Unfortunately, “Trees Just Happen” occurs more often than not in our communities. Throughout Missouri, actually the country, areas are designed, developed, built, torn down, redesigned, redeveloped, and rebuilt and space for trees are never even thought about until everything else is in place. Then they are treated as architectural features of the built landscape. Trees are living, growing entities and will not last long when treated like light poles.

Planners and developers think about all of the hardscape issues that are needed in modern society such as streets, drives, parking areas, water, sewer, storm sewer, electricity, and natural gas lines, street lighting, sidewalks, traffic control devices, business signage, television, internet, and telephone cables and more. Rarely do they think about the requirements of trees. Mostly because they are not trained or required to in zoning and development ordinances. Many times, trees are given small, “left over” areas or begrudgingly given planting holes they share with electrical outlets for lights and other utilities. These areas are often inadequate for the good long term health of a tree. A little planning and preparation will allow trees to develop into great assets in any community.

Trees require more than space for the planting hole. Planning for them requires making room for root, trunk, and crown growth for decades. This includes soil adequate for healthy growth, ensuring underground utilities do not share the same soil space so the tree could be dug up or have severe root damage when utility repairs occur or when street curbs are replaced. In highly developed areas, trees may need irrigation and be planted in structural soil. An engineered soil capable of having streets and sidewalks properly built over it, but allow enough rooting space for a healthy tree.

Several southwest Missouri communities will grow as more people learn about our great area. Some will move into redeveloped portions of communities and some in land newly opened for development. Business development will also continue to grow. Instead of letting “Trees Just Happen”, now is the time to prepare for this growth with development standards that includes trees with enough space to grow and add to our communities.

Trees will provide us with many benefits and enjoyment, we just have to give them a chance by providing an environment they can live in. If you have questions, I can provide information on tree needs and references to help prepare for healthy, beneficial trees.

Did You Know...

One large black oak street tree with a diameter of 20 inches measured 4.5 feet from the ground provides $117 in benefits each year. Included in these benefits is the interception of 5,541 gallons of rainwater; increase in property value by $64; reduction in electricity use for cooling by 118 KW/Hrs; reduction in pollution by absorbing SO2, NO2, and ozone, and capturing dust and particulate matter on leaves, branches, and trunk; and a reduction of atmospheric CO2 by 993 pounds through storage and reduced energy use.

What benefits does your tree provide? Learn more at: www.treebenefits.com/calculator/ or www.arborday.org/calculator/index.cfm?
Web Site Review

The Northeast Pest Detectors Network (NEPDN) hosted an webinar on Thousand Cankers Disease of black walnut. This insect - fungus complex is cause for concern as it is lethal to all black walnut. While not found in Missouri yet, it was found in Tennessee this summer and western states a few years ago. All of us need to be aware of this issue due to the potential biological and financial loss it will bring. You can see this webinar by visiting the NEPDN website at: http://aconnect.plantpath.cornell.edu/p78593550/ You may need to install the free Adobe Connect software to view the program.

Pest Highlight - Fall Webworm.

This annual pest, sometimes called bagworm, is a common occurrence on black walnut, hickories and other trees. While unsightly, the damage is usually of minor or no significance to the tree making treatment unnecessary.

The webs are made by the larva of two separate races of the moth species *Hyphantria cunea*. The black-headed race has a black head with black tubercles (bumps) along the back and red-headed race has a red head and orange-red tubercles along the back. Both have many hairs coming from the tubercles. Each race has slightly different development periods with usually two generations a year. The adult moths are white or white with dots on the wings.

While control is usually not needed, control is easy by removing the webbing. Most of the webworms will come with it. Use of sprays will only work after the webbing is broke open.

September 10 - 13

American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Meeting and Expo, Washington, DC, Early Registration Deadline July 1, 2010, Conference Information and Registration at www.asla.org/2010meeting/

September 17 - 18

New Right-of-Way Technology and Seminar, Fair Play, MO, Contact: Ty Bewley (tyb@poorboytree.com ), 417-654-2774

September 20


September 20 - 22

2010 Fall OK Vegetation Management Association Conference, Catoosa, OK, Conference Information and Registration at http://www.okvma.com/index_files/conferences.html

September 23


September 30 - October 2

2010 America In Bloom Symposium & Annual Awards , St. Louis, MO, Contact America In Bloom (aib@ofa.org), 614-487-1117 Registration at www.americainbloom.org/Symposium-and-Awards/Registration.aspx

October 14

MCF State Meeting, MDC State Office, Jefferson City, MO, 10 AM.

November 3 - 5

MPRA 2010 Leadership Development Institute, Blue Springs, MO, Conference Information and Registration at http://mopark.org/displayconvention.cfm?conventionnbr=8861

November 8

Tree Pruning Workshop, Monett Community Bldg., 100 S. Maple, Monett, MO, 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423

November 9

Tree Pruning Workshop, Greenfield Community Bldg. in City Park, corner of Park St. and Toney Ave., 6:30 PM Contact Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov) 417-629-3423