

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
NEWS RELEASE**

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For more information:

Community Outreach and Media Relations
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
The Montgomery County Planning Board
301-495-4600

**M-NCPPC'S ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION TO FEATURE
GRAMMY WINNERS CATHY FINK AND MARCIE MARXER**

DERWOOD, MD -- The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) invites the public to its ninth Arbor Day celebration at the Agricultural History Farm Park located at 18400 Muncaster Road in Derwood on **Sunday, April 30** from noon to 4 p.m., rain or shine. The event is free.

The first 400 visitors will receive a free native tree seedling to plant. Admission, entertainment, children's activities, exhibits, face painting, stickers, fresh popped corn, hayrides and parking are free. Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park will provide lunch and snacks at nominal cost.

GRAMMY award winners Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer will perform live from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This duo has delighted audiences for more than 20 years with the banjo, mandolin, electric and acoustic guitar, steel drum, lariat ropes, yodels and a big bag of songs to amaze and entertain children and adults alike.

At 12:30 p.m., M-NCPPC Chairman Derick Berlage, Parks Director Mary Bradford and the Montgomery County Forestry Board will kick off the "Montgomery County Big Tree Champion" contest in their countywide search for the largest trees of their species.

To date, M-NCPPC has 20 Big Tree Champions on its 32,725 acres of parkland, and there are 38 Maryland Champion Trees in Montgomery County. The Maryland Community Forest Council and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will recognize and present awards to a number of communities across Maryland that are actively involved in community tree planting and care as P.L.A.N.T. (People Loving and Nurturing Trees) communities. Immediately following the program, a White Oak donated by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service will be planted to commemorate its 50th anniversary.

Masters of the Chainsaw -- a group of the nation's top professional chainsaw sculptors -- will perform three shows during the event. From behind protective netting, visitors will see an original and captivating high-energy performance. With chainsaw roaring and chips flying, the carver's precision and skill quickly transforms a three-foot tall log into a true work of art. Nearly every show will result with a completed carving, produced from start to finish.

Throughout the afternoon, visitors will enjoy educational programs from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources which include live hawks, owls, snakes and other tree dwellers.

Oh Susannah, will provide children's musical entertainment at 1 p.m, the "Cider Press Boys" will perform down-home music from noon to 4 p.m. and Feathers the Clown will mingle with the crowd. Story time will feature "The Giving Tree," "The Lorax" and other favorites. Children will enjoy a treasure hunt with prizes. "Smokey Bear," "Johnny Appleseed" and "Woodsy Owl" will make appearances, and demonstrations will include woodcarving and the proper tree planting techniques.

For directions to the Agricultural History Farm Park, a schedule of activities or other Arbor Day Celebration information, call 301/650-2600 or visit www.montgomeryparks.org. Visitors are encouraged to leave pets at home. To volunteer at this or other M-NCPPC events, call 301/495-2504.

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