

HARDWOOD & SOFTWOOD

HARDWOODS



Alder Tree



Ash



Aspen



Apple



Beech



Copper & Golden beech

HARDWOODS



Blackthorn



Golden leaf Elm



English Elm



Silver Birch



HARDWOODS



Cherry



Cherry



Chestnut



Laburnum



Laburnum
trees



Laburnum
pods



Lime tree



Lime tree leaves

SOFTWOODS



1000 year old cedar



Cedar leaves



Douglas fir



Douglas fir cone & needles



Juniper berries



Noble fir

SOFTWOODS



Fraser fir



Fraser fir needles



Blue spruce



Sitka spruce
60m tall
750 yrs in
Oregon



Norway spruce



Spruce needles



BRISTLECONE PINE

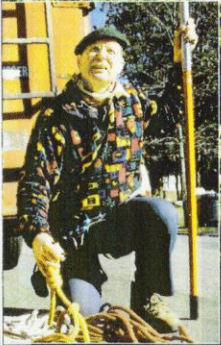
× 4000 years old

Can you spot the climbers?
One person has already topped the 300-foot-tall, 1,200-year-old California redwood. Two others dangle midway up. For fun, they might do some tree dancing. Pushing off from the trunk, they whirl like puppets on a string. To return to the ground, they abseil—the most dangerous aspect of the sport—by hooking on to a rack, which supplies friction to the rope, slowing the trip down



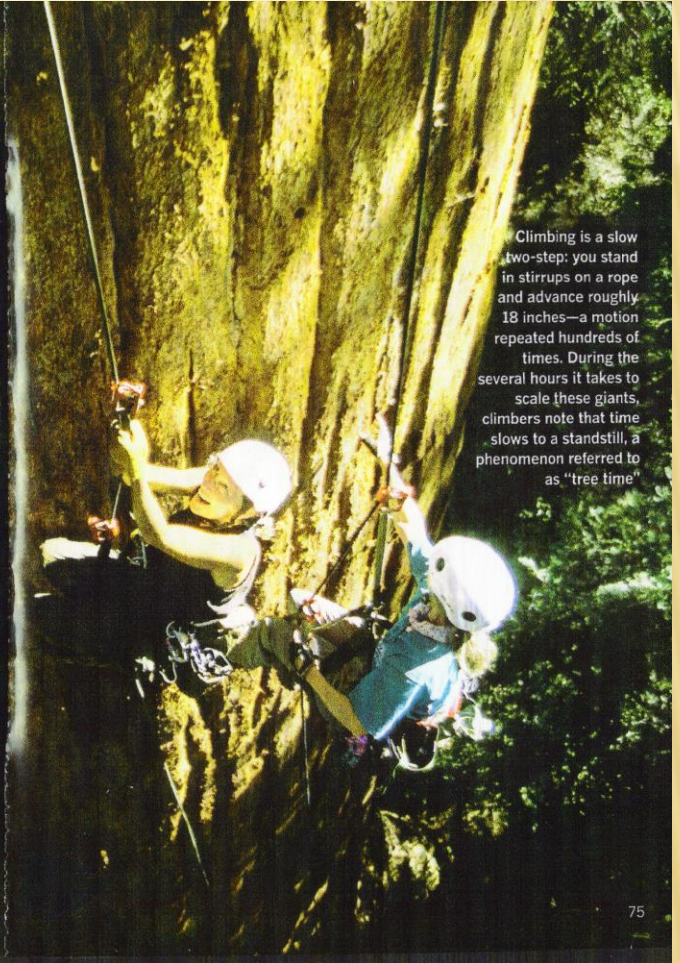
And you thought tree climbing was just for kids . . .

Today, Tree Climbers International boasts 800 members. From beeches in Britain to baobabs in Botswana to magnolias in North Carolina, members follow the motto: "Get High—Climb Trees". Its founder, Peter "Treeman" Jenkins, has scaled just about every type of large tree in the United States, sometimes to lop off a dead limb that threatens a house, other times to rescue a pet parrot or iguana. He thinks nothing of hanging between two giant sequoias like a piece of laundry 200 feet in the air. In all, Jenkins has taught some 10,000 people, from birthday partiers and Cub Scouts to advanced climbers, to whom he confides the tricks of "tree surfing". Says Jenkins with a grin, "A tree becomes a wind-powered amusement ride on a blustery day. You're at the top, and then, when big gusts hit, the ride begins." Surprisingly, how high you go is unimportant. You can get a warm feeling even in your own garden's oak tree.



To scale a giant sequoia, with its lowest branches 100 feet off the ground, "Treeman" Jenkins (left) refuses to wear leg spikes for fear of injuring the tree. Instead, using a bow and arrow, he shoots a line over a sturdy limb and attaches a climbing rope

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Climbing is a slow two-step: you stand in stirrups on a rope and advance roughly 18 inches—a motion repeated hundreds of times. During the several hours it takes to scale these giants, climbers note that time slows to a standstill, a phenomenon referred to as "tree time"

75

Extreme Tree Climbing