

**Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2007
Schroeder's Guest House Restaurant
Salem, Oregon**

- Present:** Nancy Appling (Chair), John Brenne, Tony Dorsch, Maynard Drawson, Mike Fontenot, George Forbes, Doug Grafe, Charlotte Lehan, Peter McDonald, Molly McKnight, Pat Moran, Fred Nilsen, Arne Nyberg, Paul Ries, Andy Smogor, Al Tocchini
- Absent:** Excused: Tim Nitz
- Guests:** Barbara Allen, Kary Daniels, Marie Egan, Cheryl Gribskov, Drew Roslund, Craig Tutor
- Staff:** Jim Renner, Diane Cheyne

1. Introductions

Jim Renner introduced the guests attending this appreciation luncheon given for the Heritage Tree Committee. Fred Nilsen was recognized for having been awarded the Oregon Urban Forestry Professional Award. Maynard Drawson was congratulated for his 82nd birthday and was presented with a cake. Jim then introduced Barbara Allen, Executive Director of Oregon 150, who made a presentation on the events being planned for Oregon's Sesquicentennial of Statehood coming in 2009.

2. Guest Speaker Barbara Allen

Barbara Allen introduced the Oregon 150 project. Their council, appointed by the Governor, is striving to represent all Oregonians and to leave a lasting legacy. They are also trying to reach the entire state and offer assistance with toolkits for local programs. Oregon 150 will kick-off February 14, 2009 and run through October 1, 2009. Their board recently established a list of signature projects in 2009: *Take Care of Oregon Day; Oregon Stories, Oregon Minutes; Children's Future Vision; and Travel Oregon 150*. They are also working with Stan Freeburg to create a catchy theme song. Complete information about the sesquicentennial can be found at www.Oregon150.org.

3. Discussion of participation in Oregon 150

Charlotte suggested a nomination of the Black Cottonwood at Champoeg State Park. A 1901 photo shows the original voters for provisional government in front of the tree at the Champoeg Monument. It is a location of great importance to Oregon's history. State Parks has agreed to nominate the tree. The dedication could take place on February 14, 2009.

Peter suggested that local communities could revisit their existing Heritage Trees.

The committee could also submit Oregon Heritage Trees to the Oregon Stories project that could possibly also become Oregon Minutes for radio segments.

Charlotte suggested that we establish a prize program for those people who visit all the Heritage Trees. They could submit photos, and the committee would give prizes such as medallions, certificates, buttons, etc. Jim said TIC could post the photos on the Heritage Tree website. The committee could rate the trees for difficulty and have the contest be on a point system with the winner being the visitor with the most points. Charlotte, Doug, Andy, Peter, George, and Nancy agreed to be on a sub-committee to discuss this idea in more detail.

The committee also suggested that accessible trees be established as geocaching sites.

4. Pre-App reviews of Luelling/Lewelling Trees

Molly asked for feedback and guidance from the committee on the trees that she was able to locate that may have historical significance to the Luelling/Lewelling orchard and nursery. She distributed a handout and asked the committee to give her feedback after the meeting on whether any of the suggested trees might warrant nomination to the program. The trees discussed were the Yellow Bellflower Apple and Luelling Cherry at the Milwaukie Museum, pear trees and apple tree at Waverly Country Club in Milwaukie, cherry trees at the Portland Waldorf School in Milwaukie, Milwaukie Pioneer Cemetery – Waverly Country Club future fruit tree project, and the Yellow Bellflower Apple at the Dosch House in SW Portland.

5. Approval of 1/26/2007 Minutes

Arne moved that the minutes be corrected on page 2, under New Business, Sitka Spruce at Klootch Creek, to read, “For a three-week period, the Sitka Spruce made headlines throughout Oregon, the nation and worldwide.” Arne moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected; John seconded the motion; the minutes were approved as corrected.

6. Committee Elections

A. Positions

Nancy presented the election roster of candidates consisting of John Brenne, George Forbes, Paul Ries, Andy Smoger, Pat Moran, Molly McKnight, Peter McDonald, Tony Dorsch, and Mike Fontenot. Nancy suggested that the committee approve the slate of nominations. George moved to approve the committee members as submitted; Charlotte seconded the motion; the committee members were unanimously approved.

Pat talked about filling the Tourism position on the committee and recommended talking with Travel Oregon for suggestions. Travel Oregon has ties with many of the industry members.

B. Officers

Jim said that he had talked to both Nancy and Doug about serving a second term in their positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee and that both were willing to serve another year. Arne moved to re-elect Nancy as Chair and Doug as Vice-Chair; John seconded the motion; Nancy and Doug were unanimously re-elected.

7. Drew Roslund – TIC

Drew asked to speak to the committee. He thanked the committee for inviting him to attend the meeting. He challenged the committee to look for ways to better promote the Heritage Tree program and to provide signage on highways to help motorists find heritage trees. He told the committee that he would support the request for funding from TIC for the signage.

The committee discussed promotion ideas such as geocaching and the addition of the tree locations in existing partner brochures.

Arne moved that Jim work with TIC and ODOT to get signage on highways for the Heritage Tree Program; Tony seconded the motion; the nomination was approved unanimously.

8. Heritage Tree Nominations

A. Middleton Pioneer Cemetery maple, Sherwood

Mike visited the site and met with members of the Middleton Pioneer Cemetery Association. The tree is healthy and only needs minor structural work. He would like to suggest this tree to the Washington County Historical Society for a local heritage tree nomination and said that he is making a heritage tree program presentation to the Society in September. There was no second to this nomination so it was not considered further.

A request made to the nominators for more research or information about the tree did not arrive before the meeting. The committee felt that the nomination could be revisited if more information were received.

9. Updates & Reports

A. 2007 Dedication Events

1. Barlow Road Tollgate maples – Jim passed around photos and news clippings of the dedication held April 4, 2007. Forty-five to fifty people attended. Doug Grafe, Gary Larsen, and Lloyd Musser were the featured speakers and descendents of tollgate keeper Daniel Parker were in attendance.

2. State Fairgrounds Oaks – scheduled for Friday, August 17, 2007, 11:00 a.m. one week prior to the opening of the Oregon State Fair. The dedication will be able to piggyback on the State Fair publicity. Speakers are Nancy Appling; Ann Rogers, Archaeologist and co-author of The World of the Kalapuya: a Native People of Western Oregon; and Amy Gillette, Natural Resources Manager of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

3. Sitka Spruce of Cape Perpetua – scheduled for Saturday, September 15, 2007, 1:00 p.m. at the Yachats Commons. The dedication will be held in conjunction with the kick-off celebration of the Suislaw National Forest's 100 anniversary. There will be guided tours, a shuttle service to the tree, a slide show and refreshments along with the speakers. A Heritage Tree Committee meeting will precede the dedication at 10:00 a.m. in the Overleaf Lodge meeting room.

B. Reports from Members

Paul reported that the Department of Forestry Center museum will open soon. The Hager Grove Pear tree plaque with an interpretive display will be in the new museum. In regards to the highway location of the Hager Pear, the committee asked if it would be possible to create access and a path to the tree. Paul said ODOT owns the land where the tree is, but that it is fenced from behind. It may be possible to talk to the commercial landowner about parking and access. The committee asked that the next edition of the Heritage Tree brochure say that the plaque is on display at the museum. Paul said as a side note that pictures of several Heritage Trees have been requested and may appear as artwork in other publications.

Doug asked for more Heritage Tree postcards for the Yachats tree dedication.

Mike asked if we had received other nominations from Washington County residents. He thought some may be submitting nominations in the hope of blocking development.

Molly reported that the Barlow Black Walnuts are showing signs of disease and that they may be dying from the top down. Tests are being conducted to find out the cause. The trees may not be healthy enough to be nominated as Heritage Trees.

C. TIC Report

Jim said that TIC intends to update the Heritage Tree website soon and the photo contest will be a wonderful addition to the site.

Jim reviewed his list of potential Heritage Trees – the Luelling/Lewelling trees; the Cape Meares Octopus Tree; the Cape Meares Giant; a Myrtle Grove; the Black Cottonwood at Champoeg; the Valley of the Giants – BLM study is complete and they may be supportive of the nomination; Peter French P Ranch trees; and the largest Douglas Fir in Oregon. Jim said even with all of these we will be short of a 50 tree total by 2009. Committee members agreed that quality is more important than quantity and that the program should grow at its own rate.

Jim said TIC is looking to revise the *Guide to Oregon Historical Markers and Heritage Trees* brochure into a new booklet format. Annie Von Domitz of the Historical Marker Program is applying for a \$5000 design grant with TIC providing the cash match for printing. The new brochure would be 12-16 pages with a print run of 25,000. TIC distributes 10,000-15,000/year. Several committee members said they like the statewide format and would like to see a whole-state map retained in the new design.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 15, 2007, in Yachats at the Overleaf Lodge Meeting Room.