**VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE**

The Missouri Community Forestry Council held its annual Arbor Day Poster Contest. Judging was based on contest guidelines and has been completed. The winner will receive recognition at the MCFC Conference in St. Joseph on March 8 - 10. Now is everyone’s opportunity to express who they think created the best poster. Visit the MCFC Facebook page to vote for your fan favorite at [https://www.facebook.com/MOCFC/](https://www.facebook.com/MOCFC/).

**AERIAL LIFT SAFETY TRAINING**

Safety on the job site should be the number one item on everyone’s mind. Working from an aerial lift or near one has specific safety issues. Those working in or near an aerial lift during tree work should be aware of these issues and follow best management practices to work safely.

MDC and MCFC are offering an Aerial lift training class. This class is being offered at Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center in Joplin on Feb. 17 and at the MDC SW Regional Office in Springfield on Feb. 18. Both classes will have the same content. ISA CEU’s and SAF CFE’s approval is anticipated.

Classes are schedule to run from 8 AM to 5 PM with an one hour break for lunch (on your own). You **MUST REGISTER** for the class, so pick the one best for you. Space is limited, so register early. For Joplin, call 417-629-3423; For Springfield, call 417-895-6880.

**INSECT AND DISEASE SEMINAR**

Last year was full of disease and insect surprises with the severity of attacks when they happened. I got the most questions on was the enormous explosion of fall webworm seemingly eating everything.

While we individually, must continue to learn about the pests we come across, so we can provide good advice on how to treat or not treat. Attending this seminar will allow you to be updated on major pests that can change our tree landscape.

The Seminar is scheduled to run from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM on March 15, 2016. It is being offered in Joplin at Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center and Springfield at the Springfield Nature Center. You **MUST REGISTER** for the class, so pick the one best for you. Space is limited, so register early. For the Joplin, call 417-629-3423 or email jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov; For the Springfield, call 417-895-6880.

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT! - REGISTER FOR THE MCFC CONFERENCE**

The Missouri Community Forestry Council Conference, March 8 - 10, is the major education event for those interested in community forestry in the state. The Conference theme is “Building Community with Trees.” Arborist, Tree Board Members, Foresters, and more will be attending.

The program includes topics on how trees affect health, how tree boards should function, Tree City USA’s 40th Anniversary, urban wood utilization, trees in municipal planning, and more. The first evening reception is titled “Trees Drive Us Nuts” is being held at the St. Joseph Museum complex. The Natural History, Black Archives, and the Psychiatric Museum will be open for tours/viewing.

Early Bird Registration was set to end on January 30, Regular and Late Registration will continue right up to the conference, including at the door. Some portion of the conference may not be available with Late Registration due to ordering supplies. The Late Registration deadline is not determined yet, so register NOW!

Information and Registration for the MCFC conference may be seen at [www.mocommunitytrees.org/mecconference2016.html](http://www.mocommunitytrees.org/mecconference2016.html).
Web & Book Review - Forest Health Update

MDC’s Forest Entomologist and Forest Pathologist provide a periodic newsletter called “Forest Health Update”. It covers the major issues they are seeing at the time and on-going issues of major importance. You may have an email sent to you when a new newsletter is ready by enrolling at: http://mdc.mo.gov/user_mailman_register or you may check periodically at: http://mdc.mo.gov/node/12746 to see the current release.

Pest Highlight - Ganoderma applanatum

**Ganoderma applanatum** (formerly **Fomes applanatus**) is a wood decay fungus affecting living and dead apple, basswood, beech, birch, cherry, elm, sweetgum, horsechestnut, locust, maple, oak, poplar, spruce, hemlock, sycamore, and willow. New spores released from the conks are dispersed throughout the summer during humid periods, and infect open wounds on root flares and lower trunk areas of susceptible trees. The spores germinate, and the infection advances to attack the sapwood of major roots and the lower tree trunk. The amount of decayed wood increases year after year, resulting in dangerously soft, spongy wood. Conks occur years after infection. If noticed on a tree, it should be evaluated for safety regularly. Preventing damage to the tree is only protection.

February 1-29

MCFC Arbor Day Poster contest public voting on MCFC Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/MOCFC

February 3-5

Midwestern Chapter - ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show, Harrah’s, North Kansas City, MO, Information and Registration at: www.mwisa.org/conference-and-trade-show

February 7-11

TCIA Winter Management Conference, Grand Cayman, Information and Registration at: http://tcia.org/events/wmc-2016

February 10

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Hulbert, OK, Registration deadline Jan. 25, 2016, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

February 7-11

Municipal Foresters Institute, Shepherdstown, WV, Information and Registration at: www.urban-forestry.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=69:MF1-2016&catid=19:site-content&Itemid=100

February 17

Aerial Lift Safety Training, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin, Register by calling 417-629-3423 or email: jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov

February 18

Aerial Lift Safety Training, SW Regional Office, Joplin, Register by calling 417-895-6880

February 25

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

March 5

ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, and Municipal Specialist Exam, Des Moines, IA, Registration deadline Feb. 18, 2016, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

March 8-10

Missouri Community Forestry Council Annual Conference, St. Joseph, MO, Information and Registration soon at: www.mocommunitytrees.org

March 15

Insect and Disease Seminar, Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, Joplin, Register by calling 417-629-3423 or email: jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov

March 15

Insect and Disease Seminar, Springfield Nature Center, Springfield, Register by calling 417-895-6880

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I willingly confess to so great a partiality for trees as tempts me to respect a man in exact proportion to his respect for them.

~James Russell Lowell