

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Troup TREEmendous plants trees to observe Georgia Arbor Day

(Friday, Feb. 19, 2010) Students at Berta Weathersbee Elementary and Gardner Newman Middle schools observed Georgia Arbor Day this morning with a tree planted at their schools in honor of students who won recent Troup TREEmendous essay and art contests.

A maple tree donated by Smith Design Group was planted at each of the two schools by Troup TREEmendous in recognition of essay winners (all fifth grade students at Berta) Hannah Cody, first place; Camren Russell, second; and Jordan Slonaker, third; and art contest winner Dakota Crowson, sixth grade student at Gardner Newman.



Fifth grade students who won the top three spots in the Troup TREEmendous Essay Contest were congratulated Friday at Berta Weathersbee Elementary School with a maple tree planted in their honor. Students, school and community leaders observing Arbor Day are, from left, Todd Stephens, Troup TREEmendous Education chair; Tod Tentler, Troup County assistant manager; Lorraine Jackson, Berta Weathersbee principal; Jordan Slonaker, third place essay winner; Buck Davis, county commissioner; Hannah Cody, first place essay winner; Short Brown of Troup TREEmendous; Camren Russell, second place essay winner; and Mindy Yates, fifth grade teacher at Berta.

“It’s a wonderful thing to see how our young people embrace environmentalism,” said Troup TREEmendous Education Chair Todd Stephens. “They have a connection with the natural world that adults easily dismiss. When we all start caring about our world like our kids, we can make real progress in conservation and stewardship. They are my heroes.”



Troup TREEmendous joined Troup County in celebrating Friday, Feb. 19, as Georgia Arbor Day by planting a maple tree at Gardner Newman Middle School in honor of sixth grade student Dakota Crowson, winner of the Troup TREEmendous Art Contest. Observing Arbor Day are, from left, Gardner Newman Principal Ernest Ward, Crowson, Troup TREEmendous members Todd Stephens, Matt Comerford and Short Brown, and County Commission Chairman Ricky Wolfe.

The four students were honored at last night’s meeting of the Troup County Board of Education where they received prize packets from Troup TREEmendous containing a T-shirt emblazoned with “Tree Warrior,” a journal and other school supplies.

Troup TREEmendous was formed March 2009 to promote and protect trees by teaching their benefits while preserving the rural character of Troup County. The committee supports Troup County’s Heritage Tree program, which invites residents of unincorporated Troup County to nominate trees for inclusion on a Heritage Tree Registry. Nominated trees are evaluated by a qualified arborist and, if designated as heritage, are protected from being cut down or destroyed. Trees may be nominated on the basis of history, age, size, species or ecological value.

To nominate a tree or grove of trees, contact County Planner Nancy Seegar at nseegar@troupco.org or call her at (706) 883-1650.