

"WITNESS TREES"

A DOCUMENTARY IMAX FILM ABOUT ARBORGLYPHS

"THE **AMERICAN BEECH TREE** STANDS WITNESS TO EVENTS ACROSS THE WOODLANDS AND STREAMS OF THE SOUTH EASTERN UNITED STATES. THEY STAND AS UNSPEAKING WITNESSES TO SUNLIT MORNINGS, LASHING STORMS, NOCTURNAL SECRETS, BIRTH, DEATH AND HISTORIC OCCASIONS OF CELEBRATION AND DESPAIR. VOICES FROM THE PAST STILL SPEAK THROUGH THE BARK OF THESE TREES.

.....ARBORGLYPHS.....

.... CARVED IMAGES HOLDING VITAL INFORMATION AND HISTORICAL **MEMORY**....

.....MESSAGES SPANNING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, THE TRAIL OF TEARS, THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES AND UP TO THE PRESENT DAY... SOON THESE VOICES WILL BE SILENCED AND THEIR MESSAGES LOST. DUE TO A NATURAL END OF LIFESPAN, CLEAR-CUTTING, ACID RAIN, STORMS AND THEIR STATUS AS A NON-TIMBER "TRASH TREE", THERE IS A VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT TO LISTEN AND DOCUMENT THESE "WITNESS TREES". TODAY'S REMAINING ARBORGLYPHS ARE NOT ONLY **HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS AND **NATIONAL TREASURES**, BUT ARE **ART FORMS** FROM THE CHEROKEES, CREEK CONFEDERACY, NAMELESS SOLDIERS, SETTLERS AND OTHER TRAVELERS ON THE TRAILS OF OUR PAST, WHO LEFT NO OTHER **VISIBLE LEGACY**.**

Background:

Off and on for over 8 years, **Sandy Corley** (based in Atlanta, Georgia) and **Eric Mofford**, who is based in Los Angeles, California have been developing the film, **"Witness Trees"**. The title for the film is derived from the visual art installations that Corley has been exhibiting (locally and internationally) since 1993, addressing environmental and historical issues.

Corley has been researching, gathering endorsements, shooting still photos... and interviewing (on consumer digital & Hi 8) **historians, authors, activists, wilderness magazine publishers, Georgia trail trees experts, director of Indian education programs, Georgia land lottery experts, anthropologists, archeologists, etc.** about this **uniquely southern, endangered treasure**. The treasure is ARBORGLYPHS. CARVINGS ON BEECH TREES.

Documentation is an URGENT ISSUE due to development, clear-cutting, forestry service priorities and natural lifespan. It is an issue of the historical legacies mostly hidden in the bark of these trees. Symbols and information that span the Revolutionary War to Trail of Tears to modern boundary markers throughout the Southeast. **It is an ENVIRONMENTAL story, an AMERICAN INDIAN story and a "Di Vinci Code" story.**

Eric Mofford, veteran of many years of film and TV credits, will be directing the film. His most notable current work includes: First Assistant Director, TV series "24", Coordinating Producer: FX series "Black/White". www.ericmofford.com.

The filmmakers already **own all music and all visual (cover etc) art** (which Corley created) for the project. A package consisting of musical CD, coffee table book and DVD are part of our project plan. Much excitement in Scandinavia and Europe has been already expressed about the marketing of the project.

Recently, the Colorado Basque Shepherders' trees were investigated and it was determined that the variety and historical span of Southeastern Arborglyhs is phenomenal in comparison.

The urgency to document Southeastern Arborglyhs is reaching crisis stage. Since starting the project, many sickening losses have occurred. Little time is left to document the voices of these silent sentinels in order to preserve and pass on their messages to future southeastern generations and the world.

This is an important and exciting story!