



THE STUMP

INFORMATION BY THE BOARD FOOT

DECEMBER 2007

KNOT THE HOLE NEWS



sassafras

Sassafras albidum

Sassafras is a small to medium tree with a mature height of 30 to 60 feet and spread of 25 to 40 feet but larger examples exist. This tree is appropriate for most yards, and parks. In nature, the specie usually grows in thickets, but can be developed into single stem shade trees. Grows best on moist, acid, well-drained soil but adaptable to other conditions The leaves are multi-shaped mittens with up to three lobes. Twigs are yellowish green developing into red brown, flat topped, deeply furrowed trunk bark. The fruit is a dark purple drupe that birds relish. Red and orange fall color is common. Monett's South Park has had excellent specimens.



Plant illustration modified from original by Dale Larison, 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/sassafras/albidum.htm

Trees Are Not Pin Cushions!

Signs are everywhere, along streets, on buildings, in parks, and other locations. None of them belong on trees! Some signs are temporary for a special event like a local festival, others are more permanent such as the hours a park is open, or to not litter. Unfortunately, individuals meaning to help people have damaged the trees that help make a place special. When nails or other fasteners are used to attach a sign to a tree, the trees protective outer layer is broken unnecessarily. When this occurs, the tree is exposed to infection by bacteria, fungi, and insects that can take advantage of the wound. It may appear to be a small wound, but the pests that may attack are smaller and only need small entry points to attack. This may lead to a weakened tree, attack by other pests, decay and / or early death of the tree. Permanent signs present an even greater problem. Trees heal by growing over injuries. A sign, a post, a wire, a nail, or other object that is not pushed away as the tree grows will slowly be encased by the tree as it grows. Sometimes this not a problem, most of the time, the tree is exposed to attack by pests for a long period as the tree tries to encase the object. Later, usually years or decades later, these trees with embedded objects (nails, wire, signs, etc.) die. When it is being removed, the foreign object may be hit by a chainsaw which may cause a deadly kickback occurrence. The saw operators life is endangered needlessly by something that happen years earlier.



Options exist for posting signs, both temporary and permanent. Obviously, a permanent or temporary post could be used. Clamshell design signs can be used temporarily with great effect. Lastly, if a sign is to be temporarily attached to a tree. It should be TIED to the tree, with the sign and attachment material removed as soon as possible to prevent damage.

TRIM Grants at Work in SW Missouri

Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) grants were awarded to several applicants in SW Missouri. Unfortunately, not all applications were funded. This year \$1.4 million in grant requests were made for \$500,000 in funding. Applications may be made for anything tree related, but the grant is designed with priority items given preference for funding before items like tree plantings and maintenance pruning. Higher priority items are those that help communities plan for the future like tree inventories, and ordinance creation or revision. Medium category projects include items like hazard tree removal and community employee and public education.

Three projects were awarded funds in my service area. Carthage Parks and Recreation will have an inventory of all trees in maintained areas of the city's parks. This will allow the department to prioritize work, plan for future work and develop city budget requests based on the documented needs.

Neosho Parks and Recreation will provide education to city employees by hiring an ISA Certified Arborist to teach them about proper pruning, planting, tree identification, and other topics. The City will also send two employees to the 2008 Missouri Community Forestry Council Annual Conference in March for additional education.



Monett Parks is already removing hazardous trees from South Park. These trees were identified by an ISA Certified Arborist as dangerous to public safety, in part due to the January 2007 ice storm. Some were dangerous prior to that event. The City contracted with a tree care company to drop the trees to the ground. The City is removing the debris, and grinding out the stumps. In conjunction with this project, a local foundation has helped the City to purchase thousands of dollars of trees for planting in both the North and South Parks. Many local groups including Boy Scouts, school clubs, and others have helped plant these new trees.

If you are interested in future TRIM grants, now is the time to start thinking about what you desire to do, and how it fits with the TRIM grant program. Contact me (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov, 417-629-3423) for information and to start preparing for the application process which begins next mid-spring.

Book Review

Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs, Second Edition Revised by Warren T. Johnson and Howard H. Lyon provides detailed descriptions of the damage caused by and the insect doing the damage to hundreds of woody plants. The book includes multiple color pictures of damage to assist in identification. Life cycles of many pests are discussed. Unfortunately, the reference does not provide control information. Thankfully, once identified, there are many other references available to help with selecting treatment options.



How to Kill a Tree!

Now that I have your attention, this portion of “The Stump” newsletter will now be set aside for a humorous but serious presentation of tree care issues that can kill a tree. These presentations are based on and graphics from the National Arbor Day Foundations’ Tree City Bulletin # 14 titled “How to Kill a Tree!”

Many of the issues shown over the next several newsletters are common, easily avoided errors in tree care. Take the time to reflect on your and your staff’s knowledge and practices in relation to this information. Ask the questions: Do I / we do that? How can I / we improve? Look for more information in references, on the Internet, at Extension offices, and of course from MDC. Your trees’ life may depend on it!

December 11

ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Springfield, MO, Registration Deadline November 21, 2007, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/tests.aspx.

December 13

MCFC State Meeting, Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City, MO, 10 AM Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 extn. 3116.

December 17

ISA Certified Arborist Exam, St. Louis, MO, Registration Deadline November 29, 2007, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/tests.aspx.

December 31

Tree City USA applications due!

January 6 - 8

The Western Trade Show, Overland Park, KS, Contact WNLA for details and registration at www.wnla.org or 888-233-1876 .

February 4

Insect and Disease Seminar, Wildcat Park, Joplin, MO, 1:00 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423. 3 ISA CEU’s; 3 SAF CFE’s

February 8 - 11

ANLA Management Clinic, Louisville, KY Contact ANLA for details and registration at <http://managementclinic.org> or 202-789-2900.

February 19

ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Eureka Springs, AR, Registration Deadline February 1, 2008, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/tests.aspx.

March 4

Tree Board Workshop, St. Joseph, MO Contact Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 extn. 3116.

March 5 - 6

2008 MCFC Conference, St. Joseph, MO Contact MCFC at: www.mocommunitytrees.com/whatsgoingon.html

March 24

Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Lampo Bldg., 500 E. Spring St., Neosho, MO, 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

March 25

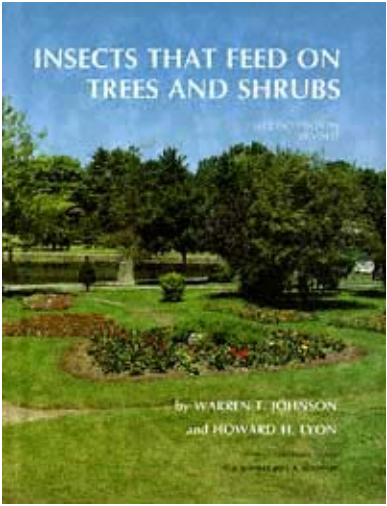
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Thiebaud Auditorium, Room A, Lamar, MO, 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

March 27

Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Wildcat Park, Joplin, MO, 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

March 31

Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Cedar County Family Clinic, 807 Owens Mill Rd., Stockton, MO, 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.



Tree City USA Applications due December 31, 2007.

Send to:
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

“The Stump” web site:
www.geocities.com/rocksandtrees/thestump/

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