

Alaska Arbor Day

50th Anniversary Celebration

The grown-ups dropped the ball, but kids saved the day -- Arbor Day.

In 1966, Alaska was the only state in the Union without an official Arbor Day. A group of Kodiak fourth-graders asked their state senator to do something about it, and he did. Soon Gov. Bill Egan was signing Alaska Arbor Day into law and, in May 1966, he used a golden shovel to plant a ceremonial tree near the Juneau Library.

From the beginning Arbor Day has been a community celebration with a special emphasis on youth. In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt addressed his Arbor Day Proclamation to "the school children of the United States." In 1966, with help from the Forest Service, the Juneau Garden Club potted up a tree for every one of those Kodiak fourth graders who got things started; the U.S. Coast Guard delivered them.

Monday, May 16, 2016 is the 50th anniversary of Alaska Arbor Day.

A broad range of celebratory events are planned for communities around the state. Watch for announcements and volunteer opportunities. Plan to plant a tree and, remember -- Save the Day!

<http://www.arborday.org/celebrate/>

