

# *Arbor Day Celebration*

*10:00 Saturday Morning ~ 21 February 2015*

*City Hall Gathering Room*

*110 West Clark Street, Oxford, Georgia*

## *History of Tree Care in Oxford*

*17<sup>th</sup> Tree City USA Award*

*1<sup>st</sup> Tree Campus USA Award*

*William H. Murdy Arboretum  
At George Street Park*

*1836 – Emory College 1839 – City of Oxford*



You are cordially invited to attend  
**The 2015 Arbor Day Celebration in Oxford**

Sponsored by  
City of Oxford and Oxford College of Emory University

City Hall  
110 West Clark Street

Saturday Morning, February 21, 2015

10:00 – 12:00

**Theme: History of Tree Care in Oxford, Georgia**

**Dedication: William H. Murdy Arboretum**

**Refreshments**

**Further Information**

**City: 770-786-7004**

**College: 770-784-8478**

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*Each generation takes the earth as trustees.  
We ought to bequeath to posterity  
as many forests and orchards  
as we have exhausted and consumed.*

– J. Sterling Morton, Founder of Arbor Day

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*Arbor Day 2015: History of Tree Care in Oxford*  
City of Oxford, Georgia, Trees, Parks, and Recreation Board (TPR)  
Cheryl Ready, Chairperson ~ LaTrelle Oliver, Secretary  
Hulon Clemons, Andrea O'Toole, Simon Perryman, Anderson Wright

City of Oxford [www.oxfordgeorgia.org](http://www.oxfordgeorgia.org)  
Georgia Forestry Commission [www.gfc.state.ga.us](http://www.gfc.state.ga.us)  
Arbor Day Foundation [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

## Order of Program

Presentation of the Flags and Leading the Pledge of Allegiance . . . Boy Scout Troop 211

Arbor Day Proclamation – Mayor Jerry Roseberry

Welcome and Introductions – Chair of Trees, Parks, and Recreation Board Cheryl Ready  
Georgia Forest Commission Representatives  
Covington Service Guild Representatives  
City and College Officials  
Tree Board Members  
The Murdy Family

*Fantasia* by Gabriel Faure . . . . . Clara Perez, Oxford College Student

Arbor Day History – National, State, Local

The Yarbrough Oak Story and Legacy

Friends of Oxford Trees Award

National Arbor Day Foundation Awards

Tree City USA Program – 17<sup>th</sup> Year Award: City of Oxford

Tree Campus USA Program – 1<sup>st</sup> Year Award: Oxford College

*In the heart of dear old Emory . . .*

Trees on the Oxford College Campus by Sophomore Student Will Milligan

Emory University Tree Policy by University Landscape Architect James Johnson

*Syrinx* by Claude Debussy . . . . . Clara Perez, Oxford College Student

Dedication of the William H. Murdy Arboretum

*Arboretum:*

*a place where many kinds of trees and shrubs  
are grown for exhibition or study;  
hence, a wooded public park.*

*Here:*

*at George Street Park, between Wesley and Asbury Streets,  
a place linking campus and town, College and City.*

City Council Resolution, November 3, 2014

Arbor Day Tree – Southern Sugar Maple, favored by Dr. Murdy  
grown by Bold Springs Tree Farm, at 3.5 inch caliper

Biology Professor Eloise B. Carter

The Yarbrough Oak Site

*Sonnet* by Evelyn Sewell Rineer . . . . . English Professor Emerita Gretchen Schulz

Gifts: Program Booklet *History of Tree Care in Oxford*

Seedlings – Provided by GFC and Covington Service Guild

Refreshments – Provided by Oxford College of Emory University



**Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and**

**Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and**

**Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and**

**Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and**

**Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and**

**Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.**

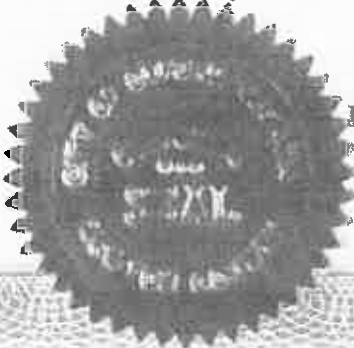
**Now, Therefore, I, Jerry D. Roseberry, Mayor of the City of Oxford, Georgia, do hereby proclaim Saturday, February 21, 2015 as**

# **Arbor Day**

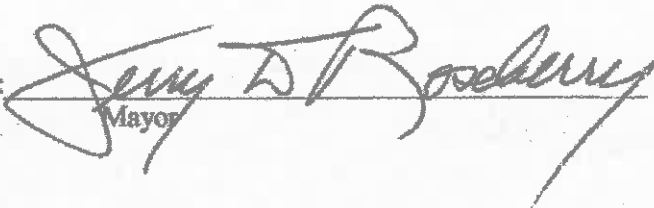
**in the City of Oxford, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and**

**Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.**

**Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2015.**



BY:

  
Mayor



## **Arbor Day Established – National, State, Local**

On April 10, 1872, in Nebraska City, journalist J. Sterling Morton's idea of a state-wide day for planting trees became reality. Thanks to backing from the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, over one million trees were planted throughout the state on that one day. Two years later, in 1874, their Governor proclaimed Arbor Day state-wide; then, in 1885, the day became a legal holiday throughout Nebraska. Comparing Arbor Day with other holidays, Morton is quoted as saying, "Other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future."

The idea of conservation education and policy caught on and was championed by such individuals as Birdsey Northrop and the American Forestry Association, Major Israel McCreight (a Pennsylvania conservationist), Gifford Pinchot (Chief of the United States Forest Service), and President Theodore Roosevelt, who on April 15, 1907, issued an "Arbor Day Proclamation to the School Children of the United States" about the importance of trees and the study of forestry.

Locally, constituents and neighbors must have heard of the movement, for the University's Special Collections retains printed programs celebrating Arbor Day at Emory College in Oxford in 1891, 1896, and 1900.

Today Arbor Day is celebrated in all fifty states and many countries. It is observed nationally on the last Friday in April. States and localities may celebrate at times suitable for planting in their region or area. The State of Georgia designates the third Friday in February. Traditionally, the City of Oxford's celebration is held on the Saturday closest to the State's Arbor Day.

Throughout the world, people of all ages are planting trees, caring for them, and learning their value.

- In the US, this festival is called Arbor Day.
- In Israel, it is called the New Year's Day of the Trees.
- Korea has a Tree-Loving Week.
- Iceland has a Student's Afforestation Day.
- Yugoslavia holds an Arbor Day in the spring and an Afforestation Day in the fall.
- India celebrates a National Festival of Tree Planting.

The simple act of planting a tree represents a belief that the tree will grow and, some day, provide wood products, wildlife habitat, erosion control, shelter from the wind and sun, beauty, and inspiration for ourselves and our children.

# Arbor Day at Emory College

In his book, *Cornerstone and Grove*, Erik Oliver mentions that “Annually from 1883 until Emory College moved to Atlanta, the senior class planted a tree on the quad before commencement.” In attempting to find old city council minutes, City Manager Bob Schwartz and Oxford College Senior Projects Manager Kendra Mayfield were scouring the Archives in Atlanta and found these “gems of Arbor Day history at Emory College.



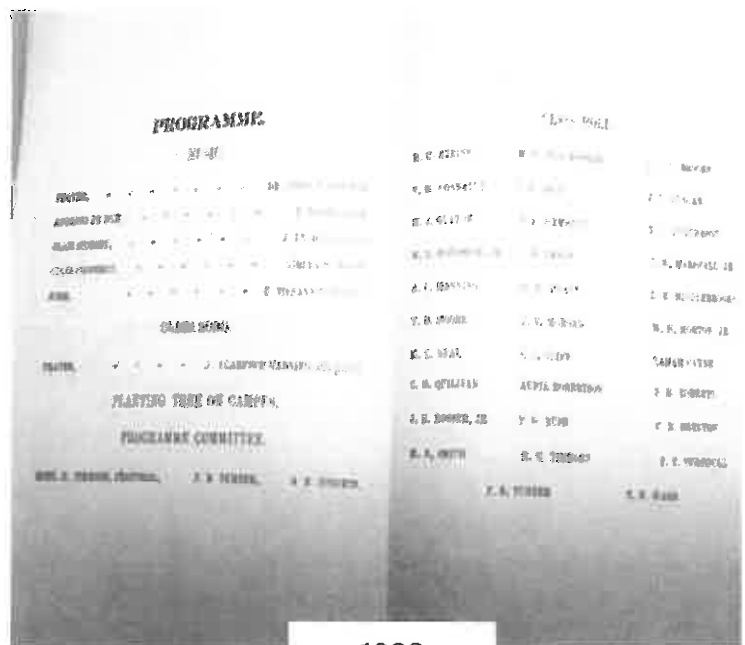
1891



1896



1900



1902

# The Yarbrough Oak

“The Tree that owns itself”





## The Yarbrough Oak Story and Legacy

Once upon a time . . . probably around 1822, a white oak acorn germinated in an old-growth forest in the middle of acreage that, in 1839, would be incorporated as the town of Oxford, Georgia, home of Emory College (now Oxford College of Emory University). The young seedling took root in soil made rich by eons of lush detritus and good drainage, where it grew undisturbed for the next twenty years or so. That this particular tree continued to survive the development of planned streets, with their houses and essential stores, in the heart of what became the center of a town, is sign of its healthy, well-balanced branches and substantial root system. It was neither choked out nor chopped down, astounding accomplishments for the evolving times!

As increasing traffic of horses, wagons, boots, and college boys began to compact the soil structure, the tree's established roots pushed outward, eventually beyond its canopy's circumference of over 350 feet. Its shade offered respite from the stifling heat of central Georgia summers, and so the oak established itself as a substantial and welcome presence, with appeal both practical and aesthetic. In the 1870s, The Reverend John Yarbrough (father-in-law of Emory's President Atticus Greene Haygood) and his family occupied a house beneath the sheltering oak and began what was to become a long tradition of tending it. This responsible attitude passed to the town itself in 1929 when, perhaps urged by The Oxford Woman's Club, commissioners "deeded to the tree the land immediately around it, with an edict that no one was to do it any harm" (Oliver, 15). And thus, "The Yarbrough Oak," "Prince of the Forest," "The Tree That Owns Itself" became the icon we remember today.

Life went on as families and stores came and went, dirt streets were modernized with gravel and asphalt to diminish dust and mud and to accommodate motor vehicle traffic. Contaminants from a service station soaked into increasingly compacted soil; a fungal disease entered the tree's aging and delicate vascular system; and, owners of the old house trenched the ground near the trunk on the south side to install a new water line. Increasingly, citizens were expressing concern (often outrage) at the lack of care for city trees – including how they were cleared for power lines and how infrequently piles of yard debris and other trash were removed from city rights-of-way.

In 1981, Beryl Budd began his career as Ranger with the Georgia Forestry Commission. In 1985 he moved to Newton County as Chief Ranger and began his work with the Newton/Rockdale Unit, where he developed extensive knowledge of the area's vast rural and urban tree cover and began his caring relationship with the City of Oxford.

In 1987, new Dean of Oxford College "Bill" Murdy moved to town and initiated a program of beautifying the campus. In 1996, he worked on a joint agreement with the City to connect campus and town center post office by elaborating the Whatcoat Street corridor with sidewalk and street trees: the College would construct the sidewalk and supply and install an allee of willow oaks that would eventually provide shade over the pedestrian walkway; the City would maintain the trees. The method of planting those trees and the plan for their care disturbed some citizens who had paid close attention to Mr. Budd's ongoing teaching.

In 1997, Mayor Don Turner and Council agreed to establish a Beautification Committee. Beryl called upon Connie Head, then consulting arborist for the City of Covington, to listen to citizen concerns [see report in "Tree Board" files of 1997]; and, he continued to raise the possibility of the City's participation in the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program. A citizen representative attended the fortuitously timed Eighth National Urban Forest Conference, September 17-20, 1997, held for the first time in Atlanta. The theme was "Cities by Nature's Design." In 1998, Oxford, Georgia achieved Tree City USA status for the first time.

Deterioration of the city's iconic tree alarmed officials and many citizens. As a result, portions of its decaying branches were gradually removed. Sadly acknowledging the tree's condition and inevitable demise, the new Tree Board accepted Mr. Budd's suggestion of propagating seedlings as a way of preserving the legacy of this once vital member of the Oxford community, while at the same time promoting the universal values of planting and caring for all trees.

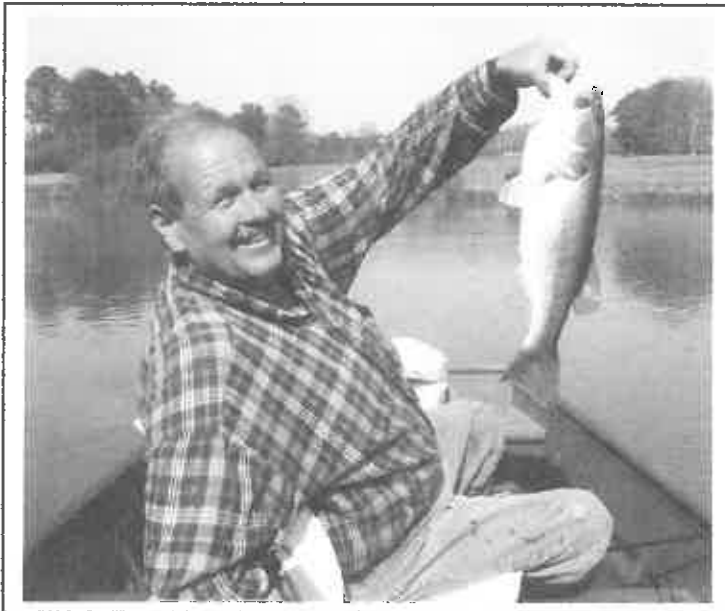
In October of 1999, Chief Ranger Budd, along with his colleague Archie Ballard and some Oxford citizen volunteers, picked up about ten gallons of acorns. These were sent to the Georgia Forestry Commission's Flint River Nursery for cleaning and propagation under the direction of Nursery Superintendent Johnny Branon. Between 1500 and 2000 seedlings were grown, of which 1100 were of high quality suitable for distribution. In 2001, The Yarbrough Oak's importance in the history of Oxford and the state of Georgia was recognized by the Georgia Urban Forest Council as a Georgia Landmark and Historic Tree.

During an on-site consultation with Dr. Kim D. Coder, University of Georgia Professor of Community Forestry and Tree Health, the inevitable decision was sadly clear: the time had come for the tree to go. On February 16, 2002, during Oxford's Arbor Day celebration, citizens gathered at the tree's base, extended their arms around its circumference of approximately eighteen feet, clasped hands, and said good-bye. As special gifts of memory and promise, healthy seedlings were given away for planting in Oxford, Covington, Newborn, and Conyers, and one to two hundred were planted at the Department of Natural Resources Charlie Elliot Wildlife Management Area.

Five hundred seedlings remained. The GUFUC form for ordering one of these records the following information: "Recognizing the merits of this propagation model for perpetuating notable Georgia trees, Connie Head of Technical Forestry Services (TFS) proposed a joint venture to sell the seedlings." Stormy Branch Nursery, Bellville, GA contracted to tend the remaining 3-gallon container-grown seedlings for a season, and TFS developed promotional materials and means of funding. The following year, the seedlings were sold locally and throughout the state in a partnership between the Georgia Urban Forest Council and the City of Oxford Tree Board. In the end, they split about \$5000 in profit from the project.

In late winter of 2002, the City contracted with Bartlett Tree Experts to reduce the oak's remaining broad canopy and extensive height. Above All Tree Service removed the massive trunk. Growth rings counted at the time, indicated the tree was approximately 180 years of age. Caring citizens were not about to allow the historic wood to go unused. Limbs were gathered for fuel. Three mantles and a dining table emerged from sections and planks rendered by Stanley Henderson with his portable saw mill. Dr. Hoyt Oliver of Oxford College turned countless commissioned items including clocks, pens, and bowls - "resurrection pieces," he called them. White oak trees that were planted throughout Georgia and neighboring states continue to hold promise for forests and communities of the future.

Oxford's friend, Georgia Forester Beryl D. Budd, has been present at every turn since he arrived among us. He has consistently championed the process of renewal and care, essential hallmarks of a sustainable community. When Beryl retired from the Georgia Forest Commission, the City sponsored a county-wide celebration for him, September 22, 2012. Thankfully he has now come out of retirement and has been reinstated as GFC *Wildfire Prevention Specialist*. In 2013, he was officially hired as Oxford's City Arborist. For many years, our faithful friend has consistently championed the planting and care of trees in our town. And so we recognize Beryl D. Budd as recipient of the *2015 Friends of Oxford Trees Award*, which is displayed permanently at City Hall.



**Friends of Trees  
Award**



The City of Oxford Proudly  
Proclaims the Following As a  
"Friend of Trees:"

**The Covington Service  
Guild 2014**

**Beryl D. Budd  
2015**

Sources:

Beryl D. Budd, Georgia *Forestry* Commission: Ranger, 1981-1985; Chief Ranger, 1985-2005; Sustainable Community Forester, Sr., 2005-2012; Wildfire Prevention Specialist, 2013.

City of Oxford, Georgia, Archives.

Connie Head, Consulting Urban Forester, Technical Forestry Services.

Erik Blackburn Oliver. Cornerstone and Grove -- A Portrait in Architecture and Landscape of Emory's Birthplace in Oxford, Georgia. Emory University, 2009.

Georgia Urban Forest Council (GUFC) historical summary and order form for Yarbrough Oak Seedlings, 2001 and for Arbor Day 2002.

Note: Thanks to Beryl Budd, The City of Oxford has twice been recognized by the Georgia Urban Forest Council with awards for Outstanding Elected or Appointed Official: Councilman Hoyt P. Oliver in 2001 and Tree Board Chairman Erik B. Oliver in 2005.

# Landmark & Historic Tree Register

## THE YARBROUGH OAK

In early 2001, the City of Oxford Trees, Parks and Recreation Board completed an application with the Georgia Urban Forest Council to have the Yarbrough Oak placed on the "Landmark & Historic Tree Register." Carol Poole, City Clerk, received the letter and the certificate in November of that year.



November 1, 2001

Carol Poole  
City of Oxford  
110 W Clark St  
Oxford GA 30054

Dear City of Oxford:

Congratulations! Your application for a tree in your community for Landmark & Historic status has been accepted. The White Oak known as the "Yarbrough Oak" has been placed on the

### LANDMARK & HISTORIC TREE REGISTER

On behalf of the Georgia Urban Forest Council, I would like to thank you for your application and interest in urban forestry. We encourage you to promote the designation of this living legacy to increase awareness in the community about the need to protect all our urban trees.

Sincerely,

Steven Strickland, Chair  
Landmark & Historic Tree Program

## What Remained



## The Rebirth



## Yarbrough Oak from Acorn

## to Seedling Planted



Many times over



# Certificate of Recognition

Presented to:

**The City of Oxford**

for achieving Tree City USA certification for 17 years



TREE CITY USA

February 21, 2015

Robert Farris, Director



GEORGIA FORESTRY  
COMMISSION

# Certificate of Recognition

Presented to:

**Oxford College of Emory University**

for achieving Tree Campus USA certification

TREE

USA

February 21, 2015

Robert Farris, Director



GEORGIA FORESTRY  
COMMISSION

# Trees on Campus

Trees on the Oxford College Campus by  
sophomore student, Will Milligan

Emory University Tree Policy by University  
Landscape Architect James Johnson

## No Net Loss of Forest Canopy Policy

May 15, 2007

### Executive Summary

In the past five years Emory University has experienced unprecedented growth. A consequence of this growth has been a significant loss in the quantity and quality of Emory's forested areas. The Emory University Senate adopted a Position Statement On Forest Use that included support of the policy of no net loss of forest. However no mechanism was put in place to insure that trees removed during development were replaced in a way to achieve no net loss. The only means available is the DeKalb County Tree Preservation Ordinance. However, the county ordinance is not designed with no net loss in mind. The goal of the county ordinance is to provide for a minimum number of canopy trees in commercial and residential development. It does not provide for the replacement of the actual number of trees removed during development or for the replacement of equally valuable understory, shrub, and groundcover vegetation. The following No Net Loss of Forest Policy attempts to provide a simple and reasonable method for calculating forest replacement by providing for:

1. A formula to determine individual and total tree canopy.
2. A formula for replacement canopy.
3. A formula for replacement shrub and groundcovers.
4. Recommendations for implementing the policy in new construction projects.

### Introduction

The intent of the No Net Loss of Forest Policy is to achieve no overall loss of forest canopy due to construction or renovation of new buildings. Secondary goals are to improve the quality of existing forested areas and increase the overall quantity of forested areas on the Emory University campus. Following is an explanation of the method to be used to determine forest canopy and the resultant replacement requirement.

**CITY OF OXFORD**

**RESOLUTION**

**TO AUTHORIZE THE NAMING OF THE WILLIAM MURDY ARBORETUM AT  
GEORGE STREET PARK.**

**WHEREAS,** William Murdy served the City of Oxford as Councilmember and as Mayor and served Oxford College and Emory University as professor of biology and as Oxford College Dean; and;

**WHEREAS,** William Murdy faithfully served his community as a member and later as chairman of the City of Oxford Trees, Parks, and Recreation board and;

**WHEREAS,** it is fitting to recognize William Murdy's contributions to his city, college, university, and community.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF OXFORD,**

That the Arboretum at George Street, Park shall be named: "The William Murdy Arboretum at George Street Park" in honor of former Dean and Mayor William Murdy.

**ADOPTED THIS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014.**

**BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry D. Roseberry, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

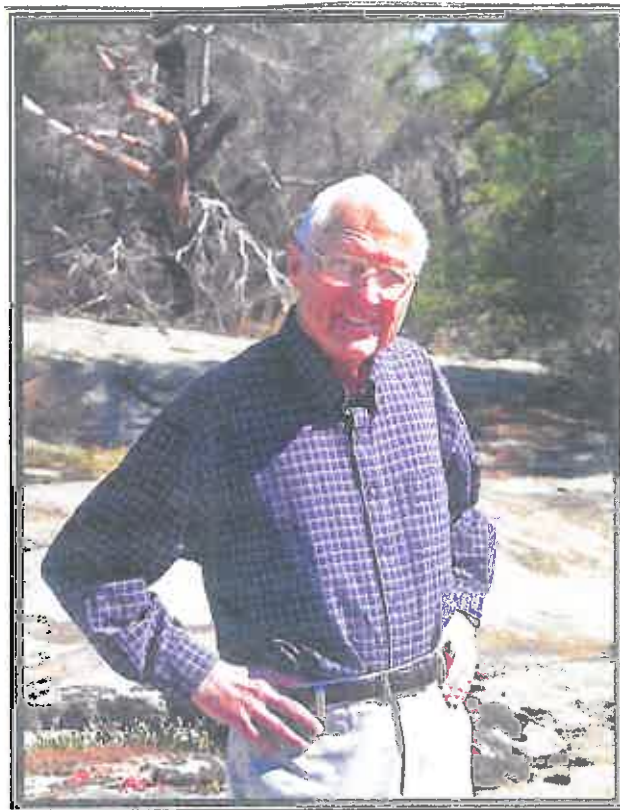


# Dedication

## William H. Murdy Arboretum

### ARBORETUM:

a place where many kinds of trees and shrubs  
are grown for exhibition or study; hence, a wooded public park.  
Here, at George Street Park between Wesley and Asbury Streets,  
a place linking campus and town, College and City.



*What does he plant who plants a tree?  
He plants – in sap and leaf and wood,  
In love of home and loyalty,  
And far-cast thought of civic good –  
His blessing on the neighborhood.*

*Charles Lathrop Pack*

***Loyal Leader, Teacher, Mentor, Steward  
Friend of Folk, Field, and Forest***

**William H. "Bill" Murdy** was born in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, December 25, 1928. As a youth, he aspired to be a farmer. After graduating from Bristol County School of Agriculture, he served four years in the United States Army. Using the GI Bill, he entered the University of Massachusetts and was awarded the BS degree in 1956. In 1959, he earned the PhD in Botany from Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Murdy joined the Emory faculty in 1959. During his career, he taught a variety of courses dealing primarily with plants. For eight years he chaired the department of biology. He authored numerous papers on plant systematics, evolution, biodiversity, air pollution, and environmental ethics.

He served as president of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, and the University Senate. His many honors include appointment as Charles Howard Candler Professor of Biology in 1987 and the Thomas Jefferson Award for distinguished service to the university in 1990.

In the 1990s, Governor Zell Miller appointed him to the advisory committee of the State's Preservation 2000 Program. He was a life member of the board of trustees of the Atlanta Botanical Garden, a trustee of the Nature Conservancy of Georgia, a member of the Oxford College Board of Counselors and the Covington Kiwanis Club.

For the last twelve years of his tenure at Emory, Dr. Murdy served as Dean of Oxford College of Emory University where he beautified the campus with native plants. He and Eloise Carter published a guide to plants of granite outcrops; their report on Emory's forests resulted in conservation and protection of the University's natural areas. Relationships between Oxford College and the wider Emory University community flourished under his leadership.

The well-being of both College and City mattered to him. He was appointed member of the Trees, Parks, and Recreation Board 1998-1999 and 2002 until becoming chairman in 2003. He was elected and served as City of Oxford Councilman 2004-2006 and as Mayor 2006-2007. During his service with the City, a new maintenance facility was constructed and the City staff became well-trained and efficient.

Upon retirement, Bill and Nancy Murdy, his wife of sixty-one years, moved briefly to Atlanta but soon returned to Oxford, where they had bought the historic Hopkins House at 1111 Wesley Street in 2003. There they tended home and garden, family and friends until his death March 19, 2014.

On March 26, at his memorial service and at the reception following in their home, family and friends comforted each other while celebrating the life of this kind and capable man and the good he gave to the places and people he touched.

# **William H. Murdy Arboretum**

**Dedicated February 21, 2015  
Arbor Day**

## **Emory University**

**Professor of Biology  
1959-1999  
Dean of Oxford College  
1987-1999**

## **City of Oxford**

**Trees, Parks, Recreation Board  
Member 1998-1999, 2002  
Chairman 2003  
Councilman 2004-2006  
Mayor 2006-2007**

**Resident in Retirement 2003-2014**

***Loyal Leader,  
Teacher, Mentor, Steward  
Friend of Folk, Field, and Forest***

## Site of the Yarbrough Oak

Presently there is no official marker indicating the site of the Yarbrough Oak, though the dwelling of its original caregivers still stands near the corner of Emory and Clark Streets, across from the front steps of City Hall, where, just inside the lobby, on the south wall, hangs a painting by local artist and historian Erik Oliver with the tree as its focus. Facing the painting and looking through the glass doors, one can imagine the massive oak looming out and up. The Oxford Community News of June 2012 (volume 4, issue 1, page 4) carries this documentation:

*The 30"x40" piece is titled "Oxford at Sunset" and features a stylized Yarbrough Oak superimposed with a map of the original town plan. The setting sun creates silhouettes of Seney Hall, Allen Memorial UMC, Old Church, and City Hall on the horizon.*

*The night sky is lit up with stars and swirls reminiscent of Van Gogh's Starry Night. Among the branches and forest are dozens of fireflies, which represent the spirits of particularly special people of Oxford who have passed on. The whole piece is a mosaic of thousands of dots.*

*Oliver created the painting as a gift for his father, Hoyt Oliver, who retired in December [2001] after [thirteen and one half] years of service on the city council. The painting is on long-term loan to the city and hangs in the city hall lobby.*



## Sonnet – The Yarbrough Oak

For many years, an undated copy of Evelyn Sewell Rineer's sonnet "The Yarbrough Oak" rendered in calligraphy has hung in the former and current city hall buildings. Its relevance now offers a blessing as we go forth from this Arbor Day Celebration 2015.

Grieve not for those who walk these paths no more.  
They would live joyfully, in memory;  
Thus, in their names we mark this ancient tree,  
A living witness to days gone before.

And as you note the oak near to this door,  
Blow gently through its leaves, oh winds that be.  
Share your deep secrets with the youth who see,  
Reminding them of souls beyond this shore.

Blow strength from roots sunk deep in sacred ground.  
Blow courage for the facing of life's pain.  
Blow patience from long looking toward the sky.  
And if, perchance, just one of these be found  
By some young seeker as he passes by,  
Your nurturing will not have been in vain.

Evelyn Sewell Rineer, *Star-Dusting – Lyrical Poems* (Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, 1983), p. 16. Rineer lived in Oxford in the 1930s (Capers-Dickson House, 202 Fletcher Street), attended The Oxford Academy, graduated Wesleyan College and Emory Graduate School. Her father, Chaplain Wilbur Stuart Sewell, AEF, War I, was a member of Emory College Class of 1907.

## Reprise

Emmalise Stone (daughter of Harry Harlan and Susan Bonnell Stone, sister of Susanne Stone Eady, and sister-in-law of Dean Virgil Y. C. Eady) was a schoolteacher. In the mid 1960s, "Aunt Em" stated with authority to new resident LaTrelle Oliver that *even geographically Oxford is very special – because, according to Indian lore, it lies in the land between two rivers – a safe place to live, where food and water are plentiful, where land is rich for farming, and where there is natural protection from hostile enemies and weather.* Here, ancient timbers were already being cleared for farming and settlement in the early 1800s. It is to this land that the Methodists came calling.

Much of the old growth forest was intact in 1836 when the trustees of recently chartered Emory College purchased acreage sufficient for a new town and school site. The 1837 plan (conceived by friends and colleagues Surveyor Edward Lloyd Thomas and Emory President Ignatius Few) imposed rigid (dare we say, Methodist) order onto the semi-virgin land. And so, on December 23, 1839, a new town, Oxford, received its charter of birth – and thus its Methodist baptism. Original broad streets accommodated the expansive tree canopy. Though the old growth has declined, the attitude of understanding and appreciation has survived these 175 years. Thanks to the vision and practice of planners and residents, there is in this place commitment to the ongoing planting and tending of our living arbor.



## Supplementary Program Information

1. Yarbrough Oak Deed of Ownership, 1929
2. Polly Stone Buck, Recollections in *The Blessed Town*, pp. 29-30
3. Georgia Urban Forest Council's Outstanding Local Officials Awards, 2001 and 2005
4. Five Easy Steps to Young Tree Training and Branch Pruning
5. How to Plant a Bare-root Tree

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## List of Documents – filed with Trees, Parks, and Recreation Board

1. Emory University's Tree Policy, May 15, 2007
2. Tree Maintenance and Long-Term Management in Oxford, 1997 – Transcript of Citizens' Meeting
3. *Cities by Nature's Design: Proceedings of the 8th National Urban Forest Conference, Atlanta, GA September 17-20, 1997*
4. Folder containing copies of text, notes, and news clippings gathered by Louise Eady

STATE OF GEORGIA, NEWTON COUNTY,

This Indenture, made this 30 day of September in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and 29, between The Commissioners of The Township Of Oxford R. L. Paine, H. B. ... of the County of Newton and State of Georgia

That Giant Oak Tree, Known as "Prince Of The Forest" of the County of Newton and State of Georgia, Township of Oxford, of the second part.

Witnesseth: That the said part of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of

Love and affection

granted, bargained, sold, aliened, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, convey and confirm, unto the said part of the second part, all that tract or parcel of land, situated lying and being in Township of Oxford, a few paces directly Southwest of the present Post Office of said Township, including that Majestic Oak Tree, known as the "Prince Of The Forest," and ten feet of land running as a radius from the trunk of said tree on all sides of said tree, this land and tree abutting the property, including dwelling house, owned by one Jim Rollins, the esteemed town Barber. Be it known by all men that this is a deed by the said Commissioners of said tree to itself, the conveyance growing out of the Holy love and sincere affection entertained by our citizens and countless others for this great Work of Nature and for Nature's God.

To Have and to Hold the said above granted and described property, with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereunto appertaining, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the said part of the second part, in fee simple. And the said part of the first part the said bargained property above described unto the said part of the second part heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, against the said part of the first part, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and against all and every other person, shall and will and does hereby, warrant and forever defend by virtue these presents.

In Witness Whereof, the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals and affixed their seal, and delivered these presents, the day and year above written.

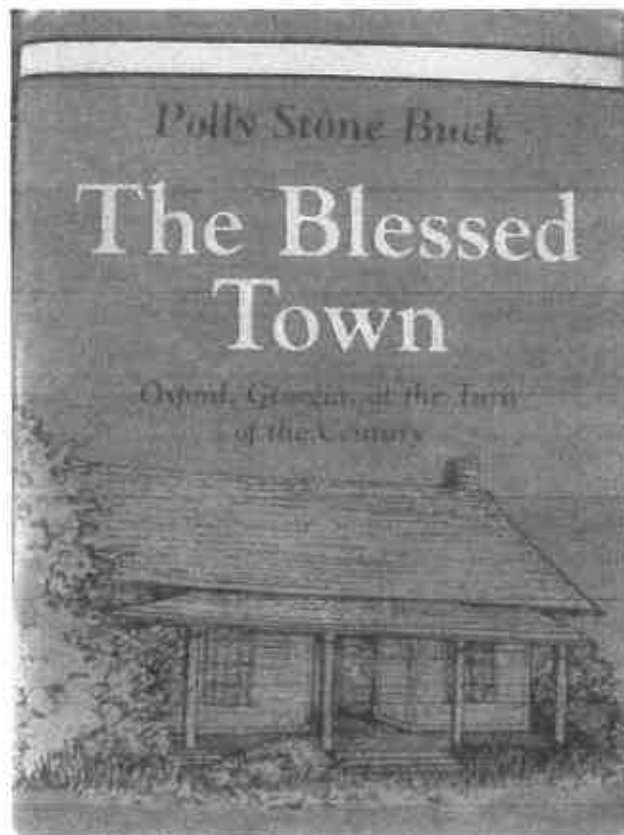
Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of The Commissioners of the town of Oxford W. A. Boushawn, W. S. Sherwood, R. L. Paine - A. L. Gills, A. B. ... E. Walton Stoozier, attorney at law, Eric Long, Jr.



Polly Stone Buck recalls Oxford attitudes toward trees  
in particular "The Tree That Owns Itself"  
from her book *This Blessed Town*, pp. 29-30

... Along with groceries, Branham's store carried fertilizers and stock feed at the back, and their queer smell filled the air. Several farmers' mules and wagons were almost always tied to the long hitching-rail out in front of the store.

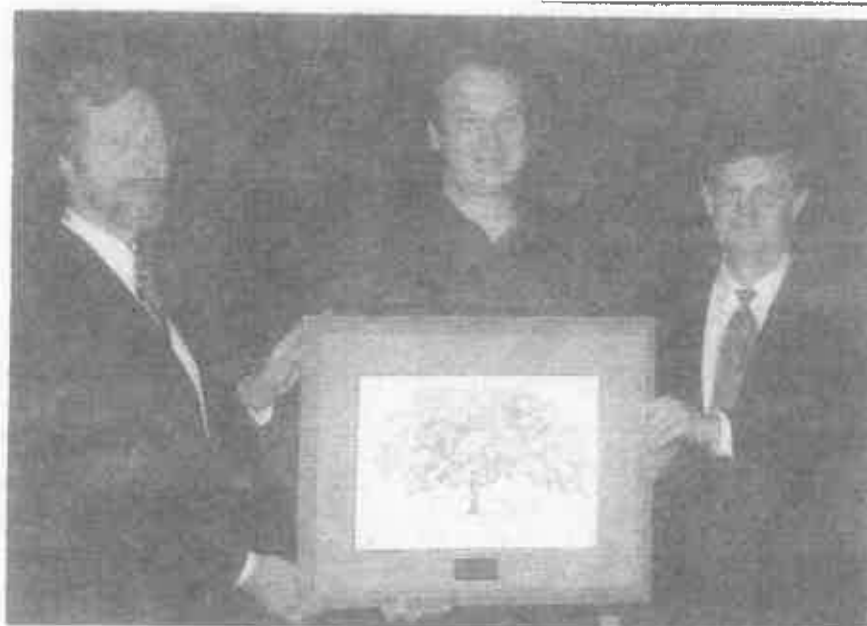
All stores had these hitching-rails, as there had to be something to tie an animal to, and no one dared use a tree. For Oxford was very tree-conscious, realizing that the large ones were the town's greatest assets, and in laying out the streets and putting up buildings, the founding fathers had felled as few as possible. They also immediately set out along the new streets little water oaks to grow for a hundred years, and before the century was over, a town ordinance was passed to protect them all. It read, "If any person shall cut, trim, top, damage, or remove any shade tree from the sidewalks or streets of the town of Oxford, or hitch any horse, mule or any other beast to any of the same without written permission of the chairman of the street committee, such person shall be punished." And the town elders deeded to itself the finest of the original white oaks, then over eighty feet high, in order to be sure it escaped destruction at the hands of any later progress-mad citizens who might object to its location almost in the middle of the main street. "The tree that owns itself" is legally safe until time and old age claim it.



# Honors Bestowed on Oxford Officials



In 2001, Dr. Hoyt Oliver was nominated by Chief Ranger Beryl D. Budd as a recipient of the Georgia Urban Forest Council's Outstanding Elected/Appointed Official Award. As a City Councilman, Dr. Oliver was recognized for his efforts in regards to tree care in Oxford. Then, again, in 2005, Erik Oliver was also honored for his work with the City of Oxford's Trees, Parks, and Recreation Board.



# How to prune a tree branch correctly

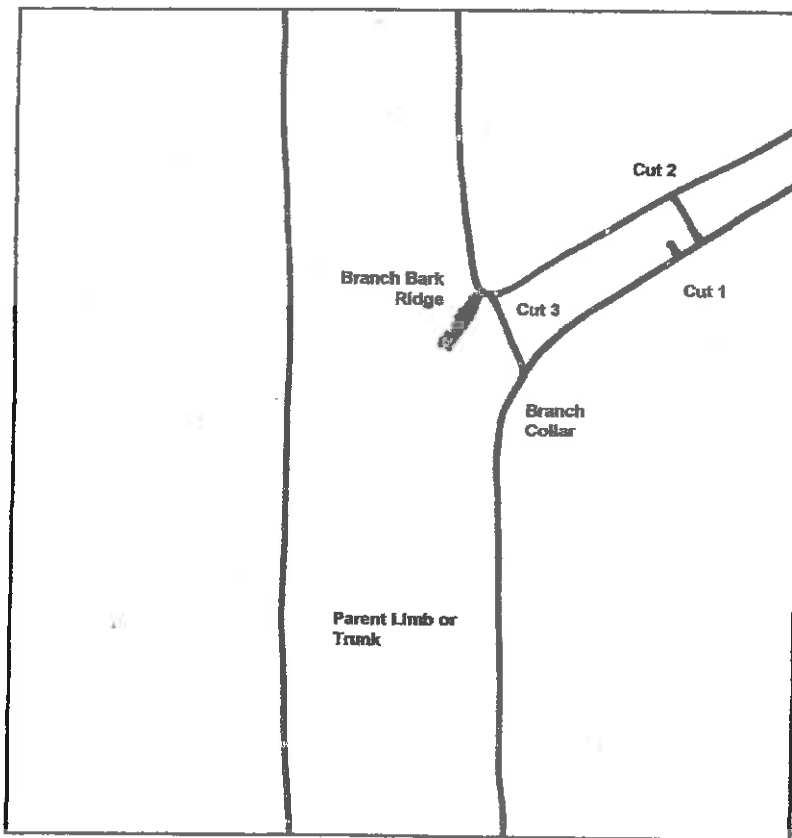


DIAGRAM OF THE 3-CUT PRUNING METHOD

## FIVE EASY STEPS TO YOUNG TREE TRAINING PRUNING

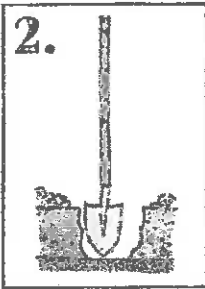
1. Remove crossed, broken, rubbing, dead, diseased, and dying branches. This can be done after planting, but no more than these branches should be removed in the first year.
2. Select a central leader. Most trees should have a main stem, unforked, known as the "central leader". Select the healthiest, straightest stem and shorten or remove forks and those stems that are competing. These forks and competing stems are temporary branches.
3. Select the "lowest permanent branch". Imagine your tree when it is mature. How low do you want the lowest permanent branch? You might need to wait several years for your tree to grow before you can determine which branch will be the lowest permanent branch. Most of the branches in the early years of growth of a medium to large maturing variety of tree will be temporary.
4. Select the main limbs. These should be spaced 12 to 18 inches apart along the stem and be well distributed radially (around the stem). Shorten or remove other temporary limbs. Leave smaller limbs that may eventually develop into the main limbs.
5. Shorten the length of temporary branches and those that compete with the central leader and the main scaffold branches.

**THIS PROCESS WILL TAKE AS LONG AS 25 YEARS! BEGIN EARLY, AND CONTINUE PRUNING ANNUALLY TO DEVELOP A STRONG STRUCTURE.**

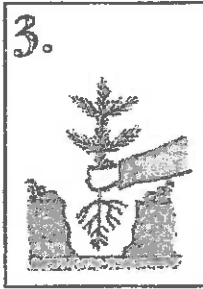
## How to Plant a Bare-root Tree



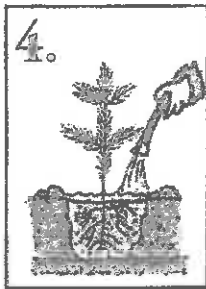
1. Unpack tree and soak in water 3 to 6 hours. Do not plant with packing material attached to roots and do not allow roots to dry out.



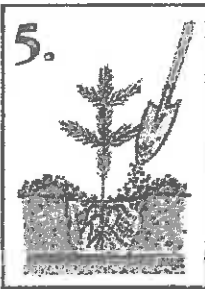
2. Dig a hole, wider than seems necessary, so the roots can spread without crowding. Remove any grass within a 3-foot circular area. To aid root growth, turn soil in an area up to 3 feet in diameter.



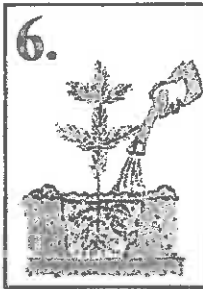
3. Plant the tree at the same depth it stood in the nursery, without crowding the roots. Partially fill the hole, firming the soil around the lower roots. Do not add soil amendments.



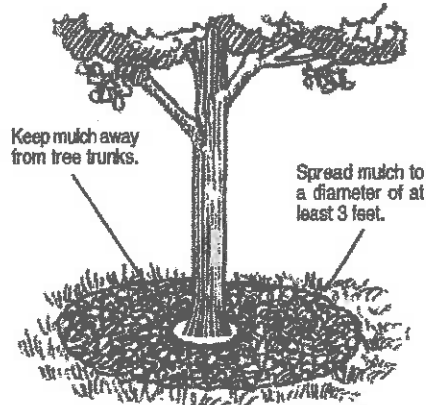
4. Shovel in the remaining soil. It should be firmly, but not tightly packed. Construct a water-holding basin around the tree. Give the tree plenty of water.



5. After the water has soaked in, place a 2-inch deep protective mulch in an area 3 feet in diameter around the base of the tree (but not touching the trunk).



6. During dry weather, water the tree generously every week or 10 days during the first year.



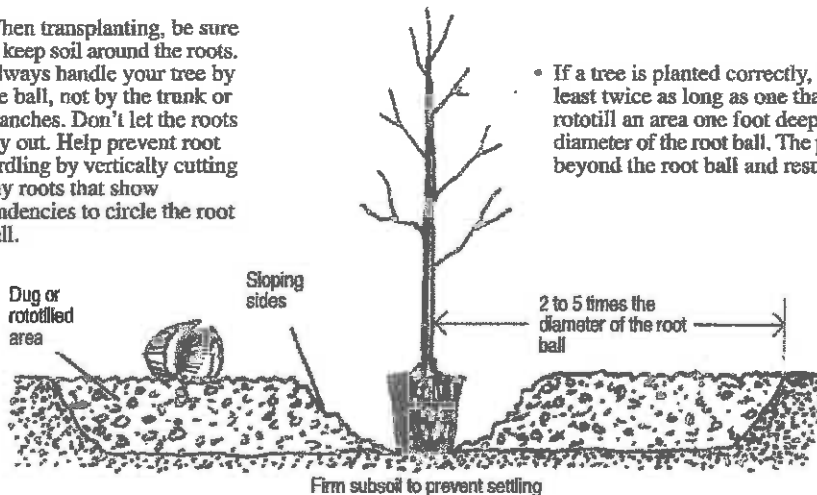
*A properly mulched tree*

## Mulch: A Tree's Best Friend

Mulch is a young tree's best friend. It holds down competing weeds or grass, retains moisture, prevents soil cracking that can damage new roots, protects the trunk from lawnmower damage, and helps prevent soil compaction. Common mulches include bark, wood chips, decorative gravel, and crushed lava. Organic mulches such as wood chips or pine needles also contribute to better soil structure and aeration as they decompose. Avoid limestone rock and allow no mulch to touch the tree's trunk or be piled higher than 3 inches.

## How to Plant a Containerized Tree

- When transplanting, be sure to keep soil around the roots. Always handle your tree by the ball, not by the trunk or branches. Don't let the roots dry out. Help prevent root girdling by vertically cutting any roots that show tendencies to circle the root ball.



- If a tree is planted correctly, it will grow twice as fast and live at least twice as long as one that is incorrectly planted. Ideally, dig or rototill an area one foot deep and approximately five times the diameter of the root ball. The prepared soil will encourage root growth beyond the root ball and result in a healthier tree.

- After placing the tree, pack soil firmly, but not tightly, around the root ball. Water the soil and place a protective 3-foot circle of mulch around the tree.

*The following stories were added by Louise Eady.*

### Holly Tree at Allen Memorial United Methodist Church

A large East Palatka Holly Tree stands between the Allen Memorial Church sanctuary and the Sunday School Building beside the entrance to the ramp. Virgil Eady, Jr. was told by his Aunt Emmalise Stone that this tree was grown from a cutting of a tree at the Emory University Campus in Atlanta. The story he was told and the story on the Emory University web site is that the history of this tree dates to the arrival of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, at St. Simon's Island, Georgia in 1737. Wesley was said to have enjoyed preaching outside the Christ Episcopal Church on St. Simon's Island under a large live oak. Nearly two centuries later, Bishop Warren Candler and his wife Antoinette visited St. Simon's and located the live oak known as Wesley's Oak. In the crook of the oak tree a holly had sprouted. Mrs. Candler uprooted the holly and brought it to Emory University and planted it on the campus. There have been cuttings planted in other locations on campus since that date and one such cutting made it to Oxford to the original Emory campus. Therefore, the holly standing next to Oxford's Methodist Church is the descendant of a tree that once sprouted in the crook of John Wesley's favorite oak.

### Oaks on Wesley Street

Another story told by Virgil Eady is that his grandfather, Harry Harlan Stone, spent one summer as a child planting oak trees along Wesley Street in Oxford. This information was given to Virgil by his grandmother, Susan Bonnell Stone and reinforced by his aunt Emmalise Stone. Harry possibly planted along other streets as well. Wesley Street has two straight lines of oaks on the eastern side of the road which were obviously intentionally planted. The inner line of trees marks the edge of the road right-of-way. Most of these oaks seem to be water oaks and pin oaks. Harry Harlan Stone, by the way, became a professor at Emory College as an adult and also served for many years as the Newton County Superintendent of Schools. Palmer-Stone School was named for him.

## Pecan Trees in Old Oxford

Oxford residents living on Wesley and Asbury Streets have noticed that from Watson Street to Clark Street there are pecan trees planted on both sides of Wesley Street in the back yards of the houses, so that the trees are between the houses on Wesley Street and Asbury Street and also on the other side between Wesley Street and the unopened Coke Street right-of-way. There were originally four or five rows of large pecan trees. Some of them have died or been cut down but most folks have multiple trees in their yards. It is unknown who planted this grove, but we all enjoy the nuts.

## Hemlock Trees on Wesley Street

Bonnell Stone, a native of Oxford, was a forester for many years. For most of his career he lived in Blairsville and managed thousands of acres of forest land in North Georgia. He was instrumental in securing the donation of the acreage that became Vogel State Park. One of his many accomplishments was that he was a founder of the Georgia Forestry Association and has been called the "Father of Forestry in Georgia."

When Bonnell retired and returned to Oxford he brought with him some Hemlock Tree seedlings which he planted in the yards of the Thomas-Stone house and the Harry Stone house on Wesley Street. There are now four very large hemlock trees on the eastern side of Wesley Street in the yards of David and Vicki Eady and Jonathan and Theresa Eady.

*Add a story.*

*If you know a story about a tree in our fair city, add it here, and send it to the TPR Board.*



## Historic State Park Added to Arbor Day Farm Experience

Arbor Day Foundation Chief Executive Matt Harris recently announced that a unique cooperative agreement has been reached that will allow the Arbor Day

Foundation to manage adjacent Arbor Lodge State Historical Park, ***once the home of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day.***

Morton's entire 330-acre farmstead will be intact once again and will offer visitors of all ages an unprecedented experience.

This addition includes the Morton family home, period artifacts, gardens, carriage house, walkways and a virtual arboretum of trees brought in from east and west and planted more than a century ago on the open prairie by Morton and his wife, Caroline.

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will retain ownership of the state park portion, but the Foundation will have full management responsibility, including—with the help of members and other donors—making needed improvements to enhance the experience.

Find more information on visiting [Arbor Lodge State Historical Park](#)