



2009 Arbor Day Essay Contest Winners

Middlesex County:

Oaklea Elfstrom
Chester Elementary School
Chester, CT

New London County:

Colleen Anderson
Jack Jackter Intermediate School
Colchester, CT

Tolland County:

Patty Brousseau
Hebron Elementary School
Hebron, CT

Hartford County:

Evan McKinnon
St. Paul School
Kensington, CT

New Haven County:

Payson Crouse
Frisbie Elementary School
Wolcott, CT

Litchfield County:

Nikki Lewis
Sarah Noble Intermediate School
New Milford, CT

Fairfield County:

Anna Cerulli
Tashua School
Trumbull, CT

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?”

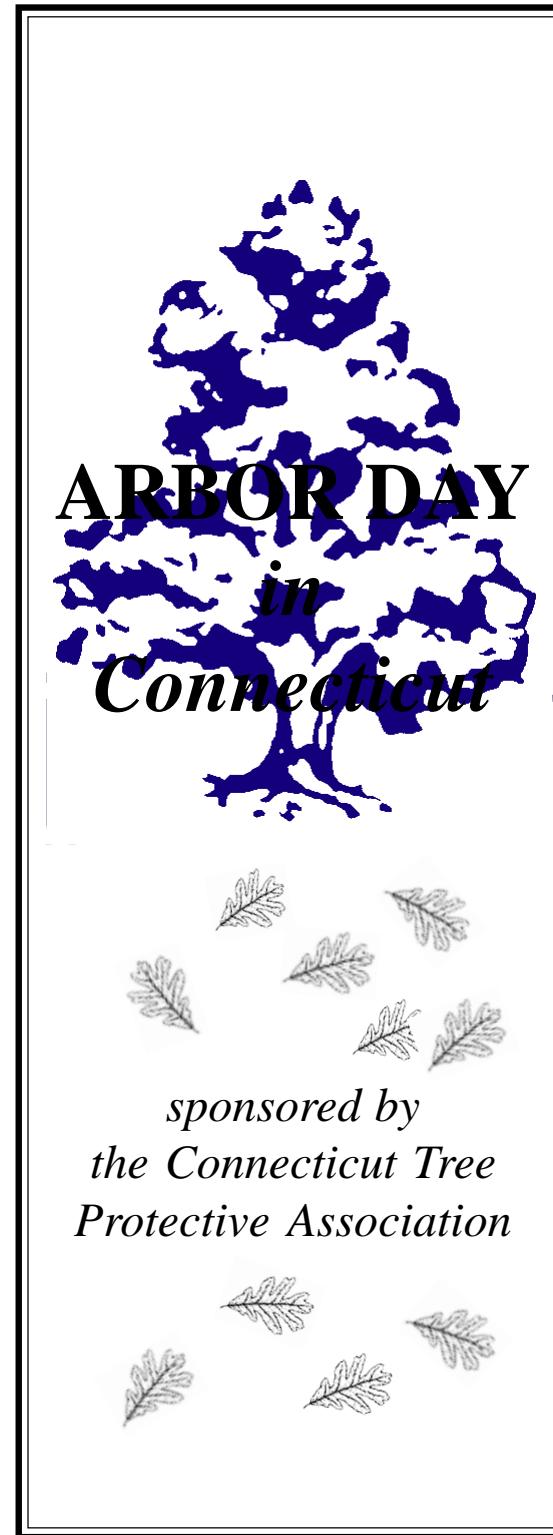
This Arbor Day Essay Contest is offered in an effort to enhance public awareness of the importance of trees and tree care. Young people often have an intuitive appreciation of the value of trees. We are asking them to share that with us in honor of Arbor Day.



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.

www.CTPA.org



CTPA
PO Box 356
Northford, CT 06472

Dear 5th Grade Teacher:

The CTPA invites you and your students to participate in our Arbor Day Essay Contest. The students who submit winning entries will be invited to attend a tree planting ceremony on the grounds of the State Capitol in Hartford. This is an excellent opportunity to bring English, science and history together, to challenge your students and to help us plant a tree.

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.

When submitting your entries, please include:

- * The Name of the Teacher
- * The Name and Address of the School
- * The School’s County
- * The Names of the Students

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 Friday April 2, 2010 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.

For more information, please call **203-484-2512** or visit www.CTPA.org



THE TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

On Arbor Day, Friday, April 30th, CTPA will host a tree planting ceremony at the State Capitol in Hartford. All students who have submitted a winning entry, their families, classmates and teachers 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.



THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES AND TREE CARE

Trees provide a multitude of benefits to the citizens of Connecticut. The trees in our forests and woodlands are valuable natural resources that produce oxygen, filter air pollution, hold soil from eroding, and give food and cover to wildlife. These trees also can be used to furnish fuel for our homes as well as to 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 to each of us personally are the sensory, spiritual and emotional values trees offer. 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 arboriculture 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 and, indeed, all of us.

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.

