

## HOW TO ENTER

Have each student in your fifth grade class compose a poem or essay, of no more than 200 words, on the topic of:

**“What is my favorite tree and why”.**

Select the three best poems or essays from each class or home room. No more than three poems or essays from each class or home room will be accepted.



*Franklinia blossom on the tree that was planted on Arbor Day 2008. The photo is from September 2008*

Forward the selected poems or essays to:

CTPA  
58 Old Post Road  
PO Box 356  
Northford, CT 06472-0356

Poems and essays must be received by March 30<sup>th</sup> to be considered.

Entries will be reviewed by the Arbor Day Committee of the CTPA and a winning poem or essay will be selected from each of Connecticut's eight counties.



### 2008 Arbor Day Essay Contest Winners

#### **Middlesex County:**

Eric Simon Vuoritie, Westbrook Middle School  
Westbrook, CT

#### **New London County:**

Julia Stanton, Jack Jackter Intermediate School  
Colchester, CT

#### **Tolland County:**

Eric Barrett, Mansfield Middle School  
Storrs, CT

#### **Windham County:**

Keri Lehtonen, Sterling Community School  
Sterling, CT

#### **Hartford County:**

Dylan Everett Burgdorf, Richard D Hubbard  
School, East Berlin, CT

#### **New Haven County:**

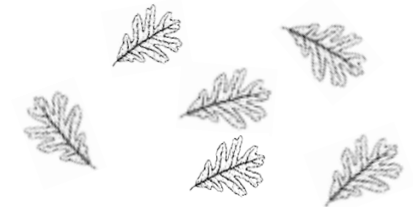
Lily Anderson, St. Vincent de Paul School  
East Haven, CT

#### **Litchfield County:**

Sara Tuller, Barkhamsted School  
Barkhamsted, CT

#### **Fairfield County:**

Noah Coyle, St. Joseph School  
Brookfield, CT



*sponsored by  
the Connecticut Tree  
Protective Association*



## JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF ARBOR DAY

The Connecticut Tree Protective Association is sponsoring its Annual Essay Contest for fifth grade students throughout Connecticut. One winner will be selected from each of the state's eight counties. Through their schools, students are invited to submit a short essay or poem on the theme of:

**“What is my favorite tree and why?”**

This Arbor Day Essay Contest is offered in an effort to enhance public awareness of the importance of trees and tree care. Young people often have an intuitive appreciation of the value of trees. We are asking them to share that with us in honor of Arbor Day.



### WHAT IS THE CTPA?

The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, established in 1922, is the oldest organization in America dedicated to the care and preservation of trees. The mission of CTPA is to educate citizens about the importance of trees and to assist arborists as they work on behalf of maintaining healthy trees. Arborists are tree care professionals who can help with the selection and care of trees and shrubs in residential, commercial and public landscapes.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES AND TREE CARE

Trees provide a multitude of benefits to the citizens of Connecticut. Our forests and woodlands are valuable natural resources which produce oxygen, filter air pollution, hold soil from eroding, and give food and cover to wildlife. The trees in these woodlands also can be used to furnish fuel for our homes as well as provide us with needed wood products.

In more suburban and urban situations, trees provide many of the same benefits. If properly located, trees can significantly reduce the cost of heating and cooling our buildings.

However, perhaps more important are the visual, spiritual and emotional values trees present to us. They are large living beings that provide us with a sense of stability in our lives, and that touch us with their personality and strong, solid nature.



Although fairly self-sufficient, trees occasionally become diseased, grow old and decay, or experience damage due to storms or other types of environmental impacts. Sometimes they become too large or need to be removed for other reasons. When a tree is in trouble, an arborist is the person to call for advice and tree care services.

In order to practice in Connecticut, arborists must be licensed by the State. They must keep up to date on issues such as tree biology, insects and diseases and the latest advances in tree care, for the benefit of the trees in the landscape.



## OUR ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE

It has been said that a person should put back into this world as much as he or she takes out of it. Estimates suggest that, over the course of a lifetime, the average American will use the wood produced by some 200 mature trees. While it is not necessary that each person plant that many trees, it would be a noble commitment for each of us to take on the care and maintenance of those trees we see, touch and get to know as we go about our daily lives.



### THE TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

On Arbor Day, Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, CTPA will host a tree planting ceremony at the State Capitol in Hartford. All students and faculty who have submitted winning poems or essays will be invited to join with the CTPA in this event. During this ceremony, Arbor Day plaques will be presented to each of the winning writers.