



## Dogwood Arts Festival 1988

# Champion dogwoods challenged

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Dey coulda been a contenduh, to paraphrase Marlon Brando. But several trees will have to wait until next year to compete for the honor of champion dogwood tree of Knox County.

A champion tree is the largest of its species in a given area.

"Next year there will be a new Knox County champion," said Jim Cortese, who compiled a list of champs for the Dogwood Arts Festival committee.

Last Friday, The News-Sentinel ran a story about the trees, along with a photo of one of two dogwoods the festival committee had designated co-champions.

Immediately, the calls started coming in.

"It just goes to show that for every record of a fish caught, there's another fish waiting to be caught," said Cortese, who operates Cortese Tree Specialists. "We're flushing out the big trees."

Among the challengers was Robert Samples, 3929 Glenfield Drive, Sequoyah Hills. He called to say he has a tree that is the largest in Knox County. "It is 63 inches around the base."

That would make its trunk almost 20 inches larger in circumference than either of the co-champions on our list.

Cortese said the problem with Samples' tree is that it branches into three trunks near the ground. In such cases, one must measure the largest trunk. Even so, Samples' tree is still competitive.

In judging the size of a tree, three dimensions are taken into account, said Cortese:

■ The circumference of