



February 5, 2014

To: Georgia School Superintendents

Re: Georgia's Arbor Day webcast, February 20, 2014

On Thursday, February 20, Georgia students have an opportunity to experience a first-of-its kind event that will have them learning, laughing, and loving the natural resources around them like never before! The Georgia Forestry Commission is teaming up with the state's schools on Georgia's Arbor Day to present a very special webcast devoted to the many benefits and joys of trees.

Did you know that two out of every three raindrops that fall in Georgia fall on forestland? Or that Georgia forests provide billions of dollars' worth of ecosystem services to our state with no direct costs? Those are just some of the facts that make our forests so spectacular and contribute to Georgia's ranking as a national leader in forestry. They're also great reasons to help kids understand the value of conserving our forestland.

The webcast on February 20, from 10:00 am to 11:15 am will feature "edu-tainer" Tim Womick and his "Trail of Trees" production. Womick is a trained performer who became captivated by the importance of trees on Earth Day, 1990. He has been engaging audiences ever since with his creative presentations focusing on the importance of trees and environmental stewardship. Children and adults alike rave about Womick's message, and a special tree-planting ceremony is often held immediately following his performances. Your school also has the opportunity to schedule a Georgia Forestry Commission-hosted tree planting event following the webcast.

Interested? We thought so!

It's easy to take part in this special event. Just complete the attached RSVP form and send it to Wendy Burnett (fax 478-751-3559 or email wburnett@gfc.state.ga.us) by February 12. We will then send you more detailed instructions, including the web address, to join the webcast and to schedule a tree-planting ceremony at your school.

Thank you for your consideration, and Happy Georgia Arbor Day!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Farris".

Robert Farris
Director, Georgia Forestry Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. Barge".

John D. Barge, Ed.D.
State School Superintendent