



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Historic "Plant a Wish" trees to be planted in at Ohio River Trail for inclusion in nationwide tree planting documentary film project**

*"Plant a Wish" tour visits the point where PA, OH, and WV meet on Sat. June 12, 2010*

**Ohioville, Pa Beaver County.** (June 8, 2010) – On Saturday, June 12, the Ohio River Trail Council will host the "Plant a Wish" project, a nationwide tree planting and public awareness project that is being filmed for a feature documentary at 1:00 p.m. along Ohio River Trail at the Point of Beginning. The Beginning Point of the U.S. Public Land Survey is a United States National Historic Landmark, in Ohioville near Glasgow, PA. A monument marks the border between the U.S. states of Ohio and Pennsylvania, on the north side of the Ohio River. It is near the three-way intersection of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the northern tip of West Virginia. It is significant as being the point from which the Public Land Survey System was performed, starting in 1785, which would open what was then the Northwest Territory for settlement. The commemorative site is located about two (2) miles east of the center of East Liverpool on Ohio State Route 39 and Pennsylvania Route 68.

Community members from Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia are invited to join the Ohio River Trail Council and Plant a Wish project founders Joseph Imhoff and Sara Tekula in the planting of three native state trees, including a Sugar Maple, Buckeye and an Eastern Hemlock. The tree planting/movie-making team from Hawaii is in town as a part of their mission to plant native trees in all fifty (50) states and make a documentary film about it. At this geographically unique spot, there will be trees planted from each of three states: Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. This planting event is free to the public.

During the planting at the Ohio River Trail site, community members will be invited to write down their wishes on pieces of scrap paper to be planted under the tree. Wishes may also be shared on camera for inclusion in the historic film. This event will also be featured in an article on the Plant a Wish blog, at [www.plantawish.org](http://www.plantawish.org).

Plant a Wish was launched on Earth Day 2010 with national recognition, and the team has been planting trees and filming segments on their home island of Maui, Hawaii. The plan is to visit about 22 states in the month of June; all located in the upper Midwest and Northeast. Then, the duo will return in subsequent trips in Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 until they have planted trees in all 50 states of the U.S.

Imhoff and Tekula have worked together in Hawaii and Los Angeles since they met in 2005 and have been recognized both locally and nationally for their work in media outreach, video production, and writing. Now a married couple, they say the Plant a Wish concept came to them during one of their usual brainstorming sessions at their Maui home.

"We were making a list of things we wanted to do in the coming year," says Tekula. "Our wish list consisted of four things: travel, meeting and connecting with lots of people, planting lots of trees, and making a documentary film. Then we realized we could do all of those in one project."

Tekula says Imhoff was the one who came up with the idea to plant in all 50 states.

"I felt like the project needed a specific mission, some goal that we as filmmakers must attain to make this historic, so I suggested we do all of the U.S. States, along with Washington, D.C.," says Imhoff. "I believe we'll be the first people in history to have accomplished this when we're finished. As you might imagine, we are on this challenging adventure. Being able to plant trees in three states in one stop along our tour will buy us some time, and we are excited to work with the Ohio River Trail Council. We love hearing about the new greenways that are popping up around the country."

The **Ohio River Trail** (ORT) is a proposed greenway that begins at the Point of Beginning and interconnects existing trails in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. The proposal is headed up by the Ohio River Trail Council (ORTC).

Dr. Vincent Troia, Chief Executive Officer of the ORTC, stated that the tree planting at the Point of Beginning is offered to the tri-state communities as an opportunity to learn about the important role that native trees and plants play in our daily lives and to lend the Councils support to Plant a Wish. "I am very pleased to partner with Sara and Joe in this act of caring for our environment. Each tree planted can absorb as much CO<sub>2</sub> as a car produces in a year. We all share a similar vision for our future." The idea is that these three Plant a Wish trees become important in our communities and grows to improve the health of our environment for generations to come.

Since Earth Day, the Plant a Wish filmmakers have been using social media and PayPal to raise money for the project from friends, family, and strangers for amounts as low as \$20 per person, and have paid for the entire trip from this fund. This tree-planting event at the Ohio River Trail Head is offered to the community as an opportunity to learn more about the important role native trees and plants play in our daily lives, to enjoy speakers from the community, and to lend their support to partnering organizations. The idea is that the Plant a Wish trees becomes important ones in the community, and grow to improve the health of the surrounding environment for generations to come.

Donations to the film project are welcome at the organization's website, at <http://plantawish.org/get-involved/donate>. To volunteer at the event, or for more information, please call Plant a Wish at 808-250-4030 or simply come by to attend the event on Saturday, June 12, 2010, at Lock 57 Park, Ohioville, Pa near the the Point of Beginning and the Ohio River Trail mile marker zero just west of Glasgow, Pa.

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**Ohio River Trail Council (ORTC)** is a 501(c) (3) non-profit volunteer-led corporation that works to bring individuals, communities, businesses, recreational users and all levels of government together to promote and protect a continuous corridor of natural and cultural resources along the Ohio River and its tributaries. The ORTC's goal is to honor our past and build our future by providing recreation opportunities, heritage development, environmental stewardship, safe transportation networks and economic stimulus to our community. The Council is headquartered in Monaca, Pennsylvania. Dr. Vincent Troia and Mario Leone, Jr. founded the ORTC. Please visit [www.ohiorivertrail.org](http://www.ohiorivertrail.org) to explore our site and further enhance your understanding of the mission of the ORTC.

**Plant a Wish** is a public awareness campaign and documentary film project aiming to restore native habitats around America while engaging communities and inspiring individuals to take an active role in the health of their environment. Starting on Earth Day 2010, the two Maui filmmakers (and project founders) launched a nationwide tour of America's forests, meeting incredible caretakers along the way, becoming the first to plant native trees in each of the 50 states, learning the stories behind the trees, blogging about their daily experiences, and collecting footage for a feature-length documentary film. They do all of this to fulfill their biggest wish: for future generations to enjoy healthy communities with an abundance of biodiversity, native plants and trees, fresh air, and clean water. Check out <http://www.plantawish.org> to learn more, to contribute or get involved.