

Seeing the Forest Through the Trees...

FUN FACT: William Penn arrived in Upland in 1682. Thornbury incorporated in 1687.

We're still looking for those William Penn trees, and the children can help. There's nothing better than the sparkle in a child's eyes over a newfound learning experience. Every season presents nature in a unique and glorious format. While enjoying a walk through our parks, having the little ones get up close and personal with their surroundings may kindle a desire that will change their lives...and yours!

A well-known tree expert, **M.W. Staples** of Kent, Ohio, has been credited with guidelines for guessing the age of a big tree. We have included a fun and easy-to-use chart (below) to help adults and children identify the age of trees in their neighborhood and the surrounding community.

A note: Staples advises that the factors are for average growing conditions and are only approximates.



*Located along the Delaware River in Philadelphia, the giant elm tree where Native Americans may have met with William Penn became an icon for the founding of Pennsylvania.
Credit: Courtesy The State Museum of PA.*

Formula for Guessing Tree Ages

Diameter of tree in inches
x Species of tree multiplier
= Tree's approximate age

First, measure the diameter of your tree in total inches 4½ feet above the ground. Then, for the species of tree you've selected, use its specific multiplier as shown here:

White Ash.....	x 5
Black and Scarlet Oak.....	x 4
Beech.....	x 6
Red Oak.....	x 3½
Birch.....	x 4
White Oak.....	x 5
Elm.....	x 2½
Sycamore.....	x 3½
Hickory.....	x 7
Sweetgum.....	x 4
Norway Maple	x 4½
Tuliptree.....	x 2½
Silver Maple.....	x 2
Walnut.....	x 3

[Sources: "The Dawes Arboretum Newsletter" Vol. 11, No. 12, December, 1978, 7770 Jacksontown Road, S.E., RD 5, Newark, Ohio and page 23 of the book Penn's Woods 1682-1982 by Halfred W. Wertz and M. Joy