

Outstanding Project winners:

The mission of the City of Gastonia's Ever Green Tree Project is to replace trees removed by the city's electric department and replace those trees with a species more suitable to be planted near power lines, plant new trees in areas of the city that lack sufficient tree canopy and provide a resource for citizens to purchase trees at a reduced cost. In October, the city hosted "The Power of Trees" sale during which over 200 trees were sold to Gastonia residents to plant in their yards.

In 2003, the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry Division adopted the Neighbor Woods program to counteract the loss of thousands of trees from Hurricanes Fran, Floyd and various ice storms. The Neighbor Woods program is a cooperative effort between the City of Raleigh and its citizens, whereby the City delivers trees to citizens who pledge to plant and water those trees along City rights-of-way. The Neighbor Woods Program is funded through donations solicited through water bills and grant funds. To date, the program has delivered over 7,500 trees to the citizens of Raleigh.

Outstanding Individual winners:

Mary Silliman is a 13-year old Apex Middle School student and 4-H club member who planned and led the planting of 2,363 trees in the Apex community from 2008-2009. She worked with Apex officials, recruited over 150 volunteers, and brought together several sponsors for planting events. One of those planting events was to honor the memory of her brother, Matt, who was murdered in December 2008 by four other teenagers.

Mariana Qubein is the First Lady of High Point University. She was instrumental in developing a plan to create an arboretum on the campus of High Point University. Mrs. Qubein's goal was to preserve and foster old growth trees on campus as it expanded rapidly and to make the entire campus an arboretum for trees and botanical gardens to educate students and visitors. Under her leadership, the university's administration promised publicly that for every tree removed on campus due to construction, ten trees would be planted in its place. Mrs. Qubein is also leading the "150 Trees for 150 Years Project" which seeks to plant 150 trees in High Point in celebration of the town's 150th anniversary.

Lifetime Achievement winner:

Mary "Bett" Stroud was instrumental in establishing an urban forestry program in the Town of Weaverville. It was under her leadership that Weaverville earned its designation as a Tree City USA community. Since becoming mayor of Weaverville in 1993, Mayor Stroud has continued to serve as a member of the Weaverville Tree Board, has helped coordinate tree care workshops, garden tours, tree planting events and created the Main Street Nature Park, which has recently been recognized as a "Wildlife Habitat Area" by the National Wildlife Foundation.

Tree City USA of the Year:

The Town of Weaverville has been a Tree City USA community for the past 18 years and has received 15 Tree City USA Growth Awards during that same time. Weaverville, population 20,702, is located in Buncombe County, just north of Asheville. Weaverville is being recognized because of its extraordinary achievements of its tree board, led by Mayor Mary "Bett" Stroud, who is being honored with a lifetime achievement award. Over the past 18 years, Weaverville has developed the Main Street Nature Park, conducted numerous tree care workshops for residents, hosted volunteer work days to maintain the nature park, planted over 1,067 trees and publicized the efforts of the tree board in the local newsletter, "Focus on Weaverville".