

Saving Our Heritage Trees



from the **TREE CITY USA®
BULLETIN**

"The disappearance of plant and animal species from the face of the earth is an alarming situation. So is the disappearance of special trees right in our own communities. When heritage trees succumb to storms or old age, that is one thing. When they are destroyed by neglect, development or other human causes, it is quite another. Saving our heritage trees is a job for tree boards everywhere, but it is also a job for every individual who reveres the past and cares about the future."

What is a Heritage Tree?

The nature of heritage trees varies widely. Great size is easy to recognize and appreciate. Historical events associated with a tree also qualify it as a heritage tree. Less recognized features may be something like the northern-most palm tree on the Pacific coast or a tree with genes that somehow enabled it to escape an introduced pest that claimed others of its species. It may be simply a blaze that marked an ancient trail or as subtle as Montana's medicine tree that serves as a sacred shrine to Native Americans.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:

- Illustrated examples of heritage trees
- How to gain public support
- Maintenance needs that should not be overlooked
- Protective ordinances
- Inspiring examples of how trees have been saved
- And more



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The lives of heritage trees are often prolonged because concerned individuals, civic groups, and tree boards appreciate what they have to offer in the way of inspiration, education, and scientific value. Here Rod Covey of North Canton, Ohio, speaks to a group called The Wanderers that came to visit this champion cucumbertree magnolia.



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