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YOLO COUNTY NEWS

Features

Great tree search: Native giants

By Special to The Enterprise

There are several large Torrey pine in the UC Davis Arboretum. The largest grows among the redwoods, towering 130 feet tall with a girth of 13.5 feet.

According to Warren Roberts, superintendent of the UC Davis Arboretum, the tree was planted in 1941 when most trees in the T. Elliot Weier Redwood Grove were planted. This tree was nominated by Roberta Millstein, who loves the majestic character of Torrey pine trees.

She writes, “In their native habitats, Torrey pines are gnarled from the wind. The one in the arboretum grows straight and tall. It illustrates the huge role that environment plays in an organism’s development — a lesson for us all!” Native stands of Torrey pine are restricted to coastal Southern California, and the species is considered one of the rarest pines in the world.

As this great tree demonstrates, in gardens with rich soil and ample moisture, Torrey pine can grow much taller than the 60-foot mature trees found in the wild.

Sentinel tree

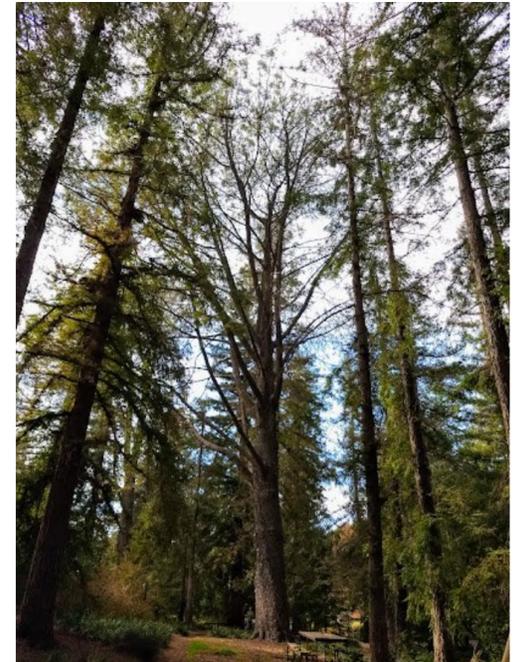
A gigantic coast redwood was nominated as a great tree by Alan Hirsch because it stands like a guardian at the entrance to the Davis Community Church. According to Dennis Dahlin, the tree was planted in about 1926 when the sanctuary building was completed.

Today it soars to a height of 110 feet, and has a 15.7-foot girth. Of course, this tree is still just a juvenile, given that the species are among the oldest things on Earth, living over 2,000 years and reaching up to 380 feet in height. Dahlin also notes that the cypress tree just east of the main entrance is known as the “Gethsemane Tree” as it was reportedly grown from a seed gathered in the Garden of Gethsemane in Palestine.

Both of these trees are on the city of Davis Landmark Tree List.

— Submitted by Dr. Greg McPherson, vice president, Tree Davis Board of Directors and retired U.S. Forest Service urban forest researcher.

Be part of the Tree Davis Great Tree Search when it begins again in the fall by nominating a tree you love and appreciate because of its species, size, form, history, or whatever. Readers will be able to nominate trees on-line by clicking on the Great Tree Search banner, downloading a paper form on the website at <http://www.treedavis.org/city-of-davis/gts-final-v2-2/>, or requesting a form at 530-757-7337.



This 78-year old Torrey pine towers above the redwoods in the UC Davis Arboretum. Courtesy photo



The Coast redwood in front of the Davis Community Church has grown from a diminutive young tree into a lofty guardian of this historic structure. Courtesy photo