



# Urban Leaves

Tree News You Can Use

Vol. 3 No. 1  
January 2016

## Tree Friend Extraordinaire



Honored by the West Lafayette City Council at the December meeting, Lynn Layden received the W. L. Beautification Award for her dedication to the work begun by Helen Lillich to develop and maintain the W.L. urban forest.

For the past five years Lynn chaired West Lafayette Tree Friends (then Tree

Fund) educating the public about emerald ash borer, encouraging supporters, organizing yearly fund drives, participating in new tree plantings (over 800 during her tenure), pruning, mulching and watering (with the help of her trusty blue pickup and other WLTF volunteers).

Mayor John Dennis recognized Lynn's leadership and organizational skills and concluded, "As she ends her reign as chair of The Tree Friends, we applaud, thank and are ever so grateful to Lynn Layden, a true friend of the trees of West Lafayette." [Go here](#) to read the tribute read by the mayor at the City Council meeting.



## Upcoming Events

**Tues 2/9** - WLTF committee meeting - noon - WL Public Library. Join us!

**Tues 3/8** - WLTF committee meeting - noon - WL Public Library. Join us!

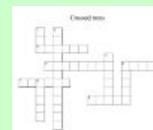
**Fri 4/22/2016** - Bicentennial "Tree of Hope" Planting, Tippecanoe County Courthouse, 1pm. **Save the date!**

**Fri 4/29/2016** - Arbor Day. Activities to be announced. **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](#)



[January Crossword](#)

["Tree Trial Tantalizer"](#)

[Tree Facts](#)

[Urban Street Tree Benefits](#)

[Learn about the emerald ash borer](#)



## Ongoing Gratitude



At our December meeting, WLTF recognized and thanked Lynn Layden for five years of tireless leadership as chair of our volunteer group. We look forward to planting, pruning and protecting WL trees with Lynn and our new chair, Bill Evers.

## Meet a Tree Friend - Bill Evers

As a long time resident of West Lafayette and a Purdue University retiree, I could not help noticing and admiring the abundant trees on campus and lining our city streets. After retiring I wanted to be more physically active, and I discovered WLTF offered opportunity for that and more. Tree pruning, for instance, is a great way to get outdoors, is invigorating and satisfying.

When I joined WLTF in 2012 it was easy to get involved in the overall operation with other volunteers. I have been delighted with the camaraderie and fun the group offers while maintaining a strong commitment to helping the West Lafayette urban landscape remain vibrant. Thanks to Bev Shaw, city Greenspace Administrator and the City of West Lafayette for ongoing, invaluable support.

## Grant Funds Street Tree Inventory And More

Recently, the city of West Lafayette and the West Lafayette Tree Friends (WLTF) teamed up to obtain a \$18,562 grant from Indiana's Department of Natural Resources to help update the city's street tree inventory and its urban forest management plan. The city's existing tree inventory and management plan are over 10 years old. In 2015, we have over 7,000 street trees. An updated inventory will provide useful information such as exactly how many street trees we have, their location, tree species, evidence of damage or disease, maintenance requirements, and risk assessments. This will help us provide targeted and efficient tree care and better planning for future tree projects. In addition, the data will be used to update the city's urban forest management plan, a document that provides a history of our urban forest, a picture of the forest's benefits and conditions, and



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

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

Are you on our enewsletter mailing list?

[Sign Up Now](#)

## Thank you recent donors

Our donor drive started in November and December was a great month! For a list of all the wonderful people who donated in December, [click here](#).

## 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 two examples of approved street trees.



recommendations for street tree management. All of this information will help inform our city leaders about the true state of our urban forest and help plan for the future.

Beverly Shaw, Marketing and Grants Administrator/Greenspace Administrator, in the Department of Development will serve as the project coordinator in partnership with the WLTF. Quotes for updating the tree inventory have been obtained from professional tree services and the lowest quote will be selected as the provider. The Greenspace Administrator, a representative from a professional tree service and a delegate from the WLTF will collaborate to develop the new urban forest management plan. This team will review the existing plan, analyze the new tree inventory data, and consult with other parties, e.g., the street commissioner, to gather information and input. Once these documents are ready for release, they will be presented to the city council. They also will be presented at a public meeting and press releases will be sent to the media. The WLTF will provide information to the public through their website, newsletter, and other media.

In closing, the city of West Lafayette and the West Lafayette Tree Friends have worked diligently to create an urban forest of which we can be proud. These much needed updates of our planning documents are just another step forward in ensuring the city and the WLTF can provide the residents of our community an urban forest that is a healthy, safe and welcoming.

## Sweaters for Trees? Yes!

Hooks and needles were flying at Nine Irish Brothers pub on November 15, as knitters and crocheters created tree wraps for newly planted trees. Fifteen people came to enjoy the fun, food, and beverages, and several learned a new skill.



Newbies and pros alike created brightly colored wraps to accompany laminated tags carrying a message to discourage vandalism on dozens of young trees near campus, such as " Don't get drunk and break my trunk!"

### Redbud

Scientific name: *Cercis Canadensis*

Ht: 30' Width: 25"

Fall foliage color: chestnut brown

Flowers: showy, light to dark magenta pink

The redbud is approved for use under utility lines.



### Serviceberry

Scientific name: *Amelanchier species*

Ht: 25' Width: 20"

Spring foliage: white lacy blooms

Fall foliage: orange, red, yellow

Sometimes called Juneberry - in late Spring, red-purple berries ripen



Oh yes we're very proud of him. He's in publishing you know!

The tradition of yarn bombing originated in Europe where elaborate yarn creations were installed in the evening, and morning light revealed brightly wrapped trees, lampposts and bicycle racks.



Our installation on December 8, with over a dozen volunteers, started with hot chocolate and instructions at Morton Community Center. From there more than 70 trees



Courtesy of the Journal and Courier

were lovingly "bombed" with sweaters and tags.

The campus effort was extended to a dozen trees planted to honor Helen Lillich, our founder, on Yeager Road north of Cumberland and the Tree Trial, a test of 28 tree varieties planted along Kalberer Road by Fire Station #3.



WLTF appreciates the efforts of our many creative contributors ... we will be delighted to receive more wraps during the coming year; a piece 6 by 18 inches is perfect, knit or crocheted of any bright colored yarn. Thanks for your help!

## 2015 Year End Results

The City of West Lafayette's urban forest is still reeling from the effects of emerald ash borer: 118 street trees were removed in 2015 due to EAB and general decline. Approximately 645 ash trees remain along the City streets.

In many ways this has been a successful year for WLTF and the City in counteracting these losses. Through various funding sources, a total of 416 new trees were planted including 5 Tribute Trees, a new program organized by WLTF, with funding provided by family and friends of recipients.

Volunteer hours for WLTF totaled 1036 including 224.5 hours devoted to pruning, 45 hours watering during the fall drought, as well as planting, mulching, attending monthly planning meetings and preparing the newsletter, *Urban Leaves*.

[Read the full report here.](#)

## WLTF Committee

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

## Coming in the March issue of Urban Leaves

What is a Tree Steward?

Where is the largest Jack pine tree in the nation?

What is the Emergency Tree Squad?

*Happy  
New Year!*