N/A	National Park Service	2015

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index	County	Location	Landowner	Re-Measurement Year
Amur Corktree <i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	29	25	46	81	Pulaski	817 Tabor Avenue, Sherwood	Jerry Sanders	2018
Arborvitae <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	98	43	41	150	Monroe	Shady Grove Cemetery, to the left of the entrance	Shady Grove Cemetery	2015
Ash, Blue <i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i>	87	39	80	177	Crawford		William and Beverly Pyle	2018
Ash, Green <i>Fraxinum pennsylvanica</i>	13	74	78	110	Madison	Huntsville	Gordon McNulty	2015
Ash, White <i>Fraxinus americana</i>	209	22	80	311	Prairie	Hazen	Miranda Munnerylyn	2018
Ashe's Juniper <i>Juniperus ashei</i>	6	28	35.5	114.5	Newton	N/A	Gary McGuire	2015
Baldcypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	516	93	120	638	Arkansas	N/A	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	2018
Beech, Carolina <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> var. <i>caroliniana</i>	157	73	81	256	Drew	N/A	Heartwood Forestland	2015
Black Cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	185	82	65	271	Benton	1102 Stratten, Rogers	Burley Gayer	2015

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index Total	County	Location	Landowner	Re-Measurement Year
Blackgum <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	122	80	98	240	Benton	600 Museum Way, Bentonville	Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art	2015
Boxelder <i>Acer negundo</i>	110	69	100	227	Stone		Dennis Sutterfield	2018
Carolina Cherrylaurel <i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	74	8	43	125	Monroe	On the grounds of St. Luke MB Church, 5 miles SE of Clarendon on Hwy 86	St. Luke MB Church	2018
Catalpa, Northern <i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	258	85	9.5	352.5	Yell	209 Union Street, Dardanelle	Dardanelle Church of Christ	2015
Catalpa, Southern <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	188	76	55	262	Hempstead	Historic Washington State Park	Arkansas State Parks	2018
Chestnut, American Hybrid <i>Castanea dentata x mollissima</i>	54	34	75	138	Benton	312 N. Main, Bentonville	Compton Gardens	2015
Chestnut, Horse <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	74	41	67	151	Garland	824 Park Avenue, Hot Springs	Stitt House Bed & Breakfast	2017

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index Total	County	Location	Landowner	Re-Measurement Year
Downy Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	28	32	43	79	Benton	600 Museum Way, Bentonville	Crystal Bridges Museum of Modern Art	2015
Eastern Hemlock <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	119	43.5	70	200	Madison		Ozark-St. Francis National Forest	2015
Eastern Hophornbeam <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	40	28	38	85	Grant	Near Sheridan,	Carroll and Jody Guffey	2015
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	118	35	33	155	Monroe	609 N. Main, near Clarendon	Carlton Self	2017
Eastern Redcedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	114	9	47	170	Monroe	Shady Grove Cemetery at SW corner of Pine Tree Road and Hwy 86	Shady Grove Cemetery	2018
Elm, American <i>Ulmus americana</i>	219	107	86	332	Mississippi	On the east side of Hwy 77, 2 miles N of Hwy 140 and 77	Gary W. Johnson, Sr.	2015
Elm, Cedar <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	192	106	140	359	Bradley	N/A	Rex Timber Company	2015

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index Total	County	Location	Landowner	Re- Measurement Year
Elm, Siberian <i>Ulmus pumila</i>	143	47	75	230	Benton	500 N. Dixieland, Rogers	Dan Judd	2015
Elm, Slippery <i>Ulmus rubra</i>	169	79	75	264	Benton		Julius Russell	2015
Elm, Winged <i>Ulmus alata</i>	85	18	70	173	Union		Robert Kelley	2017
English Walnut <i>Juglans regia</i>	139	17	61	217	Lonoke	121 NE 2 nd Street, England	Evelyn Adams	2018
Fig <i>Ficus carica</i>	44	7	18	69	Monroe	400 S. Grand Avenue, Brinkley	Riviana Foods	2018
Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i>	74	44	35	120	Jackson	1020 Holden Avenue	Gene and Peggy West	2015
Ginkgo (Maidenhair) <i>Ginkgo bilboa</i>	182	60	59	256	Phillips	Entrance of Maple Hill Cemetery on N. Holly Street, Helena	Maple Hill Cemetery	2018
Goldenraintree <i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	65	33	30	99	Monroe	94 Oak Street, Clarendon	Dorolis Betts	2017
Gum Bumelia <i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i>	72	51	65	150	Ouachita	Poison Springs State Forest	Arkansas Forestry Commission	2015

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index Total	County	Location	Landowner	Re-Measurement Year
Hickory, Shagbark <i>Carya ovata</i>	122	64	101	239	Newton	N/A	National Park Service	2018
Hickory, Water <i>Carya aquatica</i>	134	19	118	257	Arkansas	N/A	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	2015
Incense-cedar <i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	108	36	87	204	Monroe	146 Central Avenue, Holly Grove	Raymond and Mary Abrams	2018
Kentucky Coffeetree <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	92	44	72	175	Randolph	Warm Springs	Tim Jones	2015
Locust, Black <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	142	53	61	216.25	Washington	W 113 Mountain Street, Fayetteville	City of Fayetteville	2018
Locust, Honey <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	158	64	97	271	Prairie	Near King Place Cemetery, on Hwy 11		2018
Magnolia, Bigleaf <i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>	24	6	50	80	Union	Calion	Mike Amason	2017
Magnolia, Southern <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	215	76	15	306	Miller	46 th Street and County Avenue, Texarkana	ERC Development Group, LLC	2016
Magnolia, Sweetbay <i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	100	14	72	176	Calhoun		Floyd Hearnberger	2015

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index Total	County	Location	Landowner	Re-Measurement Year
Magnolia, Umbrella <i>Magnolia tripetala</i>	28	20	48	81	Garland	101 Reserve Street, Hot Springs	Hot Springs National Park	2017
Maple, Red <i>Acer rubrum</i>	174	85	87	282	Prairie	Four miles E of Biscoe, S of Hwy 70	Hanke Brown and A.C. Freeman	2015
Maple, Silver <i>Acer saccharinum</i>	211	43	74	296	White		U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	2015
Maple, Sugar <i>Acer saccharum</i>	97	55	107	218	Washington	Confederate Cemetery in Fayetteville	Southern Memorial Association	2015
Mulberry, Red <i>Morus rubra</i>	294	78	70	383	Ashley	535 E Ashley 81, Hamburg	Mike Harville	2018
Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i>	82	36	75	166	Washington	847 N Park Avenue, Fayetteville	Tammy Smith	2018
Oak, Black <i>Quercus velutina</i>	190	105	100	316	Benton	806 NW 7 th Street, Bentonville	Jim Reynolds	2015
Oak, Blackjack <i>Quercus marilandica</i>	130	20	59	194	Calhoun	3203 Calhoun 54	Doug and Leah Gorman	2015

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index Total	County	Location	Landowner	Re-Measurement Year
Oak, Bottomland Post <i>Quercus similis</i>	175	19	130	310	Desha	N/A	White River National Wildlife Refuge	2015
Oak, Bur <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	208	21.5	98	327.5	Washington	354 W Main Street, Farmington	City of Farmington	2017
Oak, Cherrybark <i>Quercus pagoda</i>	301	118	125	456	Phillips	Lexa	Carol and Fred Dortman	2015
Oak, Chinkapin <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	212	117	102	343	Independence	Riverside Park, Batesville	City of Batesville	2015
Oak, Durand <i>Quercus durandi</i>	133	60	56	204	Hempstead		Ark Natural Heritage Commission	2018
Oak, Live <i>Quercus</i>	193	79	56	269	Chicot	N/A	James Moheao	2015
Oak, Northern Red <i>Quercus rubra</i>	161.5	76	109	289.5	Newton		National Park Service	2018
Oak, Nuttall <i>Quercus texana</i>	252	105	105	383	Desha		White River National Wildlife Refuge	2015

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index Total	County	Location	Landowner	Re-Measurement Year
Oak, Overcup <i>Quercus lyrata</i>	219	112	111	358	Mississippi	Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	2015
Oak, Post <i>Quercus stellata</i>	199	112.5	70	297.125	Pike	285 Hwy 19 South	Charles May	2018
Oak, Sand Post <i>Quercus Stellata</i> Var. <i>Margaretta</i>	125	88	70	220	Clark	4019 Copeland Ridge, Arkadelphia	Ronnie Strickland	2017
Oak, Southern Red <i>Quercus falcate</i>	243	105	88	357	Cross	Arkansas State Veterans' Cemetery, Birdeye	Ark Dept. of Veterans Affairs	2018
Oak, Swamp Chestnut <i>Quercus michauxii</i>	220	106	113	360	Lonoke	15952 Sandhill Road, Des Arc	Jane Stewart	2015
Oak, Water <i>Quercus nigra</i>	259	88	92	373	Polk	181 Penny Lane, Mena	Robert J. Manis	2018
Oak, White <i>Quercus alba</i>	261	72	18.25	351.25	Yell	Council Oaks Park on N Front Street	City of Dardanelle	2018
Oak, Willow <i>Quercus phellos</i>	276	112	110	414	Mississippi	1299 S. Division St., Blytheville	Barrett Harrison	2015
Osage-Orange <i>Maclura pomifera</i>	208	19	54	281	Arkansas	North yard of Visitor Center at AR Post National Memorial	National Park Service	2017

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index Total	County	Location	Landowner	Re-Measurement Year
Ozark Chinkapin <i>Castanea ozarkensis</i>	94	55	38	146	Conway	N/A	Tyler Rentals, Inc.	2015
Pecan, Sweet <i>Carya illinoensis</i>	230	112	110	368	Woodruff	691 Anderson Lane, Cotton Plant	Joe A. Anderson	2018
Persian Ironwood <i>Parrotia persica</i>	23	18	27	55	Pulaski	817 Tabor Avenue, Sherwood	Jerry Sanders	2018
Persimmon <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	155	96	15.5	266.5	Yell	1407 N. Front Street, Dardanelle	Sandra Warren	2018
Persimmon, Oriental <i>Diospyros kaki</i>	21	26	18	46	Pulaski	3307 Breckenridge Drive, Little Rock	Terry Hildegard	2018
Pine, Eastern White <i>Pinus strobus</i>	110	40	90	210	Benton	Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art	Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art	2015
Pine, Loblolly <i>Pinus taeda</i>	178	72	143	339	Howard	N/A	Paul Jones	2015
Pine, Longleaf <i>Pinus palustris</i>	256	37	16	281	Hot Spring	183 Cove Circle, Malvern	Elaine Watson	2018
Pine, Shortleaf <i>Pinus echinata</i>	105.6	44.8	108	224.8	Sharp	177 Backbone Road, Evening Shade	Steve and Kathie Gray	2018

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index Total	County	Location	Landowner	Re- Measurement Year
Pine Sonderegger <i>Pinus sonderegger</i>	113	13	60	186	Union	El Dorado	Mike Amason	2016
Pine, Spruce <i>Pinus glabra</i>	109	40	109	176.25	Dallas	N/A	Red Hot Plantation, LLC	2018
Planertree <i>Planera aquatica</i>	81	45	60	152	White	N/A	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	2015
Poplar, White <i>Populus alba</i>	118	78	71	209	White	300 East Race Street, Searcy	City of Searcy	2018
Poplar, Yellow <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	165	94	20	279	Yell	Front of courthouse, Dardanelle	City of Dardanelle	2018
Possum Haw <i>Ilex decidua</i>	19	22	27	49	Monroe	Bateman Family Cemetery	Rheta Griffin	2018
Redwood, Dawn <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	45	33	52	105	Pulaski	817 Tabor Avenue, Sherwood	Jerry Sanders	2018
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	128	99	144	297	Stone	N/A	Dennis Sutterfield	2018

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index Total	County	Location	Landowner	Re-Measurement Year
Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	232	43	51	294	Logan	N/A	William Grenwelge	2015
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier</i>	35	29	43	85	Garland	235 yards down Hunt Loop Trail (Ouachita National Forest)	U.S. Forest Service	2016
Silverbell <i>Halesia carolina</i>	56	38	65	131	Polk	N/A	U.S. Forest Service	2018
Sourwood <i>Oxydendrum Arboreum</i>	31	25	32	69	Garland	Garvan Gardens	Garvan Gardens	2017
Swamp Privet <i>Forestiera acuminata</i>	27	43	39	77	Jefferson	Mulberry Cemetery	Jerry and Peggy Morton	2015
Sweetgum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	181	28	155	364	Lonoke	Austin	Doug Sikes	2016
Sycamore, American <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	288	68	108	413	Phillips	St. Francis National Forest	U.S. Forest Service	2015
Tuliptree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	228	105	122	376	Madison	East of Combs of Hwy 16, across from County Road 4325	Kevin Shackleford	2017
Walnut, Black <i>Juglans nigra</i>	160	111	20.25	291.25	Yell	108 Pecan Drive, Dardanelle	Larry and Beth Naylor	2018

Tree Species	Circumference (inches)	Crown Spread (feet)	Height (feet)	Bigness Index Total	County	Location	Landowner	Re-Measurement Year
Water Tupelo <i>Nyssa aquatica</i>	451	92.5	125	599	White	Hurricane Lake Wildlife Management Area, Bald Knob	Arkansas Game & Fish Commission	2018
Western Soapberry <i>Sapindus drummondii</i>	74	37	47	130	Logan	Intersection of Hwy 22 and 109 N in Midway	Mark Varnell	2015
Winged Sumac <i>Rhus copallina</i>	19	25	56	81	Grant	N/A	Steven's Investments	2015
Yaupon <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	19	3	17	37	Calhoun	Near South Arkansas Telephone Company, Hampton	SatCo	2015
Yellowwood <i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	53	71	55	126	Benton	312 N. Maine Street, Bentonville	Compton Gardens	2015