1986 "The Year of the Tree" in Iowa

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In recognition of the many important roles that trees play in the lives of Iowans, Governor Terry Branstad has declared 1986 the Year of the Tree. Conferences and special activities will take place throughout the year.

Year of the Tree signals the beginning of efforts to inform the public and to involve individuals, organizations, agencies, and clubs in a cooperative venture to plant and maintain trees for the future.

A Governor's Arbor Day Committee, chaired by Robert Crom, Dean — University Extension, Iowa State University, has been assigned to organize and promote the Year of the Tree programs. The purpose of these programs is to improve and expand tree resources in our state. The major focus will be on schools and youth education.

Three major activities were developed to promote the "Year of the Tree" in Iowa. They were the "Year of the Tree Conference," the "Trees for Schools" program; and the "Arbor Day Jamboree Workshop."

**Year of the Tree Conference**

The Governor officially proclaimed 1986 as the "Year of the Tree" in Iowa during a state-wide conference in Des Moines on January 15th.

The Year of the Tree Conference was the kick-off event for the year's activities. Over 260 people attended the kick-off, which featured speakers from the U.S. Forest Service, the National Arbor Day Foundation, and the nursery industry. In addition, workshops were held which included the topics of successful community planting projects, designing a successful plant project, planting projects for schools, and tree/forest crops of Iowa.
Trees for Schools

The second major activity is the high school level “Trees for Schools” program. It is designed to promote resource conservation, to provide opportunities for learning experiences, and to enhance the beauty and utility of school grounds.

School tree plantings are designed to function as outdoor classrooms, providing students with opportunities to learn how they depend upon natural resources and how human activities affect the woodland environment. As an integral part of the school site, outdoor classrooms expand the learning environment accessible to teachers and students. By observing, classifying, measuring, analyzing, and interpreting these areas, young people gain essential learning skills and develop an individual relationship with the natural world. As they acquire knowledge about the environment, they also develop some competence in the management of woody plants.

The site a school selects can be an area on either school property or nearby natural woodlands that could be improved to become a “School forest” area. It can be an area void of trees or an existing woodlot. The trees should be planted for the purpose of erosion control, windbreaks, landscaping, wildlife habitat, Christmas tree production, walnut sawlog and veneer log production, fuelwood or wood for energy, recreation, nut or hickory, oak, ash, and maple timber stands.

To become involved the schools must form a School Trees Committee consisting of at least two teachers, a member of the school administration, and a core of interested students with one person elected as a committee chairperson. An area must be selected and a five-year planting plan developed which includes tree care and maintenance. The committee should keep a written and pictoral record of the progress and development of their tree planting. They should also evaluate their progress on a yearly basis.

Seventy three schools have expressed an interest in participating in the trees for schools program this year.

Schools who participate in the “Trees for Schools” program are encouraged to send representatives from their school (at least 1 student and 1 teacher) to the Arbor Day Jamboree.

Arbor Day Jamboree

The Arbor Day Jamboree is the third major activity associated with the “Year of the Tree” in Iowa. The Jamboree will be held on April 23-24th at the Iowa 4-H Camping Center near Luther, Iowa. The first day all participants will attend the opening ceremony plus the first two sessions on tree selection and placement; the tree planting and first-year care. The opening ceremony will stress the importance of the participants mission as community arbor day ambassadors. Participants will be informed of the reason for Iowa’s loss of trees. The importance of trees will be emphasized.

During the second day concurrent workshops will be provided. The student can choose two workshops to attend. The concurrent workshops include: Tree identification, tree plantings for wildlife, ornamental plantings, windbreaks, multiple uses of forests, and outdoor education.

The Jamboree will conclude with a luncheon at noon on April 24th. Governor Branstad has been asked to re-emphasize the importance of the participant’s roles as community arbor day ambassadors and the importance of trees to our lives.

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