



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA ARBOR DAY

WHEREAS: The first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872 as a special day for the appreciation of trees. Today, it has grown to thousands of celebrations in communities across our nation each year; and

WHEREAS: Community partners, families and friends will join together at local Arbor Day ceremonies to plant and recognize the benefits of trees and urban forests; and

WHEREAS: Trees provide a multitude of benefits, including improved water quality and quantity, healthier environments, reduced erosion of precious topsoil, increased property values and economic vitality in business areas, increased energy efficiency through shade, clean air and habitat for wildlife, and beauty to communities; and

WHEREAS: All of Georgia benefits from forestry, which contributes \$25 billion annually to our state's economy and provides employment for more than 118,000 people; and

WHEREAS: On February 15, 2013, trees will be planted across the state, creating a lasting legacy for future generations; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 15, 2013, 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 10th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Cl. W. R.

CHIEF OF STAFF