



# Alabama Urban Forestry Association



P.O. Box 314  
Montevallo, AL 35115  
Toll-Free: 877-548-0440  
[info@aufa.com](mailto:info@aufa.com)

*For immediate release:*

February 21, 2008 - The City of Gulf Shores has been selected by the Alabama Urban Forestry Association to be the Official Tree City for the State of Alabama. Governor Bob Riley will recognize the City by proclamation, and AUFA Past-President Cleve Formwalt will present the proclamation at Gulf Shore's Arbor Day Event Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

"Gulf Shores' urban forestry program has survived and thrived during challenging circumstances, including recent hurricanes. They are a wonderful example for other communities across the State", says AUFA President David West.

The first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska on April 10, 1872, thanks to a resolution proposed by Nebraska City, Neb., resident J. Sterling Morton. Morton, a civic leader, agriculturist, and former newspaper editor, urged Nebraskans to "set aside one day to plant trees, both forest and fruit." The tree-planting holiday was so popular that by 1920, more than 45 states and U.S. territories annually celebrated Arbor Day. Today, Arbor Day is observed in all 50 states and in many countries around the world. Alabama celebrates Arbor Day the last full week in February each year.

The AUFA and the State of Alabama have recognized an official Arbor Day community since 2003. Established in 1989, the Alabama Urban Forestry Association (AUFA) is a committed leader in the issues of urban forestry. AUFA promotes proper tree management, care, and protection among other tree issues in the urban setting. AUFA is dedicated to helping trees and people live together in harmony.

For more information on Arbor Day activities and how your community can be recognized, visit [www.aufa.com](http://www.aufa.com).