



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

# Urban Leaves

*Tree News You Can Use*

Vol. 3 No. 4  
July/August 2016

## West Lafayette Tree Friends at the Farmers Market

Meet WLTF volunteers at our booth, seek answers about your tree questions, and sign up for our bimonthly newsletter (or at [www.wltreefriends.org](http://www.wltreefriends.org)).

We enjoyed the Farmers Market on July 6, we were pleased to wear the new WLTF shirts and chat with visitors about trees. Be sure to



stop by the booth on August 3 & September 7.

Look forward to seeing you!!

## Upcoming Events



**Wed, 3:30-7pm**

Meet the Tree Friends at the Market 8/3 and 9/7  
Check out our booth and look for our new T shirts!

**Tues 8/9/2016** - WLTF committee - noon - WL Public Library. Join us!

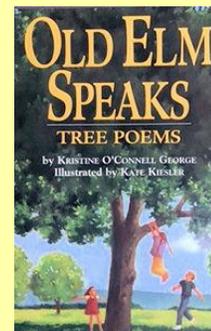
**Tues 9/13/2016** - WLTF committee - noon - WL Public Library. Join us!

## HELP CARE FOR STREET TREES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

### Help your street trees thrive

1. **QUENCH THEIR THIRST** During dry spells, 1" of water per week will help your trees thrive
2. **MULCH RIGHT** 2-3" deep around tree base. But keep the mulch away from the tree trunk.
3. **NEED A TRIM?** Contact the West Lafayette Tree Friends when limbs block the sidewalk or street.
4. **SET THEM FREE** Remove stakes and straps one year after the tree is established. Email the Tree Friends if you need help [city@wltreefriends.org](mailto:city@wltreefriends.org)

Indulge the nature lover in you and the children you love with this delightful book all about trees!



# WLTF Pruning Partners Program

The Pruning Partners program provides free clearance pruning to West Lafayette businesses who request help. Regular "limbing up" can encourage trees to grow up, provide shade, absorb pollutants, provide habitat and attract customers. Here are recent projects:

Date: June 17, 2016

Personnel: Don Wood, Bryce Patz

Site: River Market Apts & Shoppes (Wabash Landing area)

Time: 2 hrs.

Trees pruned: 16

Date: July 8, 2016

Personnel: Don Wood, Bryce Patz, Bev Shaw

Site: Town and Gown Bistro

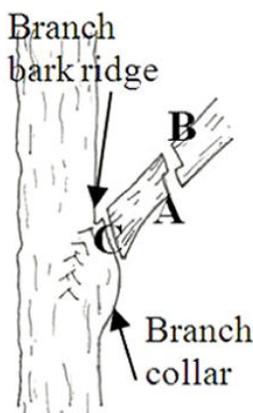
Time: 1 hr.

Trees pruned: 4



Interested businesses can call Beverly Shaw, City of West Lafayette, at 775-5161 to schedule their pruning. A volunteer team will contact the business to work out details.

## How to make Good Pruning Cuts or Time to Make the Cut



As with carpentry and quilting, careful preparation is important before a branch is cut. Once done, it cannot be undone. This illustration reminds us of the important branch bark ridge and the branch collar while also showing how to approach neatly cutting a larger branch.

The weight of a large branch can tear the bark down the side of a tree if the only cut made is at point C. That further exposes the tree to disease and insect threats. Therefore the best approach is a three cut plan. The first cut is done at point A, a few

## Street Tree

All day long, I stand  
here on the street,  
neatly clipped  
a round-headed shape,

minding my manners.  
I know my proper place.  
I don't spill leaves,  
never dribble sap.

So meek and polite,  
no one knows that  
when all the cars go home—  
when I'm standing here, alone—

I dream wild.  
I am forest.

Kristine O'Connell  
George

## Quick Links

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

Fun tree things for kids

[Tree Jokes](#)

[KidZone Science-Trees](#)



[July Crossword](#)  
["Parts and types"](#)

[Tree Facts](#)

[Urban Street Tree Benefits](#)

[Learn about the emerald ash borer](#)



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Pruning deep on the underside of the branch. The second cut is done at point B further out on the branch to remove the weight while cut A prevents the bark from tearing. Once the weight is removed then the final cut outside the branch bark ridge and branch collar can be made.

Pruning can also be done when the entire branch need not be removed. This can be done further out on the branches to raise them up from the sidewalk or street or to reduce the need to duck when mowing the lawn. Again there are preferred locations to make these cuts. It is best to make cuts where there is a fork in the branch. This is another location where healing is aided and the risk of a dead stub developing is reduced. If you are pruning a flowering tree, do so shortly after the tree has dropped its blooms in order to avoid the risk of cutting off the buds of the next year's blooms.

For a full explanation of pruning go to:  
<https://extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-506-W.pdf>

## Tree Friends In Action!

Many hands make light work and many hands also make limbed up trees allowing passers-by to pass by safely. With proper pruning cuts, the West Lafayette Tree Friends removed the lower branches and did some corrective pruning on 805 street trees this spring! We go out



on Friday mornings for two hours in the spring and fall but



take a break during the heat of summer. Much of our work was in Arbor Chase this year where all those young trees really needed to have their crowns lifted to allow pedestrians to get down the sidewalks. We received many words of thanks!

We'll return in a couple of years to do this work again. In the long run, the street department wants to be able to drive their trash trucks and snow plows down a clear path. That takes a number of years of tree growth and pruning but the Tree Friends are on it! Please consider joining us this fall when we head back out to do more work. We have so much fun working together. Don't know much about pruning? No worries. We'll pair you with a veteran pruner and you'll be an expert in no time. Since we started in 2003, we're pruned... drum roll please... 10496 trees!



## Urban Forestry Intern Extraordinaire

We are so lucky to have Bryce Patz on board this summer. For the first time, the urban forestry internship is a full time position as we deal with all of the ash trees coming down. Bryce has been invaluable overseeing Operation Releaf (our tree planting program), our inventory update, hazardous tree removals, pruning and planning!

## Thank you to recent donors

**Cathy Campbell**  
**Kay Conner**  
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**Sandra Pearlman**  
**Judy Pellissier**  
**R.J. Rudolph**  
**Beverly Shaw**  
**Camille Tuite**  
**West Laf Parks & Rec**  
**Richard Williamson**

## 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](#). This is another example of an approved street tree.



**Thornless Honeylocust**  
*Gleditsia Triacanthos f. Inermis*

Ht.: 75' Width: 50'  
Fall foliage color: copper, yellow  
Notes: a shade tree, fast-grower, likes full sun



Bryce's mother was a state park property manager so he lived at Chain of Lakes, McCormick's Creek and Ouabache State Parks until he was 14, then lived in Bluffton, IN. A love of the outdoors runs deep so he headed to Purdue to study horticulture.

He interned at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and helped get the Purdue Arboretum off the ground accessioning all of the plants on campus. He still serves as the Collections Manager for the Purdue

Arboretum. He is a plant identification expert having been the teaching assistant for Purdue's woody plant ID class. Bryce graduated from Purdue with a BS in public horticulture in May 2015.

Graduate school is probably in his future but he's taking a year or two off while he figures out exactly what he wants to study. Right now, he's considering urban forestry, Youth Development and Ag education and public horticulture. In the meantime, he's doing wonderful things for the city of West Lafayette and the West Lafayette Tree Friends!

## The Value of Street Trees

Had you ever thought about why you dash under a tree when a sudden rain storm occurs as you are playing or working outside? One reason is the leaves and bark of trees retain enormous volumes of rain water and you do not get drenched. Look at the leaves of trees when rain is pouring down and you can see all the miniature beads of rain setting on the leaves. Warning: The tree does not protect you from lightning injury during rainstorms.

According to Tree City USA Bulletin (No. 55) published by The Arbor Day Foundation "During heavy rainfall the leaves and bark of a tree retain a huge amount of rain water, allowing some of it to evaporate and some to more slowly reach the ground. This rain water retention by trees during heavy downpours keeps thousands of gallons of rain water runoff from flowing into combined water collection systems and overwhelming wastewater treatment plants. During heavy rainfall this deluge of rain water into wastewater treatment plants overloads the treatment capabilities and may result in untreated sewage, mixed with rain water, to flow directly into local streams and rivers. Wastewater treatment plants cannot efficiently treat this overload of sewage and rainwater and the treatment plants release what is called Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) into the waterways. If rainwater is retained by the leaves and bark of trees then that rain water is not flowing into the sewage treatment plants and the incidence of CSOs is reduced. It has been estimated that the "urban forest can reduce annual runoff by 2-7%." Trees and their leaves and bark can significantly reduce pollutants in our waterways and results in "benefits to public health and municipal budgets."

For more information see  
Tree City USA bulletins

# 55. How trees can retain stormwater runoff. #28. Placing a value on trees.

#17. How to landscape to save water.



[For more information](#)

"Why pay money for the horror movies? Just go to a street without trees!" ----  
Mehmet Murat ildan

#45 Trees for better streets.

There is a \$3 fee for the bulletins which can be found in the [Tree City USA Bulletin Archive](#)

Other: <http://www.itreetools.org/streets>