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WHITE OAK DEDICATION CEREMONY



Today's planting is, in the fullest sense, a gift to Greenville's future. The people who will sit in the full shade of these two oaks are not yet born. That is not a discouragement – it is the whole point. Every great tree was planted by someone who would not live to see it finished.

A NOTE ON THE WHITE OAK

The white oak (*Quercus alba*) was designated the Illinois state tree in 1973. It is one of the most ecologically valuable trees in North America, supporting more than 500 species of caterpillars, countless birds, and a wide range of mammals. Its acorns have a lower tannin content than other oaks, making them immediately edible to wildlife without leaching — a significant contribution to any local ecosystem.

White oaks develop deep taproots and strong lateral root systems. Young trees grow approximately 12–15 inches per year in good conditions; they reach meaningful shade size in 20-25 years and can live 500-600 years in favorable soil and conditions.

Rooted Again: Restoring the Illinois State Tree to Greenville

March 25, 2026 | 3 pm
Bond County Courthouse Lawn
Greenville, Illinois

*They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.*
—Isaiah 61:3b

*Dedicated to the memory of two white oaks lost to the
tornado of 2025 and honoring the 250th anniversary of our
nation!*

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

“This Is My Father’s World”
Cindy Collier
Vice President, Greenville Garden Club

WELCOME

Stephen Ross
President, Greenville Garden Club

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Tim Pate
Pastor, Keyesport United Methodist Church

SCRIPTURE READING

David B. Crandall MD,
COL USA (Ret)

Isaiah 61:3
Jeremiah 17:7-8

RECOGNITION OF HONORED GUESTS

Stephen Ross
President, Greenville Garden Club

REMEMBRANCE: WHAT THE STORM TOOK

Josh Hill
Bond County Sheriff

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“For the Beauty of the Earth”
Cindy Collier
Vice President, Greenville Garden Club

POETRY READING

“Trees” – Joyce Kilmer
Emily Brooks
President, Friends of the Greenville Public Library

HYMN

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
Dee Armes
Pastor, First Christian Church

COMMENTS

Dr. George Barber
Mayor, Greenville
&
Chris Timmermann
Chairman, Bond County Board

POETRY READING

“For the White Oaks of Greenville”
Read by Laura Stine
Executive Director, Simple Room

COMMENTS

John Goldsmith
Curator, DeMoulin Museum
&
Dr. Cary Holman
President, Bond County Historical Society

DEDICATION

The Honorable Christopher Bauer
Judge, 3rd Circuit Court

COMMENTS & SCRIPTURE READING

Becky Pate
Past President, Greenville Garden Club

READING OF PLAQUE

Pat Kious
Past President, Greenville Garden Club

BENEDICTION

Crystal Grove
Greenville Chamber of Commerce

Closing Remarks

Stephen Ross
President, Greenville Garden Club

RECESSIONAL