

PRESS RELEASE

May 17, 2010

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FOR: COLLIER ARBOR CARE

VANCOUVER HONORS COLLIER ARBOR'S OLDEST APPLE TREE CARE

Collier Arbor Care's Lyle Feilmeier, a board certified master arborist, has received an award from the Vancouver Urban Forestry Commission for his work in caring for that city's Old Apple Tree, an approximately 180-year-old apple tree believed to be the oldest apple tree in the Pacific Northwest.

Feilmeier and Clackamas' Collier Arbor Care have been providing pro-bono care for the tree since 1996, when they were asked to repair damage from a serious storm that year.

"It's the oldest apple tree in the northwest, a link to the past. There's a certain pleasure in being able to help a tree that was planted nearly 200 years ago," said Terrill Collier, Collier Arbor Care president.

Feilmeier received the a Gordon and Sylvia MacWilliams Evergreen Award for his "remarkable dedication and commitment to Vancouver's Urban Forest (which) is truly remarkable. You have been a leader and stalwart for tree preservation throughout the region and your dedication to the Old Apple Tree has been extraordinary," said a Vancouver Urban Forest Commission communiqué honoring Feilmeier.

Collier Arbor Care provides year round protection for the tree, including one or twice a year pruning and thrice yearly applications under the firm's Soil Health Program, including the use of compost tea. Last July, a Collier crew removed two large limbs that had failed. This spring, Feilmeier oversaw a root crown excavation, which replaced the old soil.

Feilmeier, a representative from the urban forestry commission and local fruit tree expert Joe Beaudoin, oversee care. The trio is working to get the tree to quit bearing fruit because "the canopy is too weak to hold the fruit," said Feilmeier.

With proper care, he said the tree could live for several hundred more years.

"It's kind of an honor and a privilege to help a tree like this live for another 200 years," said Collier.

Collier, a Lake Oswego/West Lynn resident, has made his 43 year-old firm a leader in Metropolitan area in pro-bono work. He currently is president of the National Tree Care Association. Collier Arbor Care is one of the area's oldest and largest tree care firms.



CAPTION MATERIAL

Collier Arbor Care Certified Arborist John Dale removes dead branches earlier this year from Vancouver's approximately 186-year-old apple tree, believed to be northwest's oldest apple tree. Work was under supervision of Arbor Board Certified Master Arborist Lyle Feilmeier, who recently received an award from the Vancouver Urban Forestry Commission for his work in caring for the tree.



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