



THE DHTC TREE GUARDIAN

Vol. 8 • Issue 3

September 2002

DHTC QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO BE HELD AT HISTORIC TREE SITE *ARCHEOLOGISTS, HISTORIANS, AND CONSERVATIONISTS UNITE TO PRESERVE RESOURCES*

Our quarterly membership meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 17th** at the National Guard Armory at California Crossing*, a historic site associated with some of Dallas' most significant frontier history. The name refers to a low water crossing on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River that was used by thousands of 49'ers--individuals traveling across the country to participate in the 1849 California Gold Rush. Oral historical and archeological information indicates this area was also once a popular place for Native People. At nearby Turkey Knob, on what is now the campus of the University of Dallas, is said to have been an "Indian Lookout" and "Hunting Ground." On the grounds of the Armory is a bent pecan tree that has been nominated to DHTC's Historic Tree Registry as an Indian Marker Tree.

Please join DHTC's trustees and members, and visitors from other organizations, for a presentation by Paul Lorrain**. Paul is an archeological steward for the Texas Historical Commission. He will share information about

the archeology of Dallas and inform us about Archeology Awareness Month. This will be followed by a brainstorming session to explore ways that organizations interested in cultural resources and those interested in environmental preservation can work together. The mutual interest we have in our undisturbed resources is literally our "common ground".

The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. But we will begin serving refreshments at the Marker Tree in front of the Armory at 6:00 pm. So if the weather is nice, please come early and join us for snacks, conversation, and a very short walk to see the river.

* *The National Guard Armory is located at 1775 California Crossing Road. (MAPSCO 22T). We are very grateful to Lt. Walker the staff at the Armory for hosting our meeting at this facility.*

** *Paul Lorrain and his wife, Jan, are dedicated members and leaders of the Dallas Archeological Society. They both volunteer for the Texas Archeological Society's Rock Art Recording Team. As THC's archeological stewards for our region they are specialists in the archeology of Dallas County.*

WHITE ROCK HERITAGE DISTRICT NEWS

After the successful planning charrette last May, the WRHD steering committee decided that everyone needed a summer break from our monthly meetings and some time to process the tremendous accomplishments of the charrette. A summary is posted on DHTC's website. However, we still had a very eventful summer. In early June, the **Comanche Language and Culture Preservation Committee** visited the WRHD section of the Great Trinity Forest. The WRHD sponsored a "pot luck" dinner and reception at the at the

extraordinary—and environmentally friendly—Grover C. Keeton Golf Course. Mickey Piersall, Keeton's new golf pro, was a most gracious host. Members of the WRHD provided a "pot luck" dinner and our Comanche friends shared some of their stories. Then later in the evening we visited the **Storytelling Place**. We heard more Comanche stories there and noticed how clearly we could see the facial expressions of the storytellers in the light of an almost full moon at this special place. While in Dallas our Comanche guests also

visited two suspected **Marker Trees** and canoed on the **Trinity River**.

Also visiting this summer was **Lewis MacAdams, founder of the Friends of the Los Angeles River**. Mr. MacAdams was in town to promote a new book, but also found time to **tour the Great Trinity Forest and WRHD**. He indicated that he was very impressed with the resources and creative potential for our WRHD and greenway. Later in the summer there was a site visit by **Comanche Nation Tribal Chairman, Johnny Wuaqua**,

continued on page 3

UNDER THE STREET TREE

Fall is my favorite time of the year. The nights get cooler and the mornings are crisp, and we wait to see how brilliant the trees color-up so we can compare them to seasons past. New birds arrive in the garden and at the feeder, as their summer equivalents' numbers diminish. The north winds carry monarchs on their journey south, leaving a sky so perfectly blue--and we remember why we choose to make our homes and raise our children here.

Those blue-sky days are now far and few between. And when they do happen, we are almost startled by them. We once made note of hot days, when the air seemed heavy and the brown haze rested low on the horizon. But now it is the crystalline sky that catches our attention. Seeing it is the rare experience.

We watch our air quality decline until it becomes a public health issue. The medical research is coming in, and it tells us what we already know. There are serious consequences for breathing our air. No surprises. Collectively we hesitate to act, like a child watching to see no other child does less. The mine canary is dead.

Some see tree preservation ordinances as frivolous and impediments to economic development. Good tree

ordinances are neither. Good tree ordinances address public health issues in a proactive, long-range, holistic plan. Good tree preservation ordinances foster healthy neighborhoods with housing that promotes affordable living. Good tree preservation ordinances encourage the protection of existing trees as an alternative to token tree mitigation. While tree planting is a noble act, holding our collective breaths for twenty years is not an option. Good tree ordinances complement responsible regional planning and development.

The Dallas City Council will soon have the opportunity to vote on substantial revisions to Dallas' tree preservation ordinance. They can make the changes that have the unanimous support of the City Plan Commission. They can help clean the air. Their actions are important to all of us. Tree preservation is important to us. Blue skies are important to us.

Remember, we all breathe the same air.

Bill Seaman, *President*
Dallas Historic Tree Coalition

DHTC'S HOLIDAY PARTY SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 3RD

Our final quarterly meeting for 2002 will provide an opportunity for members to gather informally to celebrate the holiday season. Instead of a guest speaker we will sponsor a Holiday Gift Show. Since many DHTC members prefer to do their walking in natural areas, rather than in shopping malls, we decided an opportunity to do some early gift shopping would be appreciated. The items available will

include sapling descendants of our Gateway Park Indian Marker Tree and environmentally themed arts and crafts, books, photographs, etc. Artists, photographers, poets, and others whose works include the exploration of the Trinity River, the Great Trinity Forest, and our Historic Trees will be present to share information about their work and some interesting stories about their adventures in our wild and natural

areas. There will also be raffle items and a silent auction. Please contact DHTC if you would like your work to be included or if you have items to donate for the raffle of silent auction that is intended as a fundraiser to support DHTC's programs and services. Please mark your calendar now for our party! There will be more detailed information in our next newsletter.

E-MAIL US AT TREESAVERS@YAHOO.COM

DHTC needs your help. There are times when the Dallas Historic Tree Coalition needs to contact its membership quickly and efficiently. Telephone calls are cumbersome and time consuming--and we know you do not want your evenings interrupted. Letters require two to three days at best, and postage for a 700-plus membership gets expensive quickly. E-mail has them both beaten when considering convenience and speed. With today's technology, we have the capability to e-mail information with the click of a mouse. Help us do so by adding **TreeSavers@yahoo.com** to your address book, and send us your e-mail address.

In that e-mail, please notify us of your Dallas Councilmember or district. If you do not live in Dallas, and your city has single-member districts, please let us know which district you live in. If you are not sure, let us know and we will track down the information for you.

Once we have your e-mail address we will be able to better communicate with you on DHTC events. We can contact you when there are tree preservation issues happening in your neighborhood. We can also notify you when we have important information posted on the DHTC website. So, if you have access to the Internet, please send us your address and visit our remodeled website at **www.dhtc.org**.

WHITE ROCK HERITAGE DISTRICT NEWS

and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Jimmy Arterberry. They were here to meet with Texas Historical Commission archeologist Mark Denton—along with representatives from DART, TxDOT and FTA—regarding the impact of the DART light rail line to the Storytelling Place. Intentions were expressed by all agencies involved to work together to more thoroughly evaluate cultural and natural resources in this area and to minimize impacts to them. This meeting/site visit was well attended by leaders of organizations participating in the WRHD. The show of support for our parkland and cultural resources was most impressive. Perhaps the most exciting news is that the Comanche Nation is now proactively working with the WRHD to explore the feasibility of nominating Great Trinity Forest parkland in the WRHD as a National Historic Landmark District. Kathryn Nichols, our National Park Service representative has agreed to assist. Kathryn has been working hard this summer on a proposal for a WRHD Groundworks Project. We will hear much more about this at the WRHD meeting on September 23. Please call or email DHTC, or visit our website, for additional information about meetings or projects.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 17, 2002 DHTC Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm, Texas National Guard Armory, 1775 California Crossing, Dallas. Reception beginning at 6:00 pm.

October 16-18, 2002 16th Annual Texas Tree Conference & Trade Show—Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave., Waco. Sponsored by International Society of Arboriculture—Texas Chapter, Texas Urban Forestry Council, and Texas Forest Service.

October 20, 2002 Great Trinity Forest Walk—Texas Committee on Natural Resources guided walk, 8:00 am at Cedar Crest and 11th Street. Call for directions, or check www.dhtc.org.

November 9, 2002 Annual Fall Trinity RiverFest, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, overlooking the Trinity River and the Great Trinity Forest at McCommas Bluff. Guided nature walks. Sponsored by Trinity River Action Coalition. For more information call Jim Flood at 972-557-1144, and check the DHTC website.

November 16, 2002 DHTC's Great Trinity Forest Escarpment Fall Foliage Tours. On the hour from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. For more information call DHTC at 214-739-5886, and check the DHTC website.

December 3, 2002 DHTC Membership Holiday Party and Benefit, time and place to be announced.

RENEW YOUR DHTC MEMBERSHIP NOW

If you have not renewed your membership for 2002, now is the time to do so! If you are not a member, now is the time to join. The Dallas Historic Tree Coalition has never been busier. Your financial support will enable us to do more to protect our urban forests and the trees in your neighborhood. Also, consider giving a DHTC membership as a gift to a friend or family member. Thanks to a matching grant from the Texas Forest Service, your contribution at the \$50 Friends level will generate \$100 for the Coalition. Likewise a contribution

at the \$100 Patron level will generate \$200. So, please join or renew you membership while your contribution will be doubled.

In addition to financial support, DHTC needs your support as a volunteer. Whether it is one hour a month or one day a week, we have numerous projects and activities where you can make a difference by putting your time to work. Please check the box on the Membership Form to indicate you would like more information on volunteer activities, or call the "Tree Line" at 214-739-5886. If you have e-mail, contact us at TreeSavers@yahoo.com.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____ E-Mail: _____

COMPANY: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ City Council District _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ OFFICE PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

Enclosed please find my annual membership dues of _____ for _____ level of membership.

Individual/Family - \$10 Friend - \$50 Patron - \$100 Bronze Leaf - \$250 Silver Leaf - \$500 Gold Leaf - \$1000

I would like more information on volunteer activities.

(DHTC is a non-profit organization.)



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 670512

Dallas, Texas 75367-0512



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

THE GUARDIAN: A Quarterly Newsletter by the Dallas Historic Tree Coalition

DHTC - P.O. Box 670512, Dallas, Texas 75367-0512 - Phone: (214) 739-5886 - e-mail address: TreeSavers@yahoo.com

DALLAS CITY COUNCIL DELAYS TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE VOTE

A Dallas City Council vote on the revisions to the Tree Preservation Ordinance has been delayed, as councilmembers focus on a multi-million dollar shortfall in the 2002-2003 operating budget. Before the summer break, it was hoped that the council would vote on the ordinance in August. It now appears the vote on the first revision of the eight year-old ordinance will not take place until October 23rd. The DHTC

website has posted the proposed ordinance revisions. A summary outlining specific changes will soon be added. Please check the DHTC website for tree ordinance updates.

***Preserve the Urban Forest—
It's air for your heirs.***

M E M B E R S H I P F O R M

- ✓ Join or renew your membership today.
- ✓ Indicate if you would like more information on volunteer activities.
- ✓ Include your current Dallas City Council District.
- ✓ Include your e-mail address so we may notify you of tree issues that need immediate attention.

The DHTC Membership List is private.

We have not given our mailing list to other organizations or individuals in the past. We will not do so in the future.