



THE SUSSEX WOODCRAFT SOCIETY

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Hi everyone, here is your latest SWS newsletter.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

I attended the show at Wakehurst over the last bank holiday weekend on Monday. Once again, our members put out a superb range of items for purchase by visitors. Sadly, due to the Science Festival being held on the Saturday and Sunday it was very quiet in the mansion, where the SWS were based. However, Monday was a lot busier and members had more sales. I was pleased to hear such positive comments from people visiting the show. Many asked when we would be back at Wakehurst and if we had any other shows coming up. Thanks once again to Brian for organising the event.

Please remember that this Thursday (6th) is the Southdown's Woodturners monthly meeting which members have been invited to attend. I was lucky enough to join them for an evening a few months ago and thoroughly enjoyed it. So, I hope some members can go along and please take some of your work along to show and discuss with members of the club. Details are available on their website. Paul

LAST MONTHS SPEAKER

Clive Emsley came from the Bluebell Railway to give us a talk about the restoration of an old steam locomotive (E27) and all the work that is ongoing to restore this engine that has a long and chequered history. He also spoke about the team of dedicated and skilled volunteers who are helping in this project.

MEMBERS WORK

This is part of the evening I do enjoy; seeing other people's works of art. Once again, several people brought work in. Ted Burst brought in another of his showman's wagons and as usual with Ted, it was immaculately made right down to the smallest details, even the set of exterior steps. As we all know, it is much more difficult to work in miniature like this. We are lucky to have such a skilled person as Ted as one of our members. Apologies to those whose work is not shown.



FEATURE ARTICLE

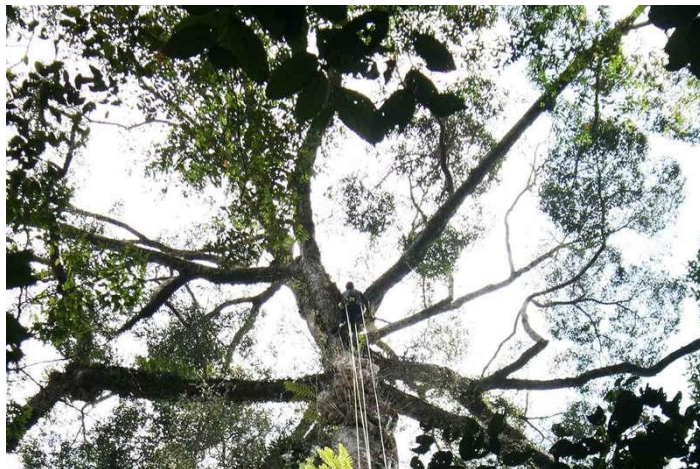
Tallest known tropical tree discovered in Malaysia's lost world

The world's tallest known tropical tree has been discovered in a rainforest in Malaysia, measuring a whopping 89.5 metres.

Gaming enthusiasts may be familiar with the species of tree, Yellow Meranti (*Shorea faguettiana*) which can be grown in the game of Minecraft.

David Coomes of the University of Cambridge and his colleagues discovered the tree in one of Malaysia's last remaining pristine wildernesses, the Maliau Basin Conservation Area, known as Sabah's Lost World. A laser scanner attached to the researchers' aeroplane detected the tree while capturing 3D images of the rainforest as part of a project to map the region's biodiversity.

Measuring the height of the tree was a big task. A local tree-climber clambered to the top with a tape measure to check it. While still at the top, he sent a text message to the researchers waiting at the bottom: "I don't have time to take photos using a good camera because there's an eagle around that keeps trying to attack me and also lots of bees flying around."



The tree is almost as tall as London's Big Ben clock tower and beats the previous record holder in the tropics by 1.2 metres. However, it is not the tallest tree in the world – that title is held by a 115-metre-high coast redwood in Redwood National Park, California. The world's tallest temperate region trees grow up to 30 metres taller than their tropical counterparts, although no one knows why this is the case.

Heavy logging by the palm oil industry has decimated Yellow Meranti numbers in Malaysia, and the species is now classified as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Red List of Threatened Species. "Logging has been a huge problem in Malaysia, the forests have taken a hammering over the last 40 years," says Coomes.

However, there is hope for the majestic giants. The Sabah government recently announced that it would act to restore a heavily logged area just to the east of the record-breaking tree, as part of an initiative to preserve the region's biodiversity. Research shows that degraded forests can bounce back within 50 to 100 years, Coomes says. "They can restore themselves without too much effort back into impressive, mature forests," he says. "You could go back to the same spot in 100 years and you wouldn't know you were in a secondary forest."

Let's hope so. Brian

THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ

What are the world's quickest growing trees.....Answer on page 5

AMAZING TREE FACTS

The whitest wood in the world is considered to be Holly.

AMAZING TREES

10 POPULAR MEDICINAL TREES IN EUROPE

Alder – Astringent used as a wound wash and healing agent on deep wounds. Leaf and bark teas are used to treat tonsillitis, fever, as a douche, and for haemorrhoids.

Apple – Tree bark is used to treat fevers and diarrhoea. Stewed apples can be used as a laxative. Baked apples are great as a warm poultice for fevers and sore throat. Apple cider helps destroy intestinal flora and decrease bacteria flowing to the bowels.

Ash – Twig tips and leaves turned into a tea help reduce rheumatism, jaundice and gout.

Beech – Bark tea from this tree will help treat lung problems and was once used in tuberculosis treatments. It is also used to help cleanse the blood. Beech tea is not recommended for pregnant women. Leaf tea is used in poultices to treat frostbite and burns.

Birch – Leaf tea helps heal sores in the mouth and helps heal bladder and kidney problems, and gout. Use bark in a bath to aid psoriasis, skin rashes and eczema. Birch sap contains botulinic acid, which is used to help reduce tumours and fight cancer.

Cedar – Bark tea is used to treat fevers, rheumatism, the flu and chest colds.

Elder – Bark tea is used to treat headaches, for congestion, and to lower fever by inducing perspiration.

Elm – Bark salve and poultices are used to treat gunshot wounds, chilblain, and on the abdomen to draw out fever. Bark tea is very high in calcium and helps increase the healing of injured bones, heal sore throats, soothe urinary and bowel issues, and to thwart diarrhoea.

Hawthorne – Leaf tea is brewed as a “cardiac tonic” but extended use is known to cause a drop in blood pressure. It is recommended to use it for just two weeks and then take a week off before starting the treatment again.

Maple – A leaf wound wash or poultice is used to relieve sore eyes and soreness of the breasts for nursing mothers and pregnant women. Bark tea is used to treat kidney infections, the common cold and bronchitis.

AMAZING TREE FACTS

Trees get 90% of their nutrition from the atmosphere and only 10% from the soil.

That really surprised me as I would have thought it was the other way around, ED.

THIS MONTHS JOKE SPOT

A Smart Dog

A man has a very smart dog. Over the years, he's trained the dog to buy his beer. The routine is that he slips a £10 bill under the dog's collar, and the dog would trot down to the corner bar, where the barman knew to take the £10 and give the dog a six-pack of cheap beer in a brown paper bag. The dog would then trot back home with the bag in his mouth.

One night, the guy finds he hasn't got a £10. So instead, he takes a £20 and slips it under the collar, figuring the barman will put the change in the paper bag. Off the dog went. After a few minutes the dog hadn't appeared. The man waits for another few minutes -- still no dog. He pulls on his boots and heads out toward the corner bar, looking all over the streets and yards -- no dog. Finally, he arrives at the bar, pulls open the door, and sees the dog sitting up on the barstool, drinking a martini. "What is this?" The guy says, dumbfounded. "You've never done this before!" To which the dog replies: "I've never had this much money before."

THE AMAZING WORLD OF WOOD



Something different again this month. A selection of love spoons and carved faces.

AMAZING TREE FACTS

When you think of a wooden house vs a metal house, you can assume that the wooden house will be warmer. But just how much warmer? Well, wood is a staggering **400 times** warmer than steel! This is due to wood being an effective natural insulator with significant thermal mass properties. This helps to retain heat from the day and release it at night. Perfect for building homes!

TREE FOLK LORE

THE OAK

Sacred to the druids, as was the mistletoe which often grew on it, the druids' priests often held their rites in the groves of the oak, which represented the male principle. (While the priestesses held their rites in groves of rowan or willow). The priests saw the oak as a symbol of endurance and strength. It has been suggested that the word 'Druid' may derive from the root of the Celtic word for oak: 'dru' which is itself related to the word for door, from the Sanskrit *dur*. The druids held a religion of nature, and although a few buildings have been discovered, their sacred sites were usually outside, not in buildings. These sites included springs, mountain peaks and rivers as well as groves. There was an oak grove recorded near Colchester, from which, it is believed, the overrunning of the Roman Colchester garrison was organised.

AMAZING TREE FACTS

Some African Baobab trees can store more than 25,000 gallons of water in their trunks. Also, some with age have become hollow and have been used as homes. One was even used as a bus stop and could shelter up to 30 people.

FUTURE SWS TALKS

2019

June 12 TH	Alan Alyward, Woodland Trust
July 10 TH	Members talking about jigs/ guides they have made
August 14 TH	Mary Smith, Green Circle, Bedelands Farm.
September 11 TH	Weald and Downland Living Museum
October 9 TH	Lester Backshall, Guitar Maker
November	To be advised
December	To be advised

When you are out and about at wood shows or exhibitions, if you see any person you think might be a candidate to give us a talk, please do ask them or at least take a note of their details and pass it on to Robert Packer who has taken over from Wendy in organising our future talks or any of our committee member so we can maintain the great speakers we have had. We are always open to suggestions for new speakers and we do need your help and input to help with this.

Please also let me know of any shows or exhibitions you think may be of interest to our members so I can include them in the section below, especially events for next year.

EVENTS FOR 2019

July

12th 13th 14th WoodFest Country Show, Pen-y-cefn, Caerwys, CH7 5BP

2019 will be our biggest and best show ever!

27TH 28TH WILDWOOD FESTIVAL at WAKEHURST PLACE. Several of our members will again be exhibiting their woodworking creations.

August

24TH 25TH The Stock Gaylord Oak Fair, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 2BG 10am- 5pm

September

6th & 7th Yandles Autumn Woodworking Show Hurst Works, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6JU

Contact: Tel. 01935 822 207

Cost: FREE Entry, FREE parking

Hours: 10.00am to 5.00pm Friday, 10.00am to 4.00pm Saturday

One of the largest woodworking shows of the year. Charnwood's representatives will be there to demonstrate our range of bandsaws, table saws, planer thicknessers plus woodturning lathes and chucks.

October

4th 5th 6th D & M Tools, Tool Show, Kempton Park Racecourse, Surrey

20th Wizardry in Wood Worshipful Company of Turners, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2

November

29th Sussex Woodcraft Society Setting up for our Annual show

30th Sussex Woodcraft Society Annual exhibition and show at Henfield Hall

Please note - as it is possible some shows may be cancelled or have the dates changed. Please check with organisers before travelling

ANSWER TO THIS MONTHS WOOD QUIZ

Answer..... The Mountain ash. On the face of it, the mountain ash should be able to beat the redwoods, which top out at 115m. They grow five times faster than the redwoods, "sprinting" toward the skies. "They're the fastest-growing tree by far," says Sillett. "Plant a eucalyptus and it can grow 90m in 90 years." *They just live fast and die young.* But they don't live anywhere near as long as the redwoods. Traditionally, a mountain ash's lifespan has been thought to be between 350 and 450 years. A recent study suggested it could be more than 500 years. Even so, they are youngsters compared to the redwoods, which reach nearly 3000 years old. "They just live fast and die young," says Koch. Historical records do indicate that mountain ash have reached greater heights than today's giants in the past. In 1881, surveyor George Cornthwaite measured a felled tree in Victoria at 114.3 metres. That is about 1m shorter than the world's tallest living tree, a coast redwood measuring 115.5m. If you believe the old record books, and measurement systems, several other trees have reached such extreme heights.

(The mountain ash mentioned above is from Australia and is in the eucalyptus family.)