



## Turning Over A New Leaf

By Bev Shaw

After 13 happy years of being the WL Greenspace Administrator, it's time to turn over a new leaf. Since 2003, we've planted hundreds of trees, pruned thousands of trees, improved our approved street tree list, created our first street tree inventory and management plan and updated that inventory in 2015. Over time, as properties have redeveloped, we've been able to take huge seas of asphalt (Walmart, Osco/Jewel, Kmart, etc.) and apply our ordinance which means they now have trees every 30 feet around those parking lots and trees in islands as well. We've partnered with our engineering department so trees are now included in their projects-like Cumberland Avenue, River Road and soon, Happy Hollow Road.

The Tree Friends have grown and blossomed. In 2003, no one was pruning street trees. The Tree Friends now head out each spring and fall to tackle this task as well as watering new trees. Their E-Tree Squad responds to emergency situations. They've added a website, newsletter, facebook page and updated their fund-raising efforts. With their help, we've received many grants worth tens of thousands of dollars. The best part? They're wonderful and enjoyable people and it's a pleasure to work with them!

Our biggest challenge was the threat of emerald ash borer. Because of our relationship with Purdue entomologists, we were one of the earliest cities to remove ash from all new plantings. We proactively began planting trees in neighborhoods that would be hardest hit. And we are currently weathering the storm.

My new role, which is working on quality of life issues, includes public art, placemaking, streetscapes, town/gown relations, the farmers market and more. It's been an honor to care for West Lafayette's urban forest for all these years and I'm grateful for all the support from the Tree Friends, city officials and citizens who care!

**Meet Bryce!**

## Upcoming Events

**Tues 2/14/2017** - WLTF committee - noon - WL Public Library. Join us!

**Tues 3/14/2017** - WLTF committee - noon - WL Public Library. Join us!

## Donor Campaign

We are off to a great start with our 2016-2017 donor campaign! [Here's a list of our most recent donors.](#)

*Thank you for your generosity over the years!*



## Quick Links

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Our achievements!

[2016 Urban Forestry Report](#)

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### Did you know?

**Tree City USA-since 1976-four decades of helping communities strive for healthy tree canopies. WL has met the standards for 26 years, one of over 3,000 communities across the USA.**

Bryce Patz joined the city as the urban forestry intern in May 2016 with his degree in Public Horticulture from Purdue. His expertise was immediately apparent and we're pleased that a position was created, called Neighborhood Vitality, and he's now a full-time employee! He will be working with neighborhoods on a variety of projects and also serving as the Greenspace Administrator for the city. Bryce's horticultural knowledge and enthusiasm for all things growing will be wonderful assets for West Lafayette. Look for him in your neighborhood in the urban forestry truck-or contact him at [bpatz@wl.in.gov](mailto:bpatz@wl.in.gov). He's full of great ideas and we look forward to the positive impact he'll make on our community.



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Share your love of trees with children in your life through:

- [arborday.org/education](http://arborday.org/education)
- tree themed games
- tree trivia
- basics of tree ID
- and much more



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Fun tree things for kids

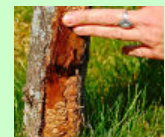
- [Tree Jokes](#)
- [KidZone Science-Trees](#)

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[Urban Street Tree Benefits](#)

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[Learn about the emerald ash borer](#)



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

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

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

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## A Tribute To Bev Shaw



At the December meeting of WLTF, Bev Shaw was recognized for her outstanding contribution to the WL urban forest since 2003. Her energy, enthusiasm and creative problem solving have enabled our volunteers to be successful in adding thousands of trees to our streets. We presented her with a copper tree sculpture, created by Bill Dilling and a Tribute Tree to be planted in her honor...location and choice of species up to her.

## Meet A Tree Friend - Mary Campbell

I am a relative newcomer to the WL Tree Friends, having joined about 18 months ago. Bev Shaw, who was then the West Lafayette Green Space Administrator, saw me looking at a flyer about the Tree Friends and said, "Why don't you come to a meeting?" I love trees, the meeting times worked for me (2nd Tuesdays at noon), and so I tried it out.



I grew up in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, and just took trees for granted - lots of conifers and deciduous trees were everywhere it seemed. I did not realize how important they were to me until I lived for about 5 years in Los Angeles County. There

were not nearly enough trees, and I missed them terribly. I've lived in West Lafayette for almost 50 years, and one reason I feel so at home here is because of the City's commitment to planting trees.

In my time with the West Lafayette Tree Friends, I have learned how little I know about trees and about urban green spaces - but I'm learning. There are many ways that the Tree Friends support the City's work - from fundraising, to planting, to pruning, to watering, to protecting young trees in winter with "tree sweaters." I am finding activities that suit my time and interests and that are helpful to our mission. The other Tree Friends also passionate about trees and green spaces and are a friendly, committed, involved group. I'm hooked. Give it a try!

## Volunteers Make It Happen

The West Lafayette Tree Friends is comprised of dedicated volunteers that provide a valuable service to the landscape of the city and the people who live here. Their mission is to plant, prune and protect the trees all along the streets. These hard working individuals contributed almost 1,000 hours in 2016 to insure that our city has an abundance of healthy trees. Through their efforts, they helped West Lafayette receive the National Tree City USA award recognition for the 26th year, which is quite an accomplishment.

"Every great organization relies on volunteers to provide assistance and the Tree Friends is no exception," according to Dan Dunten, West Lafayette Parks & Recreation. "These 21 individuals do a variety of tasks, including planting, pruning, watering, writing articles, knitting tree sweaters, coordinating activities, filling out grants and much more."

Anyone interested in becoming a part of this group of volunteers is urged to contact Bill Evers, [chair@wltreefriends.org](mailto:chair@wltreefriends.org).

### THANK YOU!



Are you on our newsletter mailing list?

[Sign Up Now](#)

## 2017 WLTF Committee

Mary Campbell  
Kay Conner  
Dan Dunten (WL Stewardship Director)  
Linda Eales  
Gretchen Ely  
Bill Evers (Chair)  
Don Franzmeier  
Steve Green  
Mickey Harris  
Suman Harshvardhan  
Ann Hunt  
Lynn Layden (Vice-Chair)  
John MacDonald  
Lyn Meluch  
Bryce Patz (WL Greenspace Admin.)  
Judy Pellissier  
Beverly Shaw (WL Quality of Life promoter)  
Roger Shaw  
Courtenay Wells  
Don Wood (Secretary)



[Click here to see a larger view of the committee.](#)

## TRIBUTE TREES

... show your appreciation for someone and make a meaningful contribution to the health and beauty of West Lafayette!

[For more information](#)



### November Night

"Listen.../With faint dry sound/Like steps of passing ghosts, The leaves, frost-crisp'd, break from the trees/And fall."

"November Night"  
By Adelaide Crapsey

### Our New Truck!!



## Lucky Trees Get Sweaters For Winter



Some lucky trees got sweaters to keep them safe and warm through the winter.

For the third year in a row a number of younger trees in the Purdue campus area were wrapped in handmade "sweaters" by a group of volunteers. Seventy-five trees were wrapped up in a little over an hour and a tag with a clever phrase was attached to each one.

The purpose of the sweaters is to show that there are people in the community who care about the trees and to do it with a bit of humor. Over the past three years we have only had one dressed up tree be broken, which is a significant improvement over previous years. Another half dozen trees surrounding Lommel Park have acquired tree sweaters just for the neighbors enjoyment.



**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!**

