The 1st Annual Hunt for Strange & Extraordinary Trees

Have you ever seen a tree that was so unusual that you just had to stop and stare? Have you ever said to yourself, “I wish I had my camera to capture this one on film?”

We have all seen trees with bizarre forms and other weird features. Now is your chance to document and share with others the strangest and most extraordinary trees you can find! Selected winners will be shown on the Forestkeepers website starting in mid-December.

The name of each participant will be entered in a drawing for great prizes, including a digital camera, pruning tools, tree identification books, and the new Forestkeepers logo t-shirt! Check the website (www.forestkeepers.org) or call 1-888-9-forest (1-888-936-7378) for details.

Let the hunt begin!

Official Rules

You must be a member of the Missouri Forestkeepers Network, or part of a group registered as members to participate. Unsure if you are a member or want to join the free program? Call 1-888-9-forest (1-888-936-7378).

Images must be taken in Missouri and may be black & white or color; in original print, 35mm slide, or digital format on CD or disc.

For digital images, please take them at the highest resolution possible and send them in a large format.

Label each image, CD or disc with your name, registered group name if applicable, address, daytime phone, e-mail address, and the county where the tree is located. Please label prints on the back.

Up to three entries may be submitted per participant; the name of each participant will be entered once in the drawing, regardless of the number of images submitted.

Mail entries to: Strange and Extraordinary Trees, C/O Forest ReLeaf, 4207 Lindell Blvd., Suite 301, St. Louis, MO 63108. All entries must be postmarked by October 15, 2005.

Images must be mailed; e-mails of digital images will not be accepted!

Sorry, submissions cannot be returned. Forest Releaf and the Missouri Department of Conservation retain the right to use the images in the future.

Employees and associates of Forest ReLeaf of Missouri and the Missouri Department of Conservation are not eligible to participate.

Time to Plan

Do you know where or what you want to plant next spring? The choices are almost endless, until you look around and take an inventory of the site. The inventory will restrict your choices down to a group of trees best suited to the site. Check these items:

Utilities - Above and below ground: Only trees that stay under 30 feet in height should be planted near overhead utilities and no tree should be planted directly over underground utilities, they should be anywhere from 5 to 35 feet away depending on the size of the tree.

Buildings - I recommend large trees be planted no closer than 30 feet to a building and small trees no closer than 10 feet.

Hardscapes - Sidewalks and driveways can be damaged by tree roots. Give trees, generally, the mature diameter of the trunk plus 3 feet for small trees and plus 5 feet for large trees to reduce root lifting.

Other plants - Does currently established plants need full sun? Do not plant a tree in a place that will shade these plants.

Soil - Most trees will do well on good, black soil. Only a few may do well on the soil you have. Check out what general type you have, including its pH. Many trees have specific soil needs that allow them to do best.

Weather - Southwest Missouri can have extended drought periods. If you choose a tree that does not do well during a drought, pre-plan to provide adequate water for it to stay healthy.

Once you have created your list of trees that will work in your site, check with local nurseries to see if they will have or can order that specific tree for next spring.
Web Site Review

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita reminded all of us about the potential of a natural disaster destroying our homes, and property. For southwest Missouri, this usually involves tornados, strong thunderstorms, ice and snow storms, and occasionally flooding. Trees as well as structures are affected by these events. These assets, while not necessarily the most important immediately after a storm, do need to be cared for.

The web site Trees and Storm Damage: Post-Storm Tools & Resources by the Southern Center for Urban Forestry Research & Information provides methodology and information to help your community's trees recover from these events.

October 3
Tree Identification Walk, Morse Park, off E. McKinney St.(Hwy. 86), Neosho, MO 6 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

October 5
Tree Identification Walk, South City Park, main parking lot on top of hill, Monett, MO 6 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

October 8

October 13
Missouri Community Forestry Council State Meeting, Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City, MO, 10:00 AM Contact: Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-522-4115 Extn. 3116

October 22
ISA Certified Tree Worker / Climber Exam, City Park, Manhattan, KS Contact J. David Mattox (mattox@ci.manhattan.ks.us), 785-587-2757, Registration Deadline October 6, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/exams.aspx

October 26
ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Jewel Box-Forest Park, St. Louis, MO Contact Jamie Frank (jamiec76@hotmail.com), 314-289-5316, Registration Deadline October 10, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/exams.aspx

November 27 - 29
Missouri Trail Summit - 2005, Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia, MO Contact MPRA (www.isa-arbor.com/certification/exams.aspx)

November 5
ISA Certified Arborist Exam, MDC Discovery Center, Kansas City, MO Contact Ivan Katzer (ivan_katzer@hotmail.com), 816-765-4241, Registration Deadline October 20, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/exams.aspx

November 7
Tree Pruning Workshop, County Health Department Meeting Room, 807 Owen Mill Rd., Stockton, MO 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

November 8 - 9

November 9 - 11
TCI EXPO '05, Columbus, OH Contact MPRA (tcia@tcia.org), 800-733-2622. Get information at www.treecareindustry.org/content/mtgs/TCIEXPO_05-About.htm

November 14
Tree Pruning Workshop, Community Building, Corner of County Rd and Maple St, Monett, MO 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

November 16 - 18

November 21
Tree Pruning Workshop, Walter Woods Conservation Area, Joplin, MO 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

November 28
Tree Pruning Workshop, Jasper County Central Annex, Corner of Central St. and Lincoln St., Carthage, MO 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

December 1
Missouri Community Forestry Council State Meeting, Conservation Employees Credit Union Meeting Room, Jefferson City, MO, 10:00 AM Contact: Justine Gartner (Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov), 573-522-4115 Extn. 3116

December 5
Tree Pruning Workshop, Newton Hall Conference Room, Crowder College, Neosho, MO 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

December 12
Tree Pruning Workshop, Room B, Thiebaud Auditorium, Lamar, MO 7 PM Contact Jon Skinner (Jon.Skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

Trees are sanctuaries. Whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth.

- Herman Hesse

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