

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TheDCH, New Castle County, DE Forest Service, and Brandywine SD Partner for Arbor Day Celebration

Wilmington, DE – With more than 200 students from Mt. Pleasant Elementary, the Delaware Center for Horticulture, New Castle County, and Delaware Forest Service celebrated Arbor Day with lively workshops, demonstrations, scavenger hunts, and tree plantings on the grounds of Rockwood Museum and Park. A tree climbing demonstration was provided by Davey Tree Service, and tree plantings were conducted with the assistance of John and Susan Kerns.

“We truly appreciate the Delaware Center for Horticulture coming out to Rockwood Park for Arbor Day and teaching youngsters how to plant trees,” County Executive Thomas P. Gordon said. “Helping young people learn the many benefits of trees gives them a lifelong understanding of the precious and fragile nature of our environment, as well as the impact each caring individual can have.”

“Working with local governments and organizations to increase awareness of the global benefits of people and plants together is core to our mission at DCH,” said DCH Executive Director Vikram Krishnamurthy. “This Arbor Day event with the outstanding students from Mt. Pleasant Elementary is a highlight to our year not only because of their enthusiasm for the program but because of the positive impact these children will make from applying their learned knowledge to their environment.”

Students in 2nd and 3rd grade rotated through four different stations focused on the important role trees play in our everyday lives, including heat reduction, water mitigation, and air filtration. Students hoisted technicians from Davey Tree Service up into a 75-foot tree at Rockwood using a belay system and ran a scavenger hunt trail, collecting fun facts and figures about trees and forests. A total of 10 trees, including Sweetbay Magnolias and Red Maples, were planted with the assistance of Mt. Pleasant students and faculty.

“Starting at a young age in the Brandywine School District, we teach our students to be appreciative of nature and the environment, so they grow into adults who respect our world,” said Brandywine School District Superintendent Mark Holodick. “Programs like the one today at Rockwood encourage conservation and cultivate a healthy awareness by weaving fun activities into education and helping children understand the important role we all play in the ecosystem.”

“Trees and forests cover almost 30 percent of Delaware,” said Ashley Peebles from the Delaware Forest Service. “Arbor Day is a great opportunity to recognize all of the wonderful resources trees provide to us every single day, in every single part of the state.”

(Photos of the event are available upon request.)

The Delaware Center for Horticulture cultivates a greener community, inspiring appreciation and improvement of our environment through horticulture, education, and conservation.