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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 8, 2010

## **“Johnny Appleseed” To Visit Alpharetta Arbor Day Celebration and the Mansell House & Gardens! Come See the 900 lb. Tree Cookie Exhibit!**

Come Join the 2010 City of Alpharetta Arbor Day Celebration at the Mansell House & Gardens and Wills Park on Saturday, February 20, 2010 from 11 AM to 3 PM. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Alpharetta celebrating being a “Tree City USA”. The famous Johnny Appleseed will be visiting on the grounds of the Mansell House & Gardens and Wills Park telling, young and old alike, the story of his life and travels.

Opening ceremonies will begin in the Pavilion behind the Mansell House & Gardens. Mayor Arthur Letchas will be presenting. In addition to the presentation of the annual ROOTS Award, ceremonies will include a special presentation to the Alpharetta Historical Society of the Water Oak Tree Cookie, salvaged from the over 100 year old Water Oak Tree that was enjoyed by many generations on the far east side of the Mansell House & Gardens’ grounds. This Tree Cookie represents Alpharetta’s history and can be told and interpreted by David Cox, present curator of the cookie. Since this tree cookie is 60” in diameter and weighs approximately 900 lbs., it had to be cut in half for presentation at the 2010 Arbor Day Celebration.

During the Celebration many fun and educational activities will be held on the patio of the Mansell House & Gardens for children of all ages by the Alpharetta Garden Club. Inside the Mansell House, the Alpharetta Historical Society will host a photographic tribute of the History and Significance of Trees in the Alpharetta/Old Milton Communities provided by the City of Alpharetta Tree Commission. In Wills Park behind the Mansell House & Gardens, an Art Contest, Tree Planting and Mulching Demos, and an Arboretum Tour will be presented. Seedlings of White Oak and Dogwood Trees will be provided for the public. The Varsity Food Concessionaire will be available to satisfy any appetite.

Additionally, on Thursday, February 18, 2010, prior to the celebration, the Alpharetta Historical Society, Inc., owner and manager of the Mansell House & Gardens, will be presenting the history of Arbor Day and the Alpharetta Arbor Day Program to include information on planting trees and a preview of the Water Oak Tree Cookie. This program will be held at the Mansell House & Gardens beginning at 7:30 pm for society members, their guests and the public. Deb Zemlock and David Cox of the City of Alpharetta Tree Commission will be the speakers.

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All events and activities are family-oriented, educational, and FREE of charge! For more information about the Alpharetta Historical Society and its activities, call 770-475-4663 or visit us on the Web site at [www.ahsga.org](http://www.ahsga.org) or email us at [ahsgal@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahsgal@bellsouth.net).

The motto for the Alpharetta Historical Society is to “Preserve the Past, in the Present, for the Future”, helping inspire families, young and old, to find their passion through the life of yesteryear by maintaining and sharing its collections, preservation and dissemination of accurate historical information through activities and workshops.

**Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau**

The Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau serves as the destination marketing arm for the City, promoting tourism to Alpharetta, Georgia, and attracting visitors to all 23 of Alpharetta’s upscale and modern hotels. Visit [www.awesomealpharetta.com](http://www.awesomealpharetta.com) for more information.

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