

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **CONTACT:**

Stephen R. Spanyer  
Plant for the Planet! – Joint Highlands Arbor Day  
(502) 459-1405  
E-mail: srs@iglou.com

### **2013 Plant for the Planet!**

### **Local Tree Give-Away for Kentucky Arbor Day**

**Louisville, KY (April 6, 2013)** – This neighborhood event on Saturday April 6, 2013 in the Highlands for Kentucky State Arbor Day will give away 1,500 trees to all visitors who sign the “Plant for the Planet!” United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) pledge to plant and nurse the seedlings to adulthood. Four Highlands neighborhood associations (Belknap, Deer Park, Upper Highlands, and Highlands-Douglass) plus individuals, Council Members Tom Owen and Tina Ward-Pugh through a Neighborhood Development Grant, and community businesses are partnering with the UNEP-sponsored campaign called "Plant for the Planet!" This is a global effort to reverse deforestation of the planet and to slow global warming and climate change. Our 1,400 trees for 2013, selected from the nurseries of the Kentucky Department of Forestry (KY DOF), include 300 dogwood, 200 redbud, and 100 each pawpaw, northern red oak, bur oak, sycamore, yellow poplar, tupelo / blackgum, Washington hawthorn, roughleaf dogwood, and river birch – depending on availability. These bare-root seedlings are roughly 6" to 24". All species for 2013 are native to Jefferson County.

The Douglass Community Center at 2305 Douglass Boulevard, 40205, four blocks east of Bardstown Road, is the site of the joint Highlands tree give-away from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (or later), rain or shine. Additional parking is adjacent to the Division 5 Police Sub Station and along Douglass Boulevard. The event offers wrapped trees, light refreshments and plenty of information from the Master Gardeners with the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service, UK College of Agriculture, as well as expert advice from the forest ranger, arborists, tree huggers, and area naturalists.

Stephen Spanyer – local organizer of Plant for the Planet! since 2007 originally through the Belknap Neighborhood Association – is spearheading the 2013 Arbor Day event for the expanded joint Highlands effort. Since 2007 the UNEP Billion Tree Campaign - now the Plant for the Planet! Foundation - has seen over 13.6 billion trees planted globally, and the local tree give-away has grown from 300 seedlings in 2007 to some 7,400 seedlings handed out. This translates into a large variety of trees and more community involvement. The tree give-away continues to aid canopy recovery following the losses from the hurricane Ike windstorm and the 2009 ice storm. About 1,600 trees have benefited the Highlands zip code 40205 over the last five years, with the balance planted throughout the city and nearby counties by home owners, and with extras planted in Metro parks by volunteers with the Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

Previous participants included many neighbors and friends, the Boy Scouts, CES Master Gardeners, Highlands’ neighborhood association board members, foresters with the KY DOF, Bellarmine Biology Club, the city arborist, Louisville Metro Council, and local businesses.

For additional information, check out these websites:

Global sponsor: [www.UNEP.org/BillionTreeCampaign](http://www.UNEP.org/BillionTreeCampaign)  
Local tree give-away info & maps: [www.HighlandsArborDay.info](http://www.HighlandsArborDay.info)  
*facebook:* Plant for the Planet! A Joint Highlands Arbor Day

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