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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 1, 2016

Arkansas ReLeaf Project and Arkansas Community Tree Recovery Campaign Distributes Free New Trees March 5 to Local Residents

AUFC and ADF to help rebuild and beautify Vilonia and Mayflower one tree at a time

Mayflower and Vilonia, March 1, 2016 – The Arkansas ReLeaf Project and Arkansas Community Tree Recovery Campaign – a partnership between the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council, Arbor Day Foundation and the Arkansas Forestry Commission, also sponsored by the Centennial Bank’s “Go Green” project – will distribute up to 6,200 new trees this year to the residents of Mayflower and Vilonia, AR. These new trees, which will be free of charge, will help to replace trees damaged and destroyed by an EF4 tornado in 2014.

Arkansas Urban Forestry Council’s Arkansas ReLeaf Project helps to replace tree canopy lost due to natural disasters in Arkansas communities. Arbor Day Foundation’s Community Tree Recovery, a national program underwritten by FedEx and foundation members, aims to replace trees in communities affected by natural disasters throughout the United States. Free trees and hot dogs will be given out to area residents who were affected by the storm.

Trees will be distributed in Mayflower at 2 Ashmore Street on March 5 from 11:00am-1:00pm, as well as in Vilonia at 7 Bise Street on March 5 from 11:00am-1:00pm. The distributions will include more than 6,200 trees total, including bald cypress, blackgum, northern red oak, tulip poplar, cherrybark oak, pecan, redbud and dogwood.

There will also be a tree planting by AUFC and AFC in Vilonia and Mayflower on March 4, sponsored by Centennial Bank.

On April 17, 2014, an EF4 tornado touched down in Arkansas and wreaked havoc on the communities of Mayflower and Vilonia. The tornado remained on the ground for over an hour – reaching wind speeds of up to 190 mph – and took 16 lives. It is considered among the most deadly tornadoes to hit Arkansas since 1968.

The Arkansas Urban Forestry Council takes an active role in increasing public awareness of the value of trees. Urban forestry focuses on the conservation of trees along streets, in open green spaces and watersheds, in parks and in neighborhoods.

About The Arkansas Urban Forestry Council

AUFC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of urban and community trees. The Council's role is to educate and promote good urban forest policies and management principles to Arkansas' communities. AUFC works at local, regional and state levels with citizens and public officials alike on important natural resource and tree care issues.

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The Arkansas Forestry Commission offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.