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BIG TREE - BIG PLANS AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

RECEIVED

MAY 20 1972

JUL 5 1972

by
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S. C. State Commission of Forestry

[1972?]

The Tree

John de la Howe School in McCormick County strives for quality--in education of its children and in its approximately 1,100 acres of forest land, which includes the largest shortleaf pine tree in the state.

This giant among trees stands silent guard near the tomb of Dr. John de la Howe who, through his will, provided for the establishment of the school in 1797. Surrounded by other stately giants in the 120-acre area of virgin trees, it had not received this recognition until foresters for the State Commission of Forestry discovered it last November.

The measurements of 9 feet 9 inches in circumference, 129 feet in height and crown spread of 48 feet gave it more points in the South Carolina Big Tree Registry than Calhoun County's reigning shortleaf discovered in April 1969. Points are in accordance with the American Forestry Association's system of rating--the Who's Who among trees in America.

The South Carolina Big Trees Program is a cooperative project of the S. C. State Commission of Forestry, the Clemson University Department of Forestry, and Clemson University Extension Foresters. Its three-fold purpose is:

1. To locate the most outstanding examples of the various tree species that grow in South Carolina.
2. To obtain the cooperation of the tree owners to protect and preserve these specimens as landmarks for future generations to enjoy.
3. To stimulate interest in and a greater appreciation of trees as individuals and as a natural resource.

The certificate declaring the John de la Howe tree "king of shortleaf pine" in the state was presented to the school's Board of Trustees at a recent meeting by Hodge Harmon

of the State Commission of Forestry in Columbia. Members of the Board present at the time were Mrs. Cy Young, Greenwood; Mr. Dave L. Hayes, Newberry; Mrs. J. D. Mars, Abbeville; and Mr. John A. McAllister, Mt. Carmel. Mr. L. S. Brice, Superintendent of John de la Howe was also present. Board of Trustee members not present include Mr. Jack R. Callison, Cayce; Dr. T. A. Campbell, Blacksburg; Dr. Frank O'Sheal, Columbia; and Mrs. Grace (L) P. Rhodes, Greenville; *ms (K. Epling, McCormick, Mrs. Homer S Blackwell, Laurens.*

The Plans

At the same meeting the board adopted a proposed multiple use management plan for the woodland owned by the school. This "blueprint" for future use provides for keeping the 120 acres of virgin forest intact and maintaining buffer strips of unmanaged woodland along all public roads through the forest land.

In preparation of the management plan, consideration was given to watershed protection, natural beauty, wildlife and timber production. Site preparation and planting of wildlife food and trees will be done in areas of low production. Thinnings will be made in tree stands still young enough for continued good growth. Den trees, mast-bearing and nesting trees will be left for wildlife when harvest cuts are made. New tree stands will be varied in a way to provide habitat for many species of wildlife--dove, quail, deer, squirrel, rabbit, turkey, etc.--on a continuing basis. Forester Larry Barr of the Forestry Commission's office in Greenwood is working closely with the school in carrying out these plans.

"The work with John de la Howe is actually a continuation of a cooperative relationship that began in the 1930's," said State Forester John R. Tiller of the State Commission of Forestry. "Our plans are to increase environmental values as well as timber production. Forest management can match the quality of care and education that is being given to the students there. This is our goal for the future as we continue to work together," he added.

NOTE TO EDITOR:

Suggested photo captions are attached.

SUGGESTED PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. At a recent board meeting Hodge Harmon of the S. C. State Commission of Forestry in Columbia presented the certificate declaring a large pine tree on land owned by John de la Howe School to be the largest shortleaf pine in the state. Pictured above during the presentation are (left to right) Mr. L. S. Brice, Superintendent; Mrs. Cy Young, Greenwood; Mr. Dave L. Hayes, Newberry; Hodge Harmon; Mrs. J. D. Mars, Abbeville; and John A. McAllister, Mt. Carmel.
2. The giant shortleaf pine (above) located near the tomb of John de la Howe, founder of the school named for him, has been determined to be the largest in South Carolina in accordance with the American Forestry Association's system of classification.

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