



WEST LAFAYETTE  
**TREE FRIENDS**  
Planters • Pruners • Protectors

# Urban Leaves

*Tree News You Can Use*

Vol. 2 No. 4  
July 2015

## Planting TRIBUTE TREES To Honor

Humans love trees. They are stately symbols of enduring beauty, health, prosperity, and longevity. Because of this love affair between humans and trees, there is a long and world-wide tradition of people planting trees as a way to honor those they love, admire, or respect. The Tree Friends have participated in this tradition for many years by helping community members on an ad hoc basis to plant memorial trees. We believe we can do more though. Consequently, the West Lafayette Tree Friends now have established the "**Tribute Trees**" program as an ongoing benefit they offer to the West Lafayette Community.

The Tribute Trees program offers a way for community members to honor someone (or a group) by planting a tree as a tribute to that person, to say we love you, we admire what you have done in your life, or we respect your accomplishments. Our tribute trees are not meant to be just memorial trees, although that is a fine reason to plant one. Tribute trees can be used to honor many occasions such as retirements, significant accomplishments, the birth of a child, a wedding anniversary, recognition of a beloved teacher, or a long-time and meaningful friendship. The only limit to planting a tribute tree is your imagination. Moreover, the planting of a tribute tree not only honors the person, it also honors your community by adding a new tree to our urban forest with all the benefits such trees bring.

If you are interested in the Tribute Trees program, details of the program are offered below:

- If you have questions or would like to consider planting a tribute tree, contact the program coordinator: Steve Green at [sggreen45@gmail.com](mailto:sggreen45@gmail.com). He can work with you to answer questions and to help you through the process if you want to plant a tree.
- Tribute trees must be planted on public property such as street side and in parks. This is a city requirement.
- A donation to the West Lafayette Tree Friends is required (\$300) for planting a tribute tree. This donation is used to cover the costs of locating a site for the tree, choosing an appropriate tree, purchasing the tree, and getting the tree planted. After covering all those costs, any remaining funds

## Upcoming Events

**Tues 8/11** - WLTF committee meeting - noon - WL Public Library  
**Tues 9/8** - 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](#)



["Like" us on Facebook!](#)

Find previous issues of *Urban Leaves* [here...](#)

will be used by the Tree Friends to nurture and protect West Lafayette's urban forest.

- Once the tree is planted, a small engraved plaque with a short commemorative message, e.g. "In gratitude for Paul Bunyan's service, 1900-1940", will be hung from a limb in the tree. The program coordinator will work with the donor to fashion this message. A copy of this plaque will also be given to the donor, or to a person of your choosing, as a memento of the planting.
- Finally, all tribute trees automatically become part of the West Lafayette Tree Friends' tree maintenance program in the city. This means that the tree will receive scheduled care such as mulching and pruning.

Think about it. Plant a tribute tree, honor someone, make our community a more beautiful and healthy place.

## Local Crocheter Regularly Creates Tree Wrappers

Each month, like clockwork, Joanne Evers produces another colorful tree wrapper, designed to protect newly-planted trees in West Lafayette. The program was started over two years ago when several knitters and crocheters got together to create a yarn bombing event in areas around the Village. Over 75 young trees were wrapped in colorful scarves, accompanied by messages to ask students to refrain from breaking off branches or worse. Messages like "Don't break my trunk...when you get drunk" and "Greenery is Scenery" attracted the attention of Channel 59 in Indianapolis and the Yarn Bombers' activities were featured in the late night news.

Joanne says she likes to use leftover yarn from projects and try out new combinations of stitches. Each wrapper takes about 3 hours to complete and is 6 inches by 18 inches.

We have yarn available to any Tree Friend who would like to produce a knitted or crocheted tree wrapper. This year's installation of wrappers will occur the first week in December.

Please call or write Lynn Layden if you would like some yarn or to help wrap new trees.

[Layden.lm@frontier.com](mailto:Layden.lm@frontier.com) or 463-2242.



Some tree wrappers made by Joanne Evers

Are you on our newsletter mailing list?

[Sign Up Now](#)

## Where in WL is this tree?



Not surprisingly, finding this tree from our last newsletter was like finding a single tree in West Lafayette's 6000+ tree urban forest.

Hint: The tree is located in the area of West Lafayette bounded by Soldier's Home Road, Sagamore Parkway, Salisbury, and Cumberland Ave. and is located in the front lawn and is not a street tree. Hope that helps. Good luck!

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

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

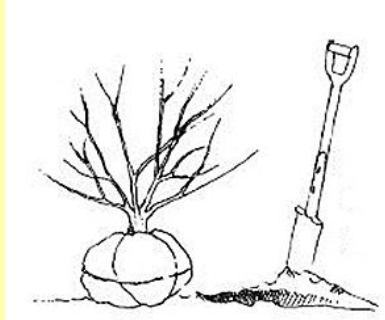
The first person correctly identifying its location will receive a CD of **Trees of Indiana: Their Identification and Uses:** **Sally S. Weeks.** Sally Weeks is a well-known dendrologist, who teaches at Purdue

# Tree Planting Methods

**\*\* Updated \*\***

The last issue of Urban Leaves gave some tree planting methods. Tree planting procedures outlined in a newer Purdue Extension publication differ from the last issue of Urban Leaves including:

- digging a flat-on-the-bottom hole 1½ to two times the diameter of the root ball, if possible
- "roughing and scoring" up the sides of the exposed roots and the sides of the planting pit to allow for root penetration into the surrounding soil and help prevent circling roots
- avoiding fertilization in the first growing season



These and other valuable tips are contained in a full-color, eight-page Purdue Extension bulletin FNR-433-W, entitled **Tree Installation: Process and Practices**, authored by Lindsey Purcell, Urban Forestry Specialist. The bulletin includes a full, 12-step tree installation guide and much additional research-based tree planting information, and can be accessed here:

[https://ag.purdue.edu/fnr/associations/IAA/Documents/FNR-433-W\\_final%20version.pdf](https://ag.purdue.edu/fnr/associations/IAA/Documents/FNR-433-W_final%20version.pdf) (You may need to create a password).

## How Old Is That Tree?

Are you curious to know how old a particular tree is? Here's an easy way to find out. The Missouri Department of Conservation has a helpful page that lists the growth factor for various tree species: <http://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/your-trees-and-woods/backyard-tree-care/how-old-tree>. Start by determining the tree's diameter in inches at 54" above ground level. (The diameter equals circumference divided by 3.14, or pi.) Using the chart on the Missouri Dept. of Conservation page, start with the diameter in inches x the growth factor. The chart has the growth factor for some tree species you might have. Again, use their formula:

**Diameter in inches x growth factor = tree age**

So, if you have a silver maple with a 10" diameter (having measured the trunk at 54" up from the ground), you'd multiply the diameter by its growth factor of 3, you'd learn that this tree is about 30 years old.

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

Stephen Bruhn  
Family Express Corp.  
Karen&Don Franzmeier  
Ann Hunt  
Sharon Katz  
Lynn Layden  
Max Layden & family  
Jo Anne MacDonald  
Lisa Pantea  
Ellen Phelps  
Phyllis Scanlon  
Beverly Shaw  
Donald Wood

## 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 examples of approved trees.

Or, if you are curious about the age of a tree that has been cut down, you can count the rings, not an easy task. But the International Paper website has a page that illustrates how to count rings:

<https://www.internationalpaper.com/documents/EN/LearningCenter/treerings.pdf>. There's also a YouTube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtK7w4F5GW0>) about dating trees by counting tree rings, a difficult method but one that can also tell you about climate and other factors that influenced the tree's growth.

## Citizens Who Care...

In the early 1980s, a retired schoolteacher with a drive to improve her community's ecology, beauty, and health figured a good way to do this was to plant trees along the city streets. Helen Lillich recruited a fellow church-member, Hugh Henry to help her heel-in over 700 tree seedlings she gathered.

These young trees, nurtured by volunteers, including an early helper, Lynn Layden, and her girl scouts, became the origin of today's 6,000+ street trees, the West Lafayette Urban Forest. Helen's volunteers included those with community corrections requirements, and later, more citizens and their continued volunteer efforts helped turn this endeavor into city law, with the aid of long-time city Mayor, Sonya Margerum.

Helen was the indomitable driving force who could not be denied. At social gatherings, she took down names and phone numbers of friends and folks she met, gathering a formidable number of 3X5 index cards, containing names from which she would seek annual funds ...and get them! And every single person who helped got a personal phone call of thanks later.

Over the years, more citizens joined her volunteer group's efforts of raising funds, buying trees, planting, and pruning them. Helen could always be seen out on the streets, doing for the trees, whatever needed to be done...and in fact, some feared for her safety, out along busy U.S. 52 Sagamore Parkway Bypass in West Lafayette, and on other busy streets in the home of the Purdue Boilermakers.

The number of street trees increased. The number of volunteers increased. The city itself became actively involved as majestic,



Helen Lillich keeping West Lafayette green

## Chinkapin/Chinquapin Oak



### *Quercus muehlenbergii*

Height: 50+ feet  
Spread: 35-50 feet  
Bloom time: Spring  
Flower/fruit: Separate male and female flowers appear in spring on the same tree. Male flowers from a yellowish catkin; female flowers less conspicuous and reddish. Fruit is a 1/2-3/4" acorn. May be large numbers of acorns.

Foliage: Simple, alternate, leaf edge rather sharply toothed but without bristle-tips.

[More information](#)

## Common Bald Cypress



### *Taxodium distichum*

Height: 80 feet  
Spread: 35 feet  
Foliage: Leaves are borne on deciduous branchlets that are spirally arranged on the stem, but twisted at the base to lie in two horizontal ranks, it loses its leaves in the winter months, hence the name 'bald'. Fall colors are copper, yellow. The Common Bald Cypress is now an approved street tree.

[More information](#)

facing columns of beautiful, growing street trees turned into an urban forest with all its benefits. Today, when a horde of volunteers donate funds, prune trees every spring and every fall, and the committee generates plantings of new trees and trees to replace dying ash, or other failed trees, they extend Helen's shadow and honor her vision. They make sure West Lafayette will stay a nationally-honored Tree City in 2015, the 24th year with that designation.

And every single citizen of our new Category 2 city, thanks to Mayor John Dennis and his team, will enjoy the environmental and health benefits of our street trees. Every citizen will enjoy the beauty of our streets.

Our volunteer group - the West Lafayette Tree Friends - was pleased to win the Indiana Urban Forest Council's "Project of the Year" award in 2014 recognizing the efforts of the ET Squad. The Emergency Tree Squad was formed by our group to respond quickly to hanging, broken limbs, weather disasters causing hazardous trees, and everyday citizen street tree complaints needing fast resolution.

Driven by volunteer citizens, for citizens, for more than thirty years, Helen Lillich's vision drives us today, encourages us, defines us. WE ARE THE WEST LAFAYETTE TREE FRIENDS!

## Show Us A Street Tree You Like



West Lafayette, which has for many years been designated a Tree City, is indeed rich with magnificent trees. West Lafayette Tree Friends are volunteers who work to keep the city's "street trees" (trees in the greenspace between sidewalks and roads) healthy and attractive. Look around as you travel through town, and send us a photo of a street tree you like.

For starters here is a street tree picture taken by Tree Friend John MacDonald. It is a hackberry and is located at 1825 Garden Street. John comments about this hackberry he likes:

"Hackberry trees are very hardy and grow fast. I have attached a photo of a neighbor's 3 year old hackberry planted in the city lawn by his mailbox at 1825 Garden Street. The tree was about five feet tall when planted and had a basal diameter of two inches. I estimate it now is at least 20 feet tall with a 6 inch basal diameter. Also attached is a photo of the young tree's interesting bark and another photo shows the bark of a mature hackberry."

### Black/Black Sugar Maple



*Acer nigrum* or *acer sacharum* subsp. *nigrum*  
Height: 80 feet

Spread: 50 feet

Foliage: The simplest method for distinguishing between the two trees is the generally three-lobed leaves of the black maple versus the generally five-lobed leaves of the sugar maple. Fall colors - orange, red, yellow.

[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

## Hoosier-Land is Tree-Heaven-Land

When we became a state in 1816, the vast majority of Indiana was forested. Perhaps that's why the names of about 567 cities, towns and villages in Indiana "have some connection to woodlands or specific



Bark of a mature tree

Thank you, John, for sharing.

Share your photos of street trees by sending them to [ulwtf@gmail.com](mailto:ulwtf@gmail.com). Include the location of the tree and, if you know, what kind of tree it is. Please indicate whether we have your permission to publish your name along with the photo. Add a comment or two about the tree if you're so inclined.



Bark of a young tree

trees," according to the Indiana Urban Forest Council's Fall 2014 newsletter.

### Indiana Tree Facts

- In 1900, there were 1.5 million acres of forests in Indiana
- In 1998, there were 4.5 million acres of forests in Indiana!
- Most hardwood trees in Indiana grow for 100-150 years
- oldest trees in Indiana are oaks and hickories.
- Pines are mostly between 30-60 years old.
- Very few national forest trees in Indiana are over 100 years old.

### Q&A



We welcome 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"?

**Q.** - How does a powered weed trimmer hurt a tree?

**A.** - Hand-operated tools that frequently cause damage include weed whips, lawn mowers, tree trimmers, chain saws, and hedge trimmers. Much of this damage is preventable and associated with lack of attention to the task. Typical injuries to trees and shrubs include gouges and cuts through the bark into the cambium, where cells actively divide. These injuries are often close to the ground and easily invaded by insects and disease-causing agents. Younger vegetation is more susceptible, and extensive damage will kill the shrub or tree.

Healthy, mature trees usually recover from slight damage; however if damage -- no matter how thin -- completely circles the bark of any tree, death is almost certain. This "girdling" removes the tree's circulatory system.

Source: [Forests of Indiana: A 1998 Overview - How old \(or young\) are Indiana's trees?](#)