

Celebrate Arbor Week



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1995

A Message from the State Forester

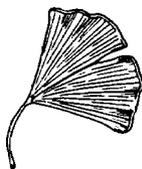


Each Alabamian depends on trees. Our forests provide jobs, raw materials for wood products, the necessary habitat for our abundant wildlife, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities. In addition, they protect the quality of the air we breathe and the water in our streams. Urban residents have come to rely on trees as much as those in rural areas.

When the first settlers came to Alabama, they found an abundance of trees and immediately began clearing land for homesites and for agricultural purposes. In addition, a tremendous amount of wood was used for heating homes and cooking food. At that time no thought was given to reforesting the land because they believed the forests to be inexhaustible; and as most of the settlers were farmers, they preferred to use the land for crops.

Today, the picture is much different. The citizens of Alabama realize that while trees are a renewable resource, we must reforest the land for future generations. As a result, millions of trees are planted annually.

Arbor Week is an exciting time in our state. I encourage you to plant a tree during this special week. Take part in a tradition that will make our state greener. As you do so, consider the environmental and economical contribution that "your" tree will make to the state of Alabama.



Sincerely,

Timothy C. Boyce
State Forester



History of Arbor Day



It has been more than 100 years since J. Sterling Morton founded Arbor Day. His idea of setting aside a special day for tree planting in Nebraska has grown into a holiday celebrated in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Morton and his wife Caroline were among the pioneers moving into the Nebraska territory in 1854. Instead of the forests they had known in Michigan, they found a seemingly endless sea of grass. They were lovers of nature, and the home they established was quickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers.

Morton became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper and used that forum to spread his enthusiasm for trees. His fellow pioneers missed their trees. More importantly, trees were needed as windbreaks to keep soil from blowing, and for fuel and building materials, as well as for shade from the hot sun.

In January 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. The date was set for April 10, 1872. It was estimated that more than 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

In 1885, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska and April 22, Morton's birthday, was selected as the date for its permanent observance.

Many states observe Arbor Day to coincide with the best tree planting weather. In Alabama, Arbor Week is celebrated during the last full week of February.

J. Sterling Morton was proud of the success of Arbor Day and noted, "Other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future." He thought trees much superior to cold marble as a memorial to persons or events. "How much more enduring are the animated trees of our own planting," he said.



The Importance of Urban Trees

Trees and cities are a natural combination. In Alabama, we are fortunate that our ancestors understood this as they built our towns and communities. Why? Because they realized that trees made life better and easier. Trees gave them shade, food, products, beauty and helped sustain wildlife.

Today, trees are even more important to city people. An increasing number of the state's population is choosing to live in urban areas, Our cities are also becoming more complex and artificial. As these trends continue, pressures and demands will increase to find better ways to use our natural resources.

Fortunately, citizens and community leaders are taking greater steps to make our cities greener. Trees are being planted and they are being better protected. Trees are vital to our cities. Like streets, buildings, utilities, and other man-made structures, trees are an important part of the urban infrastructure.

Trees Increase Land Values

- Forested real estate is worth up to 15% more than similar property without trees.
- Commercial property with trees sells faster and earns more in sales and rental fees.
- Homes on tree-lined avenues sell faster than homes without trees.
- The property values and local tax base are increased.

Trees Boost Economic Activity

- Quality urban forests are a factor in decisions to locate new business and industry.
- People linger and spend more at tree lined shopping areas.
- Planting and caring for trees creates jobs.

Trees Save Money

- Strategic plantings around buildings can reduce energy bills up to 20 percent.
- Trees encourage inexpensive outdoor activities for individuals and families.

Trees Improve Health

- View of trees and landscapes can reduce hospital stays up to 8 percent.
- Trees can help relieve stress.

Trees Help the Environment

- Trees slow down surface water runoff.
- Trees reduce sedimentation of streams and erosion.
- Trees help clean the air.
- Trees absorb and mask noise levels.



Trees Help Wildlife

- Trees provide urban habitat for birds and animals.
- Trees help plant life that would not otherwise exist in urban conditions.



Speaking for Trees

Arbor Week is a special time for us to be thankful for the wonderful trees we have and the many benefits they give us. Men and women in the past and present have voiced the importance of our nation's forests and helped to make trees part of our heritage. Below is a list of just a few people who pioneered tree planting and conservation.

Henry David Thoreau

(1 8 1 7 - 1 8 6 2)

"From the forest and wilderness come the tonics and bark which brace mankind," wrote Thoreau about the beautiful woods and crystal water of Walden Pond, near Concord, Massachusetts.

Thoreau reflected the 18th century romanticism of France's Jean Jacques Rousseau, bringing to our young and impressionable country the seeds of a philosophy that saw goodness in nature and glorified the simple, outdoor life.

Thoreau went on to write, "A town is saved, not more by the righteous men in it than by the woods and swamps that surround it. A township where one primitive forest waves above while another primitive forest rots below-such a town is fitted to raise not only corn and potatoes, but poets and philosophers for the coming ages."

George Perkins Marsh

(1 8 0 1 - 1 8 8 2)

George Marsh was a remarkably talented man. He mastered 20 languages, designed Vermont's state capitol, headed a state fish commission, was elected to Congress, and served as ambassador to Turkey and Italy. His most important accomplishment virtually shook the world. In 1865 Marsh's book *Man and Nature, or, Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action*, was a turning point in environmental history. In it Marsh showed the relationship of forests to flood prevention and clean rivers, and that the very

prosperity or demise of nations depended upon their stewardship of soil.

Marsh gave us a more scientific reason for keeping trees in the landscape. *Man and Nature* became the foundation of conservation in America. It was an awakening to the realities of ecology.



J. Sterling Morton

(1 8 3 2 - 1 9 0 2)

Known as the father of Arbor Day in the United States, J. Sterling Morton gave us a tree planting tradition that continues today. He and his wife, Caroline, moved to the western frontier on their honeymoon and eventually established a successful farm near Nebraska City, Nebraska. Working from there he was an active and well-known political candidate, railroad promoter, silver mine speculator, newspaper editor and leading voice for improvement of agriculture.

Later in his life, Morton sparked the imagination of his state to plant trees as a way to reap the multiple blessings of produce, shade, better climate and happier people. His proposal in 1870 to "let there be a campaign for tree planting" led to the first Arbor Day on April 10, 1872. It was later moved by the state legislature to April 22 in honor of Morton's birthday. In 1970 this same day was selected as the First Earth Day.

Morton was appointed as Secretary of Agriculture in 1893, but his place in the Tree Conservation Hall of Fame was won because of his vision of what tree planting could do for a nation.



John Muir (1838 - 1914)

John Muir was one of our nation's first naturalists and conservationists. As he roamed the Sierras and Southeast Alaska, he earned an understanding and respect for an important principle of ecology. "When we try to pick out anything by itself we find it hitched to everything else in the universe," he wrote.

Muir had a way with words that gave him lasting status in American literature. Because of his love for the forest and the great outdoors, trees were often the theme of his writings. Prompting one scientist of the day to say, "Muir wrote about trees as no one else in the whole history of trees, chiefly because he loved them as he loved men and women."

Muir's love of trees also made him a friend of forestry pioneer Gifford Pinchot, but the two had a falling out over the appropriateness of grazing sheep—"hoofed locusts," according to Muir—in the high country around Yosemite. Muir's preservationist attitudes and Pinchot's utilization philosophy led to the great divide in American conservation, giving birth to a struggle that continues today as we seek the right balance between protection and use.

Along with being a talented writer, Muir was a public speaker, defender and champion of Yosemite and a founder of the Sierra Club.

John Burroughs (1837 - 1921)

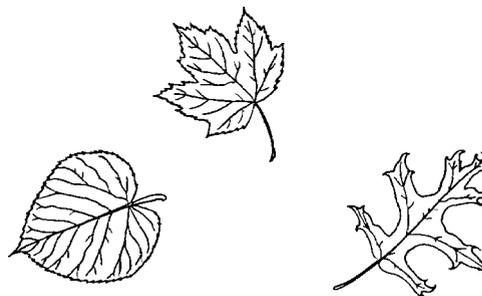
From his farm and wooded retreat where the Hudson flows past the Catskills, John Burroughs made his contribution through some 25 books and innumerable articles about nature. A gentle naturalist, he gave sparks of magic to woodchucks, robins, apple trees and other common sights of nature. Giants in industry like Thomas Edison and Henry Ford flocked to Burroughs' doorstep for a taste of nature at its best, and President Roosevelt took him camping in Yellowstone. The most important thing was that school children formed

clubs in his honor to study birds and learn about trees. His literature helped fold a frame of mind that made the public receptive to the great conservation reforms at the turn of the century.

Enos Mills (1870 - 1922)

From a remote cabin high atop the Colorado Rockies, and later a rustic hotel that he built in the shadow of Long's Peak, Mills pioneered the interpretation of nature to men, women, and children who were strangers to the mountains and forests. He served the U.S. Forest Service as their first traveling lecturer, pointing out the waste caused by uncontrolled forest fires. Later in life, he was a promoter of the Rocky Mountain National Park to be forever an unspoiled example of the finest scenery in the central Rockies.

As host to his hotel guests, Mills led nature walks, held visitors spellbound with evening fireside stories, and sent a steady stream of articles about nature to the popular magazines of the day. In his book *The Story of a Thousand - Year Pine*, he traces the trials and triumphs of a tree's life through the revelations of its annual rings.



Other Voices for Trees

These are just a few Americans who during the first decades of the conservation movement saw the importance of trees and forests to our nation. Today, generations later, we reap the benefits of their vision.

Is there someone in your community who "Speaks for Trees?"



Poems



The Uses of Trees

What do you see in the lofty tree?
 We see the ship that will cross the sea;
 We see the masts to carry the sails;
 We see the planks to weather the gales.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?
 We plant the house for you and me;
 We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floor;
 We plant the shade before the door.

A thousand things that we daily see
 Are brought to us from the waving tree;
 A thousand things on land and sea
 Are planted by us when we plant a tree.

-Anonymous

Trees



I think that I shall never see
 A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
 Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day
 And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

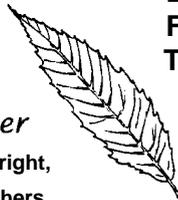
A tree that may in summer wear
 A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
 Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
 But only God can make a tree.

—Joyce Kilmer

From *Trees and Other Poems* by Joyce Kilmer. Copyright,
 1914 by George H. Doran Company, Publishers.



Trees

(For Four Students)

I'm a big black willow,
 Growing by the stream,
 Long and slender are my arms,
 Weaving like a dream;
 I drink lots of water,
 And if you ask it,
 I'll tell you that my shoots
 Will make a chair or basket.

I'm a sturdy elm tree,
 I will bring good luck,
 If you plant me nicely,
 And you're full of pluck.
 I have a funny brother,
 His bark is wet and sticky,
 And so we call him slippery elm,
 Because he is so tricky.

They call me the red maple,
 I grow up tall and straight,
 I blossom early in the spring
 And work until quite late,
 For when I make the sap
 There comes the sugar man,
 And makes up maple sugar,
 And sells it when he can.

I am an old, old walnut tree,
 Boys like me in the fall,
 When they can go a nutting,
 And hunt my brown ball;
 They get their hands all brown,
 But that's part of the game,
 For when they take off all the husk,
 They eat me just the same.

-Rhode island Arbor Day

Keeping Trees Healthy



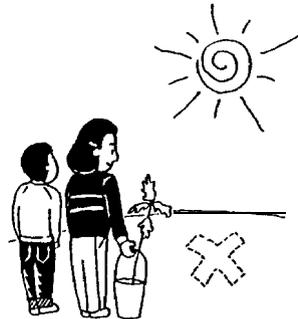
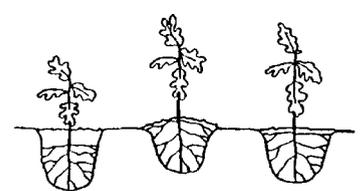
City life can be hard on trees! They need the proper care to keep them alive and healthy. Certain things like those pictured above can harm a tree and make it less likely to survive. Be careful with your trees and protect them from harmful elements.

What are some things you can do to help keep trees healthy?

Illustrations courtesy of the Minnesota Arbor Month Partnership: Used with permission.

How to Plant a Tree

(Bareroot Seedlings)

 <p>1. Choose a good spot. Don't forget its adult size.</p>	 <p>2. Keep the roots moist at all times. Dry roots die.</p>	 <p>3. Dig a hole large enough to spread the roots apart. Check for underground utility lines first!</p>
 <p>4. Plant the tree at the right depth. (See "How Deep?") Gently add loose soil.</p>	 <p>5. Add more soil and firm with foot.</p>	 <p>6. Mulch with wood chips, pine straw or other suitable material.</p>
 <p>7. Water regularly. Wait for shade!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">How Deep?</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Too Deep Too Shallow Just Right</p>	<p>Think about it: What care besides watering will your tree need in the months ahead? (Protection from damage by people, animals, machines like lawn mowers, wind, disease, smothering by grass and ground cover, etc.) How will the tree get this protection?</p>

Illustrations courtesy of the Minnesota Arbor Month Partnership: Used **with** permission.

How to Plant a Tree

(Balled and Burlapped)

Do not cut leader. Remove only dead, dying or diseased limbs at planting. Wait 1 year before pruning for shape and form.

NOTE: Once a planted tree has settled, the top of the root ball should be level to its surrounding grade.

Open space between mulch and trunk

Saucer: berm earth min. 4" above finished grade.

Finished grade

3-4" mulch

Prepare planting soil mixture as specified.

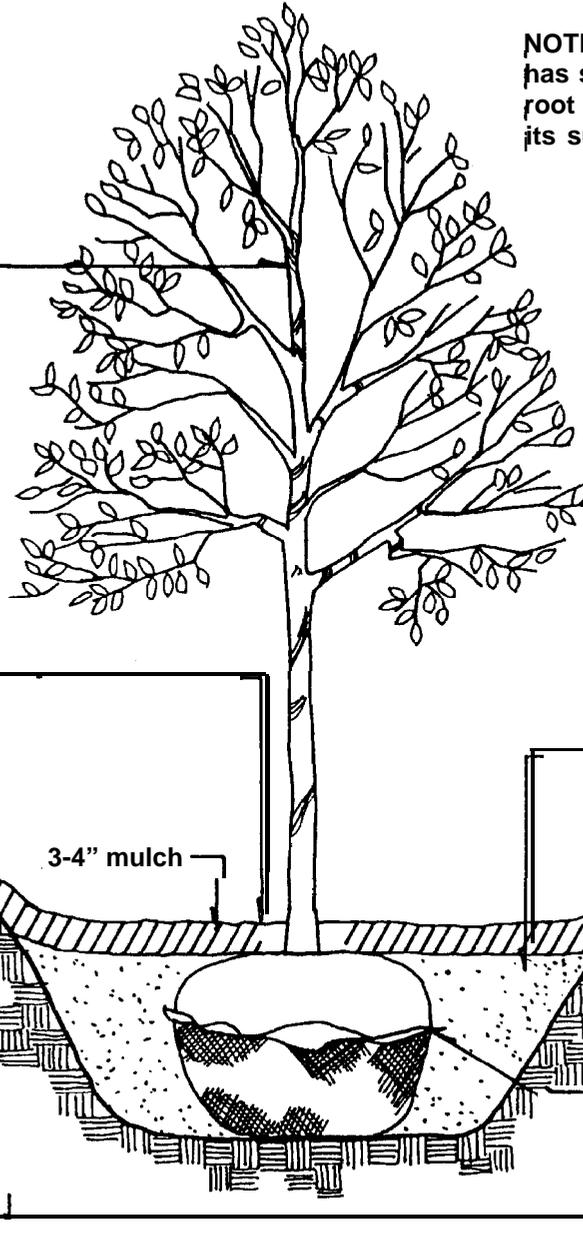
Depth of hole should equal depth of root ball.

DEPTH

Existing subsoil

Remove burlap and any attached string from top 1/3 of root ball and bury.

Width of hole 2-5 times width of root ball.



Urban Forestry Word Search

Find and circle each of the following words relating to urban forestry. Words can be vertical, horizontal, forward, backward or diagonal.

Aesthetics
Arbor Day
Arborist
Birds
Branch Collar
Branches
Cities
Correct Site

Don't Top
Fruit
Homeowners
Leaves
Less Noise
Mulch
Oxygen
Plant

Proper Pruning
Roots
Shade
Shape
Sidewalks
Soil
Space
Species

Squirrels
Streets
Sun
Tree City USA
Trunk
Wildlife
Windbreak
Urban

P R W I L D L I F E E D A H S
S R O O T S F Z N Y I W P O I
E M O C D O N T T O P A I I D
I E X P P T U W Q G K L L E E
C T Y L E S S N O I S E N P W
E B G S W R U S I X H A L A A
P Q E W E R P T T Y B V U H L
S S N F I O Y R P R A E S S K
R E D R F G A U U H J S K C S
A H L U Z S D N X N C V B I N
L C M I H E R K Q E I R T T B
L N Y T C I O U I O P N A E I
O A S D L T B D F G H J G H R
C R S Q U I R R E L S K L T D
H B T Z M C A X C E C A P S S
C O R R E C T S I T E V B E N
N M E Q W R W I N D B R E A K
A T E P L A N T S I R O B R A
R Y T U H O M E O W N E R S O
B P S A A S U Y T I C E E R T



Programs Preserve Large and Historical Trees



Alabama's 22 million acres of forestland is one of our state's most valuable resources. Our forest is used every day to provide us wood and other products that we depend on to live. But in some cases use is not the best thing and preservation is the most important. The Alabama Forestry Commission has two programs that can help us preserve our state history.

The Champion Tree Program and the Famous and Historic Tree Program are two ways Alabamians have to preserve and protect individual trees and small groves across the state.

The Champion Tree Program began in 1970 to preserve the largest trees of any particular species. The program recognizes very large, old, or special trees that are irreplaceable. Through the program these trees can be identified and protected for future generations.

The Alabama Forestry Commission adopted the formula established by the American Forestry Association for determining champion trees: circumference (inches) measured at 4-1/2 feet, plus height (feet), plus crown spread (feet).

Any species of tree can be eligible for nomination for champion. Many of Alabama's champion trees are also listed on the National Big Tree Register, which is a listing of the largest trees in the nation.

The Famous and Historic Tree Program gives Alabama's citizens a way to preserve a living memorial to important men, women, places and events in our state's rich historic past. The Famous and Historic Tree Program began in 1981.

In Alabama, there are many trees which stand as mute reminders to historic events and famous people. The Alabama Forestry Commission feels that through detection, identification, and preservation of trees with historic significance, future generations will begin to understand and appreciate their own heritage and responsibility to contribute to our state.

Criteria considered for the Famous and Historic Tree Program are: notable people; the development of the nation, state, city or county; eminent educators and/or educational institutions; art, artists, literature, and writers; law, music, science, or the cultural life of the nation, state, city or county; churches and religion; or early forestry and conservation.

Just a few of Alabama's 30 Famous and Historic Trees include the Helen Keller Oak in Tuscumbia, the Capital Oak in Tuscaloosa, and the Tanglewood Red Cedar near Akron.

Anyone can nominate a tree for certification in both the Champion Tree Program and the Famous and Historic Tree Program. Nomination information is available from your local Alabama Forestry Commission office. Rangers or other staff members can assist you with the necessary information.

Once a tree is approved in either program, its owner and nominator receive certificates. A tree marker is also placed by the tree during a public ceremony.



Suggested Readings

Books

Arboriculture, Richard W. Harris, Prentice Hall, 1992.

Benefits of Urban Trees, USDA-Forest Service, Atlanta, 1990.

Creative Home Landscaping, Michael A. Dirr, Ortho Publishing, 1987.

Growing Greener Cities, Gary Moll & Stanley Young, Living Planet Press, Los Angeles, 1992.

The Man Who Planted Trees, Jean Ciono, Chelsea Green, 1985.

100 1 Questions Answered About Trees, Rutherford Platt, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1987.

Red Oaks & Black Birches, Rebecca Rupp, Storey Communications, Inc., 1990.

The Simple Act of Planting a Tree, Tree People with Andy and Katie Lipkis, Jeremy Tarcher, 1990.

Trees and People, Forestland Ecosystems and Our Future, Richard N. Jordan, Regnery Publishing, Inc., 1994.

Trees in Urban Design, Henry F. Aronson, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1980.

Urban forestry: Planning, and Managing Urban Greenscapes, Robert W. Miller, Prentice Hall, 1988.

Urban Forestry References & Resources, Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama Urban Forestry Association, August 1992.

Video

Urban Forestry-Making Trees Work for Your Community, Alabama Urban Forestry Association, 1993.

Children's Books

Be a Friend to TREES, Patricia Lauber, Harper Collins Publishers, 1994.

Discovering Trees, Keith Brandt, Troll Associates, 1982.

From Tree to Table, Ali Mitgutsch, Carolrhods Books, Inc., Minneapolis, 1971.

Forests (Our Planet Series), David Lambert, Troll Associates, 1990.

The Grandpa Tree, Mike Donahue, Roberts Rinehart, Inc., 1988.

How **The Forest Grew**, William Jasperohn, Greenwillow, 1980.

Leaf & Tree Guide, Backyard Explorer Series, Rona Beame, Workman Publishing, New York, 1989.

Life In The forest, Eileen Curran, Troll Associates, 1982.

Look at a Tree, Eileen Curran, Troll Associates, 1985.

Once There Was a Tree, Natalia Romanova, Dial Books, 1985.

One Blowy Night, Nick Butterworth, Little, Brown and Company, 1992.

Smokey, A Simple Country Bear Who Made Good, Sandy Dengler, Pacific Northwest National Parks & Forests Association, 1987.

Trees, Usborne Publishing Ltd., London, 1980.

Trees and Leaves, Althea Braithwaite, Troll Associates, 1990.

What It's Like to Be a Forest Ranger, Michael J. Pellowski, Troll Associates, 1989.

Wonders of the Forest, Francene Sabin, Troll Associates, 1982.

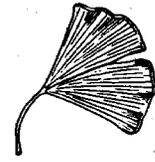




Elm



Shagbark
Hickory



Ginkgo



Dogwood



Box Elder

Honey
Locust



Sassafras



Buckeye

Hackberry



Red Maple



Sweetgum



Magnolia



Pin Oak

Yellow
Poplar



Chestnut



Sycamore

Green Ash



Mulberry



-White Oak



Sugar Maple

