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Tuesday March 30, 2010

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'Green' group awards UT's trees

By Audria Choudhury, Daily Texan Staff

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For the second consecutive year, the Arbor Day Foundation recognized UT as a Tree Campus USA for its efforts to maintain a “green” and sustainable environment.

To be a Tree Campus USA, a college or university must have a tree advisory committee and a tree-care plan that dictates how the campus and community interact with trees. Schools must dedicate an annual expenditure for tree care, observe Arbor Day and sponsor an educational service project to promote trees.

The University was among the first three campuses in the nation to receive the title in 2009. During last year’s service project, students took inventory of the approximately 150 trees on campus, measured their heights and recorded which species of wildlife were inhabiting the trees.

Mary Widhelm, the program’s coordinator at the Arbor Day Foundation, said UT stood out because of its excellent tree-maintenance organizations such as Longhorn ReLeaf.

“ReLeaf is amazing. Almost 300 people plant trees, giving hands-on experience students wouldn’t usually get,” Widhelm said. “We enjoy working with them.”

Larry Maginnis, UT urban forester and manager of ReLeaf, said that the organization gives students opportunities to leave their mark on campus by planting trees and improving the overall feel of the campus.



Fanny Trang | Daily Texan Staff
The Arbor Day Foundation recognized UT as a Tree Campus USA for the second year in a row.

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ture to increase in value over time," Maginnis said. "Many are as old
a lot to the feel of the original 40 Acres and a more pleasant learning

ree-planting projects and hosts guest speakers to advocate the
s Memorial Trees, a group that provides green, living memorials to
nor.

ting green and sustainable environments because they reduce energy
resources, such as rainwater, for plants. She said the goal of these
uture generations.

e not something we're using up because we can, but something your
said.

ides further motivation to continue the University's tree maintenance

ut as a baseline, so we don't get lazy," Maginnis said. "We're looking to
h more plantings and to increase the number of collaborations with

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