

# Great Faces, Green Spaces

## Healthy Forests, Healthier Communities.

A newsletter of the South Dakota Community Forestry Program and the South Dakota Community Forestry Advisory Council (SDCFAC).

### Arbor Day in South Dakota

Arbor Day is designed to specifically recognize trees for the many environmental functions and values they provide.

The 1947 State Legislature designated the last Friday in April as South Dakota's official Arbor Day. The Law was repealed in 1995 as part of an omnibus elimination of laws that restrict or pertain to education, but reestablished by the 1998 Legislature.

In honor of Arbor Day, citizens and communities across South Dakota come together to green our yards and streets. Students learn about trees and how they



*Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill, Deputy Ag Secretary Jon Farris, and Pierre City Commissioner Jeanne Goodman displaying a flag honoring Pierre's 28<sup>th</sup> year as a Tree City USA during Pierre's 2011 Arbor Day celebration.*

benefit us. Teachers take South Dakota's students outside to plant trees on their school campuses.

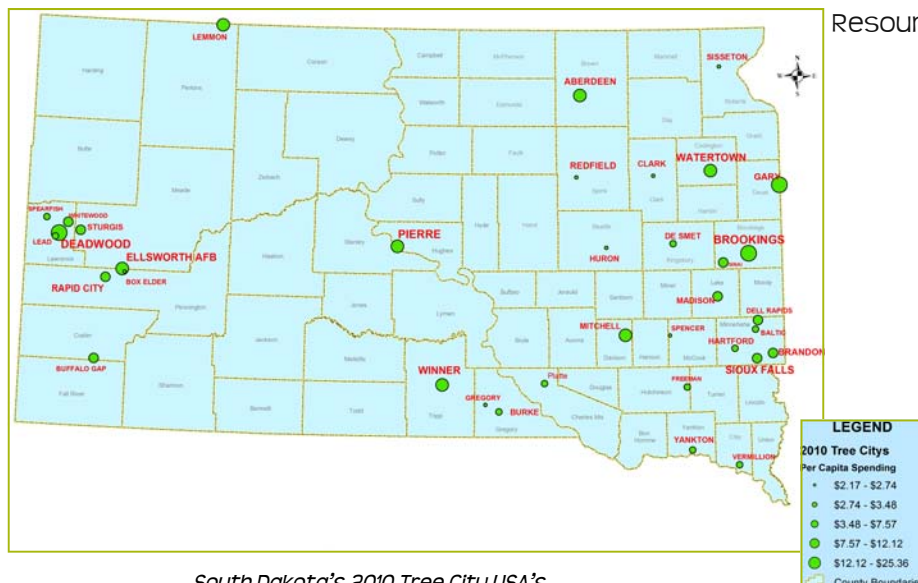
Across the United States, people from all cultures, races, and economic backgrounds, pick up shovels and get dirty.

The 2011 Arbor Day in South Dakota was one of our best to date. Communities, citizens, and students planted hundreds of trees. Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry foresters gave Arbor Day and Tree City USA presentations at 35 Arbor Day celebrations and 21 schools throughout the state. 🌿

**Tree City USA** is a community improvement and national recognition program for towns and cities that have met established standards and effectively manage their public resources. The program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and the US Forest Service at the national level, and by the South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry at the state level. To qualify for Tree City USA designation, a community must meet four standards:

1. Organize a community tree board to oversee the urban and community forestry program;
2. Establish and enforce an effective community tree ordinance;
3. Implement a community forestry program funded by a minimum of \$2.00 per capita; and
4. Celebrate Arbor Day with an official proclamation and organized observance.

To find out how your community can become a Tree City USA, please see the Arbor Day Foundation website at: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) or contact your local Resource Conservation and Forestry forester. 🌿



South Dakota's 2010 Tree City USA's

#### 2010 South Dakota Tree City USA Statistical Data

Number of Tree City, USA Communities: 36

Recertification rate: 106%

Number of Growth Award recipients: 1

Percent of population living in a Tree City, USA: 53%

Largest Tree City, USA community (153,888): Sioux Falls

Smallest Tree City, USA community (120): Sinai

\$ spent by communities on community forestry management: \$3 Million+

Average per capita spent on community forestry programs: \$7.55

# South Dakota Arbor Day Contests

## Arbor Day Poster Contest

The Arbor Day Poster contest incorporates principles of science, geography, and art into fun, hands-on lesson plans that students enjoy. Prizes are awarded and recognition provided for the students who place first, second, and third. The top twelve winners will have their art featured in the annual South Dakota Arbor Day Poster Contest Calendar.

During the 2011 contest, more than 12,500 South Dakota students had the opportunity to discover the importance of trees and forests to our environment. **Lauren Crouch** was named the state contest winner. Her poster depicted the diversity found in the forests within our communities to convey the 2011 theme, "Trees are Terrific ... In all Shapes and Sizes!" 🌿

## Arbor Day Poster Contest Calendar

The South Dakota Arbor Day Poster Contest Calendar is a collection of the top twelve posters from the previous year's contest. The calendar is a way to recognize the winners as well as promote and celebrate Arbor Day and the many benefits trees provide. 2012's calendar will feature the artwork of the top twelve 2011 Arbor Day Poster Contest artists. 🌿



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## Arbor Day Essay Contest

2011 marks the 34<sup>th</sup> year of the Arbor Day Essay Contest open to all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from around the state. We received 1,426 entries from 36 conservation districts. **Kaylee Clark** of Stickney, **Breanna Dockendorf** of Tyndall, and **Becca Ymker** of Armour are the winning essayists.

Sponsored by South Dakota's conservation districts, McDonald's Restaurants of South Dakota, and South Dakota Department of Agriculture, the contest provides fifth and six grade students the opportunity to write about the importance of Arbor Day and tree planting in South Dakota.

For their efforts, the students win awards and cash prizes in addition to learning more about trees. 🌿

## 2011 CONSERVATION SPEECH CONTEST

The Results are in! This years competition was close; there were wonderful entries from across the state. The students performed admirably and all deserve a huge CONGRATS!

This year's theme: "Conserving Nature as I Walk in South Dakota" was best exemplified by Hannah Brenden, sponsored by the South Brown Conservation District. Brenden is a junior at Aberdeen Central High School. She is the daughter of Tom and Dianne Brenden of Aberdeen. Brenden will receive a \$1,100 scholarship.

Receiving second place and a \$750 scholarship was Tessa Stout, a sophomore at Kadoka Area High School. She is the daughter of Thad and Penny Stout of Kadoka, SD and was sponsored by the Jackson County Conservation District.

Receiving third place and a \$450 scholarship was Grace Chang sponsored by the Minnehaha Conservation District. She is a senior at Lincoln High School and is the daughter of KC and Irene Chang of Sioux Falls, SD.

Scholarships totaling \$2,300 for the winners are provided by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of South Dakota. The contest is co-sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

Questions on the Speech Contest should be directed to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. 🌿



Hannah Brenden of Aberdeen, South Brown Conservation District, receives her 1<sup>st</sup> place prizes from Ken Gillaspie of East River Electric.

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# 2011 Whitewood Forestry Field Day a Success

*Contributed by: Samantha Wangsgard, Community Forester  
SDDA Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry, Rapid City Office*



On May 10th, 2011 I conducted a Forestry Field Day for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class at Whitewood Elementary School in Whitewood, South Dakota. While the weather forecast predicted rain, no rain materialized and I was able to introduce fifteen eager students to the field of forestry and natural resources.

Beginning in the morning I spent some time with the students in the classroom. Having covered units on photosynthesis I reviewed what they learned and explained how trees grow and how they get their nutrients. We also talked about how to determine a tree's age, and the students got the chance to look at several tree cookies and count the growth rings. The last thing we did before heading out to the local Oak Park was look at the different tools of the forestry trade. Students were shown increment borers, clinometers, compasses, prisms, and diameter tapes.

During the morning session at Oak Park, students were split into two groups and spent time at two stations. At one station students learned how to determine their pacing and about measuring how many of their paces would equal a chain (66 feet) which is distance often used in forestry. The second station allowed students to see how foresters measure the density or basal area of a forest using a prism.

After a lunch back in the classroom, I spoke with the students about my job and what I do as a forester with

the State of South Dakota. I answered questions and spent a few minutes discussing in more detail two tools they would be using when we returned to Oak Park – the compass and clinometer.

Upon our return to Oak Park the students were again split into two groups and spent time at two stations. The afternoon sessions focused on learning to use a compass and learning how to measure the height of a tree and the diameter of a tree using clinometers, diameter tapes, and their pacing from the morning session to measure distances.

At the conclusion of both of these sessions, I spent time showing students how to use an increment borer to extract a core from a tree and determine its age. To round out the day we returned to the classroom where I talked more about careers in natural resources and forestry, and the classes an individual should take in high school to prepare for attending a college for forestry.

Overall, the field day was a great success. The students were a pleasure to work with and I look forward to conducting more of these Forestry Field Days in the future. 🌿



## Changes to South Dakota's Street Tree Inventories

This summer, all of the street tree inventories collected throughout the state will be transferred from Davey TreeKeeper Online to TreeWorks software. TreeWorks is a fully-integrated, standard extension to ArcGIS Desktop and ArcPad. TreeWorks allows the inventories to be spatially viewed on an aerial photograph to help in relocating the trees.

By the end of the summer, the inventory data transfer to TreeWorks will be complete. However, during this transition time, communities will not be able to access their data online. This will be effective July 1st, 2011.

The TreeWorks software will allow us to capture important tree data such as species, cultivar, height, diameter, planting date, and a picture.

Additional updates and information will follow in the months ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Tiffany Arp from the Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry. 🌿



*Communities with Street Tree Inventories.*

Aberdeen	Chamberlain	Lemmon	Sturgis
Andover	Clark	Mobridge	Tripp
Bison	De Smet	Murdo	Wall
Box Elder	Eagle Butte	Pierre	Wasta
Britton	Elk Point	Platte	Webster
Brookings	Freeman	Roscoe	Whitewood
Bryant	Highmore	Selby	Winner
Canton	Kennebec	Spearfish	

## Local Webster 4-H Club beautifies Courthouse Campus

*Contributed by: Craig Brown, Community Forester  
SDDA Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry, Watertown Office*

Jolly Workers 4-H club of Webster, SD was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry's Community Forestry Challenge grant.

Webster's Jolly Workers 4-H club applied for the grant to plant trees around the courthouse green which lost many trees over the years due to wind, ice storms, and disease.



*Day County Courthouse Campus after the 2008 windstorm.*

To get this project rolling, the club met with the Day County Commissioners several times, to get their 'OK' for the project. Once that was accomplished, they went about securing partnerships with the Day County courthouse staff, the SDDA Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry, Modern Woodsmen, and the Day County Conservation district.



*Day County Courthouse Campus after Jolly Workers 4-H Club tree planting.*

The project took place on a gray, cool day. However, this did not damper the kid's enthusiasm and get-it-done attitude they'd shown throughout every stage of this project.

It cannot be said that these youths didn't encounter any adversity during this project. After having spent a day planting twenty five landscape grade trees, watering them all, and placing mulch-rings down to protect them, vandals later pulled out several

of the trees and the mulch pads. The 4-H club members spent the next morning going through town collecting the displaced trees and mulch rings. The trees were replanted early the next morning. Only time will tell if the trees sustained damage.

Over the course of this project, the members of the Jolly Workers 4-H club have learned valuable life lessons.

The Jolly Workers 4-H club's overall top goal is to make Webster a better place to live through community service projects, which will improve the aesthetic and conservation needs of the Day County Courthouse campus. These dedicated, community-oriented young citizens proved you don't have to have years of experience to make a difference in your community; you just have to have determination and a willingness to think outside the box. 🌱



*Jolly Workers replanting trees torn out of the ground by vandals.*



*Jolly Workers 4-H Club members after a successful tree planting at the Day County Courthouse Campus in Webster, SD.*

## Upcoming Events

❖ **SD Arborist Association Annual Conference:** November 8-9, 2011. Pierre, SD. [www.sdarborists.com/](http://www.sdarborists.com/)

❖ **Other Water Festival events around the state:** Various Dates. [www.sd-discovery.com/waterfestival.shtml](http://www.sd-discovery.com/waterfestival.shtml)

❖ **ISA Certified Arborist Exam:** Multiple deadlines and venues. [www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx](http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx)

❖ **Tree Board University:** Online, at your own pace. [www.treeboardu.org/](http://www.treeboardu.org/)




Tree Campus, USA is sponsored nationally through the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with Toyota Corporation. This program recognizes college and university campuses that:

- ◆ Effectively manage their campus trees.
- ◆ Develop connectivity with the community beyond campus borders to foster healthy, urban forests.
- ◆ Strive to engage their student population utilizing service learning opportunities centered on campus, and community, forestry efforts.

Colleges and universities can be recognized as a Tree Campus USA college by meeting five standards developed to promote healthy trees and student involvement.

1. Campus Tree Advisory Committee
2. Campus Tree Care Plan
3. Campus Tree Program with Dedicated Annual Expenditures
4. Arbor Day Observance
5. Service Learning Project

Currently, South Dakota has two Tree Campus USAs. South Dakota State University (SDSU) located in Brookings, SD, is our longest running Tree Campus. In 2010, the University of South Dakota (USD) located in Vermillion, SD, joined SDSU and became South Dakota's 2<sup>nd</sup> Tree Campus, USA.

To find out more about how to start your campus along the path to Tree Campus USA status, check out the Arbor Day Foundation website at: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) or contact your local Resource Conservation and Forestry forester. 



SDSU students and faculty celebrate SDSU's 2011 Arbor Day with a tree and landscape planting project. The Horticulture-260 students designed and help implement the planting project. Pictured here: Rick Mayko-SDDA, Tom Cheesebrough-Associate Dean, Dean Kattelman-VP of Facility Services, and the SDSU Horticulture-260 class.

## Drowning Trees

*Contributed by: Tiffany Arp, Community Forestry Coordinator  
SDDA Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry, Pierre Office*

As many of you are aware, much of the state has received record setting levels of precipitation this year. Not only has South Dakota been dealing with wetter than normal conditions, much of the region has as well. This perfect storm of hydrologic events has lead to massive flooding of the Missouri River. Those communities along the Missouri have seen an inundation of water into their communities.



Griffin Park in Pierre, SD.  
Photo Credit: Patrick M. Callahan.

Many have started looking at the trees and are wondering the short- and long-term effects this water will have on their trees.

The primary effect of flooding is the reduction of oxygen in the soil. Most of the

fine roots of the tree is in the upper six inches of soil; these roots are responsible for the uptake of water and oxygen. As oxygen levels decrease, the fine roots begin to die. As the roots die, the tree's ability to absorb water decreases and the foliage begins to wilt.

It may take several years for a mature tree to recover from a summer of flooding. The trees will be vulnerable

to attack by pests and pathogens. You should inspect your trees on a regular basis to identify and manage any disease outbreak. During this time you should not fertilize the trees or prune any living branches from the crown unless they are broken. Dead branches should be removed.

As the soils dry, you may need to water your tree. Much of the root systems will have been damaged and your tree may not have a sufficient number of roots left to absorb the necessary amounts of water to sustain itself.

The most common symptoms associate with flooding are:

- leaf discoloration , usually yellowing;
- leaf scorching and wilting;
- premature fall color;
- premature defoliation;
- sprouting along the trunk;
- twig and branch dieback; and
- with severe or persistent flooding, death.

These symptoms may occur during or after flooding.