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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION HONORS  
2011 GREEN MEDAL AWARD & POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

**WAKE FOREST, NC – March 21, 2011** – The Wake Forest Urban Forestry Board (UFB) recognized its 2011 Green Medal Award and Arbor Day Poster Contest winners during its annual Arbor Day celebration on March 17.

Green Medal Awards recognize individuals, civics clubs, and businesses who work to promote Wake Forest’s urban forest. This year’s honorees were John Patterson (Community Forester) and Pine Forest Memorial Gardens (Corporate).

The UFB also sponsors an annual Arbor Day Poster Contest whereby participants design a poster that reflects their knowledge of a theme presented by the National Arbor Day Foundation. This year over 60 students in Wake Forest’s elementary schools submitted posters related to the theme “Trees are Terrific...In All Shapes and Sizes.”

Poster contest winners for 2011 were Calvin Nguyen, a fifth grader at North Forest Pines Elementary School, who won the top prize for “Best Picture and State Entry”; Natalie Rouse, a fourth grader at North Forest Pines Elementary School, for “Best Picture, Honorable Mention”; Katherine Panebianco, a first grader at St. Catherine of Siena Elementary School, for “Most Creative”; and Chloe Neunsinger, a fifth grader at Hunter Elementary School, for “Most Creative, Honorable Mention.”

All of the winners received award certificates and Series EE Savings Bonds. As a bonus for Nguyen, his drawing appears as the illustration on this year Arbor Day T-shirt and coffee mug. Jennifer Rall, N.C. Division of Forest Resources, who presented the Town with its 32<sup>nd</sup> consecutive Tree City USA award, also announced that Nguyen placed third in the state poster competition.

First graders from Heritage Elementary School, under the direction of Barina Blackwelder, provided the program entertainment by performing several musical numbers.

Arbor Day is part of an annual nationwide campaign to promote the planting of trees. The event began in Nebraska in 1872 when newspaper journalist J. Sterling Morton proposed a tree-planting holiday to the State Board of Agriculture.

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Although National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April, individual state commemorations are scheduled on dates better suited to each state's own tree-planting season. North Carolina celebrates Arbor Day on the first Friday following March 15.

The Wake Forest Urban Forestry Board was established in 1978 as an advisory committee to the Wake Forest Board of Commissioners. The nine-member committee oversees all planting in rights-of-way and on public property.

The 2011 Arbor Day ceremony will be broadcast on Community Channel 10 in April. The program will also be available in streaming video on the Town's website.

To view photos from this year's Arbor Day celebration, visit the Town of Wake Forest's Facebook profile at [www.facebook.com/pages/Town-of-Wake-Forest-NC/103739452804](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Town-of-Wake-Forest-NC/103739452804).

For more information about Wake Forest's urban forestry program, contact Planning Director Chip Russell at (919) 435-9511 or [crussell@wakeforestnc.gov](mailto:crussell@wakeforestnc.gov).

\* [www.wakeforestnc.gov](http://www.wakeforestnc.gov) \*

For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or [bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov](mailto:bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov).