

**TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING WEST LAFAYETTE GREENER**



# Urban Leaves

*Tree News You Can Use*

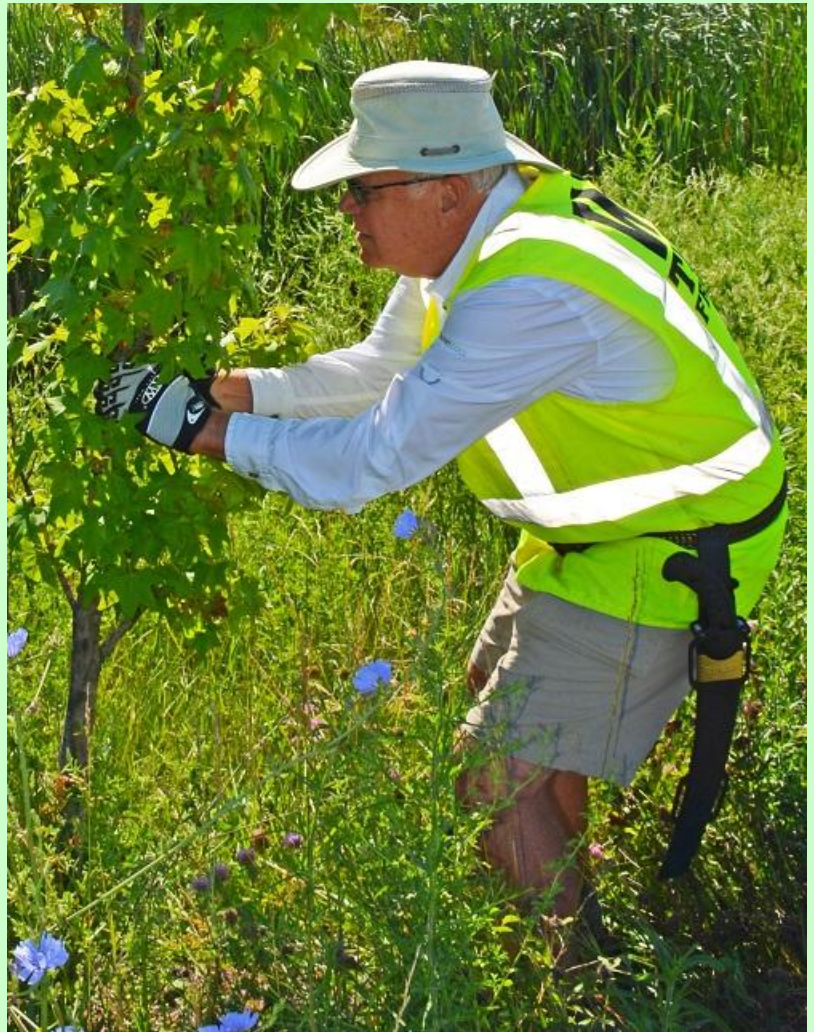
**Vol. 6 No. 1  
January-February 2019**

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Our present chairperson, Steve Green, bid farewell to the WLTF in December. He and his wife, Helen, will be moving to Noblesville in early 2019.

He was a man on a mission from the day he retired from Purdue's Krannert School. When he sought out volunteer opportunities and was connected with former city employee, Bev Shaw, she recommended the WL Tree Friends and the Cumberland Farmers Market. Steve took on both activities with great zeal.

Steve helped to raise over \$100,000 in grant awards, which contributed to the Tree Trial program on Kalberer Road, the trees planted on South River Road, and the city's current street tree inventory database. The city awarded Steve with "Volunteer of the Year."



The WLTF Tribute Tree program also benefited from Steve's work in writing policy, promoting, and tagging these special street trees, which honor residents, friends, families, or groups in our community. Over \$10,500 has been raised to plant 35 Tribute Trees.

Steve said his greatest pleasure with the Tree Friends was simply pruning and

feeling pride that he took part in caring for West Lafayette's young street trees, knowing they will provide much needed shade and oxygen in the years to come. He also enjoyed new friendships that he will cherish. He says the WLTF is "just a great group of people, caring and like-minded." He leaves knowing the new leadership of Nanci Forney and Suman Harshvardhan will continue to do great things. He had some bit of advice, with a wink, "keep recruiting members, especially those who have some height and youth..."

From all of us with West Lafayette Tree Friends - "Thank you, Steve!"

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## **LOOKING AT 2018**

The WL Tree Friends experienced another year of strong service to West Lafayette's urban forest. WLTF members were actively engaged in moving our key tasks forward. In 2018 the WLTF worked with the city of West Lafayette to plant 159 new street trees and to prune over 2,000 trees. Almost 175 volunteer hours were devoted to our urban forest. The work of our volunteers is greatly appreciated!

In early 2018 the WLTF offered the first Lillich Lecture (named after the WL Tree Friends founder, Helen Lillich) as a vehicle for educating the public about the value trees deliver to us and for fund raising. The lecture was open to the public, provided professional speakers on tree-related topics, and served a light lunch. It was well attended by almost 40 community members and professionals in the arbor care field and was enthusiastically received. A second Lillich lecture will be offered in 2019.

For a complete copy of the West Lafayette Tree Friends 2018 Annual report by the past Chair, please click [here](#).

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## **WHY ARE THERE TREES IN PARKING LOTS?**

Have you ever driven into a parking lot and wondered why there are landscape beds with trees, shrubs, and other plant material, rather than more parking spaces? You might be heading to the grocery after work, tired and ready to unwind. It might be a tad irritating to drive by spaces where trees stand, having to continue looking for the next available space. Sure, trees and shrubs are nice to look at, but why are they in spaces meant for cars? Why do city governments require trees in parking lots?

Trees and greenspace in any urban environment work hard to provide benefits that most take for granted. Trees provide shade, cooling the ambient air

temperature, which also keeps vehicles cooler. Trees sequester carbon from car exhaust, clean the air, and produce oxygen. Tree canopy captures rain, slowing or preventing water from hitting pavement speckled with motor oil and anti-freeze, which would race into storm drains, later discharging into the Wabash River. Rainfall trapped on leaf surfaces, stems, and tree trunks evaporates back into the air, keeping water from ever entering storm drains.

The greenspace where trees and shrubs are planted also acts as a large net for stormwater. Most landscape beds have a coating of hardwood mulch, which captures and stores rainwater as it falls. Trash and debris fall into the greenspace and are picked up by property owners, rather than washed away in our storm drains.

Maybe trees in parking lots is a great idea after all! Just think how pleased you are to find a shady parking space in mid-August!



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## **TREE DAMAGE IN WINTER WEATHER**



Cold weather, ice, snow, and sun can damage trees in the urban forest. Here are some tips abbreviated from the Purdue's Forestry and Natural Resources website on what tree enthusiasts can do to prevent winter damage to trees:

- **Wrapping.** Smooth or thin-barked trees like honeylocust, crabapples, linden and especially maple are susceptible to sunscald and frost cracks because of the temperature fluctuations from sun exposure in the winter. Prevention includes guarding the trunks of younger trees up to the first branches using a flexible, white tree wrap. Leave the wrap on until after the last freezing temperatures.
- **Mulching.** Apply 2-3 inches of wood chips, bark or other organic mulch over the root zone of the tree. Start at the base, but not against it, to the edge of the outer branches or drip line. This will reduce soil evaporation, improve water absorption and insulate against temperature extremes.
- **Pruning.** Late fall and early winter is an acceptable time for limited pruning of most tree species. Functional pruning is the only reason to prune at this time. Prune trees to remove dying, diseased or dead branches or to improve structure.
- **Watering.** Whenever rainfall is insufficient for extended periods of 2-3 weeks or more, supplemental water is needed, especially on newly planted trees and those less established. It is advisable to water plants though the fall until the ground is frozen, so that trees have adequate moisture to survive the winter months and are ready for spring growth. The best time for winter watering is on warmer days when snow has melted and the temperature is above 40 degrees.

<https://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/blog/2012/11/12/winterize-your-trees/>

Heavy loads of ice on trees can also cause damage, especially to river birch.

According to the University of Minnesota Extension Service, "Proper pruning, to eliminate multiple leaders and weak branch attachments, will reduce snow and ice damage." An ISA Certified Arborist can help give advice on prevention of snow and ice damage. To locate a Certified Arborist in your area see [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com). Questions about WL street trees can be directed to West Lafayette urban forester Bryce Patz: [bpatz@westlafayette.in.gov](mailto:bpatz@westlafayette.in.gov).

Our thanks to Professor Lindsay Purcell at Purdue Forestry Department for much of this information.

## EMERGENCY TREE SQUAD

WL Tree Friends can offer help with tree damage through the Tree Friends Emergency Tree Squad (ET), headed by Don Wood since 2005 when Don and John MacDonald first initiated the service. Don and other volunteers provide emergency pruning in response to calls or emails about tree damage to city trees. Call the Mayor's office or the WL Street Department at (765) 775-5100 or Bryce Patz at (765) 775-5160.



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## DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Donations for 2017-2018 wrapped up at the end of October. **THANK YOU** to the many people who donated so generously to further the work of the Tree Friends and the City of West Lafayette in maintaining and promoting the urban forest. The Tree Friends do a lot more than fund raising, but the funds we raise make it possible to provide matching funds for grants and to purchase and plant street trees.

Our donor drive for 2018-2019 began in November. We are off to a good start. Click [here](#) for a list of donors to date.

Please help us keep our urban forest healthy and growing. To donate online, click [here](#). Otherwise go to our website to [donate by mail](#). **Note:** Our mailing address has **changed**: Parks and Recreation Department, 1200 North Salisbury Street, West Lafayette 47906.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

The WL Tree Friends meet the second Tuesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. **We have moved our location** from the WL Public Library to the temporary City Hall in the old Happy Hollow School at 1200 North Salisbury Street. We will meet in Room 117. Ample parking is available - enter the lot off Kingston Drive. Please join us! Upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, February 12 11:00 a.m. in Room 117 at the Happy Hollow Complex

Tuesday, March 12 11:00 a.m. in Room 117 at the Happy Hollow Complex

Tuesday, April 9 11:00 a.m. in Room 117 at the Happy Hollow Complex

The second annual Lillich Lecture will be held in March. The date is still being finalized.

Ongoing event:

Wednesdays in the Wild Lilly Nature Center at 1:00 p.m.

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## INDOOR JANUARY FUN

For a larger copy, download the wordsearch [here](#).

## Urban Forest

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GREEN  
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OXYGEN  
SHADE  
TREES

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"To be poor and be without trees, is to be the most starved human being in the world. To be poor and have trees, is to be completely rich in ways that money can never buy." - Clarissa Pinkola Estes: *The Faithful Gardener* (1996)

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Donate

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

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[For more information](#)

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