



# News Release

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## **CELEBRATE TREES THIS WEEK IN GEORGIA - #GAarborday**

Several events that celebrate the many benefits of trees are being held across the state this week, in observance of Georgia's Arbor Day.

Governor Nathan Deal officially proclaimed Friday, February 17, 2017, as Georgia Arbor Day with a signing ceremony at the state capitol on Monday, February 13. A number of state dignitaries will attend, including Lilburn Mayor Johnny Crist (Lilburn), Georgia Forestry Commission Director Robert Farris, and Georgia Urban Forest Council Executive Director Mary Lynne Beckley.

On Tuesday, February 14, mayors from throughout Georgia will gather with urban forestry professionals and environmental leaders for a symposium on "Colleges, Corporations and Cities: Building Campus Sustainability." Special guests include mayors from the Peachtree Gateway Partnership, Philip Shell, Chick-fil-A, and Howard Wertheimer, Georgia Institute of Technology. New and renewing Tree City USA communities, Tree Line USA utility companies and Tree Campus USA colleges will also be recognized. Seven communities will be recognized for becoming new Tree City USAs: Baldwin, Fort Oglethorpe, Lincolnton, Rutledge, Sky Valley, Summerville and Trion. Five campuses are new Tree Campus USAs: College of Coastal Georgia, Georgia College and State University, Mercer University, Savannah Technical College and the University of North Georgia.

Throughout the week, edu-tainer Tim Womick is hitting the road with his Tree Circus, an energetic stage show that conveys messages about tree care, conservation and a healthy planet. Tree Circus will make appearances in College Park, Augusta, Atlanta, Decatur, Toccoa, and Watkinsville, GA.



Arbor Day in Georgia is observed each year on the third Friday in February. In 1941 the Georgia General Assembly set this date as our state Arbor Day.

The holiday was initiated in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton, credited as the father of Arbor Day. Morton is famous for saying, “Other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future.”

Every tree planted on Arbor Day helps provide numerous environmental, economic, social, health and cultural benefits. Visit [GaTrees.org](http://GaTrees.org) for a tree benefits summary, tree planting specifications, and information about the services of the Georgia Forestry Commission.

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