



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

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For Immediate Release

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Media Advisory/Photo Opportunity

2010 recipients of the Bill Naito Community Tree Award announced

Recipients will be honored at Dig It! Celebration on Saturday, October 23

What: Save Our Elms and Cully neighborhood's Bruce Nelson are recognized for their commitment to preserving and enhancing trees in Portland

When: Saturday, October 23

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 noon
11 a.m., Bill Naito Community Tree Award ceremony

Location: East Sylvan Middle School, 1849 SW 58th Avenue

Portland's Urban Forestry Commission has announced Save Our Elms as the group and Bruce Nelson of Cully Neighborhood as the individual winners of the 2010 Bill Naito Community Tree Awards. The elm preservation organization and the professional arborist are being recognized for their tremendous contribution to the protection and enhancement of Portland's urban forest.

The Bill Naito Community Tree Awards will be presented at Portland's Dig-It Tree Planting Season Opening Celebration at 11 am on October 23 at East Sylvan Middle School (1849 SW 58th Avenue). Please join us in acknowledging these two groups who continue Bill's work and reflect his dedication.

Save Our Elms

For 15 years Save Our Elms has worked to preserve Portland's majestic elm trees from Dutch Elm Disease. In 1995, a group of volunteers began a project to prevent the spread of Dutch Elm Disease from killing the grove of 250 American elms trees in Ladd's Addition in Southeast Portland. Over the last 15 years, Save Our Elms has raised \$200,000 to inoculate elms against Dutch Elm Disease and has planted over 200 Homestead and other Dutch Elm Disease resistant varieties. Save Our Elms now has six affiliate groups working to preserve elm trees in Portland neighborhoods and the trees they planted in 1995 are now over 40 feet tall.

Bruce Nelson

Bruce Nelson has worked to improve Portland's urban forest for over 15 years. A professional arborist and professor at Clackamas Community College, Bruce has shared his passion for trees by serving as a volunteer instructor for Friends of Trees and Portland Parks & Recreation. In addition to teaching others about trees, Bruce also has volunteered in his Cully Neighborhood. As chair of the Green Rigler Group, Bruce has worked to turn an overflow parking lot into a community garden, planted a 4,000 square foot natural area, and planted an arboretum with 40 species of trees.

About the Bill Naito Community Tree Award

The Bill Naito Community Trees Award was created in honor of the late builder and community leader Bill Naito, who did so much to beautify Portland with trees. Mr. Naito helped found Portland's Urban Forestry Commission in 1974 and served as chair for 22 years, rarely missing a meeting. No one in Portland was more tenacious than Bill Naito at encouraging the planting of trees.

Previous Bill Naito Community Tree Award winners include:

- 2009: Chad Honi- Vistal Elementary School Landscape Project
- 2008: Friends of Columbia Children's Arboretum; Jefferson High School Ecology Students
- 2007: Ed Kerns – Individual Award; Johnson Creek Restoration and Eastmoreland Neighborhood Tree Committee Group Award
- 2006: Hoyt Arboretum Tuesday Crew Volunteers
- 2005: Jim Gersbach - Ainswoth Linear Arboretum
- 2004: Sean Batty and the Roseway Neighborhood Association NE 72nd Avenue Parkway Improvement Committee
- 2003: Star Hogeboom - Rigler Elementary School Peace Garden and Natural Area
- 2002: Dr. Joseph Poracsky - Portland State University, Geography Department
- 2001: Jane Glazer – Founder, Portland's Heritage Tree program
- 2000: James Allison - Developed natural area planting program at Friend of Trees.
- 1999: Doug Klotz - Worked to protect trees using the City's landscape ordinance.
- 1998: Friends of Trees - Non profit organization that works with the community to plant, care for, and teach about city trees; Terry Griffiths - Advocate for trees in the Woodstock neighborhood; Sandy Deidrich - No Ivy League
- 1997: Richard Seidman - founder, Friends of Trees; Portland General Electric –Seed the Future Campaign

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