

**Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2006
Oregon Department of Forestry
Salem, Oregon**

Present: Nancy Appling (Chair), John Brenne, Maynard Drawson, Mike Fontenot, Josh Ingle, Charlotte Lehan, Peter McDonald, Molly McKnight, Pat Moran, Fred Nilsen, Tim Nitz, Arne Nyberg, Paul Ries, Andy Smogor, Al Tocchini

Absent: Excused: Tony Dorsch, Doug Grafe

Staff: Jim Renner, Diane Cheyne

1. Introductions

Previous Chairman Arne Nyberg passed the gavel to Nancy Appling who called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Nancy thanked Paul Ries for reserving meeting space at the Oregon Department of Forestry and asked committee members to make self-introductions. Jim Renner introduced Diane Cheyne who will be providing additional TIC support to the committee.

2. Approval of 6/23/06 meeting minutes

Arne moved that the minutes be accepted; John Brenne seconded the motion; the minutes were accepted.

3. Heritage Tree Nominations

A. Gabriel Park Forest, Portland,

Nancy called for consideration of the nomination; Charlotte seconded the nomination. Jim commented that the nomination appeared to be the work of a school student who downloaded the application from TIC's Heritage Tree webpage. The application is incomplete, but could be of interest. Fred described the urban park as 50+ acres in size with ballparks, a community garden, a creek, and this stand of trees about 150 years old. Paul remarked that the grove of trees were a native forest remnant. The committee felt that more research into the history of the park would be needed to before the grove's historical significance could be evaluated.

The nomination failed. Jim was directed to recommend that the nominator research the history of the park further and to refer the Gabriel Park Forest to the City of Portland's Heritage Tree Program.

B. Barlow Toll Gate maples, Rhododendron

Molly seconded this nomination and explained that the historical significance of these two bigleaf maples is due to their association with the Barlow Road segment of the Oregon National Historic Trail. The trees are located at the site of a replica toll gate that was in operation on this site from 1879 until 1915. The Toll Gate replica was listed as a contributing feature of the Barlow Road Historic District which was entered onto the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. The maples are said to have been planted in the late 1880's by Daniel Parker who was the toll master of that time. The Barlow Toll Gate site is located in an interpretive wayside beside Highway 26 on federal land in the Zig Zag Ranger District.

Based on these trees' association with the Oregon National Historic Trail, the committee found them to meet criteria for Oregon Heritage Tree status and voted unanimously to approve the nomination.

C. State Fairgrounds Oak Grove, Salem

Pat seconded this nomination made by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department who manages this State property. Andy presented the history of the oak grove beginning with the use of the grove by Kalapuya Indians and the high potential that Camas ovens were used on the site. In 1862, the second Oregon State Fair was held there as the site became the Fair's permanent location. Visitors to the Fair came in wagons and started using the oak grove as a campground which grew in popularity and established a tradition that continued well into the automobile age. The oak grove is approximately 5 acres in size, 200+ years in age and in good health.

Based on the grove's association with the Kalapuyan people and its long history with the State Fair, the committee voted unanimously to approve the nomination.

D. Agnes Sawyer Tree, Kerby

Nancy called for consideration of the nomination; Arne seconded the nomination. Nancy visited the tree and met the owners and their son who built an elaborate tree house 20 years ago when the tree was severely damaged by a storm. The tree house is now an integral part of the tree and actually supports the tree. The owners appear to be ambivalent about or disinterested in the tree's nomination. The tree was nominated by a third party.

The committee found that the tree had local historical interest, but did not have sufficient historical significance to merit Oregon Heritage Tree designation, so the motion failed.

4. Old Business

Nancy reintroduced initiatives to produce and distribute Oregon Heritage Tree nomination packets and develop guidelines for starting local heritage tree programs. The committee discussed sending packets to the mailing list of Oregon Historical Society affiliates and also to members of the Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association. Charlotte, Paul and Arne volunteered to join Nancy on a sub-committee to work on these projects. Jim and Diane will coordinate the work at TIC.

5. Updates & Reports

A. 2006 Dedication Events

Maynard described the July 30 dedication of the Riding Whip Tree at the Geer homestead near Silverton where he joined Ericka Toler, Vespar Geer Rose, and Cheryl Gribskov in the ceremonies. This event marked the third time the tree has been commemorated. It was first memorialized in 1936 by the Daughters of the American Revolution, again in 1986 when it was dedicated by Maynard as Marion County's first Heritage Tree, and finally this year as Oregon's 37th Oregon Heritage Tree.

B. 2007 Statewide Dedication Event

The committee reviewed the successful nominations of 2006 to select a site for the 2007 Statewide Event. The dedication of the Giant Spruce of Cape Perpetua was deferred to 2008 to coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the Siuslaw National Forest as per the wishes of the Forest Service. The committee then agreed to have two equal events, the first at the Barlow Toll Gate maples in April during Oregon Arbor Week, if possible, and the second event at the State Fairgrounds Oak Grove in August at the time of the Oregon State Fair.

Jim was asked to contact the Mount Hood National Forest and to involve Forest Supervisor Gary Larson in the April event, and to work with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and Dave Kollermeier on the August event.

C. Reports from Members

Paul reported that he is planning to re-make his Heritage Tree power point presentation this winter and will provide copies to people willing to give the program to audiences.

Molly reported that Clackamas County is considering the creation of a county heritage tree program. A recommendation is being prepared for the county commissioners with options to place the program under either the Forestry or Planning Departments.

Jim reported on behalf of Doug Grafe that the Oregon Register of Big Trees is being transferred from the Oregon Department of Forestry to the National Center for Conservation and Science Policy (NCCSP) in Ashland. The National Register of Big Trees managed by American Forests in Washington DC is requesting tree health and current measurements for national champion trees not reported since 1998. Oregon has 36 Champions on the list with 29 trees needing updated information. Jim expressed his concern that many of these trees may be difficult to locate and suggested the Heritage Tree Program offer its assistance by promoting a search effort to find these trees. Nancy volunteered to contact the NCCSP and Brian Ballou at ODF.

Charlotte suggested that we look for opportunities to connect the Oregon Heritage Tree program to the Oregon 150 Sesquicentennial in 2009, perhaps by dedicating our 50th heritage tree. Other ideas were to find a tree with connections to events that occurred in 1859 or 1959, or to involve the public with locating Oregon Champion Big Trees and nominating them to be heritage trees.

D. TIC Report

Jim reported the value of the Gertrude Bradbury Fund to be \$27,089 and the receipt of a \$100 donation from Paul and Lucia Norris of Keizer. Jim showed design samples of a combined Oregon Heritage Tree/Oregon Historical Marker newsletter that TIC is hoping to produce quarterly that is part of a new branding package of print material. TIC's new website will have expanded pages for the heritage tree program.

6. 2007 Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held on January 26, 2007 at 1:00 PM in Wilsonville at the Water Treatment Plant. The summer meeting date was tentatively set for July on the Oregon Coast to be coordinated by Doug.