

John Boyle  
Commissioner

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Department of  
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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## Celebrate Arbor Day in Alaska on May 15

**(Anchorage, AK)** – Plant a tree. Take a walk in the woods. Start recycling paper products. Whatever you choose to do, the Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection encourages Alaskans to take time for Arbor Day on Monday, May 15.

Established in 1872, Arbor Day educates children and adults about the importance of trees, and recognizes the important role that trees play in our lives. In Alaska, the third Monday in May is Arbor Day to honor one of the state's greatest assets – its forests.

"We are fortunate to have vast expanses of forested land in Alaska," said **State Forester Helge Eng**. "Our forests provide environmental, economic and social benefits that improve the quality of life for Alaskans, which is why it is important to manage them properly."

"Arborists have a saying: 'When is the best time to plant a tree? Twenty years ago. When's the next best time? Today!' We encourage Alaskans throughout the state, especially our young people, to plant trees in the month of May in celebration of our wildland forests, community forests and of course Arbor Day."

To learn more about planting and caring for trees, visit the Division's Community Forestry Program website: [forestry.alaska.gov/community](http://forestry.alaska.gov/community). For additional ideas on how to participate in Arbor Day, visit the national Arbor Day Foundation website [celebratearborday.com/](http://celebratearborday.com/)

*The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.*

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