

TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING WEST LAFAYETTE GREENER



Urban Leaves

Tree News You Can Use

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March-April 2019

SECOND ANNUAL LILLICH LECTURE: GETTING THE DIRT ON SOIL AND WATER

Helen Lillich loved trees! The founder of the WL Tree Friends, affectionately known as the "Tree Lady", was a passionate advocate of trees for a healthier and vibrant community. For the second year the WL Tree Friends, also ardent tree advocates, honored her legacy with the Lillich Lecture Series.

On March 13, our speakers, Dr. John Graveel, professor of Agronomy and Director of the Natural Resources and Environmental Services at Purdue University, and Shannon Stanis of WREC (Wabash River Enhancement Corporation) enlightened 34 workshop participants. What an interesting and informative morning!



Shannon Stanis and Dr. John Graveel

Dr. Graveel discussed the importance of soil structure and quality, microorganisms, and the role that water plays in the root development of trees in the urban forest. He stressed the importance of well-drained soil in supporting the genesis and longevity of trees.

Shannon outlined the mission of WREC, facts about and the many virtues of the Wabash River and Watershed, and the impact of trees on the health of the Wabash River and community at large. She encouraged the audience to attend the Wabash River Fest held locally each July.

Please consider joining us next year for another exciting and informative Lillich Lecture, highlighting unique topics in urban forestry and greenspace.

On a sad note, John E. "Jack" Lillich, Helen's husband, died this winter in Charleston, S.C. He was 95 years old.



READY FOR SPRING?

Often, ornamental trees shine their brightest during the spring months, displaying brightly colored flowers that seemingly break through the frosty grip of winter. From the native Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) to the dinner plate sized flower of Saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangeana*), we have many options to liven our landscape this spring. Below are a few options that you can add to your spring collection this year. Special thanks to the Purdue Arboretum for providing these wonderful photos and plant information! For more information, visit the [Purdue Arboretum web site](#).

Cornus mas-Cornelian Cherry Dogwood

The Cornelian Cherry Dogwood is often overlooked due to the more popular Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*). Native to central and southern Europe and western Asia, the Cornelian Cherry Dogwood produces small, yellow flowers that make a spectacular display in late March-early April. *Cornus mas* can be found as a multi-stem tree or single stem, but suckering stems can be an issue.



Small, red fruits emerge in the fall, paired with a muddled red-violet fall color. [Learn more about the Cornelian Cherry Dogwood](#).

Cercis canadensis 'Appalachian Red'- Appalachian Red Redbud

Most plant enthusiasts are familiar with the north American native Eastern Redbud, so it should be no surprise that *Cercis canadensis* made the short list. The cultivar 'Appalachian Red' is known for its intense pink flower color that appear in late April. Heart shaped leaves and bean-pod fruits are easy way to identify this native,



often found along the woodland edges, where filtered sunlight is prevalent. Though *Cercis canadensis* is shade tolerant, flowering is more intense with more sunlight.

[Learn more about the Appalachian Red Redbud.](#)

Hamamelis x intermedia
'Sunburst'- Sunburst Witchhazel

Nothing warms up the landscape than the stripy-flowers and fall color of an ornamental witchhazel! The Sunburst Witchhazel is a

hybrid between the Japanese and Chinese Witchhazel and often one of the first large shrub/small trees to bloom in the spring. Bright yellow flowers, tinged with red, appear in late February to early March. With proper pruning and training, this Witchhazel can be a wide-spreading tree that can be a specimen in any garden. Outstanding fall color would be another reason to add this plant to the landscape, displaying vibrant yellow-orange leaves in the fall. [Learn more about Sunburst Witchhazel.](#)



Malus x 'Prairifire'-Prairifire Crabapple



Crabapples are a staple in the spring landscape, producing a show flower display each spring. Prairifire Crabapple is no different. This disease resistant cultivar produces dark pinkish-red flowers mid-spring, which typically last about 1 to 2 weeks. Great for smaller yards!

[Learn more about Prairifire Crabapple.](#)

Magnolia x loebneri 'Leonard Messel'- Leonard Messel Magnolia

Our last mention is a great gem of a cultivar that can be harder to find in the nursery trade. Even so, this magnolia is a wonderful small, rounded tree that can be found in several location on Purdue University's campus. Large, fragrant, pink flowers, appear in late March to early April before leaves emerge. Though the flower buds are frost resistant, it is wise to plant in a more protected area to avoid frost damage once the flowers bloom. [Learn more about the Leonard Messel Magnolia.](#)



If you are interested in planting one or more of these ornamental trees, you can

MEET A TREE FRIEND SUMAN HARSHVARDHAN



Suman Harshvardhan and Nanci Forney are the new WLTF co-chairs. Nanci was highlighted in the January issue of *Urban Leaves*.

Suman was born in Allahabad in north central India. After attending National College in Mumbai she returned to Patna where she and Harshvardhan married. Long Island, NY, became home, where Harsh was enrolled in a graduate program.

Suman and Harsh have lived in West Lafayette for 31 years, have two children and two grandchildren. Suman began volunteering at the local Montessori School of Greater Lafayette (MSGSL) where her son was enrolled. After completing her Montessori teaching certification in Chicago, she taught at the MSGSL, and later became the Executive Director from 1999 to 2015 when she retired. Suman's passion for trees and green spaces led to the addition of trees and vegetable and butterfly gardens to the MSGSL campus. These green spaces provide opportunities for active outdoor learning and an appreciation of nature.

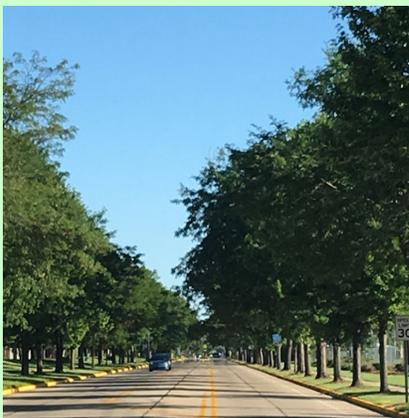
Pursuing her passion for trees and green space, Suman began volunteering with the Tree Friends where she is developing the art of tree pruning. She has enjoyed numerous pruning sessions, including a gigantic tree care project at Indiana Veterans Home last fall. Now Suman and Nanci, who have known each other since their children were at MSGSL school, will extend that collaboration to lead WL Tree Friends. Their goals include educating all age groups on the care and importance of trees and urban forests.

SPRING INTO PRUNING!



The West Lafayette Tree Friends and the City's urban forester are planning the annual spring pruning sessions, which begin in April and continue through the end of May. We gather each Friday morning in various neighborhoods and we have a blast! Want to join in on the fun this year, but have no experience pruning? No problem! Contact us as at chair@wltreefriends.org or city@wltreefriends.org for more information and we will teach you the ropes!

DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Street trees on North Salisbury Street

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 donations for 2018-2019 began in November. Click [here](#) for a list of donors to date.

Some gifts last more than a lifetime! Your donations help us plant and maintain the West Lafayette Urban Forest.

Please help us keep our urban forest healthy and growing. To donate online, click [here](#), or send a check to Parks and Recreation Department, 1200

North Salisbury Street, West Lafayette 47906. Attention: West Lafayette Tree Friends. (Note the new address.)

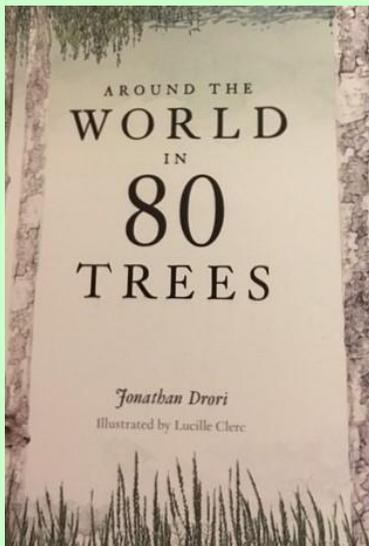
UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 9

West Lafayette
Tree Friends Monthly Meeting

- Happy Hollow Complex (Old Happy Hollow School)
1200 North Salisbury St.
11:00 - noon
Please join us!
- Friday, April 26 Arbor Day Observance
Along Lindberg Road at the Bridge
10:00 to noon
- Saturday, April 27 Master Gardeners Green Expo
Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds
9:00 - 3:00
- Saturday, April 27 Eco-Shred 7th Annual Earth Day
The Russell Company 2522 Covington Street, WL
(Adjacent to Pizza Hut)
9:00 - noon
Call the Russell Company at (765) 497-0700 for more information.
Donations to WL Tree Friends will be accepted.
- Tuesday, May 14 West Lafayette Tree Friends Monthly Meeting
Happy Hollow Complex (Old Happy Hollow School)
1200 North Salisbury Street
11:00 - noon
Please join us!

INSATIABLY CURIOUS?



Around the World in 80 Trees by Jonathan Drori (published 2018) is a delightful source of amusing and unique facts about the trees featured. Here is a sample regarding elm trees and the Dutch Elm Disease (which killed so many elms in the United States).

"Dutch Elm disease has little to do with the Netherlands other than the fact that the pathogen, which is thought to have come from eastern Asia, was first identified there. By coincidence, the best places in the world now to see elms are the Dutch cities of The Hague and especially Amsterdam, where more than 75,000 specimens line the canals and streets."

These trees are protected by annual inoculations and scrupulous tree monitoring and hygiene.

Check your local library for a copy of *Around the World in 80 Trees*.



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

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