



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY Access via relay - 711

DATE: November 16, 2009

TO: Fourth Grade Teachers

SUBJECT: Free Trees for Arbor Day Application Deadline March 15, 2010

The Department of Natural Resources offers *free tree seedlings to all Wisconsin fourth grade students* to commemorate Arbor Day. This program gives you the ability to teach the importance of being an environmental steward and provides your young scholars an opportunity to plant a tree and learn about ways to reduce their carbon footprint. Tree planting also enhances our state's natural beauty, creates wildlife habitat, provides shade and windbreaks, and improves air quality.

To apply for your classroom's *free Arbor Day seedling*:

1. Designate one person to consolidate all fourth grade orders from the school.
2. Submit one consolidated Fourth Grade Arbor Day Free Tree Application form (enclosed).
State statute allows one free tree seedling for each 4th grade student.
If you are submitting an order for more than one school, please list the individual school name and the number of 4th grade students at that school.
3. Return your completed application by March 15, 2010.

For more ideas about celebrating Arbor Day, visit the Department's EEK! website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/EEK/>.

For information about successful tree planting, visit the state nursery's website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/Nursery/>.

For information about our new initiative "Tree Planting for Climate Change", visit our website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/PolarBear/>.

The Department of Natural Resources takes pride in the quality of the native stock it offers to our youth. Join us in celebrating Arbor Day on Friday, April 30, 2010 and place your free tree seedling order today. If you have questions about this program, please contact Griffith State Nursery, 473 Griffith Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, (715) 424-3703.

Matthew J. Frank,
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Note to Teachers . . . a Few Simple Tips for Tree Care and Planting!

- ❖ Pick up your trees promptly. If you normally pick up your trees at a site designated by the local DNR forester, please assign one person to pick up the trees for each school or district on the appropriate date and time. Most DNR foresters have no facilities to store your trees properly.
- ❖ Keep your trees cool. Seedlings are a perishable product and should be refrigerated until planting time (34°-36° is ideal). Do not store your trees in the sun, a car trunk, a heated classroom, or other warm place before distributing them to your students.
- ❖ Keep your trees moist. The seedlings are moistened and sealed in a lined bag or box at the State Nursery. Once you redistribute the seedlings to your students they will need a way to keep them moist and cool until planting time.
- ❖ Plant your seedlings correctly. Plant the seedlings at approximately the same depth as they grew in the nursery. Seedling roots should hang freely in the planting hole and not be crooked or twisted. Pack the soil firmly after planting. A few planting instructions will help your students achieve tree-mendous success!



Free book teaches Wisconsin forest history



Would you like a fun and engaging way for your students to learn about the history of Wisconsin's forests? *Wisconsin Forest Tales*, a collection of eight historical fiction stories, is a useful tool to help teach Wisconsin history and boost reading skills. It was written in 2004

by local author Julia Pferdehirt with funding from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and LEAF, Wisconsin's K-12 forestry curriculum.

If you are a Wisconsin 4th grade teacher and have not already received one, please request a *free Wisconsin Forest Tales* kit by sending an email to leaf@uwsp.edu with your name, the name of your school, and the school's shipping address (for UPS delivery). In addition to a copy of the book, this kit includes a guide book with a related classroom activity for each story, a poster, a CD, and a "Trees are Tremendous" video.

An electronic copy of the book, the reader's theater scripts, and the activity guide are also available online at <http://wisconsinforestry.org/webtemplate.php?linkname=wiforesttales>

Three sets (25 copies each) of the books are also available for checkout from the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education Resources Library at UW-Stevens Point. Contact them at (715) 346-4854 or online at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/library/index.htm>

Teachers with access to school or public libraries in the Wisconsin Library Delivery System Network (<http://psw.scls.lib.wi.us/delivery/networks/networks.html>) can borrow these books up to four weeks.

Tree Planting for Climate Change



Looking for new ways to teach kids how to reduce their carbon footprint? By planting trees as a classroom or community project, you help slow the effects of climate change -- and conserve polar bear habitat. Every tree planted makes a difference! <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/PolarBear/>

2010 Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest - "Why Plant Trees?"

Teachers, it's time to participate in the 21st Annual Forest Appreciation Week Writing contest! Encourage your students to prepare a short essay or poem on this year's theme, "Why Plant Trees?" Enter the best from your class in our statewide contest by March 5, 2010. Authors of the top three entries will be honored at a ceremony at the State Capitol! The top 12 authors will be featured in the 2011 Arbor Day-Earth Day e-Calendar and announced on the WDNR's kid's website, EEK! Contest guidelines are available online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/awareness/arborwriting.htm>

Enter early and win! The first 100 teachers that enter this year's writing contest will receive a copy of R. Bruce Allison's book, "If Trees Could Talk, Stories About Wisconsin Trees." We appreciate your participation and are excited to show in this small way, our thanks to you

for your encouragement of students to write about a personal experience with tree planting or the general importance of a properly-planted tree. And possibly inspire a passion to plant trees.

Teachers of the three state winners will receive scholarships for both a (LEAF) workshop and a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop plus additional classroom supplies. The three statewide winning students will be gifted a landscape tree to plant at a community site and receive savings bond prizes.

Official contest packets will be mailed in late January.





Fourth Grade Arbor Day Free Tree Application

Please Print

If you order for more than one school, please list the name of each school and how many trees requested per school.

School Name:

Contact Person's Name:

School Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

School Telephone Number (Include area code):

Home Telephone Number (Include area code):

County where trees planted:

CESA District:

School District:

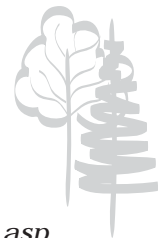
Number of fourth-grade students receiving free tree seedlings:

Briefly describe how the seedlings will be used (in a school planting; a home focused family planting; with classroom support materials):

[Office Use - enter as free tree order #5]

Instructions

1. Please print application.
2. Limit one application per school or school district.
3. Provide school or school district name and address.
4. Provide name of contact person at school, or school district, responsible for coordinating 4th grade Arbor Day Free Tree Program for all 4th grade classes in the school or school district.
5. Provide telephone number of school or school district and home telephone number of contact person.
6. Indicate in which county the trees will be planted.
7. Indicate CESA District and school district the school is located in.
8. Indicate number of fourth-grade students in the school or the school district receiving a free tree seedling.
9. Return application to:
Griffith State Nursery
473 Griffith Avenue
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
or
Fax application to:
Griffith Nursery
(715) 421-7830
or
Order online at:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Nursery/Order/arborday-order.asp>



Application Deadline: March 15, 2010



State of Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources

Griffith State Nursery

473 Griffith Avenue

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

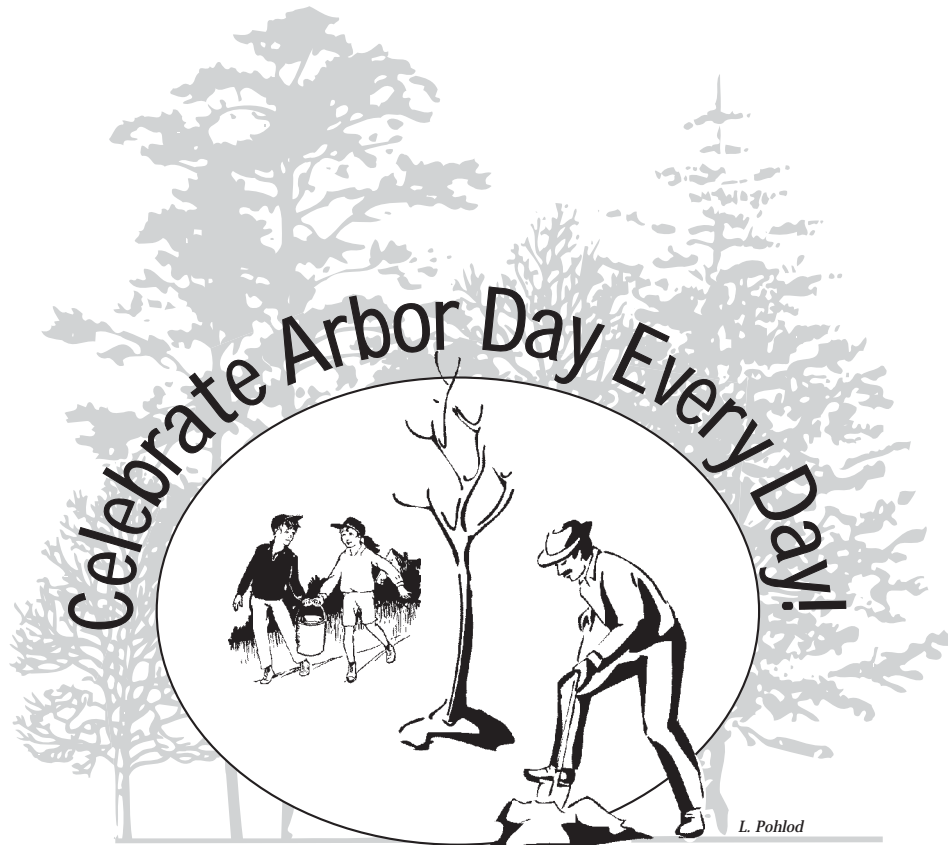
Attention: Carey Skerven



Fourth Grade Arbor Day Free Tree Application

Deadline: March 15th, 2010

Order on line at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Nursery/Order/arborday-order.asp>



L. Pohlod

*Wisconsin State Forest Nurseries . . .
beginning tomorrow's forests today . . . since 1911.*