



News Release

For more information, contact:
Cheryl Ready
770-788-0462
cprcousins@aol.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...FEBRUARY 19, 2016

(**NOTE: LOCAL PHOTO ATTACHED**)

LOCAL LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR TREES RECOGNIZED

Oxford was among 25 Georgia cities recognized on February 17 for its commitment to caring for and managing their public trees. Oxford was honored during the 2016 State Arbor Day celebration at Trees Atlanta for being one of Georgia's "Tree City USA" communities.

Tree City USA provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across America that meet certain requirements, including the establishment of a tree board or department, a community tree ordinance, specific spending levels for urban forestry and planned Arbor Day celebrations. There are 135 Tree City USAs in Georgia. Nationwide, more than 3,400 Tree City USA communities serve as home to more than 135 million Americans.

The event also recognized Tree Campus USA colleges and Tree Line USA utilities. Due to Georgia's ideal winter tree planting season, the third Friday in February is designated annually as Arbor Day in Georgia. Governor Nathan Deal signed a proclamation naming February 19 as Arbor Day in Georgia for 2016.

The City of Oxford published "The History of Tree Care in Oxford" and significantly increased their budget for trees, which helped it meet the standards necessary to be a Tree City USA for the 2015 year.

"Trees clean our air, filter our water, spur economic growth and provide countless opportunities to enjoy recreation, contributing to a better quality of life," said Robert Farris, Director of the Georgia Forestry Commission. "The citizens of Oxford can take pride in their community leaders' commitment to trees and forested land - on Arbor Day and every other day of the year."

For more information about Georgia's trees and services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit GaTrees.org. For information about becoming a Tree City USA and the Arbor Day Foundation, visit www.arborday.org.

#

** ATTACHED PHOTO CAPTION: Georgia Forestry Commission Director, Robert Farris congratulates Cheryl Ready, Michael Ready and Beryl Budd for helping Oxford become a Tree City USA community. #GAarborday