

Bill Naito Community Trees Award 2022

Nominations Packet for Urban Forestry Commission

Voting on Nominees at UFC on 9/15/2022

Award presented at Arbor Day on 10/29/22

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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.

Award Eligibility

This award recognizes those whose work, like Bill's, has enhanced Portland's urban forest and inspired others to recognize the beauty and benefits of trees. Specific projects that have creatively addressed the opportunities for tree planting or tree preservation are also eligible to receive an award. In order for the project to qualify, it needs to at least be close to completion. **Work must be completed within the City of Portland.**

Two awards are dedicated annually:

- Individual
- Groups or Institutions

Past Recipients of the Bill Naito Community Trees Award

Year	Recipient
2021	Kyna Rubin
2021	Wisdom of the Elders
2020	Linda Robinson
2020	Tree Emergency Response Team
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

Year	Recipient
2012	Concordia Tree Team
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

2022 Bill Naito Award Nominations – Individual

Ginger Edwards

From the Arbor Lodge Tree Team’s submission:

“Urban Forestry (“UF”) mentions the Lorax in its request for nominations. From the mind of Dr. Seuss, the Lorax was a character who “speaks for the trees” and against environmental destruction. Ginger Edwards is our city’s Lorax. Not only does she speak for trees, she speaks for parks and native species and pollinators and as a former police officer and social worker, the entire human-human and human-Other community that enfolds us all. She is just the sort of tree-champion-uber-Lorax our city should celebrate on behalf of its urban canopy denizens.



In late 2017, in a last-ditch effort to form a neighborhood tree team— apparently, she had posted twice before with no response—Ginger posted a kernel of an idea on Nextdoor. A few of us saw the post and the Arbor Lodge Tree Team came to be. Our mission statement tells you who we are: The Arbor Lodge Tree Team works to plant, preserve, and promote trees in our neighborhood and beyond. Mainly, though, we are just people who like trees. We like that they improve our air quality and health and well-being. We like their visual appeal and cooling shade; the erosion control and the stormwater benefits they provide. We like that they provide food and shelter for wildlife while enhancing our own homes’ values. We give away fruit trees and berry bushes, and we build community. We help our Earth disperse her gifts of trees and the fruit each bears for our common good. We are “tree geeks” on a mission to strengthen the relationships and resilience of our neighborhoods. www.arborlodgetrees.weebly.com

Ginger’s Tree Team vision had its seed in recognizing beloved neighbor, Brian Duncan. Brian was involved in the neighborhood association and other community activities, but also intimate with the soil and plants in his own garden. In particular, he enjoyed fruit trees, so it was in early 2018 and under Ginger’s leadership, that our new Tree Team sponsored a Brian Duncan Memorial Fruit Tree Giveaway as our first community event. To our Arbor Lodge neighbors, we gave away apple, plum, and pear trees, along with a smattering of elderberry bushes. We organized a workshop on fruit tree care, provided tree-planting demonstrations, and followed up our Giveaway with summer “wellness check” visits to new tree owners.

For four years since, the Tree Team has grown from this single-issue organization dedicated to honoring a community member to a vital core of 15 people reaching out to neighbors and working to:

- Conduct Heritage Tree (and other trees of interest) walks in our neighborhood
- Volunteer with UF at its large-form yard tree giveaways
- Participate in UF pop-up arboreta, tree inventories, pruning workshops, etc.
- Prune street trees and fruit trees (at the Delta Park Orchard)
- Fundraise with Sparrowhawk Natives to help support our work and sustain our group
- Map out, organize, and lead Heritage Tree bicycle rides
- Educate (always educating!) each other and our neighbors on the benefits of trees
- Identify and eradicate the Tree of Heaven
- Submit public comments and testify at City Council hearings on the Tree Code
- Inform neighbors about the latest threat to our urban canopy, the Emerald Ash Borer

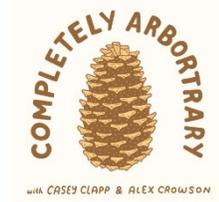
Ginger led us to this place. And throughout our Tree Team’s short history, she has guided, motivated, and ever-so-gently cajoled us into a group of volunteer “tree geeks” increasingly cohesive, educated, and focused

on the two branches of our tree mission: policy/advocacy/education and putting trees in the ground. The future is bright, and so is the present. Ginger is not just a tree champion, she is a community (and planetary) hero. In addition to being a formal leader and relationship builder, Ginger spearheaded our neighborhood's effort in making Arbor Lodge Park pesticide free; she picks up litter with SOLVE; she is a master gardener who shares her seedlings and knowledge with neighbors; she reviews recommendations for the City Council and inspects trees as a member of the Heritage Tree Committee; she advocates for better bridging the houseless-housed divide in our city, including the role of trees in improving our overall community's public health; and she is a relentless apostle of the Gospel of Trees.

"The Lorax" story encourages personal care and involvement in making a situation better. Seuss writes: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Ginger is our Lorax."

Casey Clapp

Casey has taken his extremely high love for trees and has made it his goal to share this with as many people as he can. He started a tree focused podcast which has introduced a fun new way to connect to trees and stewardship. His infectious love for the topic has helped his podcast, Completely Arbitrary, reach many new audiences and even reach top 10 in popularity in science podcast in the US. When he is not working on the podcast Casey, leads Tree Tours at Hoyt Arboretum, through the streets of Portland, and even has lead Heritage Tree Bikes rides for Pedalpalooza. They say passion is a key ingredient to successful stewardship, and few in Portland share and spread a passion for trees more than Casey Clapp.



Check his webpage for more details and examples:

<https://arborrarypod.com/>

<https://www.caseyclapp.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/clapp4trees/?hl=en>

Gregg Everhart

Gregg is a former Urban Forestry Commissioner (her tenure ended March 2022) and has been chairing the Urban Forestry Commission's Heritage Tree Committee for many years.

Over the course of her time with the Heritage Tree Committee, she has volunteered hundreds of hours organizing committee activities, soliciting nominations, speaking to the public about the Heritage Tree Program, communicating with nominators and nominees, presenting to City Council, and honoring, recognizing, caring for and sharing her love of Heritage Trees.



2022 Bill Naito Award Nominations – Group/ Institution

Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors

The Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP) Weed Warriors are key partners in the city's effort to remove invasive plants and restore native plants in the natural areas at Mt. Tabor Park. The efforts of friends and neighbors make many of our city's parks and natural areas safer and more beautiful. The Weed Warriors are enormously successful at getting a large number of volunteers out every single weekend to steward this park. They partner with multiple agencies to get the work done, and even aid research.



Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors have helped 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 community science efforts will provide important information about the ongoing decline of Western Redcedar populations in the Portland area.

No Ivy League

Since 1994, No Ivy League has worked tirelessly to empower youth, educate the public, and remove English ivy from Portland's parks. No Ivy League's mission is to restore the native habitat of Forest Park and other natural areas with efforts in removing invasive plants, youth development programs, environmental education, and community participation - promoting research, providing technical assistance, and seeking relevant societal changes.

Invasive species will always be a problem and will always require continuous management. It's great that the public can have an immediate impact on our local ecosystems, especially when the work directly impacts our urban trees. Invasive removal is not easy work, so it's great that there is a group dedicated to managing this intense, but necessary effort.



Trees for Life Oregon

Although a relatively new organization, volunteer-led Trees for Life Oregon has already made a positive impact on Portland's forest and people communities. They are 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”.



Some of their work includes creating public workshops about tree preservation during private property development, a tree watering campaign and free supplies for property owners, advocating with Portland City Council on behalf of trees, keeping in touch with the City's Urban Forestry program, and hosting a robust website with helpful and accurate tree care information. This year they received support from Lents Youth Initiative to hire an assistant for outreach and events.