



# Urban Leaves

Tree News You Can Use

Vol. 3 No. 2  
March 2016

## Tree Friend Honored

WLTF Steve Green, recipient of West Lafayette Volunteer Recognition Award, received praise from Mayor John Dennis for his contributions to the City:

"Money makes things happen and Steve Green makes money happen. His volunteer grant writing efforts have successfully raised over \$100,000 for the community for items such as: the shade sail and dining court at the West Lafayette Farmers Market (WLFM): a robust marketing program of WLFM with banners, bus tails, radio spots, and social media: future planting islands with shade trees at the WLFM; 153 new trees in Prophets Ridge, Barberry Heights and Amberleigh Village; 90 trees in Blackbird Farms; 30 trees in a Tree Trial on Kalberer Road; future updates to citywide street tree inventory and management; and public art projects.



Additionally, Steve volunteers with both the WLFM and W L Tree Friends. You can find him setting up the market, tweaking vendor contracts, pruning street trees, or planting Tribute Trees when he's not writing grants.

Steve retired from the Krannert School of Management after serving the University for 25 years as an accomplished professor.

Prior to Purdue, Steve was a faculty member at the University of Cincinnati for 11 years. He is also a U S Navy veteran. Steve loves to read, hike, bike, travel,

watch Purdue sports, and spend time with his family (Helen, his high school sweetheart/wife, two sons in the Indy area, one daughter-in-law, and three grandsons, 8, 5, 3 years old). The entire City benefits from Steve's unselfish gifts of time and talent, and for that we award him the recognition he is due."

## Upcoming Events

**Tues, 4/12/2016** - WLTF committee - noon - WL Public Library. Join us!

**Wed 4/13/2016** - 3 pm - WLTF will be pulling stakes around trees that no longer need support in Amberleigh Village starting at the intersection of Humboldt and Roxboro by the pond. Volunteers from Boiler Out will join us. All are welcome!

**Fri 4/22/2016** - "Tree of Hope" planting at 1pm on the east side of the Tippecanoe County Court House. This is a joint effort of Lafayette, West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County. The chosen tree, Indiana State Tulip, will be donated by Koehler Bros., and the third grades of St. Mary's School have agreed to assist with the planting. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

**Fri 4/22/2016** - 11am - Purdue Arbor Day celebration - South of Krannert

**Fri 4/29/2016** - Arbor Day - WLTF will plant 16 trees in celebration of Indiana's bicentennial in 2016 from the street department on South River Road.

**Tues 5/10/2016** - WLTF committee - noon - WL Public Library. Join us!

## Meet a Tree Friend - Gretchen Ely



West Lafayette has been my home virtually all my life. My father taught at Purdue, I attended West Lafayette High School as did my three boys, and I have always felt it to be a wonderful community.

My parents raised me to appreciate Nature through hikes in state parks, bird watching outings and gardening

( following my father's footsteps, I became a Master Gardener). One segment of the Master Gardener training briefly covered pruning practices for shrubs and trees. I was fascinated, studied further,

ultimately training others in subsequent workshops.

When my neighbor, Lynn Layden, invited me to join West Lafayette Tree Friends (then Fund) in Spring 2010 it seemed a natural progression for me. There are frequent smiles and laughter with this fun group, too, no matter the task at hand. We really like what we do! Volunteering with WLTF not only provides the opportunity to practice my pruning skills, but has improved my ability to identify trees and knowledge of how to care for them. Their many benefits go far beyond pure aesthetics to improving our air, water, and even reducing stress. Trees enhance our lives and community in so many ways.

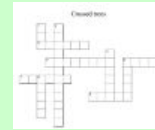


With the loss of so many ash trees comes the critically important task of restoring our urban forest, and I am pleased and proud to participate with WLTF to restore, expand and maintain the health and beauty of our West Lafayette landscape.

## Quick Links

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

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



[March Crossword](#)  
["Tree Variety and Parts"](#)

[Tree Facts](#)

[Urban Street Tree Benefits](#)

[Learn about the emerald ash](#)



[borer](#)



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

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

Are you on our newsletter mailing list?

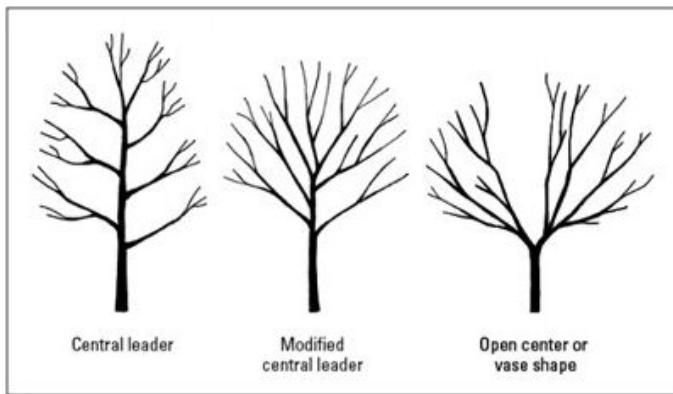
[Sign Up Now](#)

## Approved Street Tree

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 street tree.

## Why Do Trees Need To Be Pruned?

In a forest, trees simply grow whichever way their circumstances allow and a mature forest is a beautiful sight. The trees take care of themselves. However, the urban landscape is a very different setting. We want the trees in our yards to be healthy, attractive and to present no risks to our families or passersby. The first important consideration occurs before a tree is even planted. Whenever you buy a new tree for your property, be aware of its probable height and width at maturity. If a tree is too large for the setting it will require much more pruning to remain properly sized. Remember that each cut is an injury from which the tree must heal.



However, for most homeowners the trees came with the house. For them the most important reason to prune a tree is to reduce risk by maintaining its health. This is done by ensuring that the tree has a single central leader, by removing dead or broken branches and by cutting out branches which are rubbing against each other. The best time to do this corrective pruning is when the tree is young. This greatly improves the chances your tree will be an asset to your property as it matures. Always contact a professional arborist if you have concerns about a large mature tree.

If you want to prune a street tree, you need to call Bev Shaw at 775-5161 to get a (free) permit. And if you want help or advice about a street tree, the Tree Friends are ready and willing. We can do work on street trees only from the ground, but we can help with proper pruning for young trees and clearance pruning for older trees.

If you would like to help WLTF prune trees this spring, here is a [list of the dates and places](#). You don't need any equipment although gloves can be helpful. Please contact Bev Shaw at 775-5161 or [bshaw@wl.in.gov](mailto:bshaw@wl.in.gov) and let her know what day(s) you would like to help out.



**Japanese Lilac Tree**

Scientific name: *Syringa reticulata*

Ht: 30 ft Width: 12 ft.

Spring foliage color: clusters of white, fragrant flowers for several weeks

## The Well Dressed Tree by Isobel Stuart Miller



My friend knows I'm a knitter and in the fall said, "Please,

Would you knit some scarves for us to wrap around the trees?"

I laughed and said "How strange, and why should I do that?"

Aren't the trees already strong and do they also need a hat?"

I thought it quite a giggle but she quickly told me why

New trees need help to grow and reach up to the sky.

Watch this newsletter for future articles on proper pruning practices and the tools to use or see <https://extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-506-W.pdf> for a full explanation of essential pruning practices.

### Did You Know?



Purdue University in West Lafayette is home to the **nation's largest Jack Pine tree** (*pinus banksiana*) according to the Indiana Big Tree Register 2010. Located at the corner of 3rd and McCormick on the west side of campus. A marker identifies the tree.

To see this and other trees [check out this website](#) for self-guided walking tours of trees on Purdue campus.

*Happy Spring!*

The knitted scarves protect them beginning in the Fall

It seems the saplings struggle with the cold and wind and "All"

The "All" includes the young folk who like to bend the trunk

As they walk home from the bar and are often very drunk.

The scarves around the trees show that people care

And trees are planted lovingly to help clean up the air

So when you see a scarf sewn tight around a tree

Treat the tree with gentleness and watch it grow with me.

### Thank you to recent donors

Carol Bell  
Cube & Company, INC  
Diane Cipra  
Georgia Dunn  
Kack Kelley  
Mary Losey  
Nicole McMillin  
Nick Schenkel  
Martha Schrader  
Mary Tilden  
Hsiaoming Log Tong  
Victoria Willis  
Robert Woerner