

nature and quickly planted trees, shrubs, and flowers around their new home. Morton was also a journalist and used his position at the newspaper to communicate his love of nature. He shared educational information about trees and encouraged others to plant them. In January of 1872, he proposed to the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture the idea of a tree-planting holiday to be called Arbor Day. They were supportive of the idea, and the very first Arbor Day was celebrated on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Prizes were offered to communities and/or individuals who properly planted the largest number of trees. It is estimated that one million trees were planted on that first Arbor Day. The tradition continues in the United States today and has even spread to other countries. Annually, many special tree planting events are scheduled, and school children learn about the wonder and value of trees.