



Big Pines Volunteers

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

24537 Angeles Crest Hwy, Wrightwood, CA 92397 (760) 249-3504

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"100 years of Caring for the Land and Serving People"

Giant Sequoia, Redwood or Cedar?

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Special points of interest:

- Jackson Lake has frozen over. Continue to warn the public about the dangers of ignoring the signs posted around the lake.



Giant Sequoia

Big Pines, CA – The giant sequoia, the coastal redwood and the incense-cedar are all found in our forest, but of the three, only the incense-cedar is native to the San Gabriel Mountains. The giant sequoia and redwood trees were planted by the Forest Service.

Can you tell the difference between the trees? The giant sequoias are the world's largest trees in terms of total volume. They grow to an average height of 160–279 ft and 20–26 ft in diameter. Record trees have been measured to be 311 ft in height and over 56 ft in diameter. The oldest known

giant sequoia based on ring count is 3,500 years old. Giant sequoias can be found at the Mt. Baldy Visitor Center, Sulphur Springs Trail Camp (this is off Santa Clara Divide Road at Three Points) and Buckhorn Spring. The tree at Buckhorn Spring is huge! (Buckhorn Spring is accessed from the fire road on the south side of the highway at the exit from the campground). You can also see six giant sequoias planted in two stands of three at Vincent Gap between the bench and the road.

Like the Douglas-fir, the incense-cedar's name is hyphenated because it is not a true cedar.



Incense-Cedar Bark



Coastal Redwood Trees

Incense-cedars can grow to a height of 150 feet with trunk diameters of up to 7 feet. The wood is famous for retarding decay and repels moths. The wood is traditionally used for cedar chests, siding, paneling, shingles, decking, pencils, and fence posts. Mature trees can be seen on Big Rock Canyon Road between Vincent Gap and Camp Fenner.

Coastal redwoods are the tallest trees on the Earth reaching a height of 379 ft. and living 1200 – 1800 years. These trees can be found at Hoegee's Trail Camp in Santa Anita Canyon and the Mt. Baldy Visitor Center.

-Contributions by Jane Strong

Pine Trees of the San Gabriels...

Weather Extremes Big Pines Station

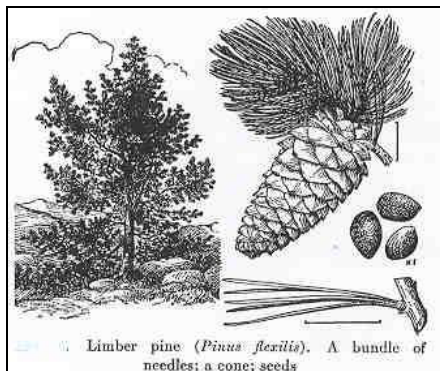
December 2011

Low: 13th 20°

High: 29th 68°

Wind: 16th 32

Precipitation: 0.42 in



The Limber Pine is a high-elevation tree

Big Pines, CA – Our Forest has many cone-bearing trees (conifers) including the giant sequoia, coastal redwood, incense-cedar, bigcone spruce (Douglas-fir), western juniper and white fir. Yet, just because they bear cones, doesn't make them a "pine tree".

In fact, even though the Douglas-fir and white fir have "needles" and are popular as Christmas trees, they are not considered to be pine trees. Pines are distinguished from other conifers by having their long needle-like leaves bundled in bunches wrapped in a papery sleeve. Fir trees do not have needles in bunches. Rather, each needle comes from the twig singly without a papery sleeve.



Incense-Cedar Leaf



Redwood Leaf



Giant Sequoia Leaf

Did you know that California has more pine species than any state or foreign nation except Mexico? There are eight native pines and two introduced pines common in our area. The native pines are: sugar, Jeffrey, Coulter, ponderosa, pinyon, lodgepole, gray and limber.

The introduced pines which have been planted extensively by the Forest Service are: Aleppo and knobcone. The knobcone pines are native to the San Bernardino and the Santa Anas but not to the San Gabriels.

The type of pine tree can often be identified by the number of needles bundled together. Sugar and limber pines have five needles per bunch. Coulter, Jeffrey and ponderosa have three long needles in each bundle. Lodgepole has two and our variety of pinyon pine has one.

Venture out into the forest and see how many different pine trees you can find. Can you find and identify all ten? Jane Strong has created a Pine Identification Key to make the job easier. Download the Chart here: ["How to Know the Pines"](#)

-Contributed by Jane Strong

How well do you know our Forest Trees?

1. What is the tallest tree in the Angeles National Forest?
2. What is the most common coniferous tree in the ANF?
3. What is the oldest living tree in the ANF?
4. Which tree has the heaviest pine cones in the world?
5. Which tree has the longest pine cones in the world?
6. Which tree has the longest needles in the world?
7. Which tree has only two short needles per bundle in the ANF?
8. Which coniferous tree grows at the lowest elevation in the ANF?
9. Which coniferous tree grows at the highest elevation in the ANF?
10. Which coniferous tree had the largest diameter in the ANF?

Answers: 1. Sugar pine; 2. Jeffrey pine; 3. Limber pine (about 2,000 years old); 4. Coulter pine (up to 9 lbs.); 5. Sugar pine (10 to 24 inches); 6. Coulter pine (up to 12 inches); 7. Lodgepole pine; 8. Bigcone spruce (900 feet); 9. Limber pine on Mt. Baldy; 10. Western juniper (15.15 feet)

-Quiz taken from ["Evergreens Everywhere"](#) by Jane Strong

Big Pines History... "The Stars Are Out"



John Wayne in Big Pines 1935
(Photo: Courtesy of Universal Studios)

Big Pines, CA – If you have been paying close attention, you may have recognized that some of the recent commercials now playing were filmed right here in the Big Pines area. From new car commercials featuring Baden-Powell in the background as they race along Angeles Crest Highway to Gieco's Maxwell the Zip-Line Piggy zipping down Buford Canyon, Big Pines often provides the perfect back drop.

Since the 1920's Big Pines has been the playground to the stars and the perfect location to produce the numerous movies and television shows that have been filmed in the area.

In 1939 Gene Autry showed up in B. Reeves Eason's film *Blue Mountain Skies*. The 1947 August issue of the *Wrightwood Pine Needle* reported that Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, Desi and Lucille Arnez (Ball) and Noah Beery frequented the area. In the 1960's, actors Keenan Wynn and Lee Marvin actually lived in Wrightwood.

In the 60s the forest also drew the media crowd. The one man who seemed to spend the most time in the area was the late Jerry Dunphy. KNX traffic and weatherman Bill Keene was a regular visitor; along with his buddies Bob Kelley and Gil Stratton. More recently Bob Banfield could often be found "reporting" for KABC's Eyewitness News around Big Pines.

The 70's and 80's brought the Dick Van Patten family to the ski area for the filming of *High Powder*; at times the "Eight is Enough" crowd could be seen hitting the slopes. Eric Braden,

from "Combat", "The Rat Patrol", "Days of Our lives" and "The Bold and The Beautiful", fancied Holiday Hill and the upper Christmas Run. Hal Linden, known for his role as the captain in "Barney Miller", could often be seen night skiing at Holiday Hill. Once in awhile even Kurt Russell showed up.

In November of 1976 Universal City Studios found themselves in the middle of shooting T.V's "Emergency" starring Randy Mantooth and Kevin Tighe when a snow storm hit. It created a lot of havoc on the set. Filming started at Jackson Lake at a time when the lake was known as the "Manzanita mud bath". Living up to its name, some on the crew joked that "someone had pulled the plug" on the small lake.

In the 1980's David Hasselhoff's "Night Rider" as well as "Cannon" and "Jack the Fatman" both starring William Conrad filmed here. Table Mountain became one of the twelve filming locations of the newest adventure of the "Lone Ranger" in September of 1980. The parking lot of "Ski Sunrise" was filled with horse trailers, camera vehicles, catering trucks and a lot of extras.

The list goes on and on: "Last Flight of Noah's Ark" (1980) starring Rick Schroder and Elliott Gould filmed partially at Table Mountain Campground. "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" (1982), by Steven Spielberg filmed at Inspiration Point. "Larger than Life" (1996) starring Bill Murray and Matthew McConaughey filmed on Hwy 2. "Black Sheep" (1996) starring Chris Farley and David Spade filmed at Mountain High...

The biggest grouping of stars happened during the 5th Annual Steve Kanaly Invitational Celebrity Ski Classic that took place at Mt. High on February 7, 1988. Sixty-three celebrities were in attendance. For a list of those celebrities: ["Click Here"](#)

The stars are still out today. You never know who you'll see around these parts.

- Contributions by Terry Graham

1988



Shalane McCall and Brad Pitt
(Photo: Jim Smeal / WireImage)

1947



Charlie Chaplin

2012



Maxwell the Zip-Line Piggy



Current Fire Danger



c. 1925



c. 1930

Interested in Volunteering out of the Historic Big Pines Station?

Call: (760) 249-3504 or Email:
 Todd Cook: mtcook@fs.fed.us or
 Ron Heinig: rheinig@fs.fed.us

Photos: From the Collection of Terry Graham



*The Wrightwood
 Communications Group
 has a disaster
 preparedness net each
 Sunday evening at 6:00
 pm.*

<http://www.kw6ww.com/>



*Wrightwood CERT has
 weekly FRS Nets on
 Sundays at 5:30 pm*

<http://www.wrightwoodcert.com>



Non-profit 501 (c) (3)

Upcoming meetings (3rd Tues each month)

Tues Jan 17, 2012
 Tues Feb 21, 2012
 Tues Mar 20, 2012
 Tues Apr 17, 2012
 Tues May 15, 2012
 Tues Jun 19, 2012
 Tues Jul 17, 2012
 Tues Aug 21, 2012
 Tues Sep 18, 2012
 Tues Oct 16, 2012
 Tues Nov 20, 2012
 Dec 2012 - No Meeting

7pm, at the
 Wrightwood Museum
 6000 Cedar St.
 (Old Fire Station)

Meeting Information:
 (760) 249-5248



Grassy Hollow
 Visitor's Center

www.grassyhollow.net

The Volunteers of the Angeles...

Meetings of the Volunteers are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the United Methoist Church located at 1543 Barbara Street in Wrightwood. All meetings are open to the public.

Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest

Wrightwood, CA

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