



# Urban Leaves

Tree News You Can Use

Vol. 2 No. 3  
May 2015

## West Lafayette Tree Friends' To-Do List 2015

Lynn Layden, chair of the WLTF, laid out goals for the upcoming year. She said some are being completed and others are long-range goals.

### Structure:

- Add to the organization's structure, including the means for the election of a Chair and the Chair's terms.
- Keep the structure informal and flexible to meet unforeseen challenges.
- Assess the strengths of our current members and recruit members to meet needs.

### Education:

- Help volunteers to become better educated with at least one meeting devoted to continuing education on arboriculture.
- Recognizing emerald ash borer damage, share options for residents interested in replacing dead ash trees.
- Stress tree diversity and look for opportunities to educate the public on the topic.
- Pursue installation of a trail-side Little Free Library box which is an example of delivering information in new ways.
- With many residents planting new trees to replace dead ash trees, educate public on right way to plant a tree.

### Outreach:

- Continue the successful social media campaign.
- Look at ways to make friends in demographic groups not part of our mailing list for our newsletter, Urban Leaves.
- Look for ways to get more email addresses for the newsletter.
- Launch the Tribute Trees program.

## Upcoming Events

**Tues 5/12** - WLTF committee meeting - noon - WL Public Library  
**Wed 5/20** - Tree Friends at WL Farmers Market  
**Tues 6/9** - WLTF committee meeting - noon - WL Public Library  
**Tues 7/14** - WLTF committee meeting - noon - WL Public Library  
**Wed 9/23** - Tree Friends at WL Farmers Market

## Quick Links

Fun tree things for kids  
[Tree Jokes](#)  
[KidZone Science-Trees](#)

To learn more go to the  
[Tree Friends website](#)

[Tree Facts](#)

[Urban Street Tree Benefits](#)

[Learn about the emerald](#)



[ash borer](#)

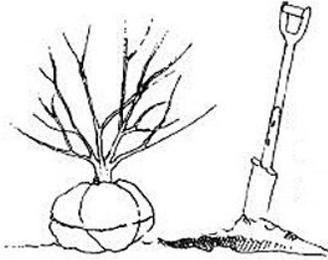


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## Give Your New Tree Every Chance to Survive and Thrive



With many ash trees dying in West Lafayette, residents may be considering replacing them with new trees. Here are some before-planting tips and planting methods for giving your new tree its best shot at success:

1. Call 811 before digging. The service is free. Know what's below before you dig.
2. Consider the grown height of a tree. Look up and from side to side to avoid power lines, and other obstructions.
3. Check the tree's moisture/drought tolerance, and choose the tree's planting site accordingly.
4. Consider the effects of shade provided by the tree, as it influences the growth of lawn and other plants.
5. Determine where the root flare is located on the tree, and mark it before transplanting. It may have been buried.
6. Dig a wide hole 2-2.5 times the diameter of the root ball. Break up the soil to a finer texture.
7. A piece of plastic makes it easier to contain the finer-textured soil.
8. Before placing the tree into the hole, mound up a small amount of dirt in the hole that will be directly below the root ball when the tree is planted.
9. Place the tree, handling the root ball. Remove synthetic burlap completely and at least the top 1/3 of natural burlap. If there is a wire cage cut it off, too.
10. In potted plants, if roots appear to be growing in circles around the root ball, cut 4 equally spaced vertical slices, 1 to 2 inches deep in the circling roots. Make similar cuts in an X pattern on the bottom of the roots.
11. Replace the removed soil around the root ball and compact the soil in layers with your hands.
12. When the basin is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, gently tamp the soil with your foot. Fill the basin with water and allow it to soak into the soil.
13. After the water is absorbed, replace more soil into the hole, tamping lightly, until the top of the tree's root flare is just at the soil's surface.

## Where in WL is this tree?



This tree is all wrapped up, and can't get away.

Can you name the West Lafayette street address where this tree is located?

The first person correctly identifying its location will receive a CD of **Trees of Indiana: Their**

### **Identification and Uses:**

**Sally S. Weeks.** Sally Weeks is a well-known dendrologist, who teaches at Purdue University. The CD is donated by Don J. Wood, West Lafayette Tree Friends member. Thank you, Don.

So really look at the West Lafayette trees around you and claim a prize. Contact the Urban Leaves newsletter at [ULWLTf@gmail.com](mailto:ULWLTf@gmail.com), with the subject line "Wrapped Up Tree" and name the street address of the tree pictured above. Please list the address to which your CD should be mailed. Please indicate whether you'd like your name mentioned as a winner in July's issue of **Urban Leaves**.

## Thank you recent donors

Dorothy Bethel  
Erin Gildersleeve  
Joan Goldstein  
Stanislav Pejsa  
Sidney & Judy Pellissier  
(memory of Joan Shaw)  
Phi Gamma Delta-Purdue  
Roxana Silvian

14. Taper the finished soil away from the root flare slightly to avoid ponding around the roots.
15. Stake the tree with three stakes and loosely-applied cords, avoiding the root ball when placing the stakes.
16. Add the label-recommended rate of water soluble fertilizer (20-20-20) once in the first year at this time.
17. Make a 2-3 inch high circle of soil around the perimeter of the basin. Add a 2-3 inch layer of mulch on top of the replaced soil, avoiding a volcano of mulch touching/surrounding the trunk.
18. Water the tree regularly for the first season, as needed, if rainfall doesn't keep the soil around the tree moist.

For more information, see:

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/ho-100.pdf> and many other reliable sites, such as this one that talks about the dangers of circling roots, referred to as girdling:

<http://www.treeboss.net/girdling-tree-roots.htm>

Happy Tree Planting!

## Great Arbor Day 2015 Celebration!



Smokey Bear with friends from Burgett's Childcare

Arbor Day was a big success in West Lafayette! Smokey Bear rode in on a fire truck, the mayor proclaimed

it Arbor Day, and then we began planting 16 unusual tree species and



Lynn Layden, Tree Friends Chair, Mayor Dennis and Carrie Tauscher of the state DNR give a warm welcome to all

cultivars in our Tree Trial on Kalberer Road near Yeager. We were assisted by happy children from Burgett's Child Care and trained and talented students from Purdue's Arboriculture and Forestry



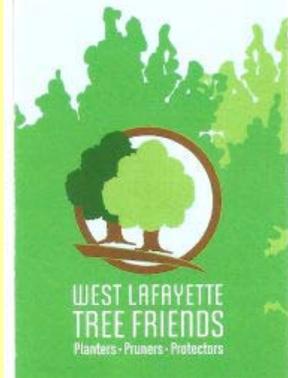
Tree planters extraordinaire

Clubs. Please visit our [website](#) to see information on all the trees we're trialing. And like us on Facebook for even more photos of the event.

# TREE TRIAL

The West Lafayette Tree Friends are conducting a Tree Trial to test unusual or seldom used trees. Tree diversity is important to the health of our urban forest so we want to see which trees are suited to our climate and soils.

Information can be found at [www.witreefriends.wordpress.com](http://www.witreefriends.wordpress.com). Sign up for our newsletter while you're there to get updates.



Thanks to the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette for their generous grant to fund the Tree Trial! And thanks to the West Lafayette police and fire fighters whose assistance made this a safe event for all.



West Lafayette police and fire fighters stand with Smokey Bear



Mayor Dennis greets Burgett's Child Care helpers.

## Meet A Tree Friend Judy Pellessier

Live oak trees form a mature canopy over much of St. Charles Ave. in New Orleans where I grew up. Their majestic limbs drape down to the ground in Audubon Park where we went to walk and play. I marvel at those wonders of nature whenever I return for a visit. How could I not love and revere trees?



On vacation in New Orleans

Indiana's native trees are different but beautiful nonetheless. I began volunteering with West Lafayette Tree Friends to learn more about native trees and to participate in the nurturing of our W. Lafayette landscape. What a congenial, eager and energetic group! Check our archived newsletters here: <https://wltreefriends.wordpress.com/newsletters/>  
Contact us with questions, consider volunteering, or donating to support your West Lafayette urban forest.

Planters, pruners, protectors: that's us!

## TREE TRIAL

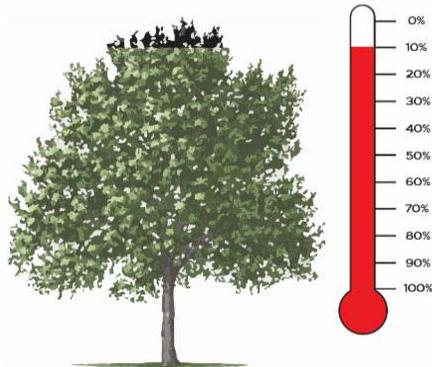
[Trees are numbered in order along Kalberer starting at Yeager]

- 1 'Jolly' Tupelo
- 2 'The Rising Sun' Redbud
- 3 'Rugged Ridge' Maple
- 4 'Emerald Avenue' Hornbeam
- 5 'Native Flame' Hornbeam
- 6 'New Harmony' Elm
- 7 'Street Keeper' Honeylocust
- 8 'Ft. McNair' Red Horsechestnut
- 9 'White Shield' Osage Orange
- 10 'Three-leafed' Maple
- 11 'Kindred Spirit' Oak
- 12 'Streetspire' Oak
- 13 'Celestial Shadow' Dogwood
- 14 'Wildfire' Black Gum
- 15 'Emerald Sunshine' Elm
- 16 'Beacon' Swamp White Oak
- 17 'Little Volunteer' Tulip
- 18 'Vanessa' Persian Parrotia
- 19 Shumard Oak
- 20 'Everclear' Elm
- 21 'Palisade' American Hornbeam
- 22 'Emerald City' Tulip
- 23 'Crimson Spire' Oak
- 24 'Apollo' Sugar Maple
- 25 'Appalachian Red' Redbud
- 26 'Emerald Flair' Elm
- 27 'Green Gable' Black Gum
- 28 'Urban Pinnacle' Bur Oak

## Approved Street Trees

Not all trees are a good fit to be "street trees". A list of approved trees as well as landscape trees for yards can be found on the city website [by clicking here](#). Here are some examples of approved trees.

# Win Some / Lose Some



Ash trees lost since 2013:  
88

Total of new trees planted:  
2013 -- 122  
2014 -- 147

## Q&A

We would like your questions about trees. Beverly Shaw, WL Greenspace Administrator and certified arborist, welcomes your tree questions. Please keep the questions brief since we have limited space. Email your questions to [atwoodeye@yahoo.com](mailto:atwoodeye@yahoo.com) with subject heading "tree question". We'll do our best to help. After all, aren't we ALL "tree friends"?



Here are some related questions and answers about root girdling:

*Q "What is root girdling? What is the effect of root girdling on a tree?" What causes root girdling? How can it be corrected?"*

**A** "Root girdling is a fancy phrase for strangulation. When roots grow around a tree trunk, they cut off the movement of water and nutrients. It may take years for the tree to die but as the girdling root and trunk increase in size, more and more water and nutrients are kept from making their trip up and down the tree trunk. Lindens, pines and maples (except silver maple) are particularly susceptible to root girdling. Trees grown in containers are more prone to girdling than those grown in the field and then balled and burlapped.

Inspect your trees at the time of planting and cut away any roots that encircle the trunk. Then water and fertilize your tree to help it recuperate. Be especially wary of container grown stock.

## Hybrid Elm



*Ulmus X sp (Ulmaceae)*

Height: 50 feet  
Spread: 40 feet  
Bloom time: March to April  
Flower: greenish, noticeable but not showy  
Foliage: alternate, dark green; yellow-green in autumn

[More information](#)

## Red Horse Chestnut



*Hippocastanaceae..Aesculus x carnea 'Briotii'*

Height: 40 to 50 feet  
Spread: medium shade tree  
Bloom: erect 5"-8" clusters of pink to red flowers  
Fruit: capsule, 1-1.5" long, round  
Foliage: 5-leaflets, palmate-compound, brown in autumn, dark green in Oct.

[More information](#)

## Katsura



*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*  
Height: 40 to 60 feet

## Thought for the Day

"Nature helps us humans live in the urban spaces we've built. People feel that green spaces - parks, community gardens, tree-lined streets - help them deal with the stresses of urban life."

-"Science of Cities", Sarah Laskow, 2/3/15

Contributed by Jan Fawley, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation, West Lafayette

Spread: 20 to 30 feet  
Bloom: green, not showy in Mar-Apr

Fruit: small pods borne 2-4 on stalk

Foliage: summer, leaves emerge purple, mature to bluish-green; autumn, yellow-to-apricot, outstanding display

[More information](#)

## WLTF Committee

Lynn Layden, Chair  
Don Wood, Secretary  
Don Campbell  
Georgia Dunn  
Dan Dunten  
Gretchen Ely  
Homer Erickson  
Bill Evers  
Don Franzmeier  
Steve Green  
Muriel Harris  
Eric Lucas  
John MacDonald  
Judy Pellissier  
O.L. Siebenthal  
Beverly Shaw, City liaison