Arbor Day and Tree City USA, A Great Combination

One hundred and forty years ago on April 10, 1872, the first Arbor Day was observed in Nebraska. Today, Arbor Day is celebrated all year long depending on the best time to plant trees in any portion of the United States and the world. Activities vary with each event. Most plant a tree and read an Arbor Day Proclamation. The more creative read poetry and books about trees, have plays, games, music, and other activities. See other ideas at: http://www.arborday.org/arborday/. You can hold your Arbor Day Celebration any day you want. The point is not to plant a tree, but to acknowledge everything trees do for us.

Tree City USA is a recognition program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. Locally, the program is managed by state forestry agencies. Tree City USA recognizes communities, regardless of size, that meet four criteria. Learn more about Tree City USA at: http://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/index.cfm.

An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation is an important portion of the standards. This annual reminder and celebration allows you to get your tree message to your neighbors and honor those tree cheerleaders that have worked hard for the last year.

The easiest way to start the process of earning Tree City USA recognition is to hold an Arbor Day. I enjoy these events and try to attend all I can. If you want ideas or to discuss becoming a Tree City, contact me at 417-629-3423, jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov.

Bareroot Tree Planting: It May Be For You

This past December 2011, we offered two opportunities to learn about an old tree planting technique - bareroot planting - coming back into use to address root issues found with many trees being planted today.

I still do not think bareroot planting is an option for the casual tree planter, but trained nurserymen, arborist, and city employees can do this. It allows the planter to address root issues like the adventitious roots in the tree we planted last December at one of the workshops and plant the tree with root flare at or slightly above soil level. Another advantage of bareroot planting is a shallow hole is dug versus to the depth of the root flare in the ball. With techniques like the Missouri Gravel Bed created by Dr. Starbuck, University of Missouri, bareroot trees can be planted nearly all year. Contact me to visit about these techniques and become a leader in the tree planting business. Call 417-629-3423 or email jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov.

MCFC Conference Coming to Joplin - March 5 - 7, 2013

It is nearly a year away, but the planning has begun. Missouri Community Forestry Council members throughout southwest Missouri and around the state are preparing for the 2013 conference. Plan now to attend. This is the premier conference for urban forestry in Missouri that is held annually. Over 10 Society of American Forester and International Society of Arboriculture continuing education credits are regularly awarded. You are also invited to participate in the planning and running of this conference. There is a need for help with contacting sponsors and vendors, organizing the silent auction where funds go to scholarships for the conference, determining and contacting speakers and organizing the social and tour. If you want information about the conference or want to help contact me at: 417-629-3423, jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov.

Tree City USA Standards

1. A Tree Board or Department
2. A Tree Care Ordinance
3. A Community Forestry Program With an Annual Budget of at Least $2 Per Capita
4. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Bareroot Tree Planting: It May Be For You

This past December 2011, we offered two opportunities to learn about an old tree planting technique - bareroot planting - coming back into use to address root issues found with many trees being planted today.

I still do not think bareroot planting is an option for the casual tree planter, but trained nurserymen, arborist, and city employees can do this. It allows the planter to address root issues like the adventitious roots in the tree we planted last December at one of the workshops and plant the tree with root flare at or slightly above soil level. Another advantage of bareroot planting is a shallow hole is dug versus to the depth of the root flare in the ball. With techniques like the Missouri Gravel Bed created by Dr. Starbuck, University of Missouri, bareroot trees can be planted nearly all year. Contact me to visit about these techniques and become a leader in the tree planting business. Call 417-629-3423 or email jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov.

Tree City USA Standards

1. A Tree Board or Department
2. A Tree Care Ordinance
3. A Community Forestry Program With an Annual Budget of at Least $2 Per Capita
4. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Bareroot Tree Planting: It May Be For You

This past December 2011, we offered two opportunities to learn about an old tree planting technique - bareroot planting - coming back into use to address root issues found with many trees being planted today.

I still do not think bareroot planting is an option for the casual tree planter, but trained nurserymen, arborist, and city employees can do this. It allows the planter to address root issues like the adventitious roots in the tree we planted last December at one of the workshops and plant the tree with root flare at or slightly above soil level. Another advantage of bareroot planting is a shallow hole is dug versus to the depth of the root flare in the ball. With techniques like the Missouri Gravel Bed created by Dr. Starbuck, University of Missouri, bareroot trees can be planted nearly all year. Contact me to visit about these techniques and become a leader in the tree planting business. Call 417-629-3423 or email jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov.

Tree City USA Standards

1. A Tree Board or Department
2. A Tree Care Ordinance
3. A Community Forestry Program With an Annual Budget of at Least $2 Per Capita
4. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Bareroot Tree Planting: It May Be For You

This past December 2011, we offered two opportunities to learn about an old tree planting technique - bareroot planting - coming back into use to address root issues found with many trees being planted today.

I still do not think bareroot planting is an option for the casual tree planter, but trained nurserymen, arborist, and city employees can do this. It allows the planter to address root issues like the adventitious roots in the tree we planted last December at one of the workshops and plant the tree with root flare at or slightly above soil level. Another advantage of bareroot planting is a shallow hole is dug versus to the depth of the root flare in the ball. With techniques like the Missouri Gravel Bed created by Dr. Starbuck, University of Missouri, bareroot trees can be planted nearly all year. Contact me to visit about these techniques and become a leader in the tree planting business. Call 417-629-3423 or email jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov.

**Pest Highlight - eastern tent caterpillar**

Eastern tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*) damages fruit trees by eating the developing leaves. They over winter as egg masses around twigs of preferred hosts. Larva emerge in early spring and immediately construct a silken nest in the crotch of a major branch. Larva go out from the nest to feed on the newly growing leaves and return to rest. Larva expand the nest as they grow. When the larva are mature in early to mid-May, they spin a silken cocoon to pupate. The adult moths emerge in late May to mid-June to mate and lay eggs which remain until the next spring. Control measures include letting them do their thing and let the tree re-flush new leaves, breaking up the nest and dunking the larva in a soapy bucket, dropping the larva on the ground for the birds to eat, or apply either an ingested insecticide to the nearby leaves or a contact insecticide inside the nest.

| April 10 | Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Lampo Building, 500 E. Spring St., Neosho, MO, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, To Register or information contact Jon Skinner, 417-629-3423, jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov |
| April 11 | Green Infrastructure Seminar, Joplin City Hall, Fifth Floor Council Chambers, 602 South Main St., Joplin, MO, 8 AM - 5 PM, To Register or information contact Linda Mebruer, linda.mebruer@dnr.mo.gov |
| April 11 | Tree Resource, Improvement, and Maintenance Grant Workshop, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, 201 W. Riviera Dr., Joplin, MO, 10 AM - Noon, To Register or information contact Jon Skinner, 417-629-3423, jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov |
| April 12 | Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, City Council Chambers, 300 Main St., Cassville, MO, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, To Register or information contact Jon Skinner, 417-629-3423, jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov |
| April 17 | Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Thiebaud Auditorium, 105 E. 11th St., Lamar, MO, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, To Register or information contact Jon Skinner, 417-629-3423, jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov |
| April 18 | Tree Resource, Improvement, and Maintenance Grant Workshop, MDC Southwest Regional Office Auditorium, 2630 N. Mayfair, Springfield, MO, 10 AM - Noon, To Register or information contact Cindy Garner, 417-895-6880, cindy.garner@mdc.mo.gov |