

Interest rekindling in Arbor Day

By Rose Fitzpatrick

Arbor Day, April 22, the only holiday originating in the once-treeless land now known as Nebraska, is celebrated nationally and in parts of Canada with renewed interest.

Although it is not celebrated to the extent it used to be when it was set aside as a day for children to plant trees, some people saw the 1972 centennial of Arbor Day as a chance to rekindle interest, said John Rosenow. Rosenow is executive director of the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Trees are needed now more than ever and the foundation was formed to inspire people, he said.

The foundation, which has 75,000 members, works with foresters in all states. One of their programs is Tree City, U.S.A.

He said that 161 cities have been named Tree City, U.S.A., a recognition that honors urban foresters.

People can't be separated from the environment, he said, and trees are important in the city because they help clean the air, reduce soil erosion, are a wildlife habitat, and are psychologically and aesthetically beneficial to people.

Tree City

To be a Tree City, U.S.A., a city needs to follow certain standards for administration of a tree program and have effective results, which are judged by state foresters.

Lincoln's tree situation is excellent, Rosenow said because it is one of the finer cities in the nation for the amount of and care of trees, he said.

Tree City, U.S.A. was started because half the trees in cities are on public property and there is no effective management of them, he said.

The foundation also is beginning an arboretum on property they purchased next to Arbor Lodge, the home of Julius Sterling Morton, who is credited with starting Arbor Day.

Morton was an agriculturist, a member from 1855 to 1858 of the territorial assembly that was to become Nebraska and a secretary of the territory from 1858 to 1861.

Tree planting

Morton developed many agricultural methods and spread agricultural information. Tree planting was his hobby and he planted several hundred trees himself.

However, as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from 1893 to 1897, he halted the free distribution of seeds because of lack of money.

Arbor Lodge, Morton's home, was donated to the Nebraska Game and Parks Committee in 1923 by a member of the Morton family.

Superintendent of Arbor Lodge, Randy Fox, said the Arbor Lodge State Historical Park has several arboretums and a collection with 230 varieties of trees.

Loan applications must be in May 5

The date for turning in applications for Guaranteed Student Loans for fall has been changed from June 1 to May 5 to allow enough time for processing, according to Nancy Wiederspan, assistant adviser for Scholarships and Financial Aids.

Wiederspan said the date was changed because it has been taking longer than anticipated for the institutions that give the loans to process the forms. In some instances the delay has been three months.

Students who apply for the GSL first should contact the bank, savings and loan, or credit union from which they wish to get a loan. The GSL is awarded by one of these institutions, but the financial aids office must verify that the person seeking a loan is a student.

The change also has been made so students can turn in the applications before leaving for the summer, she added.

Once the students receive the forms back from financial aids, they should return them to the financial institution, she said. Processing through the office will take two to three weeks.

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Did you attend the Jimmie Walker act? yes no

What celebrity would you like to see? _____

How much would you spend to see this person? _____

If you would like to join the Walpurgisnacht Committee, please include your name, address and telephone.

Leave your survey at the Walpurgisnacht Booth in either union Tuesday, April 22, or Wednesday, April 23, or mail to the Walpurgisnacht Committee, 200 Nebraska Union. Thank you!

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