



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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### **Arbor Day Foundation Honors Charles Williams** *Hart County Landowner Receives Good Steward Award*

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** (May 12, 2011) – The Arbor Day Foundation, the nation’s largest nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees, recently honored Charles D. Williams of Munfordville during its annual awards banquet. Williams was recognized with a Good Steward Award for practicing sustainable forestry on his 929-acre woodland in Hart County.

Williams is known around Munfordville as “the Tree Man,” a nickname he has earned by planting thousands of trees since he was 15. As a young man, Williams and a neighbor sold redbud and dogwood trees all over town. Today, residents are treated to a spectacular show of blossoms each year in April thanks to his handiwork. He has planted trees on his farm every Good Friday since 1976. He was Kentucky’s nominee for the National Tree Farmer of the Year last year and has won several state and regional awards. While serving as Munfordville’s city attorney from 1993 until 2004, he started the community’s Arbor Day program.

The Arbor Day Foundation annually honors individuals, organizations and conservation groups that make a positive impact through tree-planting and environmental or nature education initiatives.

“When we honor tree planters for the work they do today, we are commemorating the benefits they are leaving for future generations,” said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. “This group of Arbor Day Award winners is leaving a lasting legacy through the simple act of planting trees and caring for the Earth.”

Williams accepted his award at the annual Arbor Day Awards Ceremony on April 30 at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, Neb.

“The Kentucky Division of Forestry congratulates Mr. Williams. We are very proud that the Arbor Day Foundation recognized his efforts to plant trees on his farm and in his community,” said Leah MacSwords, director of the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

Since 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has given Arbor Day Awards to honor America’s foremost tree planters and conservationists. More information on the Foundation and its programs can be found at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

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