

Award # 27

Award Name: **Arbor Day**

Submitted by: **Anna-Jo Garden Club**

Number of Members in Club: **36**

1. **New Project: No**

Beginning Date: **Mid 2020** End Date: **4/30/2021**

2. Brief Summary of objectives of project.

Arbor Day 2021 was celebrated with the planting of a silky dogwood tree and a native white oak tree in the Anna City Park. Club member and arborist, Tom Caldwell, worked with city officials to get the city of Anna recognized as a Tree City USA. The program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation promoting urban forestry to improve green spaces within communities and to promote stewardship of the natural environment through tree-related activities. Anna-Jo Garden Club sponsored the native dogwood tree and the white oak was planted to honor the members of the local high school class of 2020. The white oak was chosen since it is the state tree of Illinois.

3. Involvement of club members and other organizations, etc.

Eight garden club members, city officials, and representatives of the high school graduating class attended the ceremony, as well as other interested community members who are included in the city tree committee. Tabor Nursery donated the white oak, and Plank Hill Farms provided the silky dogwood. The community tree committee spent most of a year securing the Tree City USA designation. This project truly is an ongoing community endeavor.

4. Project Expenses and means of funding.

Trees were donated, so no cost was incurred for the Arbor Day event. All labor was volunteered.

5. Continuing involvement, follow-up, and maintenance.

The city plans to plant a tree each year on Arbor Day for the graduating class, and the Garden Club plans to donate and plant a tree as well. The city will maintain the grounds around the trees, and the tree committee will take care of any needs to keep the trees well groomed and healthy

6. Attach on insert photo, digital photos, and/or landscape plan.

Arbor Day commemorated at Anna City Park



Watering a dogwood
Arborist Tom Caldwell watered a newly planted silky dogwood tree last Friday afternoon at the Anna City Park.

Celebration of Arbor Day 2021 and recognition of a special accomplishment for the City of Anna took center stage late last week in the Union County community.

In commemoration of Arbor Day, the Anna-Jo Garden Club planted a silky dogwood tree on the grounds of the Anna City Park. The silky dogwood tree is a native of Illinois.

The tree was planted last Friday afternoon under a bright blue and sunny sky on a warm spring afternoon.

Those on hand for the special occasion included members of the Anna-Jo Garden Club, representatives of the City of Anna, a member of the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School 2020 graduating class and others.

Friday afternoon's gathering also served as an opportunity to recognize the planting of a white oak tree at the park. The white oak

is the state tree of Illinois.

The white oak tree was planted by the City of Anna in honor of the A-JCHS graduating class of 2020. Class member Elijah Glen Ellis was on hand for the special event.

The city is planning to plant a tree each year in the future in honor of graduating classes at A-JCHS.

The white oak tree was provided by Tabor Nursery. The silky dogwood was provided by Plank Hill Farms.

The events on Friday came as Anna celebrated its first Arbor Day since the Union County city Tree City USA recognition.

The City of Anna has been officially recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Tree City program is a national movement to promote urban forestry, to improve green spaces within communities and

to promote stewardship of the natural environment through tree-related activities.

To earn the designation, the city was required to meet four core standards, which included creating a tree board/committee, establishing a tree care ordinance, committing resources to tree care and maintenance and conducting an Arbor Day celebration.

Anna's tree committee includes community members Gary Dahmer, Don Bagler, Tom Caldwell, Tina Goetz, Jason Tabor and Linda Hauser - volunteers who have been meeting to achieve the program's objectives since Arbor Day 2020, when they first assembled for a tree planting ceremony at the source of the Cache River near the Anna City Park.

(continued on page 2)

Many club members and communittee attended. Virginia Housman, our founding member, is seated in the wheelchair.

Garden Club Dedication Anna-Jo Park

There will be an evening garden walk May 20 at the Anna-Jo Garden Club Park next to McDonald's starting



Arborist Tom Caldwell of the Anna-Jo Garden Club helped establish Anna as a Tree City USA through the National Arbor Foundation. He planted the city white oak and garden club silky dogwood. Oak was provided by Tabor Nursery. Dogwood provided by Plank Hill Farms (Tom).



Honoring A-JCHS graduates

The City of Anna has planted a white oak tree in honor of the Anna-Jonesboro Community High School graduating class of 2020. A plaque identifies the tree.

Members present: Pete Housman, Susan Prestia, Virginia Housman, Susan Sherwin, Tom Caldwell, Nancy Kucera (President), and Martha Web



Arbor Day commemorated

The Anna-Jo Garden Club commemorated Arbor Day 2021 with the planting of a silky dogwood tree, which is native to Illinois.

Arbor Day

Members of the Anna-Jo Garden Club met for a picture at the Anna City Park and watched arborist Tom Caldwell of the garden club plant the silky dogwood tree provided by Plank Hill Farms, Tom and Nancy Caldwell.

They also gathered for a picture of the planting of the oak tree provided by Tabor Nursery in honor of the A-JCHS class of 2020. This was the first year the city dedicated a tree to the graduating class and next month they will plant another tree for the A-JCHS class of 2021 and will dedicate a tree to each class after that. Thanks to arborist Tom Caldwell for planting these trees.



Anna city administrator Dori Bigler spoke at the Anna City Park Arbor Day at the planting of the trees. This is our first Arbor Day since the City of Anna being designated a Tree City USA. The city plans to plant a tree each year on Arbor Day for the graduating class. The trees will be part of our tree identification course.