



The Drip Line

A newsletter devoted to Georgia's Tree Boards

Arbor day

“Arbor Day...which has already transplanted itself...to every state in the American Union and has even been adopted in foreign lands...is not like other holidays. Each of those reposes the past, while Arbor Day proposes for the future.”

~ J. Sterling Morton

Arbor Day is a national holiday that celebrates the role that trees play in our lives and how to plant and care for them. It was founded in 1872 by Julius Sterling Morton in Nebraska. Morton realized that the need for trees was great, so he encouraged people to set aside a certain day to plant them. By 1882, states nationwide were celebrating Arbor Day, and J. Sterling Morton became known as the “Founder of Arbor Day.” Today, many countries throughout the world observe Arbor Day.

In Georgia, Arbor Day is always celebrated on the third Friday in February since this is a better time of year to plant trees in our area. For 2008, Arbor Day will be on the **15th of February** and the theme will be **“Connect and Collaborate! Working Together for a Healthy Urban Forest.”**

Ways to celebrate arbor day

Are you looking for ways to celebrate Arbor Day, in addition to your planned local events? If you are, here are some ideas that might help:

- Have story time at the library and read tree-related books to children.
- Read a book about trees and learn to identify them by their bark, leaves, and seeds.
- Have the fifth grade students in your community participate in the Arbor Day National Poster Contest. Display the posters that are submitted for the community to see.
- Clean up a local park and then plant trees, shrubs, and flowers to make the space even more beautiful.
- Hold a class for homeowners on tree pruning, selection, identification, planting, and maintenance. Then have the class plant a tree somewhere together.
- Hold an Arbor Day reception to honor the Tree Board Members in your community and plant a tree at City Hall.
- Publicize your event. Send pictures to the local paper and submit your events for posting on the GFC webpage at GaTrees.org.



For Arbor Day information, event postings and more visit GaTrees.org



Raising funds for arbor day

Fundraising is an essential part of celebrating Arbor Day. Although raising money can sometimes be difficult, there are many different ways to earn enough money for your Arbor Day project.

One of the most common ways to raise money is by selling trees. The National Arbor Day Foundation's Trees for America program allows you to sell trees to people in the community, and make a profit by doing so. Call 888-448-7337 for more information about this project.

Another way to raise money for Arbor Day is to hold a workshop about how to plant and maintain trees. Many people might like to know more about caring for trees, and charging admission to a workshop would be a great

way to raise some funds.

In Portland, Oregon, local organizations charge \$.50-\$5.00 to pick up old Christmas trees after the holidays. The trees are turned into mulch, and the mulch is then sold to raise more money.

Finally, you could give residents of the community the chance to buy a tree in honor of a special event or person. Have the tree planted on a public site where they are needed, and give information about the tree and the planting site to the honoree.



"The best friend on earth of a man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on earth."

~ Frank Lloyd Wright

Tree City Highlight: Columbus, Georgia

In 2008, the city of Columbus celebrates 30 years as a Tree City USA. Columbus began to actively manage the community forest following passage of the first tree ordinance in 1972. In 1978, community leaders worked together to establish Columbus as Georgia's first Tree City USA.

During this 30 year journey, Columbus Consolidated Government joined hands, shovels and pruners with many community partners to plant and establish a healthy tree canopy. One of the partners, Keep Columbus Beautiful, implemented a coordinated celebration of Arbor Day in all city schools. The city itself also made major commitments to professional community forestry by evolving from a part-time city arborist to today's

Urban Forestry and Landscape Department with a staff of 80 led by arborist Scott Jones.

A new advocacy voice sounded five years ago when trees in a cherished park were threatened and Trees Columbus Inc. was formed by community forest activists. The group spearheaded the development of a new tree ordinance and an era of renewed tree initiatives. One initiative, the Holiday Forest program, has added 2200 new trees to the Columbus forest.

Today a diverse outreach effort has joined writers, artists, arborists, foresters, teachers, government leaders, videographers, and volunteers to tell the story of Columbus' commitment to a thriving community forest.

Calendar of Events

- February 16: **Statewide Arbor Day Celebration** in Columbus, GA – GaTrees.org
 - March 15-18: **ISA Southern Chapter Conference** in Knoxville, TN – www.isasouthern.org
 - May 28-30: **American Forest's 2008 National Conference on Urban Ecosystems** "Nature and the Network" - Orlando, Florida – www.americanforest.org
 - July 26-30: **ISA's 84th Annual Conference and Trade Show** in St. Louis, Missouri – www.isa-arbor.com
 - October 29-31: **Georgia Urban Forest Council Annual Meeting and Awards** in Augusta, GA – www.gufc.org
- Basic Tree Care Workshops conducted by the Georgia Urban Forest Council - www.gufc.org:*
- **February 13, 8:30 am-3:30 pm** – Lowndes County Extension Office Assembly Room, 2102 E. Hill Avenue, Valdosta, GA 31601
 - **February 14, 8:30 am-3:30 pm** – UGA-Tifton Conference Center, 15 RDC Road, Tifton, GA 31794
 - **February 20, 8:30 am-3:30 pm** – Georgia Mountain Center, 301 Main Street, SW, Gainesville, GA 30501
 - **February 27, 8:30 am-3:30 pm** – Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens, 2 Canebrake Road, Savannah, GA 31419

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If you have any items or articles you would like to contribute to Drip Line, please e-mail them to Joan Scales at jscales@GFC.STATE.GA.US.

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