



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Arbor Day Foundation Elects State Forester to Board of Trustees *Kentucky State Forester Leah MacSwords to serve nationally*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 7, 2011) – The Arbor Day Foundation, the nation’s largest nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees, recently elected Leah W. MacSwords, Kentucky’s state forester and director of the Kentucky Division of Forestry to its Board of Trustees. Along with being the Kentucky’s state forester for the past 10 years, MacSwords is recognized nationally for her work. She is a past president of the National Association of State Foresters, the current chairperson of the associations’ communications committee and a member of the Society of American Foresters. MacSwords also received the American Tree Farm Award for Sustained Excellence in 2009.

“The addition of MacSwords to the Board of Trustees will provide additional innovative leadership as the foundation continues to explore new ways to work with its partners to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees,” said John Rosenow, chief executive officer of the Arbor Day Foundation.

“Being part of an organization that has millions of members worldwide and does so much to promote the value of trees and forests is very exciting. I look forward to serving on the Arbor Day Foundation Board of Trustees,” said MacSwords.

The Arbor Day Foundation's work includes creating healthier urban forests through the Tree City USA community improvement program; helping to heal our nation's forests by replanting millions of trees in areas of federal- and state-managed forests damaged by disease and fire, providing resources to improve childhood

development through daily interactions with the natural world; and preserving Latin American rain forests through conservation, shade-grown coffee farming and education programs. The Arbor Day Foundation plants more than 14 million trees annually.

The Division of Forestry operates under the direction of the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources (DNR) and is responsible for preventing and suppressing wildfires on state and private lands, as well as providing assistance to landowners and communities for the purpose of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of our forests.

“This is a tremendous honor and I am extremely proud of Leah for her efforts in forest stewardship,” said DNR Commissioner Carl Campbell. “Our agency is dedicated to working with conservation organizations, and Leah’s leadership is critical to our goals in building partnerships with other resource professionals for the purpose of restoring Kentucky’s forests.”

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About the Arbor Day Foundation: *Founded in 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit, conservation and education organization of a million members and supporters, with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. More information on the foundation and its programs can be found at arborday.org.*

About the Kentucky Division of Forestry: *The Kentucky Division of Forestry, headquartered in Frankfort, manages nine district offices with forestry staff assigned to every county in Kentucky for the purpose of providing services to the citizens of the Commonwealth. The agency’s mission is to protect and enhance Kentucky’s forest resources through a public informed of the environmental, social and economic importance of forests. For further information, visit forestry.ky.gov.*