

Alabama's National Champions

Eleven of Alabama's "State Champion" trees have also been declared "National Champions" for 2008-2009! Owners and nominators of national champion trees are sent certificates from *American Forests*, the nation's oldest nonprofit citizens' conservation organization who is responsible for the Champion Tree program. Additionally, the Alabama Forestry Commission places markers (modeled after the American Forests' certificate) at the base of the trees.

Below is a list of the eleven national champion trees and the county in which each tree is located.

- Florida Anise – Perry County
- Odorless (Scentless) Bayberry – Baldwin County
- Swamp Dogwood – Dallas County (co-national champion)
- Georgia Hackberry – Perry County (co-national champion)
- Southern Magnolia – Calhoun County (co-national champion)
- Durand Oak – Wilcox County
- Myrtle Oak – Baldwin County (co-national champion)
- Two-winged Silverbell – Wilcox County
- Sparkleberry – Choctaw County (co-national champion)
- Sugarberry – Barbour County
- Staghorn Sumac – Tallapoosa County

Anyone can nominate a tree for Champion Tree consideration! To learn more about the Champion Tree program contact Brian Hendricks, the AFC's Champion Tree Program Coordinator, at (334) 240-9370, or visit the AFC's website at www.forestry.alabama.gov. Access the "Champion Trees of Alabama" link under the "Educational Resources" heading, under the "Information and Educational Resources" menu. There you will find useful information about the program, and a current listing of all Alabama champion trees, and an on-line nomination form. ☺

This magnificent Southern Magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora), located in Calhoun County, is 90 feet tall with a 92-foot spread and circumference of 209 inches. It was nominated by Mary Bryant and is owned by the Variosa Ladies Club.

Photo by Steven Jones