

# Alabama Urban Forestry Association



# Plantings



## Arbor Day Edition

### Alabama's 2018 Arbor Day City – Mobile, Alabama!

(Submitted by: Fred Kapp, AUFA Executive Director)

The Alabama Urban Forestry Association wrote a grant that was accepted by the Arbor Day Foundation to fund the planting of 200 3, 7 and 15-gallon trees at Mobile's Tricentennial Park on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

AUFA volunteers and staff demonstrated and guided the planting with the help of 75 JM Family employees and children who were celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary with a day of service. Employees from the City of Mobile assisted with pre-digging planting holes, transporting mulch and watering in the trees.

Governor Kay Ivey signed a proclamation naming the city of Mobile as Alabama's Arbor Day City. The proclamation was awarded to Mayor Sandy Stimpson during the event. The proclamation ceremony and many of the day's events were captured by two local television stations and a professional videographer.

Mobile's Tricentennial Park is a low-lying, former neighborhood with flooding issues that has been turned into a very nice public park. The AUFA worked with City Arborist Peter Toler and city staffers to select tree species that would work well with the site including sand live oak, blackgum, Dahoon holly, river birch and bald cypress. AUFA arborists including Jackie Kennedy, Chris Francis, Billy Allen, Donovan Ballard and Peter Toler demonstrated proper planting and then assisted in the installation process.

AUFA members from Alabama Power were also on-hand to distribute 2,000 bald cypress and crape-myrtle seedlings to the public and to promote their Right Tree/Right Place program.

AUFA continues to donate and/or plant trees across Alabama as part of our Alabama Re-Leaf Program. Over the last ten years, the Alabama Re-Leaf program has donated/provided close to 40,000 trees across the state. If you would like to assist in this effort, donate to the program or have an idea of how we can increase our efforts, please contact me.



*Mayor Sandy Stimpson and work group with local TV stations*



*APCO seedling giveaway and 'Right Tree, Right Place' display*



*JM Family members and Chris Francis plant a young bald cypress  
More photos on page 2*

## Madison Beautification Board Presents Arbor Day Lecturer and Planting

*Credit: Gregg Parker, Madison County Record*

To observe Arbor Day 2018, the Madison Beautification and Tree Board held activities at Madison City Hall on Feb. 28.

At 1 p.m., Mayor Paul Finley led the work to plant two trees on the grounds of City Hall. At 5:30 p.m., guest speaker Reginald Randolph discussed “Crapemyrtle Proper Care and Trimming,” according to Mike Keenan, president of Madison Beautification and Tree Board. His lecture instructed the audience how to avoid ‘Crape Murder,’ an improper pruning method that now plagues the plant.

A native of Cuba, AL (south of Tuscaloosa), Randolph graduated from Sumter County High School in York, AL. “I furthered my education at Alabama A&M University, where I played trumpet in the Marching Maroon and White Band and obtained a double major in forestry management and forestry science and a minor in GIS/remote sensing,” Randolph said. His career in forestry started with work as a line clearance representative at Nashville Electric Service. He later transferred to Florence Utilities.

Randolph then decided to pursue a master’s degree in forestry at Alabama A&M. As GSA President, he created a direct line of communication between students and the university president. While a student, Randolph started working at Huntsville Utilities. He trained to become a certified arborist. “But this was not enough. I wanted to do more with my life. I wanted to be in a position where I could serve and educate the public on what I loved most — Nature,” Randolph said. He left Huntsville Utilities “to dedicate my time solely to operating Professional Vegetation Management. We educate on and perform a range of environmental sound solutions,” Randolph said. “I have never looked back.” Professional Vegetation Management provides a range of services for residential and commercial customers throughout the Southeast.

Madison Beautification and Tree Board was established in October 2002. The volunteer board acts in an advisory capacity to the mayor and City Council. Members work to enhance the quality of life in Madison through landscape enhancements. For more information, email [keepmadisonbeautiful@gmail.com](mailto:keepmadisonbeautiful@gmail.com) or visit [keepmadisonbeautiful.org](http://keepmadisonbeautiful.org).

### More photos from Mobile’s Arbor Day Celebration



*AUFA Council members Chris Francis and Jackie Kennedy demonstrate proper tree planting*



*Numerous JM Family members and other volunteers planted trees during the event*



*JM Family interview with Mayor Stimpson and Mobile City Arborist, Peter Toler*



## Hoover, Alabama - Arbor Day 2018

(Submitted by: Colin Conner, City of Hoover – AUFA Council District 2)

The City of Hoover is proud to be recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA for the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Hoover's annual Arbor Day Celebrations are presented by the Hoover Beautification Board and are an important community tradition that encourages the planting and maintenance of trees by residents, schools, businesses and others. Students in Hoover City Schools learn about the history of Arbor Day, the importance of trees in forests and urban environments, and participate in planting and maintaining a tree on their school's campus. Hoover's Arbor Day efforts receive generous sponsorship from local businesses, including AUFA members/supporters Alabama Power, ACE Tree Service and Green Valley Farms.



On March 3, 2018, Hoover's annual community Arbor Day Celebration was held at Aldridge Gardens. The Hoover Beautification Board and city staff planned and organized the event which includes a native tree species give-away. 135 trees representing 14 different native species were provided to Hoover residents, many of whom use the annual tree give-away program to add trees to their home landscapes. Residents were assisted in tree selection by Hoover City staff, Aldridge Gardens staff and local volunteers.

In addition to the tree give-away, fourth grade students from nine Hoover City Schools were honored at the celebration. As a primary educational component of Hoover's annual Arbor Day activities, the Hoover Beautification Board organizes the 4th Grade Arbor Day Essay Contest. The contest challenges students to write about a particular tree topic. Contest judges select a winner from each school and an overall contest winner. This year's writing topic was "Trees are homes in nature and in cities. Imagine you are a small animal whose home is a tree. What animal would you be? What tree would you live in? How would the tree support your needs? How would you support the needs of your tree?" The overall winner was Elliott Smith of Gwin Elementary School with his essay about a peregrine falcon and his home tree.



To conclude the community Arbor Day Celebration, the attendees planted a 3" *Cornus controversa* (giant dogwood) on the grounds at Aldridge Gardens.

In addition to the community celebration, seven Hoover City Schools celebrated Arbor Day with a tree planting program on campus. City staff work with campus faculty and City Schools Operations staff to choose an appropriate tree species and planting location. The schools use the opportunity to renew and enhance their campus grounds. The following elementary or intermediate schools participated in the 2018 School Arbor Day celebrations: Brock's Gap, Greystone, Gwin, Riverchase, Rocky Ridge, Shades Mountain and South Shades Crest. Large containerized or field-grown trees were installed to the delight of several hundred students.

Prior to the campus programs, city staff prepare the plantings site. The plantings are used as an opportunity to teach students about various topics including the importance of planting trees, selecting appropriate trees for the urban landscape, information specific to the species being planted, and correct methods for planting, mulching and maintaining trees. Students assist with planting, mulching and watering of their Arbor Day Tree. Each school plans a unique program for their campus. Hoover Beautification Board members attend the tree plantings and create a record of the event to share with community members and participating schools. We were honored this year to welcome Mayor Frank Brocato to all but one of the school Arbor Day programs.

*Photos courtesy of Don't Blink Photography.*

## CSX Railroad Funds Montgomery Tree Project

(Submitted by Russell Stringer, City of Montgomery – AUFA Council District 3)

Montgomery Trees, Inc. is an independent tree advocacy non-profit group in Montgomery, Alabama. This group is very active in urban forestry projects, partnering with the city to maintain Tree City USA status and conducting Arbor Day activities including a large seedling giveaway. They also raise funds to purchase and install street trees. These efforts are quite evident as you drive through downtown Montgomery.

This summer, the Alliance for Community Trees and CSX Railroad awarded a grant to Montgomery Trees. The grant was to be used to fund a riparian tree buffer along a stream within the City of Montgomery. Montgomery Trees quickly put these funds to good use.

Galbraith Mill Creek is an urban stream that flows through Lagoon Park in Montgomery. In recent years, a volunteer group incorporated as Lagoon Park Trails has begun building and maintaining walking and biking trails along this waterway, which is plagued with invasive species and sedimentation from stormwater runoff. Galbraith Mill Creek was the perfect location and Lagoon Park Trails the perfect partner for this project.

With funding from CSX Railroad through ACTrees, Montgomery Trees purchased 75 containerized baldcypress to plant as a riparian buffer. Montgomery's Urban Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission personnel and local Boy Scouts were recruited to assist with the project. Dodging snow and ice, these trees were planted along an open area of creek bank, arranged as naturally as possible.

This project goes further than installing a tree buffer next to the creek. The addition of native riparian trees to act as a buffer and provide a canopy of shade over the creek will allow Lagoon Park Trails to remove and control invasive tree species along this section of streambank, effectively killing two birds with one stone. Montgomery Trees and Lagoon Park Trails are committed to making this an ongoing project.

It's one thing to talk about the importance of trees to our waterways, it's quite another to put a tangible project on the ground. All parties involved with this project are to be commended, and special thanks to CSX Railroad for providing the funding through ACTrees which made this project a reality.



## Fifth Grade Student Wins Alabama Arbor Day Poster Contest

(Submitted by David West, State Poster Contest Coordinator)

Ann Gibbons, a fifth grade student from Weatherly Heights Elementary School in Huntsville, has won the 2018 Arbor Day Poster Contest. She will be presented with \$50, a one-year AUFA membership and other prizes for her winning poster, designed around the contest theme “Trees Are Terrific...in Cities & Towns!”.

Some 2,337 students, in 142 classrooms, in 41 schools participated in the contest.

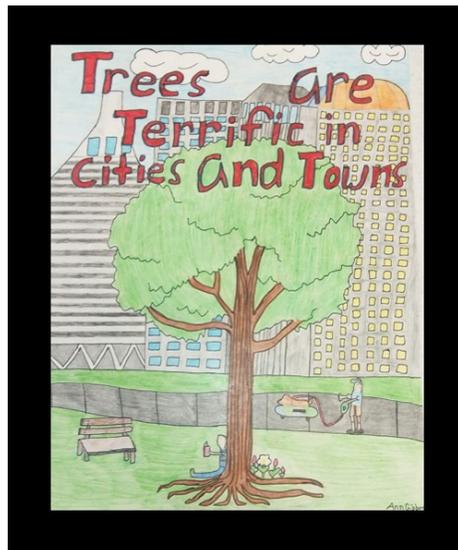
Governor Kay Ivey hosted a tree planting ceremony with Ann and contest runners up on the Capitol grounds in Montgomery on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Ann gave a short speech entitled “What Arbor Day Means to Me,” and she received the Arbor Week Proclamation signed by Governor Ivey.

“Arbor Day allows us to reflect on the need to protect our state’s natural resources,” Governor Ivey said. “I’m proud to see so many young people participate in the Arbor Day Poster contest, as it shows us that our young people are learning about the importance of caring for our natural resources”.

Two runners-up were also recognized in the Alabama contest: Second Place winner Carliegh Jurkiewicz from Gulf Shores Elementary, and Third Place winner Sarah Sloughfy from Kitty Stone Elementary in Jacksonville.

The Alabama Arbor Day Poster competition is sponsored by the Alabama Urban Forestry Association, Alabama Extension, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Alabama, Inc., Alabama Power Company, Legacy, Inc., Auburn University School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, Keep Alabama Beautiful, Alabama 4-H, and Governor Ivey’s office.

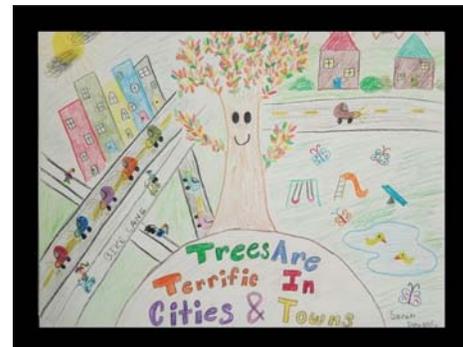
The Alabama Arbor Day Poster Contest originated in 1997. More information about the Alabama Arbor Day Poster Contest is available by contacting David West at (256) 237-1621 or on the web at [www.aces.edu/Calhoun/arborday](http://www.aces.edu/Calhoun/arborday). The poster theme and associated lesson plans change each year.



First Place Winner



Second Place Winner



Third Place Winner



Governor Ivey reviewing the winning posters



Governor Ivey poses with the Miss Alabama Woodlands Scholarship Program Queens



The Governor & winners planting a yoshino cherry tree.



Governor Ivey autographing shovels for the winners

## A \$600.00 Hole for a \$75.00 Tree!

(Submitted by James Jennings, City of Auburn – AUFA Council District 3)

Some 20+ years ago, the City of Auburn planted two Southern Magnolias, approximately 200 yards apart. One tree was located in sandy loam soil with a high pine overstory canopy. The other tree was located in full sun, in heavy clay soil near an asphalt parking lot. The pictures below should demonstrate a significant difference in performance...



*Sad Magnolia*



*Happy Magnolia*

The City recently planted a ¾ trade gallon sycamore in its Historic Tree Grove. The tree, purchased from American Heritage Trees in Lebanon, TN, is a direct descendant of a Sycamore from George Washington's Mount Vernon home. The planting site is along a creek but the native soil was capped by the heavy clay typically added during construction grading.

In hopes of avoiding the "Magnolia Syndrome" previously described, a 6 foot by 6 foot hole about 2 feet deep was excavated and refilled with sandy loam soil. Excavation broke through the layer of clay and will hopefully give the tree a better chance to reach its potential!

Unfortunately, the first and most impressive picture of the little tree sitting in the freshly excavated hole did not take. I won't be quitting my day job to become a photographer!



*Sycamore site - Imagine this hole 2 feet deep*



*Sycamore - Planted a little high for settlement*



*A couple of inches of bark mulch*



*Water helps (most any sycamore)!*

## Tree City USA - Year 31

*Credit: The Courier Journal*

The City of Florence has been designated a “Tree City USA” for the 31st consecutive year by the Arbor Day Foundation. Earning this distinction was a city-wide effort by the Florence Street, Electricity, Parks & Recreation Departments, Florence Housing Authority, the Mayor and City Council, and the Florence Tree Commission and Urban Forestry team.

A public celebration of this achievement took place on Thursday, February 22 at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library Conference Room.

A proclamation from the mayor was read by council member Kaytrina Simmons and a flag ceremony was presented by Boy Scouts of America Troop 285.

Immediately after the celebration, a Memorial Tree was planted on Walnut Street in memory of Patsy Joyce Dahl, Matt Wright, and Elba P. “Judy” Willis. This Memorial Tree Planting by the Florence Tree Commission was made possible by donations received throughout the year of 2017.



*Shannon Adams, Angie Baker and Lavetta Adams plant a tree for Arbor Day in 2016 on Walnut St. in Florence. (Courtesy photo)*

## Cullman a Tree City for 30 Consecutive Years

*Credit: Timothy Collins, Cullman Today*

The place to be this morning was in front of Cullman City Hall for the annual Tree City USA Dedication. Recognized for the 30th straight year the City of Cullman has been named once again by the Arbor Day Foundation as a *Tree City USA*. This designation honors the City’s commitment to outstanding urban forest management. Students attending schools in the City of Cullman competed in the annual State Arbor Day Poster Contest. Each 1st and 2nd place winner received a \$25 check from the City of Cullman and a Certificate of Participation from AUFA.



*Poster Contest 1st Place winners were: Ava Flores (East Elementary), Jazmin Conn (West Elementary), Addison ‘Addi’ Dyer (Cullman Christian), Aubrey Hastings (Sacred Heart) & Rachel Dueland (St. Paul’s). 2nd Place winners were: Cole Harrison (East Elementary), Hilson Cole (West Elementary), Mariel Dominguez (Cullman Christian), Kambelle Gentry (Sacred Heart) & Cash Miller (St. Paul’s).*

We chatted with forestry specialist **Albert Mayo** who works with the Alabama Forestry Commission. He is intimately familiar with the woodlands of Cullman City and County. To earn Tree City USA recognition, the City of Cullman had to jump through some required hoops:

- Documenting that the city has an official Tree Commission. It does. The Cullman Tree Commission has seven members meeting at 10 am on the third Tuesday of every even-numbered month at City Hall.
- Document a tree care ordinance. It does. The City of Cullman’s Urban Forestry Ordinance is numbered as #1343.
- Document an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita. The City of Cullman does this. The city’s per capita budget for community forestry is \$96.50 per person.
- An Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

That was all accomplished, with Mayor Woody Jacobs issuing an Arbor Day proclamation. The Tree Commission, Cullman County Extension Office, and the Alabama Forestry Service conducted a tree sale. An Arbor Day Poster Contest for Cullman City Schools fifth-grade students. Tree City flag-raising ceremony. The Arbor Day Foundation is a million-member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.



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## **2018 AUFA Annual Conference**

The Alabama Urban Forestry Association is thrilled to be returning to beautiful, north-central Alabama for this year's conference. We will visit Huntsville, Alabama's third-largest city **October 10-12th**, for 2.5 days of CEU-filled professional development!

Among an assorted field of talented and highly sought after presenters, our keynote speaker this year will be the one and only Dr. Kim D. Coder of the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources at UGA.

Our conference hotel this year is the Spring Hill Suites in Downtown Huntsville. The conference will also feature training on the grounds of the Huntsville Botanical Gardens just a few miles away. We will have ample opportunities for sponsorships and displays, both indoors and outdoors.

Conference registration and room reservation detail will be available soon on our website - [aufa.com](http://aufa.com).  
Please make plans to attend!

Looking forward to seeing you in Huntsville!!!

*Charlie McGuffey*  
AUFA VP