



December 1, 2015  
Terrebonne Parish Tree Board  
**Press Release:**

Once again, the Terrebonne Parish Tree Board is sponsoring its annual Tree Giveaway on Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in honor of Arbor Day. Collaborating with Apache Corporation, the Tree Board will enable Terrebonne Parish residents the opportunity to plant and own trees.

This year, Apache is donating 200 native species container trees and more than 800 native species seedlings. Terrebonne Parish residents are limited to two trees in 3- to 5-gallon containers per household on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents may have an unlimited number of seedlings until all are distributed.

The demand for trees at this event has increased each year, and we would like to thank Apache for their dedication and volunteerism in the care and distribution of Louisiana native species that will provide future generations with function and beauty.

**EVENT:** Tree Board Tree Giveaway honoring Arbor Day  
**WHERE:** Terrebonne Parish Library on 151 Library Drive, Houma LA.  
**When:** Saturday, January 30, 2016.  
**TIMES:** 9 to 11:30 AM

Volunteers from the La Terre Master Gardeners will provide proper instruction for planting the trees, along with helpful care and growing tips. The importance of trees in the landscape should not be overlooked. Trees add value and save money year-round by producing shade that reduces home-cooling costs in the summer and shelter against cold winds to reduce home-heating costs in the winter.

In its press release for Arbor Day, the National Arbor Day Foundation highlighted the benefits of trees, including the calculation that a young, healthy tree provides a net-cooling effect of a 10-room air conditioner working for 20 hours a day. Dr. E. Greg McPherson from the Center for Urban Forest Research determined that in the five years after planting a tree on the west side of a house, homeowners can save up to 3 percent in utility costs. In 15 years, the savings jump to nearly 12 percent. A mature tree can have an appraised value between \$1,000 and \$10,000, according to the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers.

Trees attract new businesses, promote tourism and stimulate economic development. Retail areas are more attractive to clients, apartments rent more quickly and tenants stay longer. The most important and overlooked benefit of trees is that they improve water quality by slowing down stormwater drainage, thus reducing soil runoff and erosion and allowing aquifers to recharge faster.

Along with the Arbor Day Foundation, the Terrebonne Parish Tree Board wants to inspire residents to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. This and other valuable information is available by contacting the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**PSA contact: Chris Pulaski -985-873-6569**

**Laura Browning, Chairman 985-804-3583**

**Sandy Wright Ostheimer, Vice Chairman**