Lacebark elm
_Ulmus parvifolia_

Lacebark elm is a medium size tree with a mature height of 40 to 50 feet and an equal spread. Appropriate for a medium to large yard, park and street plantings, this tree will reward the grower with fast growth, attractive foliage and bark. It grows best in fertile, moist, well drained soils with full sun, but has tolerance for extremes of pH and soil conditions. The bark on young stems is gray, but quickly becomes a mottled gray, green, orange, and brown. The alternate, simple leaves are lustrous dark green turning yellow with occasional hints of purple in the fall. Several cultivars of this tree have been selected. Some of the most common are Allee® and Athena®. A Kansas selection called ‘Emerald Prairie’, if found, would be even a better choice for our region.

Trees Reduce Stormwater Control Expenses

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program requires all “Urban Areas” as defined by the US Census Bureau and based on the 2000 Census to control and reduce pollutants entering local water bodies. Nearly all of the communities adjacent to the City of Joplin (see map and larger PDF version at www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/ua_mo_joplin.pdf - red cross hatched area is considered “urban”) are required to meet these requirements. Several are already well along in planning and implementing stormwater control plans.

In several of the EPA publications dealing with stormwater, they encourage the maintenance and establishment of trees. Trees reduce and slow stormwater runoff depending on where they are. Nearby Fayetteville, Arkansas did a study in 2003 where the current tree canopy cover was 27 percent of the community and provided a benefit of not building 50 million cubic feet of stormwater storage valued at $92 million dollars. Increasing the tree canopy cover in Fayetteville to 40 percent was estimated to have a value of $135 million.

Our communities can benefit from caring for our trees and increasing tree numbers through planting and maintenance programs. The stormwater benefits alone could pay for tree programs. Whether or not your community is in an Urban Area subject to the NPDES Stormwater Program, trees benefit your community in the same way. Trees reduce stormwater runoff, which in turn reduces the amount of pollutants reaching nearby streams and the water we all use.

Ronda Headland, Community Conservationist, and myself are always interested in helping you work through environmental challenges in your community. Trees and other techniques can help your community improve water quality and provide other benefits. You may request assistance by contacting Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov, 417-629-3423) or Ronda Headland (ronda.headland@mdc.mo.gov, 417-866-1127 x150).

Congratulations to 2008 Tree City USA’s

Tree City USA recognition is earned on a calendar year basis for the previous years efforts. Communities that earn the recognition have:

- a tree board or department;
- a tree ordinance;
- a tree budget of $2 per person;
- held an Arbor Day Celebration with a proclamation.

In 2008, three communities in the eight counties I serve earned this award. Congratulations to Carthage for their tenth award, Exeter for their thirteenth award, and Joplin for their first award.

Communities of any size can earn this recognition. Small Calvin, North Dakota with a population of 14 has earned Tree City USA recognition for over 12 years. If your interested in this recognition program for your community, contact Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov, 417-629-3423) to get you started.

Computer based ISA Certified Arborist Exam is now available

The ISA Certified Arborist Exam is now available as a computer based test at 200 select locations in North America. When applying for the exam, you may select the traditional route of applying for a specific testing location or the computer based exam at a testing location of your choice. The benefits ISA touts are:

- Signing up for the exam location that is convenient for you (Springfield, MO and Tulsa, OK are the closest sites)
- Take the exam on a day that works for you
- Sign up and check the testing center availability in the upcoming week
- Receive your score report before you leave the exam site
Web Site Review

Emerald ash borer is now in Missouri and many other states. It is believed the way it infests new areas is through the movement of firewood. The www.stopthebeetle.info website has created an “I Promise to not move firewood” registration page. You are encouraged to visit this pages and make your commitment to protect our trees. Make your promise at www.stopthebeetle.info/promise.html.

How to Kill a Tree!

Mowers and string trimmers do not hurt trees, so it is OK to use them against trees.

Of course, the above is incorrect. Tree bark is no match for a mower or string trimmer. Even the thickest bark can be damaged by this equipment. Tree surface roots are also susceptible to damage. Proper use of mulch, glyphosate, and HAND PULLING of offending plants will help trees stay healthier and grow better. You also win by not damaging your equipment.

April 2
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center, Joplin, MO, 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

April 6

April 8

April 9
MCFC State Meeting, MDC State Office, Jefferson City, MO, 10 AM Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 Extn 3116.

April 22

May 19
Tree Identification Workshop, Downtown City Park, El Dorado Springs, MO, 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

May 20
Tree Board Training, Powder Valley Nature Center, St. Louis, MO, 9:00 AM Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 Extn 3116.

May 21
Tree Identification Workshop, Ewert Park, Joplin, MO, 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

June 4

June 6
Midwestern Chapter ISA Tree climbing Competition, Swope Park, Kansas City, MO, Information at www.mvisa.org/me/page.do?sitePageId=34121, timcrews@ryanlawn.com, 417-838-0390

June 11
MCFC State Meeting, MDC State Office, Jefferson City, MO, 10 AM Contact Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-751-4115 Extn 3116.

June 20

June 22 - 23
NRPA - Alternative Funding Development Program, The Truman Memorial Building, Independence, MO, Information and registration at www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=8712

June 25
MLNA Field Day, 2400 South Scenic Road - Springfield, MO, Information at www.mlna.org/events-professionals.htm, bryan@acs.bwicompanies.com, 417-529-2073

July 24 - 29
ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show, Providence, RI, Information and Registration at www.isa-arbor.com/conference/default.aspx

Congratulations to Andrew Jecmen for earning ISA Certified Arborist status.