

Media Contact: Molly Gilbert, R/West
503-223-5443 x118 / mollyg@r-west.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BridgePort Brewing Company Toasts 25 Years of Brewing in the Pacific Northwest

Oregon's Oldest Craft Brewery Closes off NW 13th Street for 25th Anniversary Block Party on August 15th

PORTLAND, Ore. – August 4, 2009 – BridgePort Brewing Company, Oregon's oldest craft brewery, is celebrating 25 years of brewing and selling beer to thirsty Portlanders.

The Oregon specialty beer movement began in 1983 when recent UC Davis Brewing Sciences graduate, Karl Ockert, interviewed with vintners Richard and Nancy Ponzi on a side project to start a small high quality, low volume brewery. The three original innovators decided to house the brewery in a three-story, century old refurbished rope factory in Portland's industrial Northwest neighborhood, now known as the Pearl District, where the brewery still operates today.

After the first year of experimenting, Karl finally landed on a malty and semi-sweet Scottish Ale called *BridgePort Ale*. Wanting to share their creation with the city, BridgePort held a party on November 7, 1984 to celebrate the opening of the first microbrewery in Portland, and one of the first in the nation. BridgePort operated as a two-man crew for the first year with ideas and recipes shared between Karl and his assistant Matt Sage, who together have worked at BridgePort for the last 25 years.

"We had the whole town in attendance, from then mayor, Bud Clark to a small start up cable news station," says Ockert jokingly, "I think their name was CNN? Cable was brand new back then and a craft brewery selling this new type of beer was national news."

Since the beginning, BridgePort has been heralded by outlets including The New York Times, The World Beer Guide, LA Daily News and The Association of Brewers. In 2000, BridgePort won the gold medal and the Champion Ale Trophy at the Brewing Industry International Awards, making it the first American Brewery to win in the 200-year history of the awards.

Now 25 years older, and a bit wiser, BridgePort is producing more than 45 thousand barrels of beer per year, distributing to 18 states across the Western United States and serving food to patrons at two separate locations in Portland, Ore.

"Back then people thought you were insane if you wanted to start a brewery that didn't take up four city blocks," comments Matt Sage. "We didn't know if we would be around for three months or 30 years and I'm happy to say we are closer to the 30 year mark."

BridgePort Brewing Company Holds 25th Anniversary Block Party

On August 15th from 4 – 10 p.m., Bridgeport Brewing Company will close down NW 13th in the Pearl District to celebrate. The brewery's 25th anniversary bash will feature live music along with BridgePort beer and food.

One dollar from every beer sold at BridgePort's 25th anniversary party will go directly to The Portland Audubon Society. BridgePort Brewing Company and the Audubon Society of Portland have been teaming up to bring great beer with a purpose to Portland for more than 20 years. The two businesses first partnered in 1987 to produce BridgePort's Blue Heron Pale Ale as a special release specifically for the Audubon Society as they were petitioning with the state to name The Great Blue Heron Portland's official city bird. Over the years BridgePort Brewing Company has donated the use of the Brewpub many times to allow the Audubon Society to kick off new initiatives and celebrate environmental victories.

What:

BridgePort will close down NW 13th to make way for live music and entertainment from:

- BodyVox - One of Portland's most innovative performing arts companies will perform for guests to start off the event.
- Black Lodge - Come and catch Brewmaster Karl Ockert and the other members of this six-man bluegrass band, including Cascade Brewing Company's Brewmaster, Ron Gansburg.
- The Brothers Jam - Blending rootsy rock and deep rhythmic grooves, The Brothers Jam, who have been playing together since they were teenagers in Portland, take their audience on an entertaining sonic journey every time they hit the stage.
- Intervision - Fresh off their victory for Best R&B song at the 8th Annual Independent Music Awards, Portland, Oregon's own Intervision shows no signs of slowing down. Hailed as a modern-day Steely Dan, this young sextet continues to craft sophisticated pop music that is equally soothing, intelligent, and danceable.
- Live Bird Demonstration and Membership Drive – Throughout the event the Audubon Society of Portland will have live educational birds on hand to interact with guests while encouraging non-members to join.

When: Saturday, August 15th, 2009. 4 - 10 p.m. Performances and music start at 5 p.m.

Where: BridgePort BrewPub + Bakery in the Pearl
1313 NW Marshall Street
Portland, OR 97209

About The Audubon Society of Portland

Founded in 1902, the Audubon Society of Portland is one of the oldest conservation organizations in the nation. Audubon Society of Portland inspires people to love and protect nature through conservation and environmental learning programs, camps and field trips that educate 25,000 children and 5,000 adults; its 150 acre Wildlife Sanctuaries and Nature Store in Northwest Portland that attract 60,000 visitors and its Wildlife Care Center rehabilitates more than 3,000 injured or orphaned animals and fields 15,000 inquiries each year. Audubon Society of Portland has played a key role in some of Oregon's most important environmental achievements, including the enactment of the nation's first state law protecting wild birds, the protection of the state's first wildlife refuges at Three Arch Rocks, Malheur and Klamath, the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl under the federal Endangered Species Act, and development and promotion of the vision of an urban wildlife refuge system that formed the basis for today's Metropolitan Greenspaces Program. For more information regarding the Audubon Society of Portland, call (503) 292-6855 or visit www.portlandaudubon.org.

About BridgePort Brewing Company

As Oregon's oldest craft brewery, BridgePort is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The brewery has reached this milestone by evolving from a microbrewery to a regional leader in the craft brewing market, while remaining faithful to its commitment to producing high-quality, innovative craft ales. The BridgePort family of ales includes IPA, ESB, Black Strap Stout, Ropewalk Amber Ale, Blue Heron Pale Ale, Old Knucklehead and seasonal beers, Beertown Brown, Haymaker Extra Pale Ale and Ebenezer Ale. BridgePort has also expanded to include a line of 22-oz. Big Brews produced to allow the professional brewers at BridgePort to stay creative and innovative. These specialty brews include Hop Harvest, Stumptown Tart Marion Berry, Hop Czar Imperial IPA, Raven Mad Imperial Bourbon Barrel Aged Porter, Fallen Frier Tripel style ale, Hop Czar Imperial IPA (second generation), and most recently, Stumptown Tart Cherry. BridgePort Brewery is located at 1313 N.W. Marshall St. For more information, call 503-241-7179 or visit www.bridgeportbrew.com.

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