

OREGON



HERITAGE  
TREE  
PROGRAM

# TREE TEAM

Oregon Heritage Tree Program Newsletter

Spring 2003

## THE STARS AND THE MOON GET THEIR PLACE IN THE SUN

Things will be looking bright in Salem as the Star Trees of Willamette University and the Moon Tree at the State Capitol will be featured in this year's statewide Oregon Heritage Tree Dedication Ceremony on Friday, April 11, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. The ceremony will be held at the Star Trees on the campus of Willamette University. The Star Trees are located directly across State Street from the Capitol building. Following ceremonies at the Star Trees, the event will move across State Street to the Moon Tree located in Willson Park on the Capitol grounds.

Featured speakers at the dedication will be Secretary of State Bill Bradbury and Lee Pelton, President of Willamette University. The ceremony will officially announce the trees designated as Oregon Heritage Trees in 2002. In addition to the Star Trees and the Moon Tree, the class of 2002 includes the Indian Village Grove in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, the Monterey Cypress in Brookings, and Victory Way in La Grande. With the addition of these five trees, the state now has a total of 28 Oregon Heritage Trees.



## STAR TREES OF WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

Five sequoia trees were planted by the Class of 1942 in honor of Willamette University's 100th anniversary. Founded by Jason Lee in 1842, Willamette University is recognized as the oldest university in the west.

In 1997, the campus started an annual holiday tradition by lighting the Star Trees from mid-December to January. They are now considered to be the tallest Christmas trees on a college or university campus in America.

## MOON TREE

In 1971, a variety of 400-500 tree seeds, tucked away in astronaut Stuart Roosa's personal property kit, orbited the moon on Apollo 14. Upon their return to earth, many seeds were propagated and the seedlings planted in celebration of America's bicentennial. Governor Bob Straub planted the Moon Tree at the State Capitol on Arbor Day, April 30, 1976.

Two middle school students from Coos Bay, Becky Soules and Sheena Davis, nominated the Moon Tree for Oregon Heritage Tree status. The Coos Bay connection is meaningful because Stuart Roosa loved Oregon and selected Coos Bay for his Apollo 14 homecoming parade site.

The Moon Tree is a Douglas fir, Oregon's state tree, and the Douglas fir seeds carried by Roosa on Apollo 14 came from Corvallis.

## INDIAN VILLAGE GROVE LIVING RECORD OF NEZ PERCE LIFE



Thirty miles northeast of Enterprise, Oregon in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is the Indian Village Grove of Ponderosa Pines. For hundreds of seasons, Nez Perce (Nimiipuu) people congregated in the vicinity of the grove because it was an ideal spring encampment, close to a water source, wildlife, and a variety of plants.

Evidence of the encampment has disappeared, but the Nimiipuu left a record of their stay on the Ponderosa Pines. Large oval scars on the tree

trunks were created when, in the early spring, the Nimiipuu peeled the outer bark of the tree and then skimmed the inner bark with a scraper. The cambium layer was used medicinally and as a food supplement.

Located adjacent to the route of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, the grove includes an interpretive sign and a loop trail that winds through the grove. The Indian Village Grove is used today for educational purposes and is visited largely by youth groups learning about the life of the Nimiipuu people.

## MONTEREY CYPRESS HISTORIC SENTINEL ON THE SOUTH COAST

Spreading beside the oldest house in Chetco Valley is a monstrous Monterey Cypress, once listed as the National Champion of its species, and now the largest found in Oregon. This non-native tree was planted by Harrison G. Blake in the yard of his home in Harbor, Oregon, in the 1850's. His house, which is still standing, is now the home of the Chetco Valley Historical Society.

Harrison Blake was elected the first member of the Oregon House of Representatives from southern Curry County in 1874, was the County's first deputy sheriff, and operated a trading post. He also served as postmaster of the Chetco Post Office from 1890 to 1894. The Blake house was a stagecoach station and the site of the post office.

Blake married Mary Geisel, one of three survivors of an 1856 Indian attack that killed her father and three brothers in their home at the present day Geisel Monument State Heritage Site near Nesika Beach.

The Monterey Cypress, which is 99 feet tall with a circumference of 34 feet, was the National Champion in the National Register of Big Trees until it was dethroned in 1996.



## RETURN THIS FORM TO RECEIVE FUTURE ISSUES OF TREE TEAM!

We hope you have enjoyed receiving the Tree Team newsletter in the mail. If you would like to receive future issues, please cutout and return this form to the Oregon Heritage Tree Program, Travel Information Council, 229 Madrona Ave. SE, Salem OR 97302.

To save costs of printing and postage, future issues of Tree Team will be produced in an electronic format and sent to subscribers by email. Tree Team will also be posted on the internet at [www.oregontic.com](http://www.oregontic.com). To receive future issues of Tree Team by email, please send us your email address. **Yes, I want to receive future issues of Tree Team. My email address is:**

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## VICTORY WAY COMMEMORATES THE END OF WORLD WAR I

On April 10, 1923, volunteers planted 250 trees along La Grande's Spruce Street and "S" Avenue to commemorate the end of the First World War. A celebration featuring speeches, prayer and music, including the singing of an original tree song accompanied the tree planting. The trees planted were all Norway maple and they created a tree-lined parkway that extended from the business district to Riverside Park.

On April 10, 1998, a 75th anniversary celebration was held on Victory Way. Students from the local elementary school, members of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign wars, the National

Guard and the public all participated. Two trees were planted ceremonially and two stone monuments were placed to commemorate the original and anniversary plantings. Later that spring, volunteers planted a variety of 40 additional trees on Victory Way to replace the Norway maples that had been lost since the original plantings.

The Oregon Heritage Tree plaque for Victory Way is located beside one of the original Norway maples in front of Greenwood Elementary School. The Norway maple is approximately 60 feet tall and has a circumference of 7 feet at breast height.



**Oregon Heritage Tree Program**  
**Travel Information Council**  
229 Madrona Ave SE  
Salem Oregon 97302

**Tree Team is Going  
Electronic!**

To save costs and make itself more widely available through the internet, future issues of Tree Team will be sent to subscribers by email and be posted on the web at [www.oregontic.com](http://www.oregontic.com)

Please return the form on page 3 to receive future issues of the Tree Team Newsletter.

**Heritage Tree Events**

**April 10, 2003**

Victory Way Dedication  
9:00 a.m.  
La Grande, Oregon

**April 11, 2003**

Statewide Dedication Ceremony  
Star Trees and Moon Tree  
11:00 a.m.  
Salem, Oregon

**July 19, 2003**

Indian Village Grove  
Wallowa, Oregon

**August 2, 2003**

Monterey Cypress  
Brookings, Oregon

*Heritage Trees are those individual trees and groups of trees that have been designated as significant on the basis of their importance in state or national history.*



Tree Team is the biannual newsletter of the Oregon Heritage Tree Program to serve the purpose to help recognize and protect our state's heritage trees. For more information call the Oregon Heritage Tree Program at the Travel Information Council 1-800-574-9397 or 503-378-4508