
Capay Valley Oaks

Finding the oldest and largest and grandest...

Elizabeth Monroe - November 25, 2019



At top is a healthy and stately Valley Oak found on the Full Belly Farm.

At right is the less healthy and stately—but by far the largest, so far: old and 7 feet in diameter! Cleveland Bellard is the current owner of this property in Guinda, guarded by his Dingo-mix herd dogs, so we had to have his permission to see and measure it. Quite grand!

Below, not the biggest, but the Grandest

In addition to age and size there is *grandeur*—like the beautiful Valley Oak we found along Highway 16 just past the town of Rumsey; we dubbed it *The Rumsey Oak*



Not the largest, but certainly the most majestic: notice at left the health and structure inside the tree; and above, the healthy full foliage. On the next page, notice how the tree's branches interweave; and they even rested on the ground—classic good healthy behavior for such a grand Valley Oak.



Gnarled like a Hobbit habitat, apparently the heavy limbs resting on the ground is a healthy sign—not just *magical*.

Photos taken by Jim Hiatt



Great close-up of the bark.

"The Tree Nerds," as we dubbed ourselves, measuring the trees of Capay Valley, September 20, 2019: Top photo is our *Rumsey Tree* being measured by Rolf Frankenbach and David Wilkinson of the *Woodland Tree Foundation*, with help from *Doctor* Jaylee Tuil, recently getting her PhD from UC Davis for her Dissertation, titled "A Historical Ecology of the Cache and Putah Creek Alluvial Plain in the Sacramento Valley of California." Check out: www.woodlandtree.org

Not pictured, but there: Jim Hiatt, Ken Trott and Elizabeth Monroe.



At left, Rolf and Jaylee measure the huge Bellard tree in Guinda; and below, our host at the Full Belly Farm trees, co-owner Judith Redmond, joins her friend Jaylee in a break.

