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## **Troup County designates first heritage trees**

**(September 14, 2009)** — Troup County arborists have evaluated the first round of trees nominated for heritage status and have determined 13 to be worthy of placement on the Troup County Heritage Tree Register.

Trees deemed heritage in unincorporated Troup County are provided special protection under a new tree ordinance designed to preserve trees of historic or cultural value, according to County Planner Nancy Seegar.

“We are proud to have this first group of designated trees to place on the Tree Register,” said Seegar. “Those who nominated trees have expressed great satisfaction with the process that went into examining their trees and appreciate the opportunity to gain more information about and protection for their trees. We look forward to more property owners throughout Troup County nominating their trees for inclusion in this worthwhile program.”

Heritage trees include an Osage orange tree, Southern red oak, and pecan tree at the Liberty Hill farm of Bill and Ann Petry; a swamp white oak at the Highway 54 home of Lawton and Janalle Purvis; six post oaks and a shagbark hickory at Oak Grove Congregational Church in the Oak Grove community; and a willow oak and beech tree on the New Hutchinson Mill Road farm of Troup County Commission Chairman Ricky Wolfe.



The trees were reviewed by arborists Sam Breyfogle and Roy Matthews, with whom the County contracts to evaluate nominated trees based on their size, species, physical condition, historical significance and other attributes. Data measured by the arborists includes diameter, circumference of crown spread, height and gps location. A copy of the detailed analysis is given to the property owner and another filed in County offices.

“I was totally impressed with the thorough inspection and the amount of data provided,” said Wolfe.

To be considered heritage, a nominated tree or grove of trees must be located in unincorporated Troup County, be alive and healthy, not pose a threat to public safety, not pose a threat of distributing invasive exotic seed or invasive exotic vegetative reproductive structures, and must provide cultural or historic value. The tree’s owner must agree to have the tree or grove designated as heritage.

To nominate a tree, visit the Troup County Web site at [www.troupcountyga.org](http://www.troupcountyga.org), fill out the nomination form and email to [nseegar@troupc.org](mailto:nseegar@troupc.org).