Hickory Hollow and EastKnob Part 3

There is a large hickory tree on the east side of SouthKnob which we use as a photo point. This discussion is of photos taken looking to the northwest from that hickory. If you have looked at other sections, you should recognize Hitchcock's crown in this photo. The other characteristic seen here is a branch which is at a 45 degree angle with the trunk of its tree. If you can't see it, scroll down to the January 2006 photo and then revisit this photo.

March 2003

After the March 2003 photo above, the east side of SouthKnob was mowed. Big Woods Unit was then burned in April 2003. Some girdled cherry trees were removed by the end of 2003.

January 2004

The geoboy mower worked in Big Woods in late January 2004. It pushed over all the girdled cherry. We had not attempted to fell any of it with chainsaw since it had been dead long enough to be unstable. By 2006 most of that debris had been stacked and burned.

January 2006

Look at the black line on the ground in HickoryHollow. Dead trees just keep falling down. One of the large hickories of Hickory Hollow also fell down in a 2009 storm. Nothing is static here in the savanna!

January 2009

Burnpile #14 is located on the Saddle which is west of Hitchcock.

April 2011

The trees in the right side of the photo are all oak or hickory.

February 2012

This photo is located at the southeast edge of EastKnob. The January 2006 photo of Hitchcock in the previous discussion precedes this workday. This fine group of volunteers removed everything which is gone in the later photos. At the left of the photo you can see a happier Hitchcock. Do you remember the photos in the SouthKnob Section where you could not see Hitchcock from anywhere east of SouthKnob or EastKnob?

January 2006

Now at the same photo point on the east side of SouthKnob at the big hickory tree, we look north at EastKnob. No work had occurred in EastKnob yet. In addition to seeing the area clear and open, watch for the large crossed trees in the center to cause a big problem. One is an oak and the other is a cherry. We would have removed the cherry right away but did not want to risk damage to the oak.

January 2002

I stood left of the hickory so that the crossed trees are at the right side of the photo. Doesn't EastKnob look nice? NorthCherry is still alive, looking ugly. Can you see it back in 2002? All the junk is gone off the ground. We have added Elymus canadensis to help carry fire. Life is good.

January 2006

You can see the shagbark hanging off the hickory at the left edge. Half of the cherry went away, but the other half looked sure to fall right on the oak if we cut it. NorthCherry is still with us.

May 2007

Not only did it rain constantly in 2008, there were strange gusty winds all year. See Brush Removal Section for more examples of trees being wiped out. So here I am at the hickory photo point; see the shagbark on the right. The storm snapped the top right out of the oak tree, flipped it upside down and wedged the trunk in the high crotch of the cherry. You can really see the crotch back in the January 2002 photo.

September 2008

Hank contemplates the mess. Randomly with no context Bill Kleiman would say “Don’t you guys mess with that deadman.” It was still storming; see the damaged oak on the right with the limb on the ground. NorthCherry is still with us. Of course all the trash

lying around encourages bad forbs to proliferate.

January 2009

We were surprised that the upside down oak did not fall down from wind or its own dead weight by the end of 2010. By December 1 of 2011 it was supported by only three branches of its crown. In the prescribed fire of December 2011, the supporting branches burned, but not enough for the tree to fall.

December 2010

A few days after the December 2011 burn, Hank piled wood around each of the supporting branches, and set them on fire. After a few hours of feeding the fires, the tree came down with a huge crash. The deadman was on the ground.

NorthCherry (seen just to the right of center in the photo above) also caught fire and burned so that most of it fell over. Now we were back to having EastKnob once again covered in junk.

A large number of people came to the Big Woods workday in the middle of December 2011. There was a crew at EastKnob and a crew in RedHeadSavanna. At lunch both Mike Carr and John Schmadeke were limping after the morning's fun at EastKnob, but no more NorthCherry and no more deadman! Thanks to all our friends!

February 2012

One more look at EastKnob. We should have just cut that cherry tree down in 2002!

February 2012

Back to December 2003 to see Jennifer one more time. Remember this is on EastKnob looking west at HickoryHollow on day one of the work in Hickory Hollow.

December 2003

Compare the the photo above to the photo below taken in March 2012. Becky is standing next to the same stump that Jennifer is

standing next to in the photo above. The brushpile was built for the first time right after the previous photo was taken in 2003. The bushpile in this photo is #11.22 before it was burned in March 2012. A lot of people helped stack tons of brush! We think we are close to retiring this burnpile as nearly all of the brush in HickoryHollow and the surrounding area has been removed. The snag between Becky and the burnpile is not the snag featured in the earlier discussion. That snag appears at the far right edge of the picture.

March 2012

EastKnob is one of the places which we seeded early and often. See Seeds Section for details. Some of the plants there include Carex pensylvanica, Cacalia atriplicifolia, Aster shortii, Aquilegia canadensis, Corylus americana, Pedicularis canadensis, Dodecatheon meadia, etc.

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