



PGMS Member Takes Part in Liberty Tree Dedication Program

When PGMS member Linda Langelo of the Golden Plains Area Extension in Holyoke, Colo. received the December 2010 issue of PGMS's "Grounds for Thought" e-newsletter and read the article "National Liberty Tree Society is Giving Away 10 ft. Liberty Trees for Public Dedications,"

(www.pgms.org/2010LibertyTree.pdf) she knew instantly her town had to be a part of this program. "I just knew this could be a great piece of history for our town as well as a great tourist attraction" she said. So she set about organizing a Liberty Elm Tree dedication in her town of 2,300.

The Liberty Elm Tree has historical significance dating over 250 years ago to the days of the Sons of Liberty who first established it as a powerful symbol of American independence. (For more information on the origin of the Liberty Elm Tree visit <http://www.elmresearch.org/>.)

For Linda, it was like "a living piece of history to remind us of what we have worked so hard to keep here in this country." With the knowledge that an American Elm tree is a rare thing to find alive today, she presented the Liberty Elm Tree memorial idea to her city council who quickly agreed it was something the town needed. After contacting the Elm Research Institute, the organization at the head of the Liberty Tree dedication program, she contacted the Holyoke school district to see if any student groups would be interested in helping with the dedication. To her excitement and surprise, the reaction was overwhelming. "We have numerous student organizations that want to help. I wasn't sure how the community would react but they really were excited," Linda exclaimed.

As the tentative August "plant date" draws closer, she intends on including more of the community in the celebration including 4H members, city hall, the veterans club and local community members. "This project not only adds more trees to the environment but it brings it all together; the history, the environment and what our future is," she concluded. Keep your eyes out in the summertime for a full recap story on Linda's tree planting!

The Liberty Tree Society seeks to commemorate this first symbol of freedom in America by establishing Liberty Tree Memorials in towns and cities all across the land and by providing "free" Liberty Elms to all who join the Society. The first 460 memorials have already been dedicated. Their Liberty Elms are standing tall next to bronze plaques commemorating that dramatic moment in American history. If you are interested participating in this program visit the Liberty Tree Society website at <http://www.elmresearch.org/>.