

# Under the Oaks

Newsletter of the Arboretum at Memphis Botanic Garden

Volume 9



*Memphis Botanic Garden horticulturists Jeff Reynolds and Chris Cosby plant a tree at Memphis Botanic Garden in honor of Arbor Day 2011.*

## ***March 2nd is Arbor Day in Tennessee***

*By Jenny Sabatier*

Many families, civic groups, and institutions will celebrate this March 2nd by planting trees. It's a good time to remember how essential trees are to our existence and well-being. Arbor Day events teach the importance of trees and the many ways they serve mankind. Schools may celebrate Arbor Day with discussions about how valuable trees are to our planet, and how to care for them, as well as discovering facts about some unusual and historic trees.

*So, how did Arbor Day begin?*

In 1854, Sterling Morton came to the territory that is now the state of Nebraska. Morton discovered that trees were scarce in the area, so when he established a home there he began to plant trees on his property. As time went by, he became more and more convinced of the need for increasing the tree population in the area, and he proposed a special holiday to encourage tree planting, with awards to people who planted the most trees. This was the first Arbor Day, which was held on April 10, 1872, and ended with approximately a million trees being planted in Nebraska that day.

Every state has an official Arbor Day, but the date varies, according to the best time for planting trees, from January (Florida and Louisiana) to December (South Carolina.)

The Arbor Day Foundation was founded in 1972, the centennial of that first Arbor Day. It is a non-profit organization, whose goal is the planting of trees and offering conservation and education programs. Among these are Nature Explore Classrooms for children, replanting in the national forests, the Tree City improvement program, and Arbor Day Farm, a historic landmark in Nebraska City, Nebraska, that offers demonstrations in sustainable practices in agroforestry.

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***Celebrate Arbor Day at the City of Memphis' Official Tree Planting!***



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The City of Memphis, Division of Parks, in conjunction with Memphis Botanic Garden, will hold a tree planting event in observance of the official City of Memphis Arbor Day. The ceremony will take place on Friday, March 2, at 10:00 a.m., at Memphis Botanic Garden.

Arbor Day is an annual observance dedicated to the planting and conservation of trees. National Arbor Day is observed on the last Friday in April. However, because the ideal time to plant trees varies with the climate, Tennessee celebrates Arbor Day on the first Friday of March.

The selection of a Yoshino Cherry for this year's planting is significant, in that 2012 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic cherry tree planting in Washington, D.C. The cherry trees for that planting were gifts to the U.S. from Japan, and their spring blossoms are recognized around the world. Memphis' counterpart, two stately rows of cherry trees along Cherry Road adjacent to the Garden's entrance, has become a recognizable landmark and popular spring destination.

Memphis City Beautiful Commission will provide free tree saplings for attendees to take home and plant, while supplies last.

The event is free and open to the public.

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## **Arbor Day Campfire Party**

March 2

6:00-8:00 p.m.



Join us for a cozy campfire and children's fun tree activities!  
We'll plant a tree in My Big Backyard in honor of Tennessee's Arbor Day.  
Hot dogs, cider, and s'mores will be provided.

\$5 plus Garden admission

Reservations required, call 636-4131.

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## ***Annotated Tree Bibliography***

By Jenny Sabatier

Do you ever wish you knew the name of that unusual tree down the road, or need help with the selection of a tree for your front yard? Do you like to read about trees, their histories, lore, and special contributions to our world? If so, read over the brief list below and see if any of the books listed pique your interest.

### The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees Eastern Region

The first part of this comprehensive identification guide consists of excellent color photographs of leaves, bark, flowers, and seeds. The second part is text that describes families and species, with black and white drawings of tree shapes, maps, and other helpful sketches.

### Trees: Eyewitness Handbooks Coombes, Allen J.

Another beautiful tree guide that covers 500 species of trees from around the world.

Each tree description contains the family, species, common names, description, color photographs of leaves, flowers and fruit, and an illustration showing the tree's shape, all conveniently located on the same page. A short glossary is included.

### Miracle Gro's Complete Guide to Trees and Shrubs

An all-purpose book on selecting the right tree, planting it correctly, and giving it the proper kind of care. Contains lots of helpful advice, and very nice photography.

### All About Trees Ortho

A paperback how-to and reference book that has general information including selection, planting, and care of trees, with illustrations of the various parts of a tree, and each part's functions. Contents include an encyclopedia of more than 300 trees with information and color photographs.

### The Folklore of Trees and Shrubs Martin, Laura

A book to enjoy, this one has some general information, but its forte is capturing the spirit of trees through their origins, history, mythology and folklore. A hundred species are explored.

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Trees: For Shelter and Shade For Memory and Magic Fenyvesi, Charles

A collection of thirty four essays that offer a bounty of interesting information, succinct comments, and colorful stories of the history and folklore of trees.

Trees: A Visual Guide Rodd, Tony and Stackhouse, Jennifer

A diverse reference book with intriguing photographs, in which you can view an ombu, boojum, dragon tree, or cannonball tree. This is a book to browse over when the weather is dismal. Loads of information, but it's the photos that keep you entertained.

Remarkable Trees of the World Parkingham, Thomas

This coffee table size volume contains a host of striking photographs and charming stories of sixty different trees. Their range extends from New Zealand to Mount Vernon, where the two tulip trees George Washington planted in 1785 still stand. History, folklore, and ecological influences are some of the topics covered.

A Natural History of Trees of Eastern and Central North America Peattie, Donald Culross 1898-1964

A true classic, Peattie's book is filled with a wonderful sense of history, a sound knowledge of botany, and the ability to make one hundred and ninety trees come alive for the reader.

All the books listed above are in the Memphis Public Library system.

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***MEMPHIS DESERVES to be a TREE CITY USA: YOU CAN HELP***

By Jan Castillo

The soil and climate of Memphis provides favorable conditions for our magnificent trees to grow, but nature needs a helping hand. For health and longevity, trees require proper care. The Arbor Day Foundation established the TREE CITY USA program over twenty-five years ago to recognize communities that meet four standards for improving and sustaining their urban forest. In Tennessee, over

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thirty cities have earned TREE CITY USA designation. With your support, Memphis has the chance to become a TREE CITY USA in 2012. The many benefits of becoming a Tree City USA include better access to grants and technical assistance in addition to civic pride and national recognition.

A municipal ordinance for trees on city properties (estimated to be 20% of the trees within the city) is scheduled to be brought before city council in late spring or early summer. This ordinance would satisfy requirements for Tree City USA standards one and two. Standard 1 requires "someone to be legally responsible for the care and management of the community's trees." The proposed Municipal Tree Ordinance provides for a municipal forester or arborist. To meet Standard 2, the Municipal Tree Ordinance legally establishes an "annual municipal forest work plan" that establishes "clear guidance" for all phases of tree care. According to Standard 3, city expenditures for tree care must reflect \$2.00 per capita. For Memphis, the expenditure would be approximately 1.2 million dollars. This can come from many sources including tree care and planting, biomass recycling, leaf and limb pick up, equipment and salaries. Thanks to the Memphis Botanic Garden and Memphis City Beautiful, Standard 4 will be met for 2012 on Friday, March 2. The Tennessee Arbor Day Tree Planting Celebration with an Arbor Day Proclamation from Mayor Wharton will be held at the Memphis Botanic Garden at 10:00 am.

What can you do to help Memphis become a Tree City USA? Let your city council representatives know that you want Memphis to become a Tree City USA and you support passage of the Municipal Tree Ordinance. You can e-mail or write your council representatives. A map and contact information for each council member can be found [here](#).

For more detailed information on the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program, visit [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

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## ***Interested in more ways to learn about the natural world around you?***

Memphis Botanic Garden is offering a new Tennessee Naturalist Program!

Fridays, March 9-May 18, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The Tennessee Naturalist Program is a corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service, dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

TN Naturalist Program participants will complete a training course of 40 hours instruction (20 classroom/20 in the field) plus 40 hours of approved volunteer service activities.

[Click here for information on 2012 TN Naturalist topics and facilitators.](#)

\$200 course fee includes materials, books, and resources for the 10-week session. Class size is limited; registration is required.

Call 636-4119 to register or to inquire about scholarship availability.

(No class April 6, additional date t.b.d.)