

PREFACE

The contents of this book were written, drawn, and created by a child named Randy Allen (Michael Randall Allen), being myself, back in the late 1960's and early 1970's. This book "IS NOT" intended to be used as a persons sole fact gathering information reference for trees, and in fact you will notice many typo's, mis-spellings, and a few inaccurate statements, due to the fact I was a child when I wrote this book. I finished writing this book in 1973, but over the next 5 years I typed it (mis-spellings and all). All mistakes are left untouched so that the book title remains true. You, the reader, will notice that the 50 year old notebook pages are so faded and darkened that when the pages were scanned for publishing, that the perimeter fresh new paper is quite evidently white. Note: My leaf drawings are still valid/accurate though.

I was born in 1955, in a community of Nashville, TN known as Inglewood. I grew up there and lived in that area for about 50 years. Through those first 50 years, from 1960 to 2005 especially, I began studying trees and planting them, a habit that continued for the rest of my life. Though my tangible evidence and proof of this only goes back to 1966, my memories of studying trees and also bamboos goes back to 1960ish. Between 1960 and 1966, the non-tangible evidence years, I only have memories of visual examinations of plants and discussions with grown ups and elderly people, many of which grew up in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Their contribution to my knowledge was immense and unique, and to never be forgotten.

In the late 60's and early 70's, Foresters, Forest Experiment Stations, Park Rangers all over North America sent me (at my USPS mail request) hundreds of pamphlets, books, papers, etc. I read and/or tried to purchase every tree and bamboo book I could find. I began digging up seedlings of different species in the forest near what is now called "Land Between the Lakes" KY, on a piece of property my dad owned. I brought them home to Inglewood and began my first Arboretum/Urban Forest in 1966. Some plants I purchased, most I simply found sprouting in various places. That first Arboretum eventually grew to mature status and a successive landowner eventually cut them all. But, I kept growth records and recorded their progress from the 60's to 90's, and also still have old Kodachrome slides, hundreds through the years, so that all is not lost. smile.

From 1979 till 2005, I created 3 more Arboreta/Urban Forests in Inglewood/Nashville TN, all in similar fashion, yet increasing in size and wiser in layout as the years pass. Each Arboreta I created, was my estate/residence. I was always lower income, so I couldn't afford much of a house or lot size, so I never had the land I desired, therefore my early trees were a little too tight in proximity to each other than I would have liked. My oldest tree that still remains is a big Dawn Redwood at 913 Matthews Street, there you can also find a lot of my other trees like Yellow-Poplar, Bur Oak, Pecan, and many others.

Finally, in 2005, I decided to move north of Nashville, back to the area many of my ancestors in the 1800's lived, Robertson County and west Sumner County to a small town called White House, TN. There I found as much land as I could afford so that I could have a "real" Arboretum. Ha. This home at 210 Rolling Acres Drive was the perfect setup, with diverse land types of top of hill to crawfish swamp lowland areas and half acre ponds. The past 12 years I and my wife Carolyn have created a Certified Level 4 Arboretum, as certified by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council. We have 150 species of Trees and thousands of Bamboo canes growing now. Everything is laid out very methodically, yet random looking, and should look natural as canopies close in, in the near future. In these latter years, I've finally been noticed for all my tree studies and plantings, different tree organizations have recognized me and I believe that I am accepted as a tree authority in Tennessee.

"PREFACE CONTINUED"

Through all these years, over half a century, I've worked a lot of jobs, long hours, raised 3 beautiful children. My present wife Carolyn, who I have known and loved for ten years, has been wonderful in supporting my tree and bamboo dream. She's even allowed me to quit work and pursue this Arboretum dream full time, while she remains employed and brings home the bacon. Smile

I hope that my strange, unique, and constructive life with trees might inspire someone else to also do positive things with their life.

To contact us, or to learn more, or to take a tour of our Arboretum, please go online to www.WhiteHouseArboretum.com.

REFERENCES:

In order of their importance;

- 1) Personal experience in the field, in nature, on my estate, hands-on, etc.
- 2) Dept. of Agriculture / U. S. Forest Service - Hundreds of pamphlets, papers, records, controlled experiment summaries, small and/or minor publications, books, etc. were given to me back in the late 60's and early 70's, simply because I wrote letters all across the U.S. asking foresters and rangers etc. for any info they could send me on trees.
- 3) Elderly people, who's brains I tapped regarding the old days of the late 1800's and early 1900's, regarding the old forest, and also present day trees.
- 4) Loggers and Sawmill workers I spoke with every time I could.