

*Attention: Lifestyle/Travel/Consumer/Garden Editors, Photo Editors, Calendar Editors*

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **Local Landmark Tree Nominated to National Register**

*Nonprofit conservation organization, American Forests, recognizes local tree as historic.*

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**WHAT:** The Moon Loblolly Pine at the Forest Capital State Museum has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Trees. Betty Culbreath who serves as president of the Perry Garden Club submitted the nomination.

In 1971, Astronaut Stuart Roosa was chosen to man the orbiter on the Apollo 14 Moon Mission. Roosa, a former smoke jumper for the U. S. Forest Service, wanted to carry something to the Moon to honor foresters, and seeds from sycamores, loblolly pines, sweetgums, redwoods and Douglas fir trees became part of the official payload. When the spacecraft returned to Earth and was decontaminated, the seed packets blew apart and were feared lost.

Un daunted, Stan Krugman, staff geneticist for the U. S. Forest Service, planted them anyway and the seeds sprouted. Beginning in 1975, "moon trees" were given to Forest Service personnel for planting in community areas. The loblolly pine on Highway 19 South was planted in 1978 and stands over 40 feet tall.

**VISUALS:** Tree stands at Forest Capital State Museum, Hwy. 19 South in Perry, FL.

**WHO:** AMERICAN FORESTS ([www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org)), founded in 1875, is the nation's oldest nonprofit conservation organization and the world leader in tree planting for environmental restoration. Since 1917, AMERICAN FORESTS has recognized trees as living witnesses to the events and lives that shaped our nation. The group began this work as a preservation program and has continued to update and catalog old trees in five publications, the most recent being in 1975; Famous & Historic Trees, (Clepper and Randall.)

In partnership with AMERICAN FORESTS, companies are assisting in the search for historic trees in many states in the nation. "We know that Florida is rich in heritage," said Susan Corbett, "and we hope to learn about other historic trees from Garden Clubs, Historical Societies and citizens."

With Magellan™ Global Positioning equipment provided by Magellan Corporation, the latitude and longitude of each historic tree location is recorded. Future plans include a Historic Trees Eco-tour guided by these GPS locators.

Beginning in 1989, direct offspring historic trees have been grown at the Historic Tree Nursery facilities in Jacksonville, FL. These are available to schools, organizations and individuals and each purchase aids efforts to reforest ecosystems and habitats.

**WHEN:** Crown Publishing, a division of Random House, will publish the National Register of Historic Trees, the first comprehensive reference of trees with historic significance, in 2004.

**WHY:** Across the nation, trees stand as the last living witnesses to lives and events that shaped American history. These grand old trees shaded Native Americans before the first European settlers landed; gave protection to the Minutemen during the opening shots of the Revolution; survived the battles of the Civil War and stood as landmarks for pioneers heading westward. Each tree has a place in history and the National Register of Historic Trees will recognize, preserve and protect them for future generations.

**ACTION:** Individuals, historic societies, civic groups and students are invited to nominate trees to the National Register of Historic Trees online at [www.historictrees.org](http://www.historictrees.org) or by requesting a nomination form at 1-800 320-TREE (8733).

**Contact:** **AMERICAN FORESTS Historic Tree Nursery**  
Susan Corbett, (904) 765-0727, Fax: (904) 768-4630  
scorbett@historictrees.org

**A complete listing of AMERICAN FORESTS' Historic Trees is available at [www.historictrees.org](http://www.historictrees.org)**