

For Immediate Release

Contact:
Ginger Vaughan
(ginger@quinnbrein.com)
206-842-8922

Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe Purchases Heronswood
Tribe secures future for internationally renowned botanical garden

The Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe has purchased Heronswood, the world-renowned botanical garden in Kingston. They made the winning bid during a sealed bid auction held on behalf of previous owners W. Atlee Burpee & Co. The auction was conducted by Sheldon Good and Company.

“Heronswood represents the pride and hard work of this community and we’re happy we’re able to play a role in its future. We understand how passionate people are about Heronswood and, as a neighbor, we are committed to maintaining this local treasure,” said Jeromy Sullivan, Chairman, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe.

“We look forward to gaining insight and expertise from the previous owners as well as working with the community to help shape Heronswood’s future.”

Included in the sale are the gardens and nursery as well as related marketing properties, including the website (heronswood.com), catalogs, photographs, and all other trademarks. Burpee will maintain exclusive rights to their past Heronswood varieties and collections.

While the Tribe hasn’t announced specific plans for the property, they have expressed a hope to establish an educational program devoted to native plants, especially those used by their ancestors in the area.

W. Atlee Burpee & Co. CEO George Ball is looking forward to working with Heronswood’s new owners: “ We couldn’t be more pleased that the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe are the new owners of Heronswood and keepers of the property’s historic gardens. The Tribe has said that one of their goals is to educate the community about native plants and, through the Burpee Foundation, we endeavor to help them carry out this mission as it is entirely consistent with ours.”

Heronswood was established in 1987. Situated on 15 acres, the property houses thousands of native and non-native plant varieties and is well known within the nursery trade. As it became established during the 1990s, Heronswood received international acclaim for its large and diverse display garden.

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, originally known as the Nux Sklai Yem or Strong People, are descendants of the Salish people who have been well-established in the Puget Sound basin and surrounding areas since 2400 B.C. In the late 1930s, the Port Gamble S'Klallam reservation, located on the northern tip of the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington State, was established. Many of the Tribe's members, who total about twelve hundred, still live there today.

For more information about the S'Klallam Tribe, please visit www.pgst.nsn.us.

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