

ARBOR DAY

- WHEREAS: The first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872 in Nebraska as a special day for planting trees and has grown to thousands of celebrations in communities across our nation each year; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is blessed with forests that cover 66 percent of the state; and
- WHEREAS: Community partners across the state will join together in an effort to recognize the value of trees and celebrate Georgia's statewide Arbor Day theme, "Health Trees, Healthy Cities, Healthy People;" and
- WHEREAS: Trees improve air and water quality, reduce the erosion of precious topsoil, increase property value and economic vitality in business areas, provide shade and habitat for wildlife and add beauty to communities; and
- WHEREAS: The Sustainable Community Forestry Program benefits the citizens of Georgia by planning and caring for trees and forests to help make communities healthier and safer and supporting public policies that conserve, protect and enhance Georgia's forests; and
- WHEREAS: All Georgian's benefits from forestry, which contributes \$20 billion annually to our state's economy and provides employment for more than 170,000 people; now
- THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 18, 2005, as ARBOR DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to plant trees thus promoting the well-being of present and future generations.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 17th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand five.