



News Release

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SEARCH LAUNCHED FOR "GREAT AMERICAN TREE"

A nationwide contest is underway to locate the 2015 "Great American Tree". The American Grove is looking for trees that are community landmarks, have environmental or historic significance, or simply have a story that makes them extraordinary.

Nominations for the Great American Tree are due on June 30, 2015, and must include a photograph, a description of why the tree is special, its location, and its species and size, including height and/or diameter. Nominations may be posted to the American Grove website (www.Americangrove.org), Facebook (The Grove), Twitter (@plantyourlegacy; #greatamericantree), or as an attachment to an email (sgranbery@gfc.state.ga.us).

All submitted nominations will be posted to American Grove within their state grove. Georgia entries will be voted on by state American Grove fans (one vote per person) on July 30, and the winner will be placed in the national competition. An "all-star" urban forestry panel will determine the winner of the Great American Tree, which will be announced on September 15, 2015.

The first place winner of the Great American Tree contest will receive \$500 and a complimentary scholarship to the Partners in Community Forestry (PCF) Conference in Denver, CO, November 18-19, 2015. Second place is \$250 and a PCF scholarship, and third place is \$100. The PCF Conference is designed to provide inspiration and tools that help strengthen community forests.

The American Grove is an online community for sharing tree-planting experiences and knowledge that will encourage others to create thriving community forests. It is managed by the Georgia Urban Forest Council, a nonprofit with the mission of sustaining Georgia's green legacy by helping communities grow healthy trees.

The Georgia Forestry Commission provides leadership, service and education in the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources. Learn more at GaTrees.org.

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