

Alabama Urban Forestry Association



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Plantings



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Summer 2020

SAVE THE DATES!

Alabama Urban Forestry Association 2020 Annual Conference and Urban Forestry Education Week *The Future of Arboriculture - Opportunities and Emerging Challenges*

What & When:

Urban Forestry Certification Training

Monday & Tuesday - October 19-20

Tree Board Academy

Urban Forest & Landscape Pests Update

Wednesday, October 21 (concurrent sessions)

Annual Conference and Trade Show

Thursday & Friday - October 22-23

Where:

**Pelham Civic Center /Aldridge Gardens /
Heardmont Park**

Stay tuned to aufa.com for lodging, pricing and other important details!

Why:

Join Alabama's largest association of commercial and utility arborists, municipal foresters, green industry professionals and others for a week packed with in-person continuing education, networking, door prizes and entertainment. Enjoy classroom lectures, outdoor demos and an exhibitors' trade show to see some of what's available, new, unique and/or different in the ever-evolving world of managing sustainable community forests and trees.



Photo courtesy of Aldridge Gardens (custom credit)

2020 Michael L. Zarichnak Annual Conference Scholarship Update

Submitted by: Colin Conner, Hoover City Forester

Thanks to the generous support of Mr. Lee Cosbie of Affordable Tree Services, LLC, in Tuscumbia, we are pleased to announce a significant increase in scholarship opportunities for 2020. Five scholarships will be available to college students or graduates for attendance to the Annual Conference, which is now scheduled for October in the Hoover/Pelham area. Details of the 2020 scholarship program are currently being circulated to colleges around the state.

As a founding member of the Alabama Urban Forestry Association, Mike Zarichnak worked tirelessly to improve urban forest health and care throughout Alabama. In Mike's honor, the AUFA has established a scholarship to its annual conference which covers the cost of tuition and hotel accommodations for college students or recent graduates with interest in pursuing a career in urban forestry or a closely related profession. A number of past scholarship recipients are currently part of Alabama's professional, tree care workforce!



2013 - Mike Zarichnak lecturing on Tree I.D. at an AUFA/GIWP Urban Forestry Certification Program

2019 Arbor Day Foundation Programs – Alabama Update

Submitted by: Katie Wiswall, Partnership Coordinator for the Alabama Forestry Commission

By June 1st of this year, the Arbor Day Foundation had recognized 86 cities, 13 university campuses, 1 hospital and 2 power companies in Alabama for their dedication to good tree care and management by awarding them the Designation of Tree City (or Tree Campus or Tree Line) USA. By early July, you should be able to go to [Alabama Tree Cities](#) and see exactly who made the grade. Until the 2019 data is posted, you can always call me (Katie Wiswall) at 334-399-4590 to find out if your community is one of the elites!

You might be surprised at which of our 462 incorporated places have earned the title of Tree City USA and which have not. While it may seem obvious that Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Montgomery would expend the energy to earn the designation every year, did you know that the tiny towns of Pine Apple, Orrville, and Myrtlewood, with 500 citizens between them, have been proud Tree Cities since the 1990's? Did you know that Gadsden and Troy NEVER have? Wild as that seems, it is never too late to add a community to the fold. If YOUR town isn't on the Tree City USA wagon yet, talk to me about getting them there this year!

The Tree City programs are administered by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize cities (and schools, power companies, and hospitals) for taking care of the trees in their jurisdictions. For cities, this means having a tree ordinance, establishing tree care parameters and a tree committee or other board in charge of overseeing those parameters, spending at least \$2 per capita on their community trees, and having an annual Arbor Day observance that includes a proclamation from the mayor. There is no cost to apply for recognition as a Tree City USA. When first earning the designation, a city receives a pair of 24x30" aluminum, Tree City USA signs to place on the main roads into town, a Tree City flag to fly and a wall plaque to display at City Hall. Periodically, the signs and flags are replaced and every year a city renews its status, it receives a commemorative, maple leaf emblem to place on their plaque and enough stickers to update their street signs telling the number of years they have been a Tree City USA city.

Three cities (Auburn, Gulf Shores, and Mountain Brook) also achieved growth awards in 2019 for making improvements to their programs. Based on submittals I reviewed during the year, I suspect several other cities could have earned this additional accolade had they filled out the paperwork to receive it. For 2020, the Arbor Day Foundation has redesigned the growth award criteria so it will behoove many to investigate those changes and see if their city will qualify. I can assist with that process if anyone is interested in helping their city step up to that level.

As the state's Arbor Day Foundation Programs liaison, I am always ready and willing to assist a community or organization in applying for a growth award or in completing their application for recognition or recertification as a Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA or Tree Line USA. If you are not already participating in your home community, on their tree board or analogous organization, please consider getting involved. Who better than you (an arborist!) to help the place you love the most care for the plants you love the most? And if you can assist with your city's Tree City USA application, even better. CALL ME, Alabama arborists!

Hoover, Alabama - 2020 Arbor Day Program Overview

Submitted by Colin Conner, Hoover City Forester

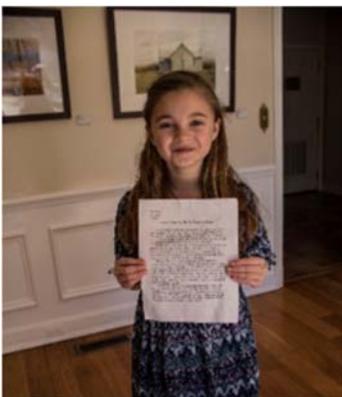


Arbor Day is an important community tradition that celebrates the numerous benefits and uses of trees. Celebrating Arbor Day annually is one of four requirements of the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program. This year, the Arbor Day Foundation recognized Hoover as a Tree City for the 21st consecutive year. Hoover's Arbor Day organizers promote tree preservation as well as proper selection, planting and care of trees, with the hope that Hoover's community forest will remain productive, safe and sustainable for residents, businesses and guests.

Each year, Hoover's Arbor Day celebration takes place over the course of three weeks, beginning in the Hoover City School System. School Arbor Day programs are educational and entertaining for students, and beneficial for campus landscapes. Organized by teachers and administrators, school Arbor Day programs feature a variety of tree-related activities, including recognizing winners of the 4th Grade Arbor Day Essay Contest, a primary component of Hoover's Arbor Day programming. Ten, Hoover schools organized Arbor Day celebrations this year which included a tree planting on each campus. Tree plantings were led by Hoover employees Colin Conner, Kim Marlin and Ken Rosser. Nuttall oak, baldcypress, ginkgo, crabapple, blackgum, river birch, and crapemyrtle were selected and planted for their specific growth characteristics and tolerances for various site conditions. Hoover Mayor Frank Brocato and Beautification Board members attended each program to interact with students and create a record of programs that could be shared with the Hoover community.

On March 7, 2020, Hoover's community-wide Arbor Day celebration was held at Aldridge Gardens. The celebration featured the ever-popular tree giveaway, a formal ceremony honoring all ten winners of the 4th Grade Arbor Day Essay Contest, a ceremonial tree planting, a native plants table, and a variety of craft activities for kids. Thanks to generous sponsors like Alabama Power Company, 250, 3-gal. saplings were given away to Hoover residents for planting into the city's community forest. The overall winner of the 4th Grade Essay Contest was Ruthie Jackson from Rocky Ridge Elementary. Her winning essay discussed the Longleaf Pine, Alabama's state tree. This year's essay topic was *Native Trees are Terrific Trees for Hoover*.

A unique feature of Hoover's community-wide Arbor Day Celebration was the official measuring of what is believed to be a new Guinness World Record for "World's Largest Oak Leaf". The cherrybark oak (*quercus pagoda*) leaf was found at Camp Larkin in Sumter County, Alabama. Camp Larkin is family farm property owned by Floyd and Claire Larkin, residents of the Shoal Creek community. Mrs. Larkin discovered the leaf during a morning walk at Camp Larkin. After weeks of research and preparation by Mrs. Larkin and several local professionals, the leaf was measured at Hoover's Arbor Day celebration per the Guinness guidelines. The measurement process served as an integral part of Mrs. Larkin's official application submittal to Guinness. A ruling from Guinness is expected in the coming weeks.



Ruthie Jackson - Overall Winner of Hoover's 2020 4th Grade Arbor Day Essay Contest



Hoover City Councilman John Green with Claire Larkin and her giant cherrybark oak leaf!



Hoover's school Arbor Day programs are fun and educational!

Tree Spotlight – Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

About Cypress Knees Trees

By: Jacob J. Wright (Published in GardenGuides.com, September 21, 2017)

Describing the knobby vertical protrusions of the roots of the bald cypress tree (*Taxodium distichum*), “cypress knees” is a clever, colloquial term. Bald cypress trees are popular landscape trees for use around lakes and streams as singular specimens or in grove clusters. They are appropriate to grow across U.S. Department of Agriculture winter hardiness zones 5-11 or Sunset climate zones 2 through 10 and 12 through 24.



*Bald Cypress Native Habitat
(Image Source - Cold Stream
Farm, Free Soil, MI)*

Origins

Bald cypress trees are native to the coastal plain and lower Mississippi River delta in the southeastern United States. According to the U.S. Forest Service, these trees inhabit flat topography, often seasonal and intermittently inundated with floodwater. Ninety percent of the natural cypress tree woodlands occur at an elevation of 100 feet or less from Delaware to Florida and the southern tip of Illinois to southeastern Texas.

Features

Bald cypresses are deciduous conifers. They lose their feathery, soft and green needles each autumn, turning bright rusty orange before dropping from the twigs. The bald cypress also doesn't flower but instead reproduces by producing male and female cones. Only the female cones ripen to become dry, brown cones that persist into winter. The tree's bark is attractively reddish brown and exfoliating and in wet to shallowly submersed soils, the roots of bald cypress form upward, bony-looking "knees" that resemble dwarf stalagmites.

Significance

For decades, scientists believed cypress knees occurred on trees in wet, oxygen-depleted soils as a means for the roots to exchange oxygen with the atmosphere. Dr. Gerald Klingaman, retired University of Arkansas Extension horticulturist, states that research was conducted on the trees that tend to diminish this old hypothesis. Klingaman mentions that the knees were cut off from trees growing in saturated ground and there were no ill effects on the plants. The knees do seem to improve anchorage of bald cypress trees in soft, wet soils. If a bald cypress tree is grown in average, well-drained soils away from the swamps or edge of water, these knees never develop.

Size

A mature bald cypress typically grows 50 to 70 feet tall, although rare trees can grow as tall as 100 feet according to Dr. Michael Dirr of the University of Georgia. It attains an upright, narrow to broad pyramid-like shape, sometimes becoming more oval with great age or when crowded by other nearby trees. Its mature width is between 20 and 30 feet. Knees can range in height above the soil or water line anywhere from 6- to 36-inches or more.

Growing Considerations

Plant bald cypress trees on the edge of freshwater bodies or in parts of the landscape that are low and tend to slowly drain after rains. They are remarkably adaptable, and can be grown in upland landscapes in average garden soils and even demonstrate a sound tolerance to seasonal droughts. Site these trees in sunny locations for best branching structure and overall habit. Avoid alkaline soils as it leads to a nutrient deficiency, causing foliage to be unattractively yellow-green. Dr. Michael Dirr shares that this tree develops a strong taproot and is best transplanted when small and young as either container-grown or balled and burlapped (B&B) plants.



*Bald cypress is popular in
urban/suburban landscapes
(Photo by Tim Braswell,
Hunter Trees)*



*Bald Cypress Fall Color (Image
Source - The Dirt Doctor, Howard
Garrett)*



*Bald Cypress Fruit (Image Source -
Tree Top Nursery & Landscaping,
Wichita, KS)*

Turkey Creek Reforestation Project

Submitted by: Charles R. Yeager, Manager

With the support of the Alabama Urban Forestry Association, in early 2020 the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve ordered 850 bare root seedlings, comprised of 16 different species. Approximately 250 of these trees were used to revegetate an area adjacent to the Preserve's new parking lot, which was once completely overrun by non-native, invasive plants like Chinese privet and wisteria. After clearing the invasive plants and treating any emergent vegetation in 2019, staff worked with dozens of volunteers from Birmingham-Southern College to replant the area. These trees, in conjunction with other shrubs and herbaceous plants added to the area (and a little well-placed foliar herbicide), should create strong competition against the return of those invasive plants, and improve habitat for local wildlife.

The remaining 600 trees have been potted to ensure their survival until they are needed for future plantings. Most of these trees will be used to help create an "Alabama Tree Walk" adjacent to the Preserve's new outdoor education pavilion. We expect the construction of this pavilion to be completed in early Fall of 2020, and the tree walk to be planted in early winter. This trail will complement a 9-acre restoration plot in the Preserve, and will become a well-used part of the Preserve's environmental education programming, which hosts thousands of students every year.

None of this work would have been possible without the support of the Alabama Urban Forestry Association. Thank you so much for helping to improve the amazing habitat at the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve! Funding for this project was obtained through an Alabama Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Grant to encourage *proper* planting of trees in Alabama. In projects like this, the AUFA continues to plant and/or give away many thousands of trees across the state each year.



Student-volunteers learned proper tree-planting techniques



Native, bare-root seedlings were potted for a future planting project



Volunteers from Birmingham-Southern College assisted with the project



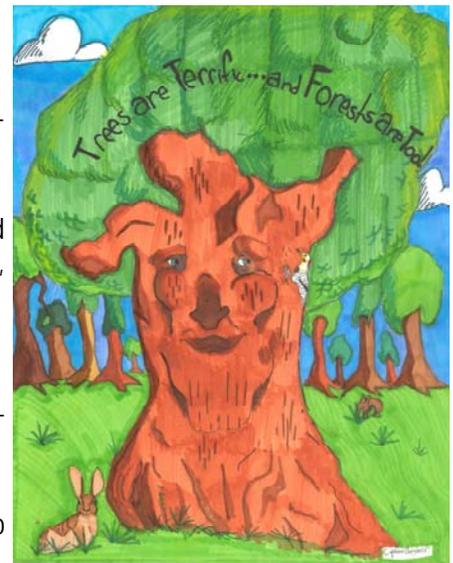
Eastern redbud (Cercis canadensis) was one of 16 different species planted

2021 Arbor Day Poster Contest

Rules:

- Posters must be the original work of a student currently in the fifth grade.
- The use of cartoon characters or television, movie, or sports figures is not acceptable.
- The use of business or company names should not be included on the poster.
- All artwork must be finished and the artist's signature must be in the lower right-hand corner on the front. On the back of the poster, please include child's name, school, grade, address and phone number.
- One winning poster from each school will be accepted. Posters must be complete.
- Create posters in one of the specified mediums and within the correct size limits.
- Posters may be done in marker, colored pencil, crayon, watercolor, ink, acrylic, tempera paint, or paint pen. They may be any size between 8.5×11" and 14×18".
- Computer generated art and printing is not acceptable.
- They must be reproducible—no collages please (collages include anything glued to the poster).
- Posters must be flat. Folded, matted, mounted, laminated, or framed posters are not acceptable.
- The poster must be related to the contest theme in some way.
- The theme must be on the poster. The 2021 theme is:
"Trees are Terrific...in Cities & Towns!"
- Any and all writing should be spelled correctly and easy to read.
- Deadline for entries is 2/10/2021:

Alabama Arbor Day Poster Contest
c/o David West
Calhoun County Extension
1702 Noble Street, Ste 108
Anniston, AL 36201



*2020 First Place Winner
Copeland Bender
Gulf Shores Elementary*



Above: Copeland giving a speech on "What Arbor Day Means to Me" as Governor Kay Ivey looks on.

Left: Governor Ivey welcomes the top 3 poster contest winners.

Should your City be Alabama's "OFFICIAL ARBOR DAY CITY" for 2021?

- Is your city a Tree City USA?
- Do you expect local and state officials to attend your Arbor Day program?
- Can you arrange media coverage at the program?
- How will you promote the Arbor Day program?
- Does the program include an educational component?
- Does the program include a tree giveaway?
- How will you recognize the AUFA?
- Can you accommodate the State Arbor Day Poster winner by providing an area for the winner to autograph his/her poster?
- What is the duration of your Arbor Day program?
- Describe your local resources/support for the program.

APPLY NOW!!!

Contact David West for an application:

westdah@aces.edu.

Deadline for entry is October 1, 2020.

Alabama Power Foundation Accepting Good Roots, Gateway Grant Applications

By Alabama NewsCenter Staff

June 17, 2020



Trees are planted in Alabama communities through Alabama Power Foundation Good Roots grants. (file)

As part of its longstanding commitment to Alabama communities, the Alabama Power Foundation is accepting applications for the 2020 Good Roots and Gateway grant programs.

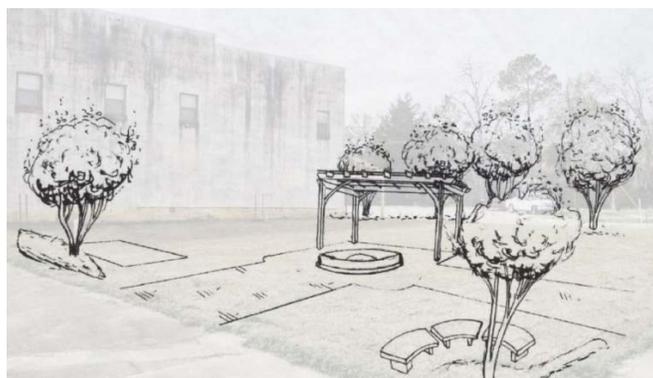
"Good Roots and Gateway grants represent an investment in the communities we serve," said Myla Calhoun, president of the Alabama Power Foundation. "These programs not only contribute to the economic and cultural well-being of our cities and towns, they also promote civic pride."

Good Roots grants provide up to \$1,000 to help cities, towns, schools and nonprofit organizations plant trees to enhance community green spaces. New to this year's program is the option to use the grants to support community beautification efforts. To date, the foundation has awarded more than 690 Good Roots grants totaling more than \$620,000 to plant trees at schools, parks and other community locations.

The Gateway grant program helps revitalize communities by supporting and advancing city and town promotion efforts. Grants of up to \$2,500 provide funding for signs that greet visitors, as well as marketing materials and website development. Since 2012, Gateway has awarded more than \$100,000 to cities, towns and communities throughout Alabama.

The deadline to apply for Good Roots and Gateway grants is Aug. 10. To access online applications and learn more, visit www.powerofgood.com and click on "Grants."

Since its creation in 1989 with funds donated by shareholders, the Alabama Power Foundation has supported Alabama communities, educational institutions and nonprofits through more than 20,000 grants and scholarships using nonratepayer dollars. Learn more about the Alabama Power Foundation and its charitable initiatives at www.powerofgood.com.



A sketch demonstrates Ashford's plans for tree planting using an Alabama Power Foundation grant. (file)



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