



Contact: Bill Crabtree
Telephone: (919) 435-9421
Email: bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION MARCH 17

WAKE FOREST, NC – March 7, 2011 – The Town of Wake Forest will host its annual Arbor Day celebration on Thursday, March 17, beginning at 10 a.m. The event will be held at the Wake Forest Community House, 133 W. Owen Ave.

Wakefield High School agriculture and horticulture teacher Jodi Riedel, the 2009 NC Environmental Educator of the Year, will be the guest speaker. Riedel is known statewide for developing a forestry curriculum through which she has taught more than 700 students.

Wake Forest's Arbor Day observance will also include a musical performance by Heritage Elementary School students and several award presentations by the Wake Forest Urban Forestry Board. The board will recognize this year's Arbor Day Poster Contest winners and present Green Medal Awards to individuals, civic clubs, and businesses who worked during the past year to promote the town's urban forest.

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.

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

The Urban Forestry Board, formerly known as the Tree 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.

For more information about this year's Arbor Day festivities, call (919) 435-9510.

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

