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TREES**

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Oregon Community Trees Honors Tigard with 2012 Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Award

To celebrate Oregon Arbor Week, Oregon Community Trees (OCT) – the state urban and community forestry council - announced today the recipients of the 2012 Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Awards.

Now in their 19th year, the OCT awards recognize outstanding individuals and organizations for their significant accomplishments and leadership in advancing urban and community forestry projects and activities in the state of Oregon.

According to OCT President, Rick Zenn, “the 2012 OCT award recipients are powerful examples of inspirational individuals and organizations engaging citizens, promoting tree planting and quality tree care, raising awareness and knowledge about Oregon’s trees and forests, and protecting Oregon’s urban and community forests to improve the quality of life in towns and cities around the state. We are proud to honor them during this special week.”

Oregon Community Trees is nonprofit organization led by a board of 23 volunteer directors from around the state representing business, government, education and citizen groups. Partners include Oregon Department of Forestry, USDA Forest Service and Oregon State University. In addition to presenting the 2012 Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Awards, OCT will host an annual “summit” conference for citizens and professionals on June 7 at the World Forestry Center in Portland: *Community Natural Areas: Restoration, Management and Enhancement* featuring keynote speaker Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*. Registration is now open: www.oregoncommunitytrees.org

Organization: Mayor Craig Dirksen and the City of Tigard

For ten years the city of Tigard has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as one of the national Tree City USA communities in Oregon. Under Mayor Craig Dirksen, for the past four years Tigard has earned the foundation’s coveted “growth award” recognizing the city’s significant accomplishment in urban forestry. Mayor Dirksen has expanded Tigard’s tree planting program and greatly improved citizen access to nature. He has led Tigard’s Arbor Day celebrations and helped children plant trees on their school grounds. Tigard has adopted new urban forestry policies, revised city codes, set canopy goals for the community and developed a new urban forestry master plan including preservation of significant tree groves. Mayor Dirksen has embraced the importance of education programs targeting trees and the importance of a healthy, vibrant urban forest in their community. The passage of the \$17 million “Parks, Trails and Natural Areas” bond measure in 2010 is an impressive testimonial to Mayor Dirksen’s leadership and the value the community of Tigard places on its trees and urban forest. The award will be presented at the Tigard City Council meeting on April 24, 2012.

Promoting healthy urban and community forests through leadership, education, awareness, and advocacy.

www.oregoncommunitytrees.org

Individual: William 'Bill' Harrington, Medford

Bill Harrington is a highly respected professional arborist and park manager working for the City of Medford. He has more than 35 years professional experience in forestry and arboriculture and he is responsible for the care of Medford's 9000 street trees, park trees, riparian forests, fuel reduction projects, and management of the community's beloved 1700 acre Prescott Park. For many years Bill Harrington has led an active tree planting program in Medford working with citizens, public officials and the local Tree Committee to improve and protect the urban forest. Medford is well known in region for its active volunteers and annual Arbor Day celebration. According to Frances Oyung of the Bear Creek Watershed Council "Bill has been a tireless proponent of the importance of trees in the urban landscape. His knowledge, skill and persistence have made Medford a better community for everyone. Thanks to Bill, we have made huge progress."

President's Award: Dr. Phyllis C. Reynolds, Portland

Portland native, Dr. Phyllis C. Reynolds is the author of the popular book *Trees of Greater Portland* (Timber Press 1993). She is recipient of the Spirit of Portland Award and recently the Bill Naito Community Trees award. For ten years, Dr Reynolds served as a member of the Portland Urban Forestry Commission and chaired the Portland Heritage Tree Committee. Her passion for trees and energetic leadership helped the city catalog and designate nearly 300 heritage trees of 121 different species in locations all over Portland. Dr Reynold's has produced tree inventories for Reed College, Oregon Health Science University, Catlin Gabel School and Laurelhurst Park. Dr. Reynold's long time commitment to community service has led her to positions on the boards of the Hoyt Arboretum, Japanese Garden Society, Berry Botanic Garden, North Coast Land Conservancy, Nature Conservancy, Portland Garden Club, and the Oregon School of Arts and Crafts. A retired clinic psychologist, Dr Reynolds is also an accomplished print artist and photographer and her works have shown in galleries in Oregon, Washington and the southwest. According to Oregon Community Trees President Rick Zenn "It is a great honor for us to recognize Phyllis Reynolds this year. Dr. Reynold's has done more than any one person to help Portland residents and visitors to see, protect and appreciate their urban forest treasures. Phyllis Reynolds knows the trees in the like no one else. As a scientist, artist and activist, she brings a very special perspective to her work with trees *and* people. She is an inspiration.

2012 Oregon Tree City of the Year: City of Sweet Home

This year marks Sweet Home's 25th anniversary as a national Tree City USA and Oregon Community Trees is honored to recognize Sweet Home as the 2012 Oregon Tree City of the Year. For the people who live and work in Sweet Home, trees have always been part of their daily lives. Beginning in 1987, citizens and civic leaders embraced the idea of redeveloping their community by successfully leveraging grants, donations and public resources to improve downtown streets, highways, schools, industrial sites and the places like the Riggs Community Center. They conducted tree inventories, developed local management plans, and organized tree planting activities. Today, Sweet Home hosts the Oregon Jamboree country music festival and is well known to many travelers as an exceptionally attractive tree-lined gateway to regional recreation sites. Next time you are in Sweet Home, look for the Tree City USA sign and know that all Oregon is proud of their 25 year quest to make their community and a better place with trees.