

Windermere Supports Urban Forest thru Arbor Day Events

By Theresa Schretzmann-Myers

Windermere Tree Board

Windermere celebrates its 20th Anniversary as a Tree City USA with the annual Arbor Day Ceremony Thursday, January 17th, 9 a.m. and the 9th Annual Windermere Treebute Arbor Day Festival, Saturday, January 19, 2013 from 10am-4pm. Windermere Tree Board, Tree Climbing Concepts Training Team Inc. (TCCTT) and Windermere Garden Club share a unique partnership in public tree education programs, tree arboriculture and tree planting projects while supporting Windermere's Urban Forestry program. Proceeds from the festival are used to purchase and plant new trees each year.

The family friendly **Windermere Treebute Arbor Day Festival** supports Windermere's Urban Forestry program with sales and adoptions of 200+ trees each year for planting by Windermere Tree Board volunteers and local residents on Saturday, January 19th from 10am-4pm.

Take a tree home to plant with your children and create a living legacy for future generations. Florida Native hardwoods such as Long Leaf Pine, Magnolia, Sugarberry, Live Oak, Heritage Oak, Cypress, Elm, Loblolly Bay, Holly, Red Maple, Hickory, Cedar, Black Gum and Sycamore. Trees are available for adoption and sale to diversify our Urban Forest which consists mostly of Oak species.

For those who have mature trees, understory and flowering trees are offered such as Red Bud, Fringe Tree, Dogwoods, Chickasaw Plum, Simpson's Stopper, Tabebuia, and historic Camellias. For edible landscaping, citrus fruit trees, apple, peach, pear, loquat, plum and Florida blueberries are also available.



Figure 1: Tree Adoption and Sales at Treebute

Windermere Tree Board and arborists supply public tree education utilizing the "Ask the Arborist Booth" where residents can get advice from ISA Certified Arborists regarding the "Right Tree for the Right Place" in their yards. IFIS Orange County Extension

is also available for horticultural and pest control questions.



Figure 2: Ask the Arborist Table at Treebute

A Kids Tree Climb is available where kids can experience the beauty of trees up high while climbing in a safety harness, helmet and safety glasses in Windermere's beautiful tree canopy. For more tree education, Smokey Bear from Florida Forestry Division is present with forestry books and information. "Enchanted Walk-Abouts" with naturalist John Springer are offered to teach children and adults how to see trees and nature with new eyes.



Figure 3: Kids Tree Climb at Windermere Treebute

Enjoy food trucks, arts and crafts vendors and live music while you watch the "Geezers in the Treezers" Tree Climbing Competition where Certified Arborists over age 40 compete in 5 different tree climbing competitions stressing advanced tree arboriculture

skills and emergency rescue techniques. Competitors come from the U.S., Canada and Britain to compete in Windermere's historic tree canopy.

Arbor Day Ceremony and Tree Planting

Celebrating 20 years as a "Tree City USA", the Windermere Arbor Day ceremony Thursday, January 17, 2013, 10 am is coordinated by Windermere Garden Club and Windermere Tree Board with a Mayoral proclamation, Police color guard, children singing tree songs, planting the Arbor Day tree, tree education by arborists and refreshments.



Figure 4: Arbor Day Tree Planting in Windermere

Town Square trees and Main Street trees are pruned and mulched every Arbor Day by volunteer arborists and Windermere Tree Board.



Figure 5: Arbor Day Tree Pruning along Main Street

Tree Safety Training Seminar for Arborists, Tree Workers, EMT's, First Responders and Firemen is facilitated by Windermere Tree Board who partners with TCCTT Arborists and North American Training Solutions who underwrites the cost to teach tree safety training, Friday, January 18, 2013, 8am-4pm For more information and registration, contact Adam Jackson at (321) 303-9026 or Email AJJackson@valleycrest.com



Figure 6: Tree Safety Training Seminar

Park Avenue and Windermere Elementary School Tree Planting Projects

Windermere Tree Board wrote and was funded for a 2012 Urban Forestry grant for re-planting small-growing, "Right Trees in the Right Place" near power lines on Park Avenue. They replaced large Oaks destroyed by hurricanes. Windermere Tree Board volunteers completed 300+ volunteer work & arboriculture hours at Butler Bay Recreation Center Park clean-ups. Windermere Tree Board volunteers completed 50+ volunteer tree planting and tree education hours at Windermere Elementary School as Partners in Education with students and staff.