

# Deep Roots



NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON TRAVEL EXPERIENCE HERITAGE PROGRAMS - VOLUME 2, MARCH 2012

## The Class of 2012 Heritage Trees has arrived



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### Four Oregon trees earn their place at the heritage table

The Oregon Heritage Tree Program is looking forward to a busy season in 2012. A statewide dedication slated to be held on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at Oregon State University (check page 2 for details) in Corvallis will welcome four trees into the Oregon Heritage Tree Program.

“This has been an incredible year for both history buffs and tree aficionados,” said Oregon Travel Experience CEO Cheryl Gribskov. “Our heritage committees and volunteers have worked diligently to promote trees or markers that possess distinct qualities and connections to Oregon’s historic events and people. I’m pleased that we can offer even more destinations for travelers to stop and learn about the regions they pass through.”

The following trees will be honored during Oregon Arbor Week and rightfully assume their own place in our state’s history.

#### **Tub Springs Sugar Pine**

High in Oregon’s southern mountains near what we now call Ashland—long before Oregon Country and the Applegate Trail—pinecones scattered by squirrels and birds sprouted into sugar pine saplings. A century passed, trees grew, and in the 1860s Oregon settlers filled barrels and watered livestock at Tub Springs below the southern Applegate. A short distance from the spring’s crystal clear water, a sugar pine was nearing its century mark. Over the next 150 years, the Tub Springs Sugar Pine, nourished by an unlimited water supply, reached a formidable size.

Several years ago, the Oregon Heritage Tree Program was contacted by Oregon Department of Forestry Ranger Steve Bridges. Bridges was in the process of cleaning up a stand of sugar pines, incense cedars and other native trees near Tub Springs. He suspected an immense tree nearby may have been a silent observer of Oregon history. Bridges felt the tree was the perfect example of how heritage trees are connected to historic events, people and cultures.

In 2011 members of the Oregon Heritage Tree Committee visited Tub Springs. The committee was impressed by the site itself, since much work had been performed to clear the area around the springs for visitors. Heritage trees must meet certain criteria in order to be inducted into the program, including accessibility. The Tub Springs State Wayside, its historic sugar pine, and a portion of the Applegate Trail are all located in the middle of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. By actually visiting the site, committee members ensured that the sugar pine met all program factors before it was inducted into the Class of 2012. All trees in the program undergo an onsite inspection as part of the application process.

*Continued on page 2*



*Top center: Oregon State University’s Trysting Tree, on the campus in Corvallis, Oregon; courtesy Paul Ries.  
Top right: Smokejumper Pine Tree at the Illinois Valley Air Field in Cave Junction, Oregon.*

**Heritage Trees, continued from page 1**

The Tub Springs Sugar Pine Heritage Tree is the largest tree in the park and most likely the oldest. Due to fire suppression and other environmental conditions including the encroachment of prolific species such as white firs, extensive logging, and disease common to white pine, old growth sugar pine is a rarity within a mixed conifer forest. Its trunk circumference spans 226.8 inches and tree height is 180 feet. Visitors standing next to the Tub Springs Sugar Pine are dwarfed by its massive size.

**Shipley Cook Grove**

A stunning example of the diversity of heritage trees is exemplified by the Shipley Cook Grove, a group of trees representing the horticultural interests of two Oregon farm families. Tree varieties contained in the grove include: Sequoia, hickory, white oak, buckeye, magnolia, black locust, Port Orford cedar, Ponderosa pine, maple, chestnut (or swamp chestnut oak), filbert, mulberry, Pacific madrone, Pacific yew, white spruce, and copper beech.

In the 1860s, the Shipley family operated 1,000 acres of their Lake Oswego farmstead. Today, the historic farm (owned by the Cook family) encompasses 6.1 acres and has achieved Oregon Century Farm status, as well as National Historic Register recognition. The farm's vineyards and trees provide important links to the northern Willamette Valley's agricultural and horticultural history.

The farm's original owner, Adam Randolph Shipley, had a strong affinity for horticulture. Shipley was one of the first settlers in the area to import and grow grapes. He also had a special fondness for trees and planted many stands, including the honored grove. Shipley served as State Grange Master and was appointed to the Board of Regents at Oregon State Agricultural College.

Shipley employed a young iron worker by the name of James Preston Cook to help around the farmstead. Cook worked for Adam Shipley and later on (following Adam's death in 1893), for Adam's son Randolph. In 1900 James Cook had saved enough money to buy 131-acres of the farm, including the original farmhouse and outbuildings from Randolph. Cook, his wife Susie, and son William continued the Shipley legacy of planting trees, adding to the original collection.



The Shipley-Cook Farmstead is currently owned and occupied by Rick Cook, James Cook's great-grandson. In 2000 the farm's grove of trees were recognized by the Clackamas County Heritage Tree Program. Rick Cook has made it his life's work to preserve the farm's history. His passion for the family farm and regional history extends to trees—Rick helped plant several yellow buckeyes within the honored grove.

**Smokejumper Pine Tree**

Perhaps something of a rarity, all Oregon Jeffrey pine trees are located within the state's southwest corner. Tolerant of arid conditions, nutrient deficient soil, and high concentrations of chrome and nickel, the Smokejumper Heritage Pine Tree has adapted to its location in the Illinois Valley well. It is also the only Jeffrey pine within the program.

The honored tree grows adjacent to the Illinois Valley Airport runway and historical buildings associated with Oregon's first aerial firefighters. The Siskiyou Smokejumper Base is one of four such bases in the US built in the early 1940s. The base was established following an incendiary bomb-drop by the Japanese in Brookings, Oregon in 1942. Forest fires required significant manpower and equipment to control, and many thought the Japanese may have



intended to wage war on American soil by starting fires and distracting military personnel.

In the 1950s cold war era of air-raided drills, the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base was upgraded. New buildings were constructed and the number of fire-fighting crews bolstered. Many trees on the base were removed, but the Jeffrey pine was spared—most likely to serve as a telephone pole. Bedrock in the region is extremely hard and digging post holes difficult. Since the tree was well positioned near the smokejumper buildings, it made good utilitarian sense. The insulators are still attached to the tree today.

Firefighters in the Aerial Firefighters Program were transported by aircraft to remote wilderness fires and parachuted into otherwise inaccessible areas. Two to four jumpers who could extinguish a fire while it was still small and easy to contain. The smokejumper method prevented lightning strike fires from blazing out of control or committing hundreds of firefighters, heavy equipment, and thousands of dollars in resources.

The honored pine is approximately 150 years old and 50-feet tall. Its trunk at chest height measures six-feet in circumference and is in good health. The Smokejumper Heritage Tree also has a connection to another tree in the program, the Apollo 14 Moon Tree. The Moon Tree's seeds were carried on their lunar voyage by smokejumper Stuart Roosa who worked at the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base before he became an astronaut.

**OSU Trysting Tree**

For heritage tree lovers everywhere, a trysting tree equals both romanticism and history at the same time. Nominated for the 2012 Class of Oregon Heritage Trees, Oregon State University's (OSU) 29 year old Trysting Tree will be one of four trees honored this year during an Oregon Arbor Week event in April.

Located within a National Historic District southeast of Benton Hall, the tree is a widely recognized symbol of OSU. In a fast paced world, the word "tryst" may seem antiquated. However, the word distinctly connects the tree to a period in time when a courtship was deemed poetic.

In 1901 the parent grey poplar apparently received its name when OSU President Thomas Gatch admonished two students for meeting there regularly for romantic purposes. It is believed the original tree was planted between 1880 and 1885 by George Coote, a Horticultural College faculty member.

Do trees possess alchemical spirits? It's claimed the OSU Trysting Tree had magical powers, since it seemed to affect students amorously in the springtime. Home Maris' poem entitled "Carry Me Back" memorialized the poplar in verse: "I love to wander on the pathway, down to the Trysting Tree. For there again I see in fancy, old friends dear to me."

The OSU Trysting Tree is actually a bit of a reincarnation. In 1987, the original tree was cut down due to advanced disease found in its limbs and trunk. Prior to its removal, one of several cuttings was rooted near the location of the original tree and grew into a healthy specimen.

**Statewide Heritage Tree Dedication**

*It's guaranteed to be a party! All four Class of 2012 Heritage Trees will be honored on Friday April 6, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. on the OSU campus, between Benton Hall and the Education Center in Corvallis, Oregon.*

*OSU President Ed Ray; OTE CEO Cheryl Gribskov; OSU Horticulture College Head Professor Anita Azarenko; OSU College of Forestry Dean Hal Salwasser; and other special guests will be on hand to honor the OSU Trysting Tree, along with the OSU Chamber Choir.*

**For more information visit  
www.oregontravelexperience.com  
or contact Jenn Smith, 503-373-0155**

*Top center: Historic Tub Springs is thought to have fueled the growth of the enormous Tub Springs Sugar Pine, 200-feet downstream from the monument. Upper left: The Shipley Cook Farmstead contains many species of trees, including cedar and other conifer and deciduous varieties.*

## From childhood: historical passion and perspective

By Richard Engeman, Historical Marker Committee Vice Chair

When Oregon celebrated its century of statehood in 1959, I was a nerdy 12-year-old who was already fascinated by history. As the photo attests, I even got dressed up for the occasion and donned artificial facial hair.



My family lived in rural Clatsop County, in a historic old house with a view of the Columbia River estuary. We frequently traveled the Sunset Highway to Portland and “the Valley,” despite the distance and the cost, to see the orthodontist, to shop at Meier & Frank’s, or to visit Grandma and Uncle Ted in Silverton.

Those treks along US 26 had several highlights for me, including the sight of an abandoned logging railroad trestle, the landscape scars of the great Tillamook Burn, the flashy Elderberry Inn, and the big wooden Paul Bunyan sign at Oney’s Restaurant in Elsie. Then we emerged from the wooded hills of the Coast Range and coasted toward Portland through the farmland of the north Tualatin Plains.

On the plains we passed a huge wooden sign by the roadside, a stalwart sign of heavy planks and incised lettering that was capped with a picture of a beaver. The sign told the tale of “mountain man” Joseph Meek, and of course I insisted—more than once—that we stop and read it. That sign was my introduction to Oregon’s roadside historic markers. I’ve been stopping by them ever since.

Today I’m a member of Oregon Travel Experience’s Historical Markers Committee, which works to maintain and expand that network of interpretive signs. After many decades on the plains, Joe Meek’s sign needs to be maintained, the lettering refreshed, the weathered boards replaced; other older signs need to have their text revised, or to be moved to a more visible location. And there are new signs to be created.

The process, in collaboration with committee members who have backgrounds in fields ranging from tourism and anthropology to geology and resource management, is rewarding in itself. Dedicating new signs, at sites such as the now-vanished city of Vanport, is a gratifyingly visible outcome of those committee meetings.

My professional life as an archivist, a special collections librarian, and a public historian kept me in contact with Oregon history for many years. It also led me to write *The Oregon Companion: an Historical Gazetteer of the Useful, the Curious, and the Arcane*, a A-to-Z handbook about our state. I included an entry in it for Joe Meek, where I was able to share my favorite episode in his colorful life: his 1848 overland trek to Washington, D.C., to present himself to Congress as “envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from the republic of Oregon to the court of the United States.” You should know about old Joe!

By participating in OTE’s historical markers committee, I can continue to help give a public voice to Oregon’s history. Those markers left a mark on my life, and I hope and trust that they will continue to have an impact on present and future Oregonians.

*Richard Engeman also acts as Vice Chair on the Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Management Board, has authored a farm cook book and experiments with period recipes in his kitchen.*

## Abigail Scott Duniway, American treasure—Oregon activist

Abigail Scott Duniway, a leader in the movement for Oregon women suffrage, will be commemorated through a new historical marker. The marker is sponsored by the City of Lafayette, Oregon. Abigail began her involvement in political activism while living in Lafayette and it is a natural place to interpret her life.

Before Duniway became a national leader in the women’s suffrage movement, she emigrated with her family from Illinois to the Oregon Territory in 1842. The following year, Abigail married Benjamin C. Dunaway and purposefully omitted the word “obey” from her wedding vows.

When Colonel Edward D. Baker made his 1860 bid for a seat in the US Senate, he delivered a campaign speech in Lafayette. Abigail defied gender conventions and attended the rally. Her presence shocked many Lafayette citizens. However, she ended up convincing six women to join her in other political actions.

Mentored by women’s leader Susan B. Anthony, Duniway attended national women’s rights conventions and helped form the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1890. She worked campaigns and celebrated suffrage victories in the Idaho Territory in 1896 and in Washington State in 1910.

Despite her powerful leadership, Oregon voters defeated the vote for women five times before final victory in 1912. However, on November 30, 1912, Abigail and Oregon Governor Oswald West signed the state’s suffrage proclamation, giving women the right to vote.

The City of Lafayette is proud of its connections to such an important piece of Oregon’s history.

“Since Lafayette is one of the oldest towns in Oregon, we’ve been wanting to find creative ways to tell the town’s stories,” said Sheri King. King is a local Lafayette resident and volunteer who helped provide research on the project.

“The Oregon Historical Marker Program provides a wonderful platform for doing this and we’re so excited to partner with them in getting a marker that honors one of our town’s most well-known and beloved

pioneers,” said King.

The centennial anniversary of women’s suffrage in Oregon is in 2012. The dedication of the marker in Lafayette will be coordinated with the celebration of the right-to-vote anniversary.

The committee hopes this marker will be the first in a series of markers that commemorate the women’s suffrage movement throughout the state.

OTE’s heritage programs help incorporate history into highway travel and is honored to be partners in the Abigail Scott Duniway project.



*Above right: Abigail Jane Scott Duniway was born in 1834 and passed away at the age of 81 in 1915, only three years following her momentous victory for Oregon’s women’s right to vote. Top left: Richard Engeman as a pre-teen; already invested in history.*

## Oregon Coast Regional Marker

“Welcome to the Oregon Coast “ is a new historical marker’s message that will be installed this spring in Coos Bay. The new Oregon Coast Regional Marker will be located at the Coos Bay Visitor Center and will focus on the Southern portion of the Oregon Coast.

The marker was made possible by a joint sponsorship of the Three Rivers Casino and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.

The marker’s panels illustrate how the region evolved from geologic formation to early habitation and provides a timeline up to the current economy. It is the third Regional Historical Marker in the state.

Oregon Travel Experience debuted its Regional Marker Program in 2009 to coincide with our state’s sesquicentennial.

The markers were created to serve as gateways to travel and tourism at highly visible sites within Oregon’s seven geographic and cultural regions. They are framed in Port Orford cedar, and encompass an entire region—not just one site.

“Regional markers connect travelers to the history of the communities they visit,” said Annie von Domitz. Domitz is Oregon Travel Experience’s Heritage Program Administrator. “The latest in our series honors the heritage of the Southern Oregon Coast and at the same time supports economic development activities in the area.”

Stay tuned to OTE for news on the marker’s dedication celebration and be sure to visit the OTE website for Historical Marker audio tours and other news.



## Grant awarded to Historical Marker Program

The Oregon Community Foundation announced its decision to award a grant to Oregon Travel Experience’s Historical Marker Program.

The \$6,500 grant will be used to create a new, full-color interpretive panel commemorating the Jedediah Smith route, one of 16 designated historic trails in Oregon. The marker will introduce visitors to the history of the entire route instead of focusing on one event. The Marker Committee hopes this will be the first in a series of panels to grace the route.

Oregon Travel Experience and the Historical Marker Committee will partner with the Oregon Historical Trail Advisory Council and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians to develop content for the new marker.

Thanks to the Oregon Community Foundation, the proposed fall 2012 installation will take place in Reedsport, Oregon. The Historical Marker Committee and Oregon Travel Experience will help plan the public ceremony.



Top: Panel from the Southern Oregon Coast Regional Marker. Above: Illustration of Jedediah Smith, drawn by an anonymous friend.



Here for Oregon. Here for Good.

## Historical Committees

### Heritage Tree Members

Nancy Appling  
Maynard Drawson  
Mike Fontenet  
George Forbes  
Doug Grafe  
Jennifer Karps  
Charlotte Lehan  
Craig Leech  
Peter McDonald  
Molly McKnight  
Angie Morris  
Tim Nitz  
Arne Nyberg  
Paul Ries  
Al Tocchini

### Historical Marker Members

David Bogan  
Richard Engeman  
Robert Keeler  
Eliza Canty-Jones  
George Forbes  
Marty Klug  
Stan McDonald  
Clark Niewendorp  
Wayne Sharp

### Salemtowne Volunteers

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