

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 15, 2010**

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**WHAT:** Arbor Day Events at UMass Amherst  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 27 Tour: 1:30PM Lecture: 7:30 PM  
**WHERE:** Tour: Campus Center Pond  
Lecture: Bowker Auditorium  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
**TICKETS:** Events are Free and open to the public

*UMass Arbor Day celebration features sweet tupelo honey, students swinging in the trees and a lecture by National Geographic Speaker!*

On Tuesday, April 27 the University of Massachusetts Amherst will celebrate Arbor Day with two free public events. Starting at 1:30 PM, a walking tour called Arts in the Arboretum will begin on the western side of the Campus Center Pond. At 7:30 pm in Bowker Auditorium, National Geographic Live! Speaker Dr. Nalini Nardkarni, winner of the 2010 National Science Board award for public service will give a lecture entitled "Between Earth and Sky - Life in the Tree Tops: Three Decades of Forest Canopy Research". Parking is available in the Campus Center Parking Garage or the Robsham Visitors Center. For more information about the tour please call The Environmental Institute at 413-545-2842 or online at [www.umass.edu/tei](http://www.umass.edu/tei). For more information about the lecture please call the Fine Arts Center Asian Arts & Culture Program at 413-577-2486 or online at <http://www.umass.edu/fac/> .

Over fifty years ago, the UMass Amherst campus was designated as the Frank A. Waugh Campus Arboretum. The Arts in the Arboretum tour is led by Professor John F. "Jack" Ahern from the UMass Department of Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning and will highlight three tree groupings that are important components of the arboretum. Starting with a small mature grove of Black Tupelos (*Nyssa sylvatica*), a native tree that prefers wetlands and waterside conditions, participants will enjoy tasting tupelo honey, music provided by Natural Resources Conservation students and a wetland ecology art installation. Located between the Campus Center and Hasbrouck

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Hall, an arc of thirteen Katsura trees (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) will provide the setting for a contemporary Butoh dance performed by students in the Five College Dance Department. The two hour tour will conclude in the beech grove next to the Durfee Conservatory. In this grove of massive, one hundred year old, European Beech Trees (*Fagus sylvatica*) students from the Stockbridge School of Arboriculture and Community Forestry will demonstrate proper tree climbing technique. Led by Professor Brian Kane, students will ascend and swing through the broad tree canopy. The grove will also host a sound installation by students from the Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning Department. Wooden sculptures created by Fine Arts students will appear at various sites along the path.

The free evening lecture at 7:30 will be given by Dr. Nalini Nadkarni. A National Geographic speaker, she has been called “the queen of forest canopy research,” a field that relates directly to the environmental issues concerning the maintenance of biodiversity, the stability of world climate, and the sustainability of forests. Dr. Nardkarni has spent more than two decades climbing the tall trees of Costa Rica, Papua New Guinea, the Amazon, and the Pacific Northwest. Nadkarni, a professor at Evergreen State College in Washington, is known for using nontraditional pathways to raise awareness of nature’s importance. In her popular presentation, “Between Earth and Sky”, Nadkarni presents a rich tapestry of personal stories celebrating the profound connections we have with trees: the dazzling array of goods and services they provide, their role in commerce and medicine, and the powerful lessons they hold for us.

UMass Amherst Arbor Day events are supported by the Environmental Institute and the Fine Arts Center Asian Arts and Culture Program in collaboration with the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, the Department of Political Science, the Department of Natural Resources Conservation, the Office of the Provost, The Graduate School and the Center for Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of the Atmosphere (CASA). For more information please call 413-577-2486 or 413-545-2842.

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