



## PRESS RELEASE

Columbia Slough Watershed Council  
7040 NE 47<sup>th</sup> Ave ♦ Portland, OR 97218

### ***For Immediate Release:***

**Contact:** Melissa Sandoz  
**Phone:** 503-281-1132  
**Email:** [melissa.sandoz@columbiaslough.org](mailto:melissa.sandoz@columbiaslough.org)  
**Fax:** 503-281-5187

## *2009 Columbia Slough Awards*

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council announces the winners of the 2009 Leadership and Achievement Awards. These awards are given to individuals or projects that demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to the Columbia Slough Watershed, a geographic area that stretches from Fairview Lake out to the Willamette River.

The 2009 Leadership Awards will recognize Aloft Portland Airport at Cascade Station and Mr. Ken Finney of the City of Portland's Watershed Revegetation Program. Since its grand opening in fall 2008, Aloft Portland Airport has been a strong supporter of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council by hosting activities, sponsoring events, and offering Slough-centered voluntourism packages to hotel guests. Aloft included waste-reduction elements in its building design, and staff has volunteered their time at Council events and monitoring programs. Mr. Ken Finney has been a tenacious and effective natural resources manager with the Watershed Revegetation Program for fifteen years. He has organized planting, maintenance, and invasive weed removal projects throughout the Columbia Slough Watershed, working with land owners, crews, and the public to improve habitat for wildlife.

The 2009 Achievement Award winners are Ms. Lee Dayfield of Friends of Nadaka Park and a group of three baseline wildlife studies. Ms. Dayfield has championed a neighborhood effort to expand and improve habitat at Nadaka Park in Gresham. She has organized volunteer work parties in partnership with SOLV and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council that brought in 188 volunteers and removed over 14,000 pounds of invasive weeds. The three baseline studies were conducted by Ms. Katie Holzer, Mr. David Kennedy, and Mr. Julian Lawrence, and sponsored by the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services and Parks & Recreation. Their work on amphibians, mussels, and bats increased the knowledge of wildlife in the watershed, using comprehensive and scientifically sound practices.

Awards will be presented to the winners at the eleventh annual Slough Celebration on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. The Celebration honors their achievements, and will also include live music this year at the Acadian Ballroom on Alberta St in Portland. Tickets for this event are available to the public for \$40, and can be purchased at the Council's website at [www.columbiaslough.org](http://www.columbiaslough.org).

*The Columbia Slough Watershed Council is a diverse group of neighbors, property owners, businesses, environmental advocates, recreation activists, and government agencies representatives. Its mission is:  
"to foster action to protect, enhance, restore and revitalize the Columbia Slough and its watershed."*

### ***Slough Celebration Sponsors:***

Aloft Portland Airport at Cascade Station; Arclin – Performance Applied; The Boeing Company; City of Gresham Watershed Management Division; City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services; The Daily Journal of Commerce; East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District; Miller Paint Co.; NE Multnomah County Drainage Districts; O-I; Port of Portland; Portland Water Bureau

###