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For Immediate Release

April 17, 2014

Michigan Flyer-AirRide Passengers to Get Free Trees on Earth Day

To celebrate [Earth Day](#)—and to thank passengers for choosing the most eco-friendly mode of public transportation— Michigan Flyer-AirRide will give a free white pine seedling to everyone who rides on the motorcoach shuttle service on Tuesday, April 22.

“We encourage everyone to help protect Mother Earth,” said Ody Norikin, vice president of Michigan Flyer. “We and our AirRide partners at Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority agree that planting a tree is a great way to preserve our environment. Also, the white pine is Michigan’s state tree, so this seems like a perfect way to celebrate the day. “

The white pine seedlings were purchased from the Arbor Day Foundation. They come in clear plastic tubes that will keep them fresh for days, and can be recycled or easily turned into birdfeeders after the seedlings are planted. National Arbor Day is also celebrated next week, on Friday, April 25.

“The tree seedlings can be taken aboard airplanes either in carry-on bags or checked luggage for domestic flights,” says Norikin. “However, to avoid problems at customs in other countries, passengers on international flights may want to give their seedlings to friends before takeoff, or pass them forward as a kindness to folks they don’t know.”

Links to planting instructions for the seedlings, as well creating birdfeeders from the tubes they come in, will be posted on the www.MichiganFlyer.com website.

“Just imagine,” Norikin adds, “if passengers like this Earth Day idea enough for us to repeat it year after year, together we could eventually plant a virtual forest of white pines for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.”

The Union of Concerned Scientists [confirms](#) that motorcoaches like those operated by Michigan Flyer-AirRide are the greenest travel option of all, compared with planes, trains, and automobiles.

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Michigan Flyer— jointly owned by Indian Trails and Okemos Travel— is Michigan’s premier motorcoach connection between East Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Detroit Metro Airport. Michigan Flyer has carried more than 700,000 passengers since its launch in 2006, and with a 98 percent rate of on-time arrivals and departures.

The Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (TheRide) was chartered in 1969 by the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, as a not-for-profit unit of government. AAATA operates the local public transit system for the greater Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area, enabling the area’s residents to reach their destinations at reasonable cost, and offers the region efficient, environmentally sound transportation alternatives.

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