

### **Press Release for Immediate Release**

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## **Windermere Treebute Arbor Day Festival Celebrates Tree Planting, Climbing Safety & Environmental Education**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Windermere Treebute Arbor Day Festival features tree climbing, environmental education and Florida native and flowering trees for planting and sale Saturday, January 21, 2012, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. at Windermere Town Square, 520 Main Street. Children can climb Windermere's champion trees with ISA Certified Arborists using industry safety and climbing gear and experience the beauty and thrill of trees up high in the tree canopy. There will be adoption and sales of Florida Native trees, fruit and flowering trees, plants, food, art, jewelry, crafts, tree equipment, nature education, proper planting and care of trees and plants.

Windermere Treeboard and Garden Club volunteers coordinate the Treebute and Arbor Day events annually in Tree City USA Windermere Town Square with its large urban tree canopy. Florida Arbor Day occurs in January because it's the best time for planting trees in Florida for optimum survival and health. Florida is full into Spring cycle with new buds, leaf growth, heat and humidity by April when the rest of the USA celebrates Arbor Day.

Windermere residents receive one tree per household for planting with additional trees available for sale at great prices. Trees are supplied by Windermere's Town Tree Board as part of their Tree City USA recertification. Sales of Florida heritage, native, hardwood, flowering trees and fruit trees are also available for sale along with camellias. The festival provides tree and plant advice from ISA Certified Arborists at the "Ask The Arborist" booth, IFIS Extension table. Florida Forestry Service will present Smokey Bear and its education trailer. There will be tree and plant vendors, music, food, environmental educational, raffle prize drawings and a silent auction to raise money for purchase of Arbor Day Trees.

Windermere Tree Board offers heritage Florida native species for planting and sale such as Pignut Hickory, Turkey Oak, Eastern Red Cedar, Heritage Oak, Long Leaf Pine, Red Maple, Winged Elm, Green Ash, Sycamore, Black Gum, Bald Cypress, Pond Cypress, River Birch, Sweet Bay and Loblolly Bay so residents can diversify their urban tree canopy. In addition, there are flowering trees such as Magnolia, Fringe Tree, Tabebuia, Dogwood, Red Bud and Purple Leaf Plum. For those who have plenty of tree canopy but need understory trees there are small flowering trees and Erinon Camellias available for purchase and planting. Vendors such as Our Kid's Tropical Nursery will be selling tropical fruit trees, bamboos and bromeliads.

The "Ask the Arborist Booth" provides consultation with ISA Certified Arborist Mary Edwards on planting the right tree in the right place and best techniques for care and pruning. UF/IFAS Orange County Extension agent Ed Thralls will answer questions and give advice about tree care, plants and planting. Educational programs this year for children and adults include the "Kids Tree Climb" with the Arborists; "Enchanted Walk-Abouts" with John Springer which teach you to "see and feel the world through a new set of eyes and heart." Learn how to awaken your senses to truly connect with the trees, flowers, wind, water, and other elements of nature. Florida Forestry Service will be present with Smokey Bear to educate folks about fire safety and forests. .

Windermere was honored with Florida's Tree City of the Year Award in 2010 for its efforts in presenting educational programs for citizens and making strides to protect the town's tree canopy - a \$33 million asset. To celebrate its 18th year as a Tree City USA, Windermere Tree Board has planned three days of Arbor Day events.

The Annual Florida Arbor Day Ceremony and tree planting takes place Thursday, January 19, at 10:00 a.m. in Windermere Town Square. Windermere Garden Club hosts the Arbor Day ceremony. Windermere Police Color Guard presents the flags while Mayor Gary Bruhn reads the Arbor Day Proclamation and Windermere Union Preschool sings at the ceremony. The Arbor Day tree planting highlights the ceremony and is planted by Windermere Tree Board and Garden Club with refreshments provided post ceremony.

On Thursday, January 19, Tree Board members and volunteers prune and mulch the town's Crepe Myrtles and small trees along Main Street/Maguire Road from Park Avenue to Town Hall under the supervision of ISA Certified Arborists. Professional Certified Arborists from Florida ISA Chapter (International Society of Arboriculture) also prune Town of Windermere's large and small trees in and around Town Square. Tree Board members, town maintenance staff and ISA arborists volunteers cooperate in the "Crepe Myrtle Clean-Up" and the arborists teach small tree pruning experience to all who volunteer.

Friday, January 20, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., there is an all-day aerial rescue education program presented by North American Training Solutions and Tree Climbing Concepts (TCC) Training Team, Inc. Firemen and First Responders require specialized training to climb trees for electrocution emergencies or be near downed trees in power lines. TCC Training Team and North American Training Solutions provide the tree training seminar for First Responders, Fire Fighters, EMT's, Arborists, and tree workers in Windermere town square to teach proper safety rescue and extraction for electrocution emergencies and tree failure accidents. This seminar is taught to familiarize and coordinate personnel so they're certified and competent to respond to electrocution rescue emergencies. TCC and North American Training Solutions personnel who teach the training session are ISA certified and highly qualified. Personnel from Orange, Lake, Seminole and other county Fire Departments attend, along with paramedics and other Aerial Rescue tree personnel from other states. Town of Windermere Tree Board facilitates this event by providing training trees, indoor and outdoor classrooms and town hall for training. Departments interested in attending can contact TCC Training Team Safety Coordinators Adam Jackson 321-303-9026 or Scotty Olson (704) 421-5213.

Saturday, January 21, Windermere Treebute Arbor Day Festival focuses on diversifying the local urban forest with unusual Florida native trees for planting, fostering education, appreciation and care for trees. The tree climb and traverse line allow children to experience the wonder of tree climbing up high with the supervision of professional arborists and the safety of tree climbing ropes, harnesses and helmets. Cost is \$20 for tree climbing and traverse line and includes use of safety gear, helmet, supervision by Certified Arborists and Treebute T-shirt. Proceeds from the tree climb go to Arbor Day trees fund for Windermere Tree Board.

The Saturday Treebute also features the Official/Unofficial Tree Climbing Competition, "Geezers in the Treezers." American and International Pros (over 40) Compete for the "Geezers in the Treezers Cup" in a 5 Part Challenge. This international competition includes competitive arborists from 22 states, Canada and United Kingdom who compete in the following areas: Throw line, Work Climb, Aerial Rescue, Belayed Speed Climb and Secured Foot lock. Winners

go on to the Master Challenge. All climbers and arborists pay their own way and volunteer their time at the Treebute.

Vendors such as Our Kid's Tropical Nursery, local artists, crafts, and food vendors will be at the festival. Live music will be provided by, "The Down Brothers." Glitter Face Painting and Bounce House are sponsored by The Event Specialists. Windermere Tree Board will have raffle drawings and silent auction items featuring original art work, hand made wooden art and other items. Tickets for prize drawings are available at the Treebute.

For vendor/sponsor information and volunteer opportunities Email [theresamyers@earthlink.net](mailto:theresamyers@earthlink.net)  
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