



THE STUMP

INFORMATION BY THE BOARD FOOT

DECEMBER 2004

Reach for the Tree Care Benchmark

KNOT THE HOLE NEWS

Tree City USA and Tree Line USA are great benchmarks to measure how your community or utility are caring for trees. The accomplishments for these recognition programs are accumulated during the calendar year. Now is the time to plan for your 2005 activities to meet the standards.



Many communities and utilities already meet the minimum standards, but have not formalized or account for them. Start recording all activities related to trees. This includes training of staff, public education, pruning, planting, tree removal, street tree inventories, meetings, ordinance or utility policy creation / modification, Arbor Day proclamation and celebration, and other activities.

Communities and utilities interested in earning Tree City USA and Tree Line USA recognition do not have to go far for help to get started. The Missouri Department of Conservation foresters are available to help plan for this accomplishment. Many of the communities and utilities that already have earned this recognition are more than willing to share their experience to help you get started.

To learn more about Tree City USA or Tree Line USA contact your MDC Urban Forester, Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423 or visit the National Arbor Day Foundation web site at www.arborday.org/programs/index.cfm.

Building Effective Partnerships Workshop

This workshop is an excellent opportunity to learn and share techniques that can be used to influence public policy, improve community forestry program visibility, and develop new and creative partnerships. Through lectures from national and state resource conservation leaders, group exercises, and local case studies, you will become familiar with effective methods for increasing the profile of urban and community forestry programs. You will leave with valuable information that you can take home and put into practice to enhance your efforts in support of urban and community forestry.



Everyone interested in working for the improvement of their community forest, including mayors, council members, volunteers, city staff, board members, and non-profit organization staff and volunteers, are encouraged to attend.

This workshop has been approved by the International Society of Arboriculture for 2 CEUs and by the Society of American Foresters for 5.5 Category 1 contact hours in their Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) program.

To register for this workshop contact the National Arbor Day Foundation at 888-448-7337 or online at www.arborday.org/bepmo/.

I offer to take up to five people to the workshop. You would be responsible for your registration (\$95), lodging and meal expenses. We would stay in a motel with a \$60/night government rate and \$75/night standard rate. If interested in this offer, contact me directly (Jon Skinner, 417-629-3423, Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) to reserve your spot and get motel contact information.

Christmas Tree Selection and Care Tips

Christmas is the joyous part of the year many families get together. It is also a time when many families select and have a "Live" Christmas tree in their home. There are a few things you should consider when choosing your tree.

- 1) Consider species which hold their needles best: the quickest to shed are the spruces, somewhat slower are the firs, the best are Scotch, Austrian and red pines.
- 2) Fresh trees have a fragrant odor.
- 3) A fresh tree will have a sticky butt end. A 5 to 6 inch butt is needed to fit into the stand.
- 4) Needles of a fresh tree will be relatively pliable. They can be wrapped partially around a finger without breaking.
- 5) Needles broken apart ooze pitch when squeezed.

After selecting the "Perfect" tree, you now need to care for it. Here are some helpful tips to keep you tree in as good of condition as possible through the holiday season.

- 1) Store in a cool, moist area. Avoid direct sunlight, wind or heat.
- 2) As soon as you get home cut off at least 1 inch of the butt to open vessels and facilitate taking up water. Place the butt in a container of warm water and keep the water deep enough to cover the bottom one inch of the butt - it may use a quart per day for a few days.
- 3) If it is not going to be placed in the home immediately, spray the tree with water - it will take in moisture through the needles.
- 4) When you move it into the house, place it in a stand which can hold water and keep the water level over the base of the butt. Use warm water initially.
- 5) Avoid heating ducts, fireplaces, radiators, television or other sources of heat.



hackberry
Celtis occidentalis

Hackberry is a medium, deciduous tree with a mature height and spread of 40 to 60 feet. Excellent for wildlife, it is also useful for landscaping. Appropriate for medium yards, the upward arching limbs add beauty to any yard. Several minor pests may affect this specie, though most do not cause problems. Only the Eriophyid mite, which causes "witches brooms" is of concern. The purple drupe may be a problem for some locations. The cultivar "Prairie Pride" is a great choice with its' resistance to having "witches brooms" and less fruit.

Native Range:



Plant illustration by Dale Larson, Missouri Department of Conservation

Range map modified from USDA Forest Service Silvics of North America Web site - www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/Volume_2/celtis/occidentalis.htm

Web Site Review

The National Arbor Day Foundation has created a neat tree pruning teaching tool for their web site. The tool shows proper pruning technique, explains why proper pruning is needed, and gives you the chance to prune a tree. The tool utilizes "flash" to work. See it at www.arborday.org/trees/pruning/, click on the animation link to turn it on.

The Sound of the Trees

I wonder about the trees.
Why do we wish to bear
Forever the noise of these
More than another noise
So close to our dwelling place?
We suffer them by the day
Till we lose all measure of pace,
And fixity in our joys,
And acquire a listening air.
They are that that talks of going
But never gets away;
And that talks no less for knowing,
As it grows wiser and older,
That now it means to stay.
My feet tug at the floor
And my head sways to my shoulder
Sometimes when I watch trees sway,
From the window or the door.
I shall set forth for somewhere,
I shall make the reckless choice
Some day when they are in voice
And tossing so as to scare
The white clouds over them on.
I shall have less to say,
But I shall be gone.

-- Robert Frost



Take It Easy With De-icers

Nearly all ice melters are salts. They work by keeping water from freezing when the temperature is less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit. This is great to keep sidewalks, driveways, and streets safer, but these same chemicals can poison your tree.

These salts can either be splashed onto your tree or enter through the roots via runoff. In both cases the trees health is compromised. Stunted and deformed growth can occur and over time with stronger concentrations death of a tree.

To help your tree, choose from these alternatives: abrasives like sand and cinders, and biodegradable de-icers like MOUNTAIN MELT™ from Grain Processing Corporation, Horizon Products Division.

December 2

Tree Pruning Workshop (Free), 6:30 PM, Cassville City Council Chambers, Cassville, MO
Contact: Jon Skinner, (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

December 6

Tree Pruning Workshop (Free), 6:30 PM, New-Mac Electric Meeting Room, Anderson, MO
Contact: Jon Skinner, (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

December 8

ISA Certified Arborist Exam, MDC August A. Busch Conservation Area, 2360 Highway D, St. Charles, MO Contact: Mark Grueber, (Mark.Grueber@mdc.mo.gov) 636-300-1953

December 9

Missouri Community Forestry Council, MDC State Office, Jefferson City, MO Contact: Justine Gartner, (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov) 573-751-4115 Ext. 3116

December 13

Tree Pruning Workshop (Free), 6:30 PM, Community Building in City Park, Greenfield, MO
Contact: Jon Skinner, (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

December 13

ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Ozarks Technical Community College, ITTC Bldg 223, Springfield, MO Contact: Ellen McKenzie (mcseipp@aol.com), 417-742-3290

December 17

ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 Peoria, Tulsa, OK Contact: Joe Roberts (joeroberts@ci.tulsa.ok.us), 918-596-7871

January 25

Building Effective Partnerships Workshops, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Powder Valley Nature Center; 11715 Cragwold Rd.; Kirkwood, MO, \$95 registration Contact: NADF Conferences (conferences@arborday.org), 888-448-7337

February 2 - 4

Midwestern Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference, Bettendorf, IA Contact: Jim Rocca (jr4stree@juno.com), 636-386-8733

February 28

ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Forest Park - Jewel Box, 5600 Clayton Ave, St. Louis, MO Contact: Jamie Frank (jamiec76@hotmail.com), 314-289-5316

Tree City USA applications are due December 31, 2004 to Justine Gartner, Forestry Field Programs Supervisor, MDC, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

Every man looks at his woodpile with a kind of affection.

- Henry David Thoreau

WHAT'S HAPPENING

"The Stump" web Site: www.geocities.com/rocksandtrees/thestump/

To add or remove your subscription, update your address, change contact information, or convert from the paper to the email - web version of "The Stump", contact:

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