Tree Health Seminars - February 19, 2014

Insects and diseases are constantly looking for a tree to attack. Some are even new and exotic to our area. As tree professionals working as arborists, nurserymen, landscapers, and public servants we must constantly educate ourselves about these challengers to tree health. You and your co-workers are encouraged to attend this workshop to help you review and learn new information about harmful insects and diseases that may affect trees you work with.

The Seminars will be held at the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin and the Springfield Nature Center. These presenters will be in person at Springfield and in Joplin via webcast. The Seminars will begin at 1:30 PM and estimated to last until 4 PM.

Registration is required. For the Joplin site, call 417-629-3423 or email jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov. For the Springfield site, call 417-895-6880.

Plant images by Missouri Department of Conservation.

Preserving, Sustaining and Growing the Urban Forest: 2014 Missouri Community Forestry Council Annual Conference

The conference is being held in Jefferson City March 10 - 12, 2014. The program has sessions that appeal to all in the tree care industry. This year there will be three concurrent breakout sessions, Arboriculture, Case Studies, and Community Forestry. The Arboriculture sessions are “on the ground” accounts that will appeal to the working arborist. The Case Study sessions will provide a broad range of applied community forestry projects which can offer valuable lessons applicable to many municipal programs. The Community Forestry sessions takes a look at the myriad of opportunities for creating and preserving a diverse community forest in addition to developing strategies to communicate the importance and value of trees.

ISA CEU’s and SAF CFE’s are again expected to be available.
Early Bird registration for $160 ends March 1. Learn more and register online at: www.mocommunitytrees.com.

Is Your Organization The Best It Can Be?

Most organizations stumble through their existence. They succeed in the sense they meet minimum goals, make a profit, and / or continue to exist. Many more disappear. Why?

Is there a lack of vision from the boss? Is there a lack of desire by the organization to dominate its’ field? Is it a lack of money or other resource to do more? I’ve come to believe it is none of these. This is about having the right people all working together!

Very few of us will ever work alone in all we do and become “THE PERSON” in your field of focus. Most of us will work in groups. This can be a large nursery with a staff over hundred, a small tree care company with a crew of two, a tree board of four, a city park staff of ten, an urban forester working with hundreds of individuals and groups (yes, I’m included in this), and other combinations.

How can we make our organization the best possible? The answer is getting the right people first. Most groups willingly accept anyone that is interested. The best only accept people that are the right ones. They have the right attitude, share the vision/mission, have the skills, and will work passionately to improve the organization.

Getting the right people takes time. It may include change in leadership. Over a period of years as people come and go from your organization, set standards you expect from replacements. If they are not exceptional, they won’t make your organization better. The best volunteer organizations are picky. They create job descriptions for their volunteers and if they are not qualified, they thank them for applying and decline their help. Larger volunteer groups may only need the leadership to meet this high level of expectations, but the more members that meet those qualifications, the better the organization.

All of us can do better to focus on the improvement of our organizations, the key is finding the right people and the passion to stick to it.
Book Review - Up by Roots: Healthy Soils and Trees in the Built Environment

Tree health is linked to the soil it grows in. Up by Roots provides basic introduction to the concepts that give trees the best possible chance to thrive in the built environment. For a tree to reach its potential, it needs adequate soil volume, texture, water and air combination. Many times this is not provided by urban designs. With proper planning and thoughtful design, we can have healthy, large trees and places where people gather, shop, and live to enjoy them.

Pest Highlight - Hypoxylon Canker

Hypoxylon canker is a common disease of hardwoods, especially species in the red oak group. This disease is caused by the fungus Biscogniauxia atropunctata. A disease of the inner bark and sapwood, hypoxylon damages the xylem. Vigorous, healthy trees are colonized by the fungus, but only damaged or stressed trees develop cankers and are killed. Outbreaks of this disease follow severe drought. Initial symptoms of the disease include a noticeable thinning of the crown, small patches of brown leaves, and branch dieback. As the disease advances, large areas of bark fall off the branches and trunk, revealing a thick, dusty fungal mat with tan spores. Eventually the fungus turns silver or grey as it matures. Old infections may appear black. Black zone lines may appear in the sapwood as rapid decay occurs, leaving the tree in a very brittle state. Keeping trees healthy is the only prevention method available.

January 14 - February 18, Tuesdays only

ISA Arborist Certification Exam Training, 6:30 - 9 PM, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin, MO, For information contact Jon Skinner 417-629-3423

February 2 - 6

TCIA Winter Management Conference, Paradise Island, Bahamas
Information at: http://tcia.org/events/wmc-2014

February 15


February 25 - 28

ASCA’s Consulting Academy, Newport Beach, CA Information and Registration at: http://asca-consultants.org/edprograms/consulting_academy_14.cfm

February 26


February 27

Joplin MCFC meeting, 7 - 9 AM, Walter Woods Conservation Area, Joplin

March 10 - 12


March 13

Chipper Operator Workshop, Oklahoma City, OK Information and Registration at: http://tcia.org/training/tree-care-academy/20140313-chipper-operator-workshop

March 24

Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Greenfield, MO 6:30 - 8 PM Information and Registration at: 417-629-3423, jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov

March 27

Joplin MCFC meeting, 7 - 9 AM, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin

April 4

Missouri Arbor Day

It is difficult to realize how great a part of all that is cheerful and delightful in the recollections of our own life is associated with trees.

~ Wilson Flagg