

# Celebrating Arbor Day in Louisiana

*This year Louisiana's Arbor Day, celebrated the third Friday in January, falls on January 20.*

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.

Residents of Louisiana will celebrate **Arbor Day 2012 on Friday, January 20**. While National Arbor Day is held on the last Friday in April, Louisiana, similar to several other states, observes the holiday at a time best suited to its growing season.

The bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, was adopted as Louisiana's state tree in 1963. Though half of the state is covered in various other trees, this particular tree is especially found in Louisiana's swamps, bayous, and marshes. “Knees,” or exposed roots, are often seen in swampy areas, and the bald cypress' trunk is known for its buttressed shape. Capable of living up to 600 years, its famous heartwood was once used frequently for houses, and many homes more than a hundred years old that were made from this wood still stand today, almost as good as new.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation 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 or ways to celebrate Arbor Day can be found at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

*The City of Crowley's  
Celebration of Arbor Day*



**When:** Friday, January 20, 2012

**Time:** 9:00 AM

**Where:** Acadia Parish Courthouse  
South Court House Lawn  
North Parkerson Avenue

Reception to follow at Crowley City Hall  
with presentation by the Crowley Garden Club  
425 North Parkerson Ave, Crowley, LA 70526  
For more information call 337.783.0824, Extension 301



*Arbor Day Celebration  
Wednesday, January 19, 2011*