Arbor Day

The first Friday in April is the official Arbor Day in Missouri, April 1, 2005. This year and National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April (April 29, 2003). This does not mean your community must celebrate Arbor Day then. Your community can set Arbor Day any day you prefer. Many communities hold ceremonies on Saturday’s to maximize public attendance. Everyone is encouraged to celebrate this historic event whenever you choose.

There are several ways to celebrate Arbor Day. Of course the traditional way is to plant a tree, but you do not have to stop there. Arbor Day celebrations provide unique opportunities to educate people, get people together in a joint cause, and promote proper tree selection and care. The National Arbor Day Foundation has several suggestions on how to celebrate Arbor Day including presenting a play about a conversation between some kids and a statue of J. Sterling Morton, a block party, and others.

Arbor Day celebrations also provide the opportunity for organizations to work together. Groups that do not always work together can come together for trees. How about the Senior Citizens and a kindergarten class, or the electric utility, park board, and garden club, or a poetry club with local businesses, or any number of combinations of groups. All to celebrate trees.

Need more information or ideas for Arbor Day? The National Arbor Day Foundation provides the history of Arbor Day, teaching materials (many free), celebration ideas, and a free booklet titled “Celebrate Arbor Day Guidebook” and more on their web site at www.arborday.org/arborday/.

Free and Low-Cost Trees Available

Forest ReLeaf of Missouri is again offering free trees through its’ Project Community tree program and low-cost trees through its’ Project ReLeaf program. Anyone may apply for the trees; however, they must be planted on public or nonprofit properties in Missouri or surrounding communities in adjacent states.

Project Community tree are in three-gallon containers and are generally four to six-feet tall. The majority of the trees are native shade tree species. You may apply for trees simply by completing a brief application. Trees must be picked up at their nursery near Lambert-St. Louis International Airport beginning in March. They are in limited supply and are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. The list of available species will change as applications are approved.

Project ReLeaf trees are balled and burlapped with sizes designated by heights of three to seven feet, or calipers of 1.25 and 1.5 inches. You may apply for trees simply by completing a brief application. Trees must be picked up in April at their nursery near Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

Contact Michelle Johnson at 314-533-5323 to obtain applications and updated species list. You may also print applications from their website, www.moreleaf.org, click on Programs, then Project Community or Project ReLeaf.

Missouri Community Forestry Council 12th Annual Conference

March 3rd and 4th are going to be two information packed days. Topics will stress the relationship of trees and turf, including a walking tour of Tan-Tar-A’s golf course. Other topics include tree and storm water protection during development, insect and disease issues for urban environments, The Missouri Arboretum Concept, Tree Biology, Tree Problem Diagnoses, and Pruning.

Being held in conjunction with the MPRA annual conference at the Tan-Tar-A Resort. Registration of $80 is due February 10, 2005. Late registration and registration at the door is higher. The registration form may be downloaded from their website at www.mocommunitytrees.com/pages/3/index.htm.

Trees & Utilities National Conference - April 18 - 20, 2005

Over the past 12 years, the Trees & Utilities National Conference has been an important educational event in the utility arboricultural industry. This year’s conference will continue that tradition by focusing on some of the most important issues facing the industry today. You’ll get a regulatory update on FERC and NERC, get an insider’s view on the new ANSI standards for vegetation management, hear from several individuals intimately involved in hurricane response efforts, and you’ll learn how to coordinate your efforts with FEMA, and a broad agenda showcasing exemplary efforts in public education, public relations, and communication, tree planting and care, utility/community cooperation, and other vegetation management issues.

Registration is $325 and due April 4, 2005. For more information, a brochure, or to register contact NADF at 888-448-7337, conferences@arborday.org, or www.arborday.org/TUconference/.

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Book Review

Pruning Trees Near Electric Utility Lines: A Field Pocket Guide for Qualified Line-Clearance Tree Workers by Alex Shigo is a good field reference. This small, information filled book covers proper pruning, how to deal with previously topped trees, and his concept of 90 percent of the time, removing 3 branches will give 90 percent of the clearance. The National Arbor Day Foundation has established this book as the base pruning guideline for Tree Line USA companies. To get your copy of this book contact Shigo and Trees, Associates, 4 Denbow Road, Durham, NH 03824-3105. Include a check for $3 per book.

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

-- Robert Frost

February 2 - 4
Midwestern Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference, Bettendorf, IA Contact: Jim Rocca (jroc4tree@juno.com), 636-386-8733

February 5
Tree Pruning Demonstration, 1101 York St., Carl Junction, MO Contact: Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423

February 8
Climbing High: Arborist Safety Training, Walter Woods Conservation Area, Joplin Registration Required Contact: Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423

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

March 3 - 4
MCFC Conference, Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO Registration Required Contact: MCFC at (www.mocommunitytrees.com), 636-386-8733

March 14
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, New-Mac Bldg., Anderson, MO, 6:30 PM Contact: Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423

March 17
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, MDC Office, El Dorado Springs, MO, 6:30 PM Contact: Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423

March 24
Stem Girdling Root Workshop, Southwest Missouri State University, Lot 1B, Springfield, MO Registration Required Contact: Cindy Garner (Cindy.Garner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-695-6881 Ext. 1037

March 31
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, City Hall Council Chambers, Mount Vernon, MO, 6:30 PM Contact: Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423

April 1
Missouri Arbor Day

April 11
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, City Hall Council Chambers, Cassville, MO, 6:30 PM Contact: Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423

April 13
Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) Grant Workshop, Walter Woods Conservation Area, Joplin, MO, 9:30 AM Registration Required Contact: Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423

April 14
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Walter Woods Conservation Area, Joplin, MO, 6:30 PM Contact: Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423

April 18
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Community Bldg., City Park, Greenfield, MO, 6:30 PM Contact: Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423

April 29
National Arbor Day

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