



# News Release

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## **LEAVE A LEGACY, PLANT TREES ON ARBOR DAY**

Georgians are being encouraged to “dig in” and “log on” as they recognize Arbor Day 2009. Friday, February 20 is Arbor Day in Georgia, as proclaimed by Governor Sonny Perdue.

According to the Georgia Forestry Commission’s Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, Susan Reisch, this is peak season for planting tree seedlings. Winter dormancy allows seedlings the best resilience for transporting and growth in a new location.

“Planting trees is one of the easiest ways to contribute to environmental, social, and economic progress,” said Reisch. “Research shows that trees offer many benefits, including improvements in air quality, increases in property value, and decreases in energy costs. Plus, people enjoy fitness activities and can feel healthier in tree-lined areas.” The health and productivity of American forests and related, sustainable “green” jobs are a focus of the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Special events to mark Arbor Day in Georgia include the online launch of The Grove, a website that educates, engages and encourages Georgians to plant trees and protect Georgia’s urban tree canopy. The virtual community established at [GeorgiaGrove.org](http://GeorgiaGrove.org) will be officially activated on Feb. 20 to coincide with Arbor Day. The site allows families and friends to share their experiences of planting trees and commemorating special life moments. Members can create groups, or “groves,” to connect and share with others in The Grove’s online community.

“The Grove is an exciting new way for people to create a legacy and leave a positive mark on the world for their children and grandchildren to enjoy,” said Reisch.

Georgia’s statewide Arbor Day celebration event takes place Thursday, February 19, at 10:00 a.m. at Macon State College’s Professional Sciences Building & Conference Center. MSC President Dr. David Bell and Georgia Forestry Commission Director Robert Farris will host the event, and a tree planting will follow.

Several other Arbor Day events are scheduled throughout Georgia. For a complete list, information on tree planting and benefits, and services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit the GFC website at [GaTrees.org](http://GaTrees.org).

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