

N. Texas trees of distinction to be cataloged

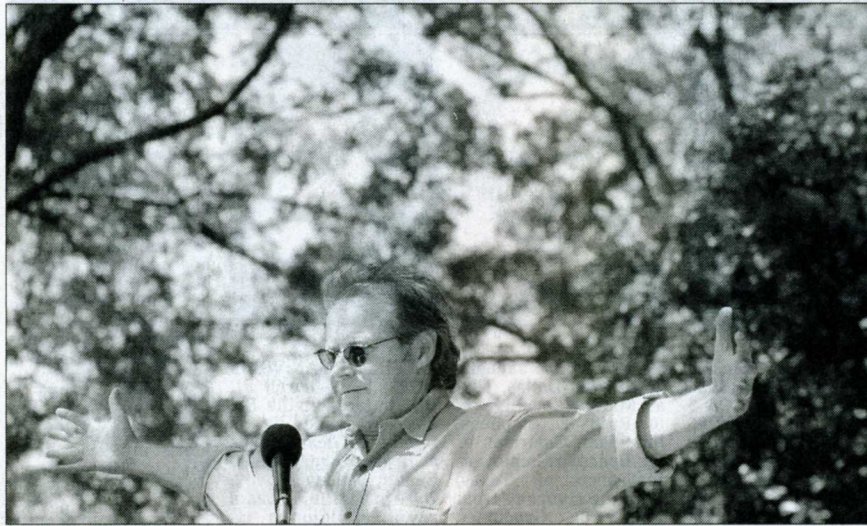
From historic to huge, they'll be listed on Web as part of new project

By **RANDY LEE LOFTIS**
Environmental Writer

North Texas' trees are about to get star treatment, thanks to the Internet and local activists.

The region's most notable trees are the star attractions of the Texas Tree Trails program. The project will locate, identify, measure, photograph and describe trees that can claim record size, historical importance or some other distinction and post their profiles on the Web.

Members of the Dallas Historic Tree Coalition started planning the project in 2001. During a launch ceremony Tuesday at the Dallas Arboretum, musician and environmentalist Don Henley, one of the coalition's founders, talked about the emotional impact of climbing a huge sweet gum as a boy in the East Texas



MICHAEL MULVEY/Staff Photographer

town of Linden.

"I make no apologies for being a tree-hugger," said Mr. Henley, a Dallas resident and Texas Tree Trails' honorary chairman.

Texas Tree Trails — a partnership of the coalition, the Texas Forest Service and the Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council — intends to find all of

the area's significant trees and plot their locations on interactive maps on the project's Web site.

Anyone can nominate a tree in one of three categories. A species-significant tree is one that is thriving and unusual for the area. A historic or heritage tree is at least 50 years old and is either linked to an event or is deeply

significant to a community. A champion tree is the biggest of its kind in the area, state or nation.

To take a virtual tour, nominate a tree or learn more about North Texas trees, visit www.texastreetrails.org.

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Musician Don Henley, one of the founders of the Dallas Historic Tree Coalition, describes the width of a historic sweet gum tree he once climbed growing up in his East Texas hometown, Linden. He attended the Texas Tree Trails launch ceremony Tuesday at the Dallas Arboretum.

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