



WEST LAFAYETTE
TREE FRIENDS
Planters • Pruners • Protectors

Urban Leaves

Tree News You Can Use

Vol. 2 No. 6
November 2015

Tribute to Don A. Campbell



Urban Leaves this month is dedicated to Don Campbell, editor of our newsletter and long time volunteer with West Lafayette Tree Friends, who died Sept. 8, 2015; a major loss to family, friends and community. Don once remarked that he never met a tree he didn't like. Through the generosity of family and friends, several Tribute Trees will be planted in West Lafayette to honor Don and his love of trees; two will be sycamores, his favorite.

To learn more about the Tribute Tree Program, please contact Steve Green at sggreen45@gmail.com.



WLTF Pruning Partners Program

Back in 2010, we started a new program in addition to our many regular services to West Lafayette community. The 'Pruning Partners' program provides free clearance pruning to WL businesses who request our help. "There's often a conflict between the requirement to have street trees and a business' desire for visibility," said Beverly Shaw, Greenspace Administrator and certified arborist. "By regularly "limbing up" trees, we can encourage them to grow up and provide shade, absorb pollutants, increase property value, cool our city, reduce stormwater, provide habitat and attract shoppers."* Here is an example of a business before and after the Pruning Partners program did their clearance pruning:

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE BEGINS

To help pay for the planting of new trees and to replace damaged or dying trees we need the financial support of our members. The 2016 fund drive is starting so be on the lookout in your postal mail and email for our donation information. And thank you for being a West Lafayette Tree Friends supporter!!

Upcoming Events

Tues 12/8 - WLTF committee meeting - noon - WL Public Library.

Tues 12/8 - Tree sweaters wrapped around new trees near campus @ 6:30 pm. Meet @ Morton Center parking lot for hot chocolate before decorating our newest trees.

Fri 4/1/2016 - Bicentennial "Tree of Hope" Planting, Tippecanoe County Courthouse, 1pm. Save the date!

Quick Links

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

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



Before Pruning Partners



After Pruning Partners

So far, we've assisted five city businesses and all are satisfied. In fact, the first one we did, the Shell Station at Northwestern/Lindbergh (now called the Go Low), has requested we re-visit them for another pruning.

Interested businesses should call Beverly Shaw, City of West Lafayette, at 775-5161 to schedule their pruning. A volunteer team will contact the business and work out details for the pruning. Team members are trained in International Society of Arboriculture pruning practices and cannot leave the ground via ladders or lifts or remove major dead wood.

*USDA Forest Service

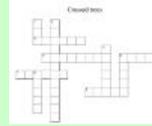
Watering Helps Save Trees

After a record-setting wet spring and early summer, it was a surprise to see signs of drought in our newly-planted W.L. trees in August.....scorched and curling leaves cried "Help.....I am dry!"



WLTF reactivated the watering crew, not needed in 2014, and started watering four times a week on August 13th. This effort was enhanced by a second truck for much of that time, allowing us to put down as much as 1,000 gallons of water daily on recently planted trees all over the City of W. L.

Our primary concern was for the newest trees, over 120 planted in April and May, because their roots had not yet pushed outside the root ball and needed frequent moisture. If trees are in a moisture deficit, their ability to survive winter weather is limited and they are susceptible to insect problems. Even though the leaves are changing colors and falling to the ground, the tree roots are preparing for winter and need moisture before the ground freezes.



[November Crossword](#)

["Crossed Trees"](#)

[Tree Facts](#)

[Urban Street Tree Benefits](#)

[Learn about the emerald](#)



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Eight members of WLTF formed the watering crews and followed daily routes, putting down at least 5 gallons of water per tree. Some of the trees were fitted with green watering bags permitting the water to slowly drip into the root ball over the span of hours. We encouraged residents with

new street trees to help us out by watering once or twice a week and several responded to the call. At the end of October we were able to put our watering tanks away when the welcome rains came. Urban foresters estimate that watering should be a practice during those months in which less than an inch of rain per week is received, for a period of two to three years, a fact not widely known.

As we prepare to add another 116 trees to Blackbird Farms next year in addition to the hundreds planted in 2015, we are calling for additional volunteer watering crew members in 2016. Be sure to contact the West Lafayette Tree Friends if you are interested in helping us to save tree lives (contact Lynn Layden 463-2242).

Builder Teams with WLTF to Save Classic Oak

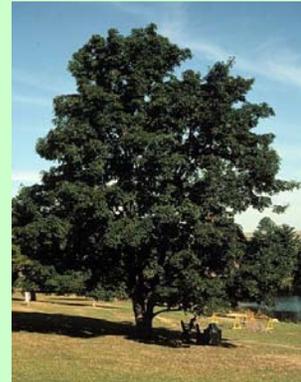


There's an incredible oak on the corner of Salisbury and Riley which is one of the sites where Irongate Homes is removing an existing home and building a new one. The owner of Irongate, David Hood, is doing everything right to preserve the tree during construction. He met with the city greenspace administrator before receiving a demolition permit and hired a certified arborist to come up with a tree protection plan and judiciously trim the tree.

- Gregory Shaner
- Camille Tuite
- Mary Jo Turley
- Purdue University Retirees Assoc.
- W.L. Parks&Rec:
- Karen Ahlbrand
- Diana Brown
- Scott&Michelle Dulin & sons
- Bob&Arelene Kopka
- Jeff&Dawn Kopka
- David&Jennifer Kopka & family
- Pamela Mead
- Bob&Amy Verhoovee

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 is another example of an approved tree.



Scientific name: *acer pseudoplatanus*
 Habit&Form: deciduous, 40'-60' tall, oval-to-rounded outline
 Foliage: 3"-6" across, dark green above, greenish white on underside, coarsely-toothed margins; in autumn, turns yellowish or greenish brown
 Flowers: yellowish green, in May
 Sun: full sun is bet, can take light shade
 Good shade tree

Jeff Clark, arborist, recommended protective fencing surrounding the entire front yard to provide root zone protection during construction. David wants that root zone area to come right up to the preexisting house foundation and all excavation and building will be done from the opposite side of the home. He's also making it clear with every contractor on the site that the tree is not to be damaged.



A few low limbs extending over the existing roof will be removed as well as large dead branches on the west side of tree. None of these limbs exceed 12" in diameter at point of attachment to tree. This will allow for construction of the new house without damaging limbs with equipment.



The original intent was to build a two story house on this lot but those plans were changed when David realized the glory of this old oak tree. The Tree Friends and the city are pleased to hear about the care he's providing for one of our oldest residents!

Founder's Day

Tuesday, November 10, West Lafayette Tree Friends celebrated this annual event honoring our founder, Helen Lillich, a former Lafayette schoolteacher who passed away in 2010. Helen's vision began in 1981 to beautify West Lafayette by planting trees along our streets. Since then, the West Lafayette Tree Fund, which today is the WL Tree Friends, plant, prune, water and maintain over 6,000 trees of many varieties in our urban forest. Helen was responsible for planting approximately 5,000 trees, lobbying for the passage of a city ordinance requiring street trees, and the beautification of Sagamore Parkway.



Thanks to donor letter mailing volunteers

A great big thank you to the following for helping fold, stuff, stamp and seal our donor letter mailing. Lots of chatter and the best taco lunch, sides and desserts EVER!

- Mary Campbell
- Georgia Dunn
- Dan Dunten
- Carolyn Erickson
- Homer Erickson
- Bill Evers
- Don Franzmeier
- Steve Green
- Mickey Harris
- Ann Hunt
- Lynn Layden
- John MacDonald
- Amanda Ray
- Beverly Shaw
- Courtenay Wells
- Don Wood

WLTF Committee

- Lynn Layden, Chair
- Don Wood, Secretary
- Mary Campbell
- Georgia Dunn
- Dan Dunten
- Homer Erickson
- Gretchen Ely
- Bill Evers
- Don Franzmeier
- Steve Green
- Muriel Harris
- Eric Lucas
- John MacDonald
- Judy Pellissier
- Courtenay Wells
- Beverly Shaw, city liaison

An Ode to Prune

By Don Wood

All along our urban forest,
trees standing in a row

Stately. lovely. but

A group of citizens, volunteers, and city dignitaries joined the celebration of our founder again this year on a sunny day, along with local media representatives.



Volunteers, and citizen donors funding our group, carry on the work of Helen and annually honor her with a Founder's Day tree-planting ceremony. This year's celebration was at the intersection of Yeager and Maclure where about a dozen trees were planted. The public was invited.



Mayor John Dennis, a strong supporter of our "Tree City" and our efforts (as well as a former student of Helen's), spoke of the beauty, environmental benefits, and value of our urban forest, and of Helen's strong push to make this happen for our city. He noted that those first trees planted by Helen are now two feet across! The mayor noted that our urban forest and the Tree Friends are widely-known around the state for our efforts. WL Tree Friends Chair Lynn Layden added a bit of the history to also honor Helen. Beverly Shaw, our city's Marketing, Grants, and Greenspace Administrator, noted that "Helen would be pleased with our work."

Helen was an indefatigable force in starting the work of securing funding for the initial trees, finding volunteers to help with the plantings, and keeping a group going, as well as securing assistance from our mayor at the time, Sonja Margerum. It's been over 30 years since she began this quest and we're still thriving, thanks to the efforts of many volunteers and the city employees of West Lafayette who assist us with planning, some funding, and clean-up after we prune in spring and fall and other times.



Our Chair Lynn Layden noted that on December 8th we'll don our young trees with "sweaters", as we've done for several years. Our "yarn-bombing" is an effort to protect new trees from potential vandalism, as many as one hundred this year. Look for the colorful coverings near campus.

occasionally hanging a bit low

And the vehicle/branch interface gives 'em a blow

And our lovely branches say

NO! NO! NO!

Cut down in their prime, taken before their time....

There's this thing about Beauty,

Helping our trees grow proper,

So they thrive and live and don't come a-cropper....

Your TREE FRIENDS care, and that's why we prune

We volunteer all year (your donations are our tune!)

Those branches, folks, get broken now and then...

The healing is tried, but that's tough to mend.

Insects and bugs crawl into the cracks

And the proper sealing will never come back.

So welcome the TREE FRIENDS

When they come to your neighborhood --

You know they're aiming to only do you good!

Tree Thought

"One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people." - USDA

Folks, please enjoy the environment of West Lafayette -- our urban forest -- and don't forget to remember Helen.



*A happy holiday season to all from
the West Lafayette Tree Friends*