

STATE AND LOCAL

Arbor Day time to appreciate, honor the tree

By JIM HINEY
Reporter

Joyce Kilmer once wrote, "I think that I shall never see, a poem lovely as a tree," yet it is surprising how many people take trees for granted.

On the third Friday in January, trees are planted to symbolize a need and appreciation for trees as beautiful objects as well as for the paper and wood products they provide.

Gov. Mark White proclaimed today as Arbor Day in Texas.

The state's official observance will take place at the Municipal Garden and Art Center in Lubbock.

In Bryan and College Station, there will be a number of different ceremonies conducted by local groups.

The A&M Garden Club will plant two pear trees at the new Brazos County Rehabilitation Center at 9 a.m. Friday. The center is located behind St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan.

Mrs. Paul Kramer, a member of the club and past chairman of the club's Arbor Day observance, will read a poem by Henry Abby about why people plant trees.

In previous years the club had planted trees in schoolyards.

Children would be let out of class to participate in the planting. However, because of the recent reforms in education policies, the club has had to stop that tradition.

"You can't take kids out of school for anything anymore," Kramer said.

Phi Sigma Alpha will plant a tree in College Station in conjunction with the city's parks and recreation department. Because of weather and other conflicts, the planting will take place sometime next week.

The sorority has not decided upon the site for the ceremony or the type of tree that will be planted.

There have been no official Arbor Day ceremonies planned by either Bryan or College Station. Eric Ploeger, city forester for College Station, said that the city works with independent groups, such as Phi

Sigma Alpha, to plant trees, but will not hold an official observance this year because of poor attendance in the past.

"Quite frankly, nobody ever shows up," Ploeger said.

Arbor Day began in a little Swiss village more than fifteen hundred years ago.

Its first observance in the United States took place in Nebraska in 1872. Since that time, the holiday has spread through all fifty states and the Virgin Islands.

Temple hosted the first Arbor Day ceremony in Texas in 1889. Shortly after the first observance the Texas Legislature passed an Arbor Day resolution.

In 1949, the Legislature designated the third Friday in January as Arbor Day in Texas.

Forests make up 13.6 percent of the total land area of Texas and, while this may not seem like much, it represents about 11.7 million acres of land.

To put it in perspective, that is an area larger in size than the states of Maryland and New Jersey combined. The timber industry in Texas provides 150,000 jobs, \$82 million in taxes and \$5.1 billion in sales.

At the official state ceremony in Lubbock, a pecan tree will be planted and dedicated to former governor Preston Smith. State forester Bruce Miles said the pecan tree was picked to honor Smith because it is the state tree and would be appropriate to honor a former governor.

Miles, director of the Texas Forest Service, will be the featured speaker at the Lubbock observance.

He will address some of the problems facing Texas forestry and how forestry can be used to help protect the land.

"Most people think the East is the only forest we have in Texas," Miles said.

"They also are not aware that it is the ninth largest industry in Texas."

As president of the National Association of State Foresters, Miles is

Around town

Driving course begins today

Uniontech Inc. is sponsoring a defensive driving course at the Bryan Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Dr. on Friday January 18, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday January 19, 8 a.m. to noon. The course can be used for a 10% liability insurance premium discount. The fee is \$20.00 cash. Registration is at the door. Call 693-1322 for more information.

Training session held

The Brazos County Rape Crisis Center will hold its sixth training session January 21-26. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer will need to fill out an application and return it to the center by January 18, 1985. Call 779-7273 for further information.

All Night Fair applications

The MSC All Night Fair Committee has extended the deadline for student organization booth applications to Monday, January 20. Applications may be picked up in the Students Program Office or Student Finance Center on the 2nd floor of the MSC. For more information call Mike at 260-7053 or Chandy at 845-1515.

Driving safety class offered

The TAMU After Hours Program will sponsor a Driver Safety Course on January 18-19, 1985. This course may be used to have certain traffic violations dismissed and to receive a 10% discount on automobile insurance. Registration is held 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday in 216 MSC. Call 845-1515 for more information.

pushing for a section in the 1985 Farm Bill that will pay farmers to plant trees on their land.

Miles said, trees are needed from Lubbock to the Dakotas to serve as wind breaks for homes and cattle and to help prevent erosion of the soil.

Planting trees would provide the needed wind breaks, but also would reduce the available farm land resulting in a reduction of surplus crops.

Another area Miles will address is the plight of "Urban Forests," or trees in urban areas.

"A lot of people suffer from the Safeway syndrome," Miles said. People go to the store to pick up napkins or cups without giving any thought to how they are produced.

"They don't recognize the fact

(that) we need to cut down a tree get that stuff," he said.

Larry Schaapveld, an urban forester with the Texas Forest Service in Fort Worth says urban forests serve many functions.

"Trees do much more in a town or city than provide color," Schaapveld said.

"They also provide residents with a variety of shapes, forms and practical uses. In today's urban areas, trees are taking on a new importance in providing energy-saving shade."

The aim behind urban forestry is to help urban residents with problems that face trees, such as pests. Urban foresters also work with developers to help plan subdivisions without endangering existing trees.

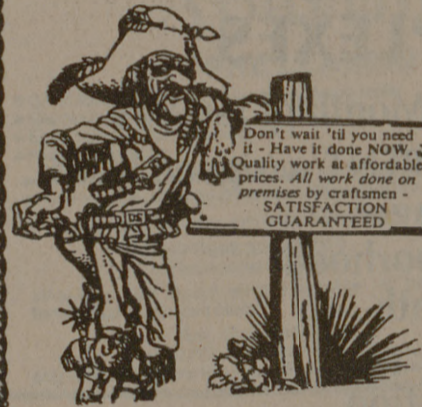
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268 E. Kyle
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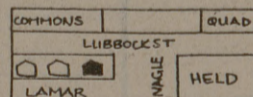
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