



## **Trail Tree Newsletter**

### **January 2021**

This is Volume 51 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. This issue of the Newsletter is dedicated to Bob Gaut, a longtime researcher of the Marker trees from AR who died on October 29, 2020.

### **Trail Tree (TT) Database**

#### ***Trail Tree Database***

In October 2020, the database was at 2,885 trees. We not only crossed over the 2,900 mark in the last three months and ended the year 2,968 trees. The trees in the database now cover 45 states and Canada. Our hopes are that someone now finds trees in North Dakota, Idaho and Nevada to round out the lower 48 states.

#### ***Trees of Interest***

In the October Newsletter we selected trees to show from those submitted up to early May 2020. In selecting the trees to show in this newsletter, we did even get out of June 2020. There are so many great examples, we may not get into the 2021 trees until mid-2021. The trees being submitted are helping us to tell more of the story of these “living artifacts.” We welcome the opportunity to learn more about them.

#### **AL Tree**

James found this Chestnut Oak Marker tree near Stevenson, AL. We visited that area with James in late 2020 and located a number of Indian village sites and several sacred sites.



**AL Tree**

Wayne and his team in AL have been locating a large number of Marker Trees in the Bankhead National Forest over the past several years. Below is one of his trees from the May timeframe. This one is a beech tree which is a bit unusual.

### **GA Tree**

I've included Frank's tree from the Atlanta area because of its unique characteristics. This tree is a pine and what we refer to as a Spirit Tree in our new book. These trees seem to be broken a few feet above the ground and then curved into a flattened question mark shape. A number of them have been found across the US.

The second tree from GA was located by Woody near Blairsville, GA. It is a more standard shaped Marker Tree.



**AL Tree**



**GA Tree**



**GA Tree**

### **MO Tree**

The MO tree was sent in by Kent and Diane. This tree is a good news story. The tree was located near a powerline right-a-way and the power company considered it a danger to the power lines and told the owners they intended to cut it down. The owners contacted the Mountain Stewards and we got involved. We showed the power company that the tree was not a danger to the power lines since it was of less height than the power lines and was leaning away from the lines. Further, and more importantly, the purpose of this tree was to mark a grave of an Osage Indian so it was considered a very sacred tree. After due consideration of all the facts, the power company agreed with our assessment and withdrew their plan to destroy the tree. It's not often we can save a tree but, in this case, the tree lives on as a sacred tree.

### **TN Tree**

Rob found several Marker Trees on his travels through TN this year. One of these trees is a granddad of all the TN trees.



**TN Tree**

### **VA Tree**

Doug has been researching his area near Lynchburg VA and traveling to other parts of the state observing the sacred sites across the VA landscape. This tree is believed to be a Ceremonial Tree.



**MO Tree**

### **MS Tree**

Sandy sent in this unusual tree from northern MS which got our attention. This resulted in an extensive study of the historical survey maps of the area of MS occupied by the Chickasaw Indians.



**MS Tree**



**VA Tree**

The study provided a great deal of information about where the Chickasaw villages and sacred sites were located in northern MS. This tree is a special ceremonial tree used in healing ceremonies of the Chickasaw. This is a one-of-a-kind Marker Tree and very unusual in its configuration. There is an obvious story to the configuration of the tree but it is unknown to us. This is similar to an Ascension Marker Tree usually formed into an upside down “U” shape. These “U” shaped trees are used for burial ceremonies to help the person reach the afterlife by placing the body under the “U” where there is powerful energy upwelling.

## **OH Tree**

The OH Tree is another one of the special healing trees. These trees are connected together with a large branch grafted into two other trees to form a place where the healing ceremonies can be conducted. Underneath the connected tree will be a place where there is upwelling earth energy flowing.



**OH Tree**

## **AR Tree**

Lee located several Marker Tree in the far northern reaches of AR where there seemed to have been a battle between the Cherokee and settlers in the area. His tree is marking the graves of 8 Cherokee. Normally the tree with two verticals would indicate two burials but, in this case, there are knobs on the hip of the tree telling a different story.



**AR Tree**

## **MA Tree**

Polly has been searching Martha's Vineyard Island off the coast of MA. This is the home of the Wampanoag Indians who still today have reservations on several of the islands off of MA. Polly has located five Marker Trees this year on Martha's Vineyard Island. One of her five trees is shown in the picture below.



**MA Tree**

## **Indian Heritage Sites Research Program**

### ***Mile Creek County Park, Pickens Co. SC***

After an initial survey of Mile Creek County Park in September, we return to the area in early October to conduct a survey of the two Indian trails that junction in the park before heading to Keowee town. One of these trails was the main trading path with the Cherokee from Charleston and the other was a more eastward path leading toward the Catawba Indians towns. Using the Mountain Stewards Indian Trail mapping methodology, Diane and I mapped the two trails over a two-day period for tens of miles east of the park all the way to the location where they joined in the park. These data have been made available to the park staff so the information can be used for cultural heritage presentations for park visitors.

### **Cherokee Village Site, Winchester, TN**

In late October, we traveled to a site near Winchester, TN guided by Stacy who owns the land. Stacy drove us up a rocky one-mile-long pathway to the site in a 4-wheel drive utility vehicle which was the roughest road we had ever been on. We documented the Cherokee village site which suffered a catastrophic incident where they were attacked by moonshiners who wanted their water sources. Thirteen Cherokee died in the attack. At the site was the second gnarly tree we had seen this year. The tree was marking the site of the graves and where they were murdered. The tree represents the pain of that event to the Cherokee.

### **Stevenson AL Koasati Sites**

James invited us to visit his site near Stevenson, AL to check out a number of Marker Trees that existed there plus other sites that appeared to be sacred locations. We located two Koasati village sites in the area which was unusual since the Koasati Indians normally exited in central AL and not in the NE corner of AL. It appears the Koasati moved to this area around 1810 before the Creek War of 1814. It was



**TN Gnarly Marker Tree**

thought that the Koasati did not want any part of the Creek uprising and left before the Creeks' were wiped out by Jackson's forces. There were multiple graves sites on the property, many marked with Marker trees, several other ceremonial trees and sacred sites. We plan to revisit this site again in January 2021 to continue the survey of the site which is rich in Indian culture.

In December, we visited to other sacred sites in SC both of which require a lot more research before finally reporting on the cultural findings of these sites.

## New Web Site Operational

We mentioned in the last newsletter about opening the new Mountain Stewards web site. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the new web site, we highly recommend you do. The old web site had to be completely rewritten in a new computer language and updated. The new site at [www.mountainstewards.org](http://www.mountainstewards.org) has much more information and I think it is easier to use than the previous one. Check it out when you can.

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

When the pandemic is under control, hopefully in 2021 since a vaccine is now becoming available, we will begin to start offering presentation on our research work. We still have about 40 of the *Mystery of the Trees* DVD's left to sell and they will not be reprinted when gone. They sell for \$12.00 and will be for sale until supplies are gone. They are now being sold from the website. Our previous sales site, [www.mysterytrees.org](http://www.mysterytrees.org) is being shut down in early January 2021.

### *New Presentations*

Our planned Symposiums on Native Science and Dowsing were canceled due to the virus in 2020. We hope to restart these efforts sometime in 2021 when conditions are safe for larger gatherings. The next lectures we plan to do will be in Feb 2021 in Pigeon Forge TN at the Wilderness Wildlife Week (WWW) Conference. These two lectures are: *Medicine Men, Earth Energies and Healing* and *The Secret Geodetic Code for the Designing and Building of Sacred Places*. The conference is scheduled for 2-4 Feb 2021.

## New Book

The new book, *Deciphering the Signs, Sacred Indian Trees and Places* has now gone on sale officially. Actually, we have already sold about 40 of them in early sales. The first shipment of the books arrived on 5 January. The website has been updated to provide a sale location for the book on the home page.

This book is a follow up to *Mystery of the Trees* which was published in 2011. Having learned a great deal since then, we felt it was important to share this new knowledge. Deciphering the signs, interpreting Indian trees, and identifying sacred places involves new understandings and new techniques in research that include Native Science, dowsing, earth energy and more. Because of skepticism associated with our methodologies, we were inclined to share information only with our fellow research colleagues. In fact, on one of our visits in 2017 with our mentor, Dr. James Jefferson, a Southern Ute elder, we ask his advice about sharing this new found knowledge about Indian Culture. His simple answer was: "share with those who believe and don't share with those that don't believe."

When the Mountain Stewards website was updated in early 2020, we decided to post some of our research reports there. ([www.mountainsteward.org/research-reports](http://www.mountainsteward.org/research-reports)). Since then, others have encouraged us to share our methodologies and techniques with a wider audience in small groups training sessions.

During the restrictive COVID-19 pandemic months, we began writing this second book. *Deciphering the Signs, Sacred Indian Trees and Places* opens the door to what has been hidden and provides interesting new ways for interpreting Indian culture. Some of our methods are supranormal which does

invite skepticism. However, if you are interested in becoming involved with the excitement of being able to achieve unprecedented results in locating, documenting, and helping to preserve Indian culture then this book is for you. Prepare yourself to step into a world where your sixth sense becomes a major part of your everyday world. If you're not a believer yet, you may become one as soon as you experience the phenomenon of dowsing.

**Comments from new believers:**

"Don's instructions were clear and easy to follow. I found myself able to pick up a new skill easily and quickly". ...Bill Bush, SC

"I was surprised by the discovery of my own abilities, with a short tutorial by Don, to identify underground water sources, energy lines, and different types of marker trees. It is so exciting to feel in a small way a connection to the Native Americans who were so closely joined with the natural world they lived in." Julie Hoppock, SC

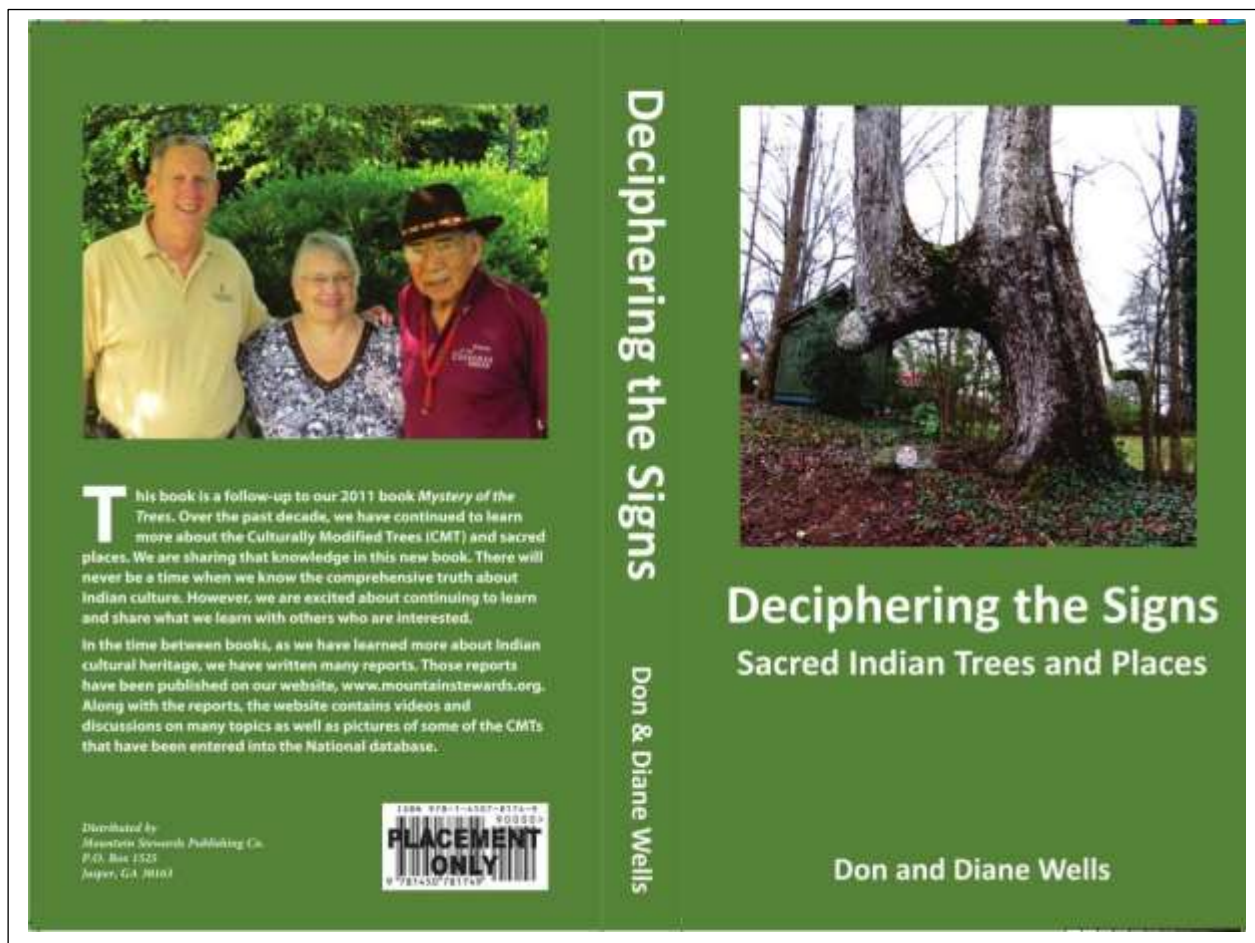
"Don's instruction is essential in learning to dowse. His belief in what he teaches is so key to having success. We are all part of something so much bigger than ourselves and Don opens that door for you to step into that new world and become part of it. So important for us to embrace the Indian Culture that came before us and learn from that culture to see all that is around us and become part of it"....Kathleen Ingram, GA

"The first time I demonstrated Native Science with dowsing rods, I said 'Please point to my friend Mitch' and the look on Mitch's face was disbelief. Then I said, 'Please point to my friend Vince' and both friends looked at my hands to see if I was forcing the rods to point to them. Only when they held the rods did they see that there is no way to control them." ...LE Leyba, CO

"Since being introduced to dowsing with visits from Don and Diane Wells, a new world of discovery has opened up for me and those that I explore sacred sites with. We are all connected with the universe ... and Ancients and Indigenous of many different cultures knew this and lived by it. Sacred lines, sacred trees, sacred directions and sacred sites show patterns of energy running through them, not only from what we think of as our earth, but also influenced by the cosmos. The Indigenous cultures were intuitively aware of these power centers and embraced them. Animals recognize them, plants thrive on them. I am so looking forward to this book ... it will be a MUST read." -Heidi Wigand-Nicely (Secretary, Native American Sacred Trees and Places)

"We turned from skeptics to believers as we learned to work with Earth's energy lines and found there really is something to the statement, "May the Force be with you." Using our sixth sense to harness the power of the force fields that run beneath all of our feet, homes, and communities, we explored Native American history in the South Carolina Upstate." Laura C. Havran, SC

"Not knowing much about dowsing rods and not having any experience we were somewhat skeptical when Don handed us the dosing rods. But after Don's introduction and instruction it all came together pretty easy. It was really cool to see them work so well and getting in touch with the natural energy lines." Dave & Rita Curley, TN



## Facebook

To stay in touch with our activities in between Newsletter issues, follow us on our Facebook pages at [www.facebook.com/mysterytrees](http://www.facebook.com/mysterytrees) and [www.facebook.com/groups/126677990699812/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/126677990699812/). (Mountain Stewards). These sites provide 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. Dialog often goes on between the followers of the sites who are sharing their findings across the nation.