

Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2005
Hoyt Arboretum, Portland, Oregon

Present: Arne Nyberg (Chair), Paul Ries (Vice Chair), Nancy Appling, Tony Dorsch, Maynard Drawson, Amy Gillette, Doug Grafe, Josh Ingle, Charlotte Lehan, Peter McDonald, Mollie McKnight, Pat Moran, Fred Nilsen, Lowell Tiller, Al Tocchini

Absent: Unexcused: Walt Schroeder

Staff: Jim Renner

Guests: John Brenne, Mike Fontenot

1. Introductions

Arne Nyberg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and thanked Fred Nilsen for hosting the meeting at the Hoyt Arboretum. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. John Brenne lives in Pendleton and is slated to be TIC's member from the Second Congressional District. Mike Fontenot is an arborist with Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District and is interested in joining the Heritage Tree Committee.

2. Approval of 10/29/04 meeting minutes

Peter moved that the minutes be accepted; Charlotte seconded the motion; the minutes were accepted.

3. Committee Membership

The group looked ahead to the terms that will be expiring in July. The staggered terms for positions representing Tourism, Southwest Oregon, Eastern Oregon, and one At-Large, plus four annual agency appointments were reviewed. Nancy Appling suggested that if Walt Schroeder does not want to return for another term, she could fill the Southwest position which would then open an At-Large spot.

4. Heritage Tree Nominations

A. Peg Tree, Lake Oswego (tabled 10/29/04)

Mollie presented the additional research she had collected about the location of the Peg Tree and its association with the Durham homestead site. Arne presented information about the Peg Tree found Oregon's Iron Dream by Mary Goodall. Jim showed numerous examples of meeting trees from Famous Trees of Texas. Arne called the question for the Peg Tree nomination; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Dorris Ranch, Springfield

Tim seconded the nomination. Peter reported that Jeff Olsen prepared the nomination to coincide with the 2005 centennial of the Dorris Ranch being the first commercial hazelnut orchard in Oregon. However, Eastern Filbert Blight fungal disease has been detected in the Springfield area and the Dorris Ranch Operations Team raised concerns over whether gaining Oregon Heritage Tree status would restrict their ability to remove infected trees or otherwise manage the orchard. These concerns produced a caveat in the nomination whereby the land owner - Willamalane Park and Recreation District – wants to “reserve the right to accept or decline the designation based on their strategic decisions for the orchard's future”. Maynard spoke against the nomination because of this pre-condition.

Jim said he talked to the Operations Team leader after the nomination was received and explained that Oregon Heritage Tree status does not carry any restrictions on the management of trees listed in the program. He also recommended that the heritage tree designation and plaque focus on the theme of the Dorris Ranch as the first commercial hazelnut operation and not on the presence of some 100 year old trees, particularly if those

trees should need to be removed. The Operations Team has subsequently decided to support the nomination and will recommend to the Willamalane Board of Directors to approve the designation.

Arne spoke to the importance of the orchard being the first commercial operation and the fact that farming is a dynamic activity that changes over time. Charlotte felt that this being the 100th Anniversary was extremely important for recognizing the orchard. Nancy pointed out that the Ranch is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Paul expressed his concerns about deciding the nomination without a clear understanding of the owner's support. The nomination requires a statement of the owner's support and the heritage tree committee has never voted in advance of receiving the owner's support, or allowed an owner the right to deny heritage tree status once conferred by the committee. Paul proposed to delay the vote on the nomination until after the Willamalane Board has voted its approval of the nomination. Once Willamalane has made its decision the heritage tree committee could vote by email or phone ballot. Jim was instructed to contact the Dorris Ranch and find out when the Willamalane will meet.

C. 2005 Statewide Dedication Event

Arne moved up this portion of the agenda. Jim advised that there are four potential sites for the 2005 event. The class of 2005 consists of Mitchell Monument Shrapnel Tree near Bly, the Hoover Pear in Newberg, the Peg Tree in Lake Oswego, and possibly the Dorris Ranch in Springfield. If the 2005 event is to be held at its traditional time during Oregon Arbor week in April, two of the sites may not work well. The Mitchell Monument may still be buried in snow and the Hoover-Minthorn House is planning its 50th Anniversary event for August 10th. Tim moved that the committee prioritize its choices to be first the Dorris Ranch (if approved for heritage tree status) and second to be the Peg Tree; Charlotte seconded the motion. The motion passed with one dissenting vote. Jim was instructed to ask the Dorris Ranch if it is already planning a 100th Anniversary event and if it would conflict with an Oregon Arbor week heritage tree dedication.

5. New Business

A. 2007 Calendar Idea

Paul passed around a sample calendar of "Notable Trees of Rhode Island". Oregon Community Trees, a non-profit organization, is asking if the Heritage Tree program would be interested in doing a joint calendar, perhaps alternating photos of Oregon Heritage Trees with photos of other trees. Paul advised that Colorado did a similar project costing \$15,000 for 5,000 calendars. The production deadline would require the design work be done by May 2006 in order to have calendars ready for sale by September 2006. Each group would share half the costs and half the profits. Nancy and Charlotte volunteered to look into soliciting potential sponsors. Paul will talk further with Oregon Community Trees.

B. OFRI Speakers Bureau

Paul reported that the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) is organizing a speakers' bureau for giving talks in Oregon communities. Paul suggested that the Power Point presentation he showed at the last meeting could be used by committee members who would enroll to be part of the speakers' bureau. Some members expressed interest in doing this. Paul will talk to OFRI to get more information.

6. Updates and Reports

A. Reports from Members

Doug asked for suggestions of Myrtle tree sites that would make a good nomination. Amy suggested two State Park properties: Golden and Silver Falls State Natural Area, and Coquille Myrtle Grove State Natural Site.

Mollie expects to submit a nomination for the Barlow House Walnut Grove by the July meeting.

B. TIC Report

Jim reported that the current value of the Heritage Tree Fund is \$26,960. He also reported that TIC is looking for ways to expand the distribution network of the Kristin Lassen Hunt heritage tree note cards and prints.

7. 2005 Meeting Schedule

July 8th at 1:00 PM at Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport; Doug has reserved a room for the meeting.

October 21st; a location will be determined at the July meeting.