

## VERMONT URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM ANNOUNCES 2010 TREE STEWARD AWARD RECIPIENTS

Montpelier— The 2010 Tree Steward Award winners recently were recognized by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program (VT UCF) at a special recognition ceremony in Montpelier.

Gov. Jim Douglas presented the awards Dec. 8 at the ceremony in the Cedar Creek Room of the Vermont Statehouse. Recipients were selected through a nomination process by VT UCF's Advisory Council, a 20-member advisory group for the program, which is a partnership between University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation.

The program promotes good stewardship of forests and helps individuals, organizations, and communities develop plans for planting and caring for community trees. These annual awards honor people, communities, and volunteer groups that demonstrate a strong commitment to planting, caring for, and protecting Vermont's trees, whether community plantings or established forests.

Recipients of the 2010 Tree Steward Awards include, by category, the following:

**LEADER:** Craig Lambert, South Burlington city arborist. Lambert was selected for this award for his ongoing support of the TREEage program, which promotes best maintenance practices for urban trees.

The program, now in its fourth year, is a collaborative effort of UVM Extension's Master Gardeners and Stewardship of the Urban Landscape tree stewards program and the General Electric Volunteer Project. In

2008 Lambert worked with the city of South Burlington to establish the TREEage Community Nursery. By 2011 the nursery will be at full capacity with more than 200 trees. He also has conducted forest pest workshops and pruning clinics for volunteers, among other educational trainings.

**PRACTITIONER:** Jayson Benoit, NorthWoods Stewardship Center director of land management. For the past 15 years, Benoit has helped promote forestry education and practices in Northeast Kingdom communities through his work at the Northlands Stewardship Center in East Charleston. He has worked with individual woodlot owners to develop viable forestry plans for their properties and presented a number of forestry-related programs on such diverse topics as exotic forest invasive plants, sugar bush management, and Vermont's Agricultural and Managed Forest Land Use Value Program.

His work with, and promotion of, the Forest Stewards Guild and Vermont Coverts has been instrumental in advancing good stewardship of Vermont forests. A fifth generation Vermonter raised near St. Johnsbury, Benoit's efforts with the Vermont Land Trust led to the largest private donation of conservation easements in the land trust's history, preserving more than 1,300 acres of forested lands.

**COMMUNITY:** City of South Burlington. The city was recognized for its outstanding commitment to, and achievement in, urban forestry including its success in passing a special tree ordinance that requires an inch-by-inch replacement for any tree removed within city limits. The city also has completed a detailed tree inventory and management plan and supports a volunteer-run tree nursery designed to supply healthy trees for planting to increase their urban tree canopy resource. South Burlington currently is seeking recognition as a Tree City USA, a program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program and the National Association of State Foresters.

**YOUTH/STUDENT:** Joshua Parker, UVM student. For the past six years, Parker has volunteered with Branch Out Burlington! (BOB!), a volunteer tree organization in Vermont's Queen City. Specifically, he has worked with the Community Tree Nursery, which was established more than 10 years ago to provide high quality trees at low cost for planting in public spaces around the city. The UVM junior started volunteering at the nursery while a student at Champlain Valley Union High School in Hinesburg. At UVM he set up the Tree Nursery Guild through the Greenhouse, his environmentally oriented dormitory, and recruited more than 20 UVM students, who have volunteered more than 100 hours of their time working at the nursery or promoting BOB! activities.

**VOLUNTEER GROUP:** Corinth Conservation Commission. The commission was selected for a 2010 Tree Steward Award for its continued commitment to beautification of the Orange County town of Corinth through tree planting, including at the local cemetery, and ongoing efforts to control invasive plant growth. In addition, they have worked with local landowners to establish woodland hiking trails for public use and regularly sponsor family-friendly informational hikes and presentations on everything from raptors and bird watching to identifying edibles in the woods.

The awards ceremony was sponsored by Bartlett Tree Experts, a world-wide tree and shrub care company with locations in Woodstock and Manchester, Vt. For more information about the award recipients and UVM Extension's Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, contact Kate Forrer at (802) 223-2389, ext. 210, or (866) 860-1382, ext. 210, (Vermont calls only) or [Katherine.Forrer@uvm.edu](mailto:Katherine.Forrer@uvm.edu).