

Tree Amigos 4-H Program Honored by The National Arbor Day Foundation for Exemplary Tree Planting Efforts

The National Arbor Day Foundation honored the Tree Amigos 4-H program of Anniston, Alabama, for its dedication to planting trees.

The Tree Amigos 4-H Club is one of only 20 individuals, groups or organizations that was honored for their environmental stewardship at the 2007 Arbor Day Awards banquet, held at the Lied Lodge & Conference Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska, on Saturday, June 2, 2007.

The Tree Amigos 4-H Club received an Education Award, which recognizes model programs throughout the United States and the world.

The Tree Amigos 4-H Club is a horticultural therapy program started by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in 1994. This program paired Calhoun County Master Gardeners with children and staff at Coosa Valley Youth Services. A greenhouse and nursery were built and with assistance of local, State and National sponsors. Many trees were grown and distributed free of charge to communities in need. Other plants were sold to help fund program improvements. Students can also earn credit towards a high school diploma by participating in the program.

"It is organizations like the Tree Amigos 4-H Club that are truly making a difference by putting their values into thoughtful actions that will have a lasting, positive effect in the world," said John Resenow, president of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Every tree planted because of these people's efforts adds to the hope of a positive future for our environment."

The Arbor Day Foundation has granted the National Arbor Day Awards since 1972. Past winners include Wangari Maathai, who also won a Nobel Peace Prize; Chicago Mayor Richard Daley; former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall; veteran newsman Bill Kurtis; the Toyota Motor Corporation; and the Walt Disney Company.



Left to right: John Resenow, Arbor Day Foundation President, Susie Franklin, Betty Hines, Shelia Watson, Curtis Franklin, Hayes Jackson and David West

The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit, environmental and education organization of nearly one million members with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation and its programs can be found at www.arborday.org.