Bill Naito Community Trees Award 2020

Nominations Packet for Urban Forestry Commission
Voting on Nominees at UFC on 9/17/2020
Award presented at virtual Arbor Day celebration on 10/16/20
Prepared by Clare Carney, Urban Forestry Outreach and Stewardship Coordinator

Purpose: To honor the stories of individuals, organizations, or projects that continue the dedication UFC founder Bill Naito had for Portlanders and the trees they live amongst.

Criteria for Award Eligibility (see webpage for more details)

- An individual or group whose volunteer work (done without pay or obligation) is recognized by the community.
- Efforts should support tree planting, preservation, stewardship, advocacy, or similar work; they must demonstrate their innovative and creative approaches, diligent commitment, and community involvement or community-wide impact.

Past Recipients of the Bill Naito Community Trees Award

Year	Recipient
2019	Tom Ralley
2019	Canopy Stories Filmmakers
2018	Carol Lee
2018	St Johns Tree Team
2017	Catherine Clark
2017	Tree Inventory Volunteers
2016	Jim Labbe
2016	Albina Neighborhood Tree Team
2015	John Iott
2015	Leigh Rappaport and the Leadership Corps of the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center's Rosemary Anderson High School
2014	Phil Hamilton
2014	Damon Schrosk and Martin Nicholson with numerous volunteers
2013	Mark Franklin
2013	Anne Downing and David Douglas High School's English as a Second Language Class
2012	Phyllis Reynolds
2012	Concordia Tree Team

Year	Recipient
2012	David Odom
2010	Save Our Elms
2010	Bruce Nelson
2009	Chad Honl
2008	Friends of Columbia Children's Arboretum
2008	Jefferson High School Ecology Class
2007	Ed Kerns
2007	Eastmoreland Neighborhood Tree Committee
2006	Tuesday Crew Volunteers
2005	Jim Gersbach
2004	Sean Batty and the Parkway Improvement Committee
2003	Starr Hogeboom
2002	Dr. Joseph Poracsky
2001	Jane Glazer
2000	James Allison
1999	Doug Klotz
1998	Friends of Trees
1998	Terry Griffiths
1998	Sandy Diedrich
1997	Richard Seidman
1997	Portland General Electric

2020 Bill Naito Award Nominations

Group Award Nominees

1. Tree Emergency Response Team
https://www.elisabethjones.art/tree-emergency-response-team.html

The Tree Emergency Response Team brings awareness to trees that may be at risk of being removed during development. Their approach to accomplish this great task is a unique one – through art. Artists paint trees at sites that have been selected for their vulnerability to potential development. By engaging the public, property owner, or even a developer to the beauty and community surrounding these trees, their hope is that the trees can be incorporated into a design instead of being removed.

The Tree Emergency Response Team has brought attention to several trees in Portland and at least one tree still stands. Artists rallied around the Oak tree at 7410 N Chicago Ave in the St Johns neighborhood and the developer agreed it was a valuable asset to the community. In addition to tree painting events, the team holds postcard campaigns, rallies and encourage the public to voice their concerns – gaining media attention for their efforts as well.

3. Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors
https://www.facebook.com/FMTP.WeedWarriors

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors took a break from their regular weed pulling projects to help out Oregon Department of Forestry Forest Entomologist Dr. Christine Buhl gather monitoring data of Western Redcedar at Mt. Tabor Park. Some volunteers from the Weed Warriors had also been volunteers of Portland's Tree Inventory project and had the skills and knowledge to share with their comrades. Participating in this community science effort will provide important information about the ongoing decline of Western Redcedar populations in the Portland area.

2. Pop-Up Arboreta Volunteers

Berrydale and Albina Tree Team members and UF volunteers Lisa Wilke and Kevin Pozzii used their experiences with environmental education to create activities for visitors to parks hosting Pop-Up Arboreta this summer. The program run by PP&R installs temporary educational signs on trees in Portland parks, rotating host parks monthly through the summer months. Knowing that their neighbors were in need of activities to keep them busy and safe outside, Lisa and Kevin produced scavenger hunts and personalized tree journals for all visitors to enjoy.

One of these activities was adapted for the PP&R Lunch and Play program that distributes free lunches across the city. The efforts of these passionate volunteers was shared with 4,000 Portland youth in their activity kits.

4. Trees for Life Oregon
https://www.treesforlifeoregon.org/

As a group that has bloomed from the great many volunteers and advocates in the Portland community, Trees for Life Oregon is devoted to ensuring "that large-form long-lived trees in every part of the city reach their full maturity, enabling them to provide the greatest benefits to Portlanders". During the early stages they sought the perspective and assistance of a youth tree advocate from PP&R's Youth Conservation Crew Tree Crew who may be interested in helping the group develop their website, reaching the community in new ways.

Treesforlifeoregon.org has great resources for community members to better understand Title 11, Portland's Tree Code. They have also developed their website to be a source of tree advocacy information for the public. In particular, they have urged tree advocates to come forward and provide public testimony in support of stronger tree protections under Portland's tree code.

This year they successfully applied to the City of Portland for funding support to conduct community outreach and provide tree watering supplies to neighbors. The campaign, titled Soak-It Week, adjusted plans to host physically distant events, distributing 201 tree watering buckets with instructions for amount and frequency of watering needs. The community volunteers at Trees for Life Oregon are dedicated to seeing the trees of our City survive for generations of Portlanders.

5. Arbor Lodge Tree Team
https://arborlodgetrees.weebly.com/

In early March the Arbor Lodge Tree Team hosted their third community fruit tree giveaway in memoriam of neighbor Brian Duncan to distribute 75 new trees. Volunteers used their knowledge from Urban Forestry workshops to educate tree recipients on proper planting methods and tips for establishment. The Tree Team volunteered at the Yard Tree Giveaway at Cathedral Park in 2019; the group ensured the event ran smoothly with extra hands to help hand out trees to increase community tree canopy.

Last summer (2019) while a Pop-Up Arboreta was installed in Arbor Lodge Park, the Tree Team hosted tree walks through the park offered in both English and Spanish. They sought assistance to produce translated advertisements for the tree walks to distribute through the neighborhood.

Tree of Heaven is not a neighbor many want to move into Portland – it is a non-native invasive species that can crowd out the trees that keep our urban forest diverse and healthy. The Arbor Lodge Tree Team has diligently worked over many years to educate their neighbors about this invading pest from identification to mitigation – even if it's just pulling up new sprouts. The volunteers manage a webmap on iNaturalist to track locations they've seen the tree across the City. Their aim is to collect and track the spread of the invasive tree and to promote awareness before they truly threat our urban forest.

Individual Award Nominees

1. Kyna Rubin

Kyna is a Neighborhood Tree Steward, Neighborhood Tree Team Leader, and currently writes for the website Trees for Life Oregon. In her work writing for Trees for Life Oregon, she demonstrates the true character of a Neighborhood Tree Steward - by researching and investigating topics related to tree preservation in Portland and reporting on them in an accessible and informative manner. Laws and policies are often written for those who understand them, but Kyna has a certain grace to interpreting the language for all Portlanders. She has covered tree preservation controversies, the history and origin of the Tree Code, Tree Code Amendment Projects, Urban Forestry news, and tree preservation in building design. She educates and inspires in her writing and has brought attention to opportunities for better preserving, maintaining and growing our urban forest.

2. Linda Robinson

Linda has been an advocate for Portland parks for many years, and a vocal advocate for trees for all. As the primary leader of the East Portland Parks Coalition (EPPC), she manages an active group promoting, protecting, and advancing the expansion of parks in East Portland. As a community partner, Linda has been working with PP&R Urban Forestry on a number of projects planting new trees in parks. She tirelessly met with them and always attended public events to show the support of EPPC. A long-term resident of East Portland, she knows the area and is vested in its growth of green infrastructure. Her voluntary work with PP&R has advanced projects and opened many doors within the community to a greener Portland.

3. Oriana Magnera

Oriana is a volunteer on Portland's Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC), a volunteer group with a "variety of viewpoints, and together they work to balance and optimize the goals of the City".

In this role, she has identified opportunity for expanding Portland's tree canopy by advancing a recommendation to the PSC (and subsequently the Urban Forestry Commission and City Council) that would remove the exemptions to tree preservation and tree planting in industrial and commercial zones when development is occurring on these properties. She has identified that low income communities and communities of color live in low canopy neighborhoods that are adjacent to low canopy industrial zones. As such, these communities are disproportionately affected by urban heat island effect, climate change and air pollution. Bringing this to City Council's attention resulted in Council directing BPS, PP&R and BDS to analyze a proposal to remove exemptions to tree preservation and tree planting in these zones.