



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...February 13, 2007

ARBOR DAY FOCUSES ON VALUE OF GEORGIA TREES

Governor Sonny Perdue has proclaimed Friday, February 16, 2007 Arbor Day in Georgia. The Georgia Forestry Commission is using the annual celebration to show how caring for trees helps communities weather natural, financial and growth-related storms.

"Trees are being impacted across Georgia by many factors," said Robert Farris, Interim Director of the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC). "As we lose canopy cover due to unprecedented development and other pressures, it is our responsibility to work for tree protection through careful planning, tree ordinances, and environmental awareness. Arbor Day is the perfect time to share this message."

Georgia's 116th Arbor Day celebration is being hosted this year in Savannah's historic Daffin Park, which is known as a showcase for Georgia's state tree, the Live Oak. Live Oak trees are particularly good at weathering natural storms because their branch formation helps them withstand heavy winds and the trees are resistant to insects and decay. Savannah is known for being particularly proactive in the protection of trees through its tree ordinances and a strong storm response plan that is a model for other cities. "Savannah's outstanding tree management program is a great example for Georgia," said Farris.

Studies show trees enhance our quality of life. They improve air quality by trapping air pollutants and they reduce the flow of storm water. Trees provide increased property value to homeowners. Tree-lined retail districts have people shopping longer and spending more money. Communities with trees enjoy reduced crime rates.

For more information on Arbor Day visit www.gatrees.org

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