

## Arbor Day

The idea for Arbor Day was born in 1872 in the tree-poor state of Nebraska in the USA. It was journalist Julius Sterling Morton who suggested an annual day of action to plant trees for the future. It was not until many growth rings later in 1951 that the United Nations decided to introduce International Tree Day. With this day of remembrance on April 25, the importance of trees for the climate and people should be made clear. On this day of remembrance, cities, municipalities, associations and forestry offices symbolically plant trees in public spaces and call for donations for further plantings.

## Me, my Tree and I

Do you also have a favorite tree? Mine is the magnolia tree. You could almost call it a family tree, as the magnolia runs through our lives. When I was looking for a wedding date, I came up with the idea of choosing this day after the blossoming of the large magnolia tree in front of our city's registry office. On April 3, 1997 the time had come and the magnolia blossomed for us in all its glory. Five years later and blessed with two young children, we were feverishly looking for a home. We took the large magnolia tree in the garden of our current house as a sign. This house suits us. Later, the magnolia was often used as a climbing and reading tree. Year after year, it blooms reliably around our wedding anniversary. What sounds like wild imagination, but is documented in writing, puts a crown on our tree story.



Reading in the magnolia tree / © Photo: Georg Berg

## Trees – silent contemporary witnesses

They are many centuries old, have mighty trunks, ridged bark and majestic crowns. Your own imagination is usually not enough for all the events that may have happened around these giant trees. Here are a few encounters with imposing solitaires, avenue beauties and forest dwellers.

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Other aspects: How a mountain saved ancient olive trees. "L'Oliveraie de La Farlède" Southern France / New Unesco World Heritage thanks to old beeches in Ticino / Joseph Beuys and the 7000 oaks of Kassel / Dark Hedges of Ballymore Northern Ireland, a place of pilgrimage for Game of Thrones fans / The false fig of Famagusta, see above as old as the cathedral before which she stands / El Bosque Pintado, the painted forest in the Basque country.

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