



SWANNAHOA VALLEY
TREE ALLIANCE

TREASURED TREE *Walk*

FALL 2021



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CAMERA TO READ MORE ABOUT OUR
PROGRAM, MAKE A DONATION, OR FIND
OUT HOW TO NOMINATE A TREE ONLINE:



www.SVTreeAlliance.com

1



Treasured Tree #19

Nominated by Mike Hoover
(Sept 2019)

White Oak | *Quercus Alba*

Along State Street in front of Robo Oil
35.619803, -82.317804

DBH: 52.5 inches
Estimated Age: >1800



This white oak is believed to be one of the oldest trees inside the town limits of Black Mountain, thought to have begun growing here prior to 1800. It could have been a seedling when the land it stands on still belonged to the Cherokee, before the 1776 raids of General Griffith Rutherford who burned 50 to 70 Cherokee towns and villages west of Old Fort. This tree stood tall just feet from the first roads built on what is now Highway 70, which brought colonial settlers into the valley, around 100 years before the Town of Black Mountain was established.

2



Treasured Tree #14

Nominated by Kirtikey Patel
(Sept 2019)

River Birch | *Betula Nigra*

Owned By Harris Ray,
Along Flat Creek next to Super 8 Motel
35.620704, -82.315446

DBH: 29.6 inches
Estimated Age: 1940



The river birch is an uncommon tree in the Appalachian Mountains except along the flood plains of the French Broad River and its main tributaries, within Buncombe County. They thrive in alluvial soils of bottomlands, which are areas of fine grain, fertile, silt deposits created by flooding. The river birch is often used in reclamation or erosion control. They can withstand up to 30 days of continuous flooding. They are also a popular landscape tree because of their beautiful bark, rapid growth, and tolerance of harsh conditions. River birch wood was once used for ox yokes, wooden shoes and other products around the farm. But they were rather destined by loggers as knotty and spindly, therefore often left to grow along the river bank to control erosion. Several of these large, majestic river birches dot the banks of Flat Creek.

3



Treasured Tree #17

Nominated by Daniel Delatorre
(Sept 2019)

Tulip Poplar | *Liriodendron Tulipifera*

Along Flat Creek,
behind Ole's Guacamole Restaurant
35.620603, -82.315582

DBH: 36 inches
Estimated Age: 1945



The Delatorre family was happy to nominate one of their trees at the edge of their property, along Flat Creek as a Treasured Tree. They are very appreciative and aware of how much they rely on the roots of these trees to stabilize the creek bank bordering their much loved outdoor dining area. Flat Creek brings clean, clear, and very cold water into the town of Black Mountain from the slopes of Mount Mitchell and is a major tributary of the Swannanoa river. The river has had numerous floods in which this tulip poplar, along with the nearby river birches and sycamores helped to hold the bank in place. The largest flood in the last century was on Sept 8, 2004 during hurricane Ivan, where the Swannanoa River crested at 19 feet. The Greatest known floods of Flat Creek and the Swannanoa river had Crests of over 20 feet, occurring in April 1791 and on July 16th 1916. Other great floods, with crests over 15 feet, occurred (in order of severity) on August 13 1940, August 16, 1928, May 1st 1945, Feb 1, 1975, August 17, 2004, May 21, 1901, January 15, 1995, Aug 30 1940, November 6, 1978, August 1st 1952, August 1st 1910, June 17, 1976, and Dec 30, 1901.

4



Treasured Tree #20

Nominated by Emily Sampson
(Oct 2019)

Yellow Buckeye | *Esculus Flava*

Black Mountain Greenway, Along Emily's walk
35.622420, -82.317763

DBH: 31 inches
Estimated Age: 1890



This yellow buckeye tree is tall and straight, reaching approximately 70 feet. It grows alongside tulip poplars of similar size and height. The greenway beneath is a majestic paved walking path between these towering giants. This section of greenway is a favorite for walking or biking children to Black Mountain Primary School or to restaurants and shopping for many residents living North of Town along Montreat Road. Trees in the Buckeye family have unique, palmately compound leaves. Buckeyes are toxic, but Native Americans made a nutritious food out of the seed by roasting and soaking them. The yellow buckeye is a major component of the Appalachian Cove Forest, a rich, moist, forest of Appalachian bottomlands with high species diversity.

5**Treasured Tree #23**

Nominated by Ryan Serman
(Dec 2019)

Pin Oak | *Quercus Phellos*

Owner Jeff Robins

103 West Street

35.61763597099524, -82.32061131556871

DBH: 60.5 inches

Estimated Age: Planted circa 1850



This pin oak one of the largest diameter trees inside of the town limits of Black Mountain at over five feet (60 inches) across. It is thought to have been planted around the middle of the 19th century, so it is likely one of the earliest planted trees in town as well. It is unknown who may have planted it. At the time the tree was planted, the town of Black Mountain was known as Grey Eagle. As a sapling the tree stood a couple hundred feet from a main stage coach stop on the Western Turnpike, in what is now town square. Pin oaks are native to the piedmont and costal plane of NC, VA, and SC. In their natural range they do not occur above 800 feet elevation, so we can be certain the tree was planted as opposed to naturally occurring. The brick home on the property was built in the 1960s by a local builder, Mr. Nanny, who built several others on the block and local area. The current owner Jeff Robins purchased in 1984. Today there is a swing on a lower branch which is enjoyed by the daughter and friends of the Treasured Tree's nominator, Ryan Sermon. Ryan also runs a landscape company out of the home. Pin oaks are one of the fastest growing hardwood trees at a rate of 3 feet per year, so though it is one of our largest Treasured Trees, we have many in town that are significantly older. Pin oaks are also tolerant of standing water, intensive heat, air pollution and compacted soil, so they are widely used in the landscape industry today. This individual was one of the earliest pioneers of the species in Western North Carolina. During most of these great floods there was significantly less development along the stream banks than there is today, so we rely on trees that stabilize our riparian zones now more than ever.

6**Treasured Tree #28**

Nominated by Gary W. Ball
(Dec 2019)

White Oak | *Quercus Alba*

401 Montreat Road, Black Mountain

35.6229497297125, -82.32121487158678

DBH: 42 inches

Estimated Age: Planted circa 1840



This tree was taking root when Elijah Mitchell and Thomas Clingman were exploring the Black Mountains, in pursuit of the highest peak in the Eastern US. Life in the valley was exceedingly difficult and the earliest settlers here were still isolated. A stage Coach road, which began construction in the 1820s made travel into the valley easier, though it was still a remote, scattered, subsistence farming community through the mid 19th century. The tree would have been a decent size by the 1880s as the town of Black Mountain, then know as Grey Eagle, was just beginning to develop. Montreat road, which it now overlooks was constructed following the 1897 purchase of 4,500 acres, two miles north of Black Mountain, by an interdenominational group of ministers for a religious retreat. At that time Salis F. Dougherty who was one of Black Mountains earliest business men, owned the property. It was subdivided in 1913 among his heirs and a Craftsman style home and adjacent carriage house were built shortly after. The current owner, Gary Ball has turned the carriage house into an apartment.

7



Treasured Tree #24

Nominated by Jenny Bowman
(Dec 2019)

White Oak | Quercus Alba


136 N. Dougherty Street, Black Mountain
(Red Rocker Inn)

35.61839259524318, -82.32394967171992

DBH: 35 inches

Estimated Age: Planted circa 1890



 This oak tree began growing here on the property of Silas F. Dougherty, one of Black Mountain's earliest businessmen, around the same time he built his family's home here in 1897. The residence was later operated by Silas's daughter Sadie and her husband Alfred Tyson Sr. as a boarding house and for tourist lodging as "Dougherty Heights". Electric service wasn't yet available, so they created their own electricity with steam from burning coal. The tree grew snug between the Carriage house and boiler room but likely remained a small sapling until after the use of the boiler room was discontinued. Otherwise the tree's canopy would have been a fire hazard. The home is still operating as an inn today, by Owners Doug and Jenny Bowman, as Black Mountain's famous Red Rocker Inn Bed and Breakfast. The magnificent oak, though not the oldest or biggest is probably one of the most loved of Black Mountain's Treasured Trees as it shades and cools the Inn and its guests.

8



Treasured Tree #25

Nominated by Jenny Bowman
(Dec 2019)

Eastern Hemlock | Tsuga Canadensis


136 N. Dougherty Street, Black Mountain
(Red Rocker Inn)

35.61839259524318, -82.32394967171992

DBH: 23.5 inches

Estimated Age: Planted circa 1950



 It is uncertain when this grove of hemlocks began growing here in Black Mountain's most historic residential neighborhood. Dating hemlocks by size is not reliable, but it's assumed that they have been here since at least the 1950s. They may have been planted or seeded in naturally beside what is now known as Black Mountain's famous Red Rocker Inn Owned by Doug and Jenny Bowman. The Inn was first built as the home of Silas F. Dougherty, one of Black Mountain's earliest businessmen in 1897, but has been operated as tourist lodging and boarding since the early 20th century. The Victorian style home is the oldest existing structure in the Dougherty Heights historic district. These Hemlocks have been treated to kill the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid which is an insect that has been attacking the Hemlocks of Eastern North America since the mid 1950s, making the trees on the verge of ecological extinction throughout most of their range. Cones from these trees have been collected and used in propagation for the hemlock restoration initiative, since recognition as a Treasured Tree grove.

9



Treasured Tree #27

Nominated by Melissa Duarnte
(Jan 2020)

White Oak | Quercus Alba

110 Church Street, Black Mountain
35.61813941333684, -82.321915244404

DBH: 47.5 inches

Estimated Age: Planted circa 1820



This white oak on Church street has been standing for more than two centuries. It was a young tree when the regions first settlers were getting established and was likely already a decent size when the majority of our valley was logged and the town of Black Mountain incorporated towards the turn of the 19th century. The bungalow style home was built in 1914 and is part of the Dougherty Heights Historic district. The neighborhood was largely built on land once belonging to Silas Dougherty, the Kerlee family, and J.W. McKoy and has been home to many prominent families deeply involved in the town's civic and social affairs. It was owned for a time by Zora Lee Reese and is currently owned by Marcus and Melissa Durante, owners since 1998 of a catering business in Black Mountain, The Red Radish. The Durantes love their tree so much that they got special permission to build a wall around the tree to give its roots a little extra space when the sidewalk was added on Church Street. The road, at some point during early development of the neighborhood, had been several feet higher in elevation and was dug down to its current level.

10



Treasured Tree #50

Nominated by Amy Lyda
(May 2021)

White Oak | Quercus Alba

201 East State Street, Black Mountain
(Black Mountain Bistro)
Coordinates COMING SOON

DBH: 35 inches

Estimated Age: Planted circa 1890



History and story of this treasured tree COMING SOON!

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ON
THIS FALL 2021 TREASURED TREE
WALK - WE TRULY APPRECIATE
YOUR SUPPORT!**



**SWANNANOVA VALLEY
TREE ALLIANCE**

OUR PURPOSE

- Bring public awareness to these valuable and irreplaceable trees
- Encourage stewardship of our urban forest
- Protect trees from indiscriminate removal or irreparable damage during development
- Raise awareness of the diversity, sensitivity and importance of the tree canopy

MORE ABOUT US

To read more about our program, make a donation, or find out how to nominate a tree, visit us online at:












www.SVTreeAlliance.com

TREASURED TREE WALK: FALL 2021

Walk this "DOWNTOWN LOOP" to see 10 of our registered trees!
[Approximately 2 miles, 45-60 min. walk]

NUMBER IN WALKING LOOP
REGISTERED TREE NUMBER



-  **STARTING POINT**
(BLACK MOUNTAIN SAVINGS)
- 1**  **19**
310 EAST STATE ST
(ROBO OIL COMPANY)
White Oak [circa 1800]
- 2**  **14**
101 FLAT CREEK RD
(SUPER 8 MOTEL)
River Birch [circa 1940]
- 3**  **17**
401 EAST STATE ST
(OLE'S GUACAMOLES)
Tulip Poplar [circa 1945]
- 4**  **20**
BLACK MOUNTAIN GREENWAY (EMILY'S WALK)
Yellow Buckeye [circa 1890]
- 5**  **23**
103 WEST ST
Pin Oak [circa 1900]
- 6**  **28**
401 MONTREAT RD
White Oak [circa 1840]
- 7**  **24**
136-137 N. DOUGHERTY ST
White Oak [circa 1890]
- 8**  **25**
Eastern Hemlock Grove
[before 1960]
- 9**  **27**
110 CHURCH ST
White Oak [circa 1820]
- 10**  **50**
201 E STATE STREET
(BLACK MOUNTAIN BISTRO)
White Oak [circa 1890]