

**Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2005
Sweetbrier Inn
Tualatin, Oregon**

Present: Arne Nyberg (Chair), Nancy Appling (Vice Chair), Maynard Drawson, Mike Fontenot, Doug Grafe, Charlotte Lehan, Mollie McKnight, Tim Nitz, Paul Ries, Andy Smogor, Al Tocchini

Absent: Excused: John Brenne, Tony Dorsch, Josh Ingle, Peter McDonald, Pat Moran, Fred Nilsen

Staff: Jim Renner

Guests: Amy Gillette, Lowell Tiller

1. Introductions

Arne Nyberg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Committee members and guests made self-introductions.

2. Approval of 7/08/05 meeting minutes

Tim moved that the minutes be accepted; Nancy seconded the motion; the minutes were accepted.

3. Heritage Tree Nominations

A. Powell Butte State Station Twin Poplars, Powell Butte (tabled 7/8/05)

Arne called for reconsideration of the tabled nomination. Jim reported that Tony was unable to attend today's meeting to present the nomination and that Tony requested the nomination be tabled until the January 2006 meeting. Jim was directed by the committee to ask Tony to answer the following questions in advance of the next meeting: 1) identify the species of the Poplars, 2) tell how public access will be assured in the future, 3) explain where public parking is available at this residence, 4) provide oral history or remembrances of the trees themselves, and 5) include information being submitted in the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Paul moved to table the nomination until the next meeting; seconded by Tim; motion passed.

B. Queen Oaks, Corvallis (tabled 7/08/05)

Paul called for reconsideration of the tabled nomination. Jim reported that Joe Durkee has replaced his uncle Jack Brandis as the President of Timberhill Realty. With the change, John Stewart has replaced Bob Zybach as the heritage tree nomination coordinator and liaison. Timberhill will be developing a preservation plan for the property and the Queen Oaks and wish to ask consideration of the nomination in 2006. Tim moved to recognize the request to withdraw the nomination and to invite a new nomination in the future; seconded by Al; motion passed .

Paul expressed his concern for the arbitrary naming of the Queen Oaks pointing out that there is no historical basis for naming them the "Queen Oaks" and that Jack Brandis coined that name only two years ago. Paul recommended that staff preview the "common names" submitted on nomination forms and to verify the source and reason for those names when necessary. The committee may also recommend alternative common names for heritage trees when considering nominations.

C. Camperdown Elm, Hillsboro

The nomination was submitted by Jean Harkin of Portland, but without support of the landowner; seconded by Arne. Jim reported that the tree is located on a vacant lot that is for sale and that the tree itself has been sold to Dennis DeLashmutt owner of Landscape Dreams in Snohomish Washington. Jim spoke with Mr. DeLashmutt who advised that he is willing to sell the tree or donate it to a non-profit organization or a park. The committee determined that the tree could not be moved and would need to stay in its present site. The committee expressed interest in the tree due to its size and species, but that with such an uncertain future it would not be of interest unless it was preserved in a pocket park. The committee voted on the nomination and it was denied.

Jim was directed by the committee to write letters to the City of Hillsboro, Washington County, and Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District to advise them of the tree and its situation with copies of the letters going to the tree owner, realtor, and the nominator. The purpose of the letter is to encourage the possibility of giving the tree and the immediate site around it for development of a pocket park.

D. Riding Whip Tree, Marion County

The nomination was submitted by property owners Jim and Erika Toler; seconded by Arne. Arne visited this tree when he spoke at the GeerCrest Farm last summer. The Riding Whip Tree was memorialized by the DAR in 1936 and became Marion County's first heritage tree in 1986. The tree grew from a cottonwood stippling set in the ground by 15-year-old Florinda Geer in 1854 after returning from a ride with her uncle. Florinda later married Timothy Davenport and their son Homer Davenport became the famed political cartoonist. The Geer homestead where the Riding Whip Tree is located was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The committee voted on the nomination and it was approved based on its size, its association with Oregon homestead history, and its association with Homer Davenport.

Andy was asked by the committee to clarify the species of the tree. Jim was directed by the committee to talk to the owners about public accessibility.

E. Tillamook Burn "Student Planters Tree"

The nomination was submitted by Doug Decker, Project Leader for Tillamook Forest Center, Oregon Department of Forestry; seconded by Doug. Doug toured this future Tillamook Forest Center site with Mr. Decker and reported that it will be a state-of-the-art interpretive center scheduled to open in April 2006. The trees located around the center were all planted by school children and are representative of the reforestation of the Tillamook Burn. Doug is concerned that the particular tree nominated for signage is compromised by trenching and has a fire hydrant in front of it. He suggested that a grove of trees in front of the center might be a more appropriate location. The committee voted on the nomination and it was approved based on the statewide significance of the Tillamook Burn and the massive reforestation efforts that took place.

Doug and Paul were asked by the committee to work with Mr. Decker to determine the best location for a heritage tree plaque, to assist with the writing of the plaque, and to determine the best name for the plaque and heritage tree site.

F. White Oak, Hood River

The nomination was submitted by the property owner Judi Baker; seconded by Tim. The committee was concerned about the heavy pruning and overall health of the tree and its lack of statewide historical significance. The committee voted on the nomination and it was denied.

4. New Business

A. Guidelines for County Heritage Tree Programs

Nancy presented a series of sample documents for committee review and a discussion of how the committee may foster the creation of local heritage tree programs at county and city levels. Using materials drawn from the Oregon Heritage Tree Program and several city heritage tree programs as examples, Nancy identified the processes and procedures that a start-up group would need to accomplish to launch a program. Paul Ries advised that the Urban and Community Forestry Program at the Oregon Department of Forestry could provide additional advice and assistance to city and county governments wishing to establish tree programs. A sub-committee was formed consisting of Nancy, Paul, Charlotte, and Arne to come report back at the next meeting.

B. Solicitation Packet to Oregon Historical Society Affiliates

Nancy presented a sample cover letter for a mass mailing to solicit potential heritage tree nominations from affiliate members to the Oregon Historical Society. The mailing list consists primarily of local historical societies and history interest groups. In addition to the cover letter, the mailing would include the brochure *Guide to Oregon's Historical Markers and Heritage Trees*, a *Tree Team* newsletter, and the Oregon Heritage Tree Nomination Form. The consensus of the committee was to proceed and to include a posting on the Heritage Listserv provided by the Heritage and Conservation Division of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

5. Updates & Reports

A. 2005 Heritage Tree Dedications

1. Hoover-Minthorn Pear - Arne reported that the August 10 dedication event was especially successful due to Mark Hatfield's participation and excellent talk. The coverage provided by the Oregonian newspaper and OPB radio was also noteworthy.

2. Mitchell Monument Shrapnel Tree - Jim reported that the local organizers requested the Shrapnel Tree dedication event be postponed to May 2006. Lowell suggested that if the new Oregon Historical Marker for Mitchell Monument is ready in 2006 that the two dedications be combined.

B. 2006 Statewide Dedication Event

The committee consensus was to coordinate the 2006 event with the official opening of the Tillamook Forest Center that is expected to open in April 2006. Jim was directed to work with Doug Decker and coordinate with Doug and Paul on planning the event. Suggestions for possible speakers included Governor Ted Kulongoski, State Forester Marvin Brown, former State Forester Jim Brown, former State Forester Ed Schroeder, author Larry Merrian, and former student planters who reforested the Tillamook Burn.

C. Reports from members

Mollie reported that the Barlow House south of Canby has been sold but is unoccupied and there has been no response to her letters asking permission to nominate the walnut trees there. She may choose instead to work on a nomination for the bigleaf maples located at the Barlow Road Tollgate near Rhododendron.

Doug said he might have a good Myrtle tree grove on the Coquille River near Bandon for nomination in 2006. Doug asked the committee if it would be appropriate to give grants from the Gertrude Bradbury Heritage Tree Fund for the purpose of providing arborist services for Oregon Heritage Trees. Jim said that some arborists have provided pro bono services for

heritage trees. Arne advised that the committee needs to document those cases and recognize the arborists who have provided those services.

Doug also asked if it would be possible to develop a pop-up exhibit for the Oregon Heritage Tree Program that could be set up at dedication events and used by committee members when they give talks on the program. Jim felt that TIC may be able to develop such an exhibit and asked whether expenses should be drawn from the Heritage Tree Fund; the committee indicated that some limited funding might be acceptable. Jim will research and report back.

Paul reported that he presented the Heritage Tree PowerPoint show to about 30 members of the Clatskanie Garden Club in October. Doug reported giving the PowerPoint show to about 25 Yaquina birders and naturalists. Doug will be giving a Heritage Tree Talk on November 26, 2005 at the Cape Perpetua Visitor's Center a brunch being catered by Bona Ventura; the brunch starts at 9:00.

Nancy reported that the tree outside the museum in Kirby is probably not a hanging tree as has been suggested.

Maynard invited everyone to attend the December 3rd lighting of the Star Trees at Willamette University to see the largest Christmas trees on a college campus in the United States. The street will be closed at 5:00 pm and the tree lighting ceremony will be around 6:00 pm. Dinner is served at the University cafeteria.

D. TIC Report

Jim reported that the 4th edition of the brochure *Guide to Oregon Historical Markers and Heritage Trees* would be funded by a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation. The new brochure will be updated to include the heritage trees from the classes of 2005 and 2006. The production schedule is to have the new brochure ready for distribution in March 2006.

Jim also reported the value of the Gertrude Bradbury Heritage Tree Fund to be \$27,058.

6. 2006 Meeting Schedule

Meetings in 2006 will be on Friday, January 13th at 1:00 PM at the Jenkins Estate in Aloha; June 23rd at 1:00 PM at Central Oregon Community College in Bend; and October 20th at a location to be announced.