

TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING WEST LAFAYETTE GREENER



# Urban Leaves

*Tree News You Can Use*

Vol. 5 No. 5  
September-October 2018

## INDIANA FALL FOLIAGE - SEE IT AT ITS BEST!

"I cannot endure to waste anything  
so precious as autumnal sunshine  
by staying in the house."

*Nathaniel Hawthorne*



Are you wondering where and when you can see beautiful fall foliage within a day's drive? The iconic Brown County State Park is always bursting with color - but fall color can be appreciated at Indiana Dunes State Park, Turkey Run State Park, the Hoosier National Forest, and the Clifty Falls State Park.

If you want to time your peak viewing consult this nationwide interactive map: <https://smokymountains.com/fall-foliage-map/>. According to the 2018 map, Indiana's best color should present from October 15 in northern Indiana, October 22 through the rest of the state, and up to October 29 for the very southern portion.

Maybe you want to enjoy the color on foot; just head to our own Happy Hollow Park or the Celery Bog! Finally, you might just want to document the change of color at your computer. This website: <http://www.browncounty.com/leaf-cam> has a webcam running 24/7 in Brown County State Park.

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## OPERATION RE-LEAF: TREES FOR THE FUTURE

Each spring and fall, the West Lafayette Tree Friends and the City of West Lafayette partner up to plant trees within the city's right-of-way. Our planting program has been focused on replacing the hundreds of ash trees that have been removed due to the emerald ash borer. This fall we will be planting nearly 40 trees within the public right-of-way throughout West Lafayette, bringing our tree planting total for the 2018 season to 114 trees!

The cost of these new, young trees has doubled over the past 2 years, now averaging \$450.00 per tree, due to lower inventory and higher demand. To help supplement the cost and still provide quality replacement trees, grants are sought for larger projects.



When looking towards the future of our urban forest, we look at the past for tree selection. When Dutch elm disease moved across the States, American elm monocultures in urban environments were destroyed. Instead of looking for a more diverse selection, we planted monocultures of ash to fill the void. Though these trees were tolerant of urban conditions, have excellent branching habits for roadways, and brilliant fall color, they were no match for the quick spread of the emerald ash borer. Besides disease and insects, the changing climate poses a risk to our existing canopy as well. But what will we put in place of our many dying ash trees?

We plan to prevent another mass tree removal by planting a diverse mix of urban-tolerant species. Characteristics we review are branching habit, tolerance to poor soil conditions, drought tolerance, heat tolerance, and resistance to pest and diseases - characteristics you may want to consider as you plan your own tree planting. The City and the WL Tree Friends launched the Tree Trial on the south side of Kalberer, between Yeager Road and WL Fire Station 3 to test new species. Tags will be placed on each tree, so pedestrians on the paved walk can learn more about these trees. The species and cultivars that show strong characteristics for successful street trees will be added to the City's approved street trees list, found [here](#).

Think about Re-Leafing in your own yard - plant a tree for the future!

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### MEET A TREE FRIEND - MICKEY HARRIS



Muriel (Mickey) Harris has lived in West Lafayette since 1964 and is retired from Purdue where she and several graduate students founded the Purdue University Writing Lab and later, the Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab). The OWL has assisted millions of users around the globe with their writing. Mickey remains professionally active in "retirement" as the editor-in-chief of *WLN: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship*.

Mickey says, "anyone with an interest in trees is welcome to join the West Lafayette Tree Friends Committee (WLTF); our role is to help keep our city green." Indeed, it takes a multitude of WLTF volunteers to keep West Lafayette green, including fund-raisers, horticulturalists, computer wizards, reporters, photographers, and publicists plus those who love to prune and water trees. Mickey's main interest is helping people realize the importance of trees and their many benefits. She and Tree Friend Mary Campbell volunteer at the Tree Friends tent at the WL Farmer's Market where they publicize the role of WLTF, encourage individuals to sign up for this newsletter, and share information about tree care. Interested in volunteering to help the WLTF? Join us the second Tuesday of every month (noon-1:00 p.m.), upstairs in the West Lafayette Public Library.

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## OUT ON A LIMB



In our work with the City's street trees, our volunteers often see homeowner trees with dead branches high above. This problem has increased due to the large number of ash trees dying from the emerald ash borer, but any dead tree can mean trouble. Broken or dead limbs in the tree canopy along public right-of-way are monitored and removed by the City, but trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. To better

understand the risks these limbs can pose, here are some resources and examples.

Dr. Kim D. Coder, of University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources has published on this topic. He explains the difficulties of truly calculating the weight of a broken limb in a tree. But we can estimate in pounds the

weight of a branch segment, e.g., a 10-foot branch's weight.

For example, an American Elm with a 6" diameter that is 10' long could weigh up to 50 pounds. On the other hand, a White Ash branch that is 10' long and 10" in diameter could weigh about 30 pounds. Imagine lifting those weights!

We ask homeowners to look carefully at dead trees or dead limbs in trees. If you think you might have a tree limb that poses a risk, like the "Ghostbusters" said, "Who ya gonna call"? If it is a street tree (in the public right-of-way), call Bryce Patz, WL's Neighborhood Vitality in the Department of Development at 765-775-5170. If it is a tree on private property, Bryce Patz can steer you to an ISA Certified Arborist. The WL Tree Friends want all residents to enjoy the benefits of the urban forest, both trees in the right-of way and on private property. With a little TLC, we can keep our trees thriving!

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## YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK



Where do the resources come from to finance West Lafayette trees? Many readers know that the City and WL Tree Friends work together to contribute about 50% each to the cost. We have been awarded planting grants from local foundations and the Indiana Dept of Natural Resources. Additionally, a steady number of Tribute Trees are planted each year.

But the most reliable source of income is our donor base - residents who appreciate and support our tree-lined streets and want to ensure that trees will be planted each year. If you are not already one of our valued donors, please consider responding to our appeal in November to keep West Lafayette green and growing!

Our current fund-raising cycle finishes at the end of October, with the new cycle going from November 2018 through October 2019. For a list of donors for the present cycle (November 2017 through September 2018), please [click here](#).

Thank you to all who contribute so greatly to the beauty and environmental stability of our community!

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## DID YOU KNOW THAT....

The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners operating for 20 hours a day.

[Source](#)

Also -

We know that trees on our property save us money because they intercept storm water run-off, improve air quality, store nitrogen, give off oxygen, and so much more. But these factors vary according to local climate, type of tree, and its size. If you want to calculate the overall benefit of a tree in your yard, use this [National Tree Benefit Calculator](#).

You'll be surprised by the amount you are saving each year because of your trees - in addition to helping the environment.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 23	Art on the Wabash 10:00 - 4:00 Tapawingo Park
Saturday/Sunday, October 6-7	Feast of the Hunters' Moon
Tuesday, October 9	WL Tree Friends meeting - Everyone is welcome - Noon at the WL Public Library
Sunday, October 14	Hidden Gems Home Tour
Wednesday, October 17	WL Tree Friends will be at the WL Farmers Market
Sunday, October 21	Cemetery Walk at Grandview Cemetery 2:00 - 4:00
Tuesday, November 13	WL Tree Friends meeting - Everyone is welcome - Noon at the WL Public Library
Mid-November	The November-December issue of <i>Urban Leaves</i> will be sent out. Look for it!



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

Are you on our newsletter mailing list? [Sign up here](#)



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