

Children's Garden Club
Volume # 8, Sheet #4
April 7th, 2007
Celebrate Arbor Day
For the Garden at Haefner's
6703 Telegraph Road

Welcome to the April Meeting !

Welcome Back to Haefner's, Marsha & Greg are glad to see again this year!

What a better way to welcome Spring than to plant a tree. And Yester Day was Missouri Arbor day! Today everyone will go home with a bare root tree seedling compliments of the Missouri Department of Conservation, and instructions on how to plant it. We will also go over some history of Arbor Day.

How many of you here today were here in last October the 7th when we leaned about Spring Miracles, and we planted the Narcissus 'Tahiti' bulbs outside and the one you took home is it blooming? What do you remember about it? Yes it is a 2007 Plant of Merit, if you and your parents wish to learn more about Plants of Merit we would like to Invite you to the May 19th Adult Class & Children with there Parents are welcome @ 11:00 a.m. at Queeny park the Mason road entrance at the Queeny Barn Courtyard Garden which is a Plant of Merit display garden. Mary Ann Fink Coordinator of the program from Missouri Botanical Garden will lead the discussion and tour.

In Missouri the first Friday in April is "Arbor Day". With our state tree the beautiful Flowering Dogwood. Missouri first observed Arbor Day in 1886. In Missouri every fourth-grader has been involved in Arbor Day receiving tree seedlings to plant from Missouri Department of Conservation. Surveys show that about one-third of these trees survive. These and all trees planted add to the beauty of our country, state and nation. Trees beyond the their

beauty help clean the air and water in our communities. With this growing knowledge and appreciation of trees will hopefully encourage tomorrow's adults to become good stewards of our natural resources.

A proclamation by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907 to the schools of the of the United States to observe an Arbor Day in every state in our Union.

The Tree Seedlings you are receiving today are Dogwood, flowering dogwood Cornus florida - we are lucky to receive our State Tree. This is also a Native Tree. Blooms: mid April to mid May – Height: to 30feet. This well known and often planted tree is found on wooded slopes, ravines, along bluffs, upland ridges, in thickets and on well drained soils. The showy bloom is actually composed of four large petal-like white bracts which surround a small yellow-green cluster composed of the true flower.

Question: what is this large petal-like color bract also found on that we talked about last year ? Hint the month of December.

Happy Arbor Day Celebration!

It all began in Nebraska in 1872. A special day was set aside for planting trees. The Idea for Arbor Day came from a man named Julius Sterling Morton, from Nebraska City, Nebraska. Morton and his wife, Caroline, were among the pioneers moving into Nebraska Territory in 1854. Having lived in Detroit where they were surrounded by trees, they grew up being lovers of nature.

Morton was a journalist and became editor of Nebraska first newspaper. With writing at his fingertips, he used the newspaper to spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees to an audience that listened. Morton promoted tree planting and carte also wrote and spoke about environmental stewardship and how all of life is interrelated. Through the newspaper and his speeches, he encouraged everyone to set

aside a specific day to plant a trees. In 1872, the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture accepted a resolution by him “ to set aside one day to plant trees, both forest and fruit”. Arbor was officially proclaimed by the young state’s Governor Robert W. Furnas on March 12, 1874 and the day itself was observed and set there forth on April 10th ,1874 for a permanent observance, which just happened to be Morton’s birthday. The Board declared April 10^h as Arbor Day and offered prizes to counties and individuals for the tree planting efforts. With this first tree planting holiday celebration, J. Sterling Morton became known in history as the Father of Arbor Day. Today, Arbor is celebrated in all 50 states and around the world.

All over the world, people are planting trees in their yards and in their communities, caring for them, and learning about their value. In other lands you may hear it called Arbor Week, Tree Holiday, or Tree Festival. In Japan, it is called Greening Week. Israel it is called the New Year’s Day of the Trees. Korea actually has a Tree-loving Week. Iceland has a Student’s Afforestation Day. (notice the word “forest” hidden in that complicated word). This means “to change open land into forest”. People in India celebrate a National Festival of tree planting. Whatever you call this special time or event, we all are sharing the news that trees are important to us all, wherever we live around the world.

Celebrate Trees, They’re Great !
Celebrate Arbor Day !
Why ?

The Celebration of Arbor Day gives us an opportunity to learn about trees and take part in a great positive action to make the world a better place. Here is a few things to consider why trees are so important to us all !!!

- Trees provide shade to keep us and our homes cool on a hot summer day.
- Trees give off vital oxygen through photosynthesis which you and I and animals need to breathe.

- Trees absorb harmful pollutants and small particles from the air which could damage our lungs.
- Trees reduce noise pollution.
- Trees give us products such as: chewing gum, crayons, soap, shatterproof glass, suntan lotion, cork, dyes, life-saving drugs, writing paper, newspaper, syrup, perfume, pencils, firewood, building materials and more....
- Trees provide a home and food for wildlife.
- Rotting logs and leaves eventually turn into soil and put nutrients back into the soil for other plants to grow.
- Trees are beautiful to look at, nice to listen to as leaves rustle in the breeze, fun to explore, exciting to climb, and great to dream under.
- Trees are a great way to honor, celebrate a special event, or as a memorial to that person that will grow into the future.
- Anyone can do it. Even start a tree with a seed in a small pot and watch it grow.

What is your favorite thing or things about trees?

What is your favorite Tree? And Why....

Please join us next month May 5th. 2007 – Vegetables-“Plant a Row for the Hungry”
Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd.
Vegetables Sponsored by Wiethop’s Greenhouses

Attached is Standard Tree Planting Detail, Word Search Puzzle, Dogwood info sheet