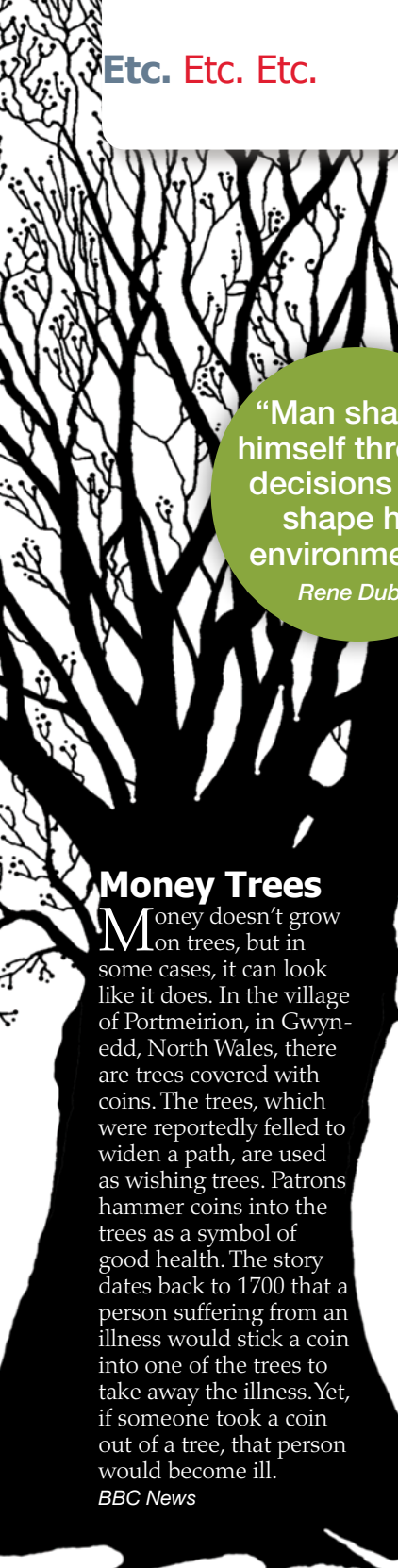


Etc. Etc. Etc.



“Man shapes himself through decisions that shape his environment.”

Rene Dubos

Money Trees

Money doesn't grow on trees, but in some cases, it can look like it does. In the village of Portmeirion, in Gwynedd, North Wales, there are trees covered with coins. The trees, which were reportedly felled to widen a path, are used as wishing trees. Patrons hammer coins into the trees as a symbol of good health. The story dates back to 1700 that a person suffering from an illness would stick a coin into one of the trees to take away the illness. Yet, if someone took a coin out of a tree, that person would become ill.

BBC News

In the Treetops

In the south Pacific coastal region of Costa Rica, there is a community living among the trees, animals and nature. Finca Bellavista is a residential tree house community that consists of more than 600 acres of secondary rain forest and reclaimed pasture. Finca Bellavista was founded by Mateo and Erica Hogan, a married couple originally from Colorado. The one-of-a-kind houses and buildings are nestled in the trees, with residents and visitors using zip lines and hiking trails to get around. In addition, the community boasts a sustainable off-grid lifestyle utilizing natural resources to provide carbon-neutral electricity, harnessing the sun's energy using a 1200-W photovoltaic DC power system. Running water is available in the treehouses, as is 3G cellular service for those who just can't go completely off the grid.

Fincabellavista

If you have a cartoon, anecdote, joke or interesting safety item you'd like to submit for publication on this page, send your contribution to professionalsafety@asse.org. Submissions will not be returned.

August Safety Photo of the Month



“Don't just stand there, Chuck. Hold my legs steady.”

Photo by Jennifer Wherry
Colorado Chapter

Reading the Rings

Professors at the Missouri Tree-Ring Laboratory have been studying tree rings to uncover weather patterns and the U.S. environmental history. A recent article in *MIZZOU* magazine describes the work of Richard Guyette and Michael Stambaugh who work in the laboratory, which is one of about 15 such labs in the U.S. Their work consists of plotting tree ring widths on a calendar to create a master pattern of that tree. “That's really the dendrochronologist's dream. To make this pattern the longest possible,” says Stambaugh. “Some of the longest records have revealed some of the unknown features of our planet.”

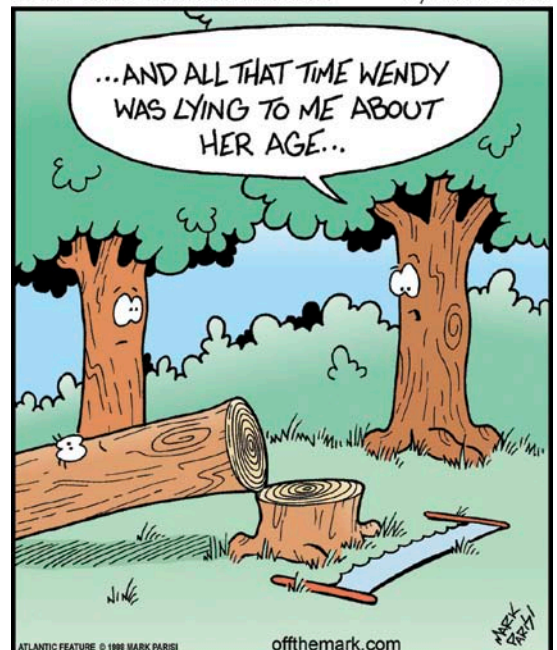
The professors use tree-ring data to predict drought cycles, chronicle climate change and advise land managers on prescribed burns. They develop tree growth records that date back 10,000 years. Their research patterns have shown severe, prolonged droughts and a strong 20-year cycle of drought in Missouri. “It's like a beating drum on the record,” Stambaugh says. “It's that reliable.”

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Name That Tree

- The **Angel Oak** in John's Island, SC, is a massive 65-ft tree that spreads over 17,100 sq ft.
- A Great Basin bristlecone pine called **Methuselah** is believed to be about 4,800 years old.
- The **Ada Tree of Australia** has a root system that takes up more than an acre.
- General Sherman**, a giant redwood sequoia, is one of the tallest soft wood trees at 275 ft high.

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



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Congratulations to **Christian Bittar**, of ASSE's New York City Chapter, for his winning caption entry, which appears below the photo.