



Willamette Heritage Center (WHC) Announces 2012 Heritage Award Winners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Willamette Heritage Center announced the recipients of its 2012 Heritage Awards at its Annual Heritage Awards Ceremony on May 10. The awards recognize leaders and organizations who have significantly contributed to the Salem community's cultural heritage. The following is a list of the awards and their recipients.

2012 David Duniway Historian Award Recipient: Sons of Labish. This award recognizes distinguished and long-term contributions by an individual or organization to the public understanding and appreciation of the cultural history of the community and the Willamette Valley through teaching, writing, research, or historic preservation. The Sons of Labish organization has demonstrated how the dedication of a small group can preserve a truly rich piece of Willamette Valley history. To date, this group of second and third generation Lake Labish farmers have published three books: *The Pioneers of Lake Labish*, *Early Land Owners*, and *Events and Farmers Tell Their Story*.

2012 Heritage Education Award Recipient: The Marion County and Polk County Cemetery Websites. This award recognizes programs, projects and other endeavors which have provided high quality, history-focused educational opportunities to area residents for any age group or a wide range of age groups. A volunteer labor of love, which started as a program to digitize cemetery records at Salem's Pioneer Cemetery, has blossomed into an amazing treasure trove of historical information for the Mid-Willamette Valley. These two websites (<http://www.polkcountycemetery.org/index.php> and <http://www.marioncountycemetery.org>) contain databases detailing burials for 26 historic cemeteries in Marion and Polk Counties.

2012 Heritage Enterprise Award Recipient: Oregon State Hospital Replacement Project. When the Oregon State Hospital was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008, it significantly altered the course of plans underway for its replacement. Long underfunded, the building and grounds were in disrepair. There was pressure from advocacy groups, the legislature and even federal regulators to provide a safer, more modern facility for the state's primary mental health facility. While not always an easy process, the Oregon State Hospital Replacement Project, Oregon State Hospital, and Department of Human Services have made a commitment to working with heritage and preservation advocates to honor and interpret the history of the 123-year-old facility. The hospital project in Salem is now complete and provides an amazing improvement to staff and patient living and working conditions.

2012 Heritage Center Service Award Recipient: Dave Van Bossuyt (PGE). Dave has earned the recognition for his many efforts over many years to support Mission Mill Museum and the Heritage Center. He truly carries history and learning in his heart and passionately supports the Center's mission and vision. Dave served on the Mission Mill Board of Directors for approximately eight years, including a stint as chair. He also has served on the Boards of United Way, Family Building Blocks, SEDCOR, and Garten Services. Dave's most visible contribution to the Heritage Center is his leadership for the reconstruction of the electric turbine power house and display.

2012 Distinguished Board Service Award Recipient: Paul Connelly. This award recognizes the exemplary service of Board members and longtime committee members who go significantly beyond the

expected requests of commitment. Paul has provided a steady hand of leadership during the unification of Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society to establish the Heritage Center. His guidance, legal expertise and support of WHC's programs and growth are deeply appreciated. More than any individual or organization, Paul is responsible for the success of the WHC.

2012 George Strozut Award for Preservation Recipient: The Lord and Schryver Conservancy.

The Lord and Schryver Conservancy evolved from a growing interest and concern about the fate of the remaining gardens that Miss Lord and Miss Schryver, renowned Northwest landscape architects, developed. Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver formed the first woman-owned landscape practice in the Pacific Northwest in 1929. Miss Lord worked in the area of plant composition. Miss Schryver's area of expertise was design and construction - creating a style of informal formality. Their projects numbered over 250 and included residential, civic and institutional landscapes throughout the Northwest. Today, the Lord and Schryver Conservancy is a community-based nonprofit organization, which is affiliated with the Garden Conservancy. The Garden Conservancy's is dedicated to the preservation of America's outstanding gardens.

For more information, visit www.willametteheritage.org or call 503 585 7012.

The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill, a unification between Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society, is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an *American Treasure* by the National Park Service. Since its founding in 1964 as a private non-profit association, Mission Mill Museum has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon's history. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily and group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit <http://www.willametteheritage.org>.

The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies.

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