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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY MARCH 3

WAKE FOREST, NC – February 28, 2012 – The Wake Forest Urban Forestry Board (UFB) is hosting its sixth annual tree seedling giveaway on Saturday, March 3, in Centennial Plaza, 301 S. Brooks St. The event is scheduled from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. - or until all the seedlings are gone.

UFB members will distribute 3,700 flowering dogwood, eastern redbud, persimmon, and Shumard Oak tree seedlings free of charge to Wake Forest-area residents while supplies last. Certified arborists will be on hand to help residents decide which seedlings grow best in their respective yard conditions. Planting instructions, along with useful information about the trees, will be provided on the Town's website at <http://www.wakeforestnc.gov/treeseedlinggiveaway.aspx>.

One change in this year's giveaway involves the UFB's decision not to distribute the tree seedlings in plastic bags. Instead, the UFB is encouraging residents to help protect the environment and reduce the use of plastic bags by bringing their own reusable shopping tote or other environmentally-friendly bag when they pick up their seedlings.

The tree seedlings will be given away on a first-come, first serve basis. Reservations and sign-ups prior to the event will not be accepted.

Each year the UFB sponsors the tree seedling giveaway in observance of Arbor Day, a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. This year the Town of Wake Forest's Arbor Day Celebration is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, at 10 a.m. at the Wake Forest Community House, 133 W. Owen Ave.

The UFB is a citizen group appointed by the Wake Forest Board of Commissioners. The UFB advises the Town of Wake Forest on proper tree maintenance in public areas and is committed to the growth and preservation of the urban forest. Wake Forest has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA for 32 consecutive years.

For more information about this year's tree seedling giveaway, contact Urban Forester Evan Keto at (919) 435-9565 or eketo@wakeforestnc.gov.

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.