



Urban Leaves

"Tree News You Can Use"

WINTER ISSUE 2021



Vol. 8 No. 1

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



Happy New Year and welcome to 2021. West Lafayette Tree Friends enthusiastically look forward to continuing our support of greener City and neighborhood spaces. Trees create a more beautiful, healthy community in which we can happily live and work, as well as provide numerous well documented environmental benefits.

Let's plant trees!

Thank you to our donors and our volunteers – you support and make our work possible! If you would like to get involved, please reach out by email to chair@wltreefriends.org or call (765) 427-2816.

Dennis Schlott

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020



Not even a pandemic can slow down the West Lafayette Tree Friends as we plant, prune, and protect our urban forest!

- We launched the West Lafayette Tree Friends Endowment in partnership with the Community Foundation. This endowment was made possible by the gracious gift from the late John and JoAnne MacDonald. [Click here](#) for a link to the Fall 2020 Urban Leaves issue for information about the establishment of the endowment. More about contributing to the endowment is found in the article about donations in this issue.

- The West Lafayette Tree Friends' first Strategic Plan was launched.
- The Wiggins Street landscape bed was completely redone, with the help from an environmental grant provided by American Water. Summer Interns assisted in the renovation.
- 805 total volunteer hours were contributed.
- 113 trees were planted within public right of way throughout the City ("street trees").
- 1,041 trees were pruned.
- We attained our 30th year designation as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.
- Our Tree Sweater program is protecting 60 young street trees this winter in neighborhoods near Purdue University.
- 52 Tribute Trees now have new, sturdier tags. (To contact the Tribute Tree Coordinator just send an email to tribtreecoor@wltreefriends.org.)
- We published our quarterly online newsletter, *Urban Leaves*.

PLANS FOR 2021

- Completion of the WL Tree Friends Strategic Plan – this plan will create a roadmap on how funds we raise will be used to continue planting, pruning, and protecting our community's urban forest.
- Tree Plotter database: This new software program works to keep track of tree maintenance, inventory, and helps to answer the tree questions the City gets from community members. Tree Plotter will give us the information needed to produce all the environmental benefits street trees provide to our community. This program will launch by February 1, 2021. For more information, check out this news article: <https://www.wlfi.com/content/news/City-of-West-Lafayette-investing-in-online-tree-tracking-system-to-help-improve-environment-573183691.html>
- In December 2020, West Lafayette's urban forestry program moved from the Department of Development to the Department of Parks and Recreation. This move will allow the program to continue to expand and make a greater impact on our urban forest and greenspaces. More details to come!
- Maintain monthly virtual Tree Friends meetings until face-to-face meetings are safe.
- Continue publishing the online quarterly newsletter, *Urban Leaves*.
- Encourage homeowners to identify dead or dying trees in their neighborhoods in order to plan replacements.

NATUREHOODS

In these very complicated and uncertain times, what better way to find quiet, calm beauty than with Nature? We asked WL Tree Friends to share green spaces in the WL community that bring them a smile, a moment of calm and peace. Here are a few excerpts.

Two Tree Friends wrote about the Celery Bog Nature Center:



"Deer scampering, fog lifting off the pond, butterflies flitting, turtles meandering the trails, the songs of the birds, cicadas calling and crickets chirping - just a few things that make me smile."

"My wife and I enjoy the nature walk at the Celery Bog, especially along the water, where you can see the birds."

"I have to say the open green space by our neighborhood church. I can roam freely with my dogs. Sit on the grass and watch the clouds. Cars whiz by but it's like an oasis in the middle of chaos. Also, I love that it has beautiful sparkly blankets of snow in winter, sweet (non chemical) grass in summer, and its perimeter has the most beautiful maple trees."

"A short distance in from North Salisbury Street, in the Grandview Cemetery, there is a maple that is absolutely glorious in the fall."



"Even a peaceful spot in the New Chauncey neighborhood – a swing hanging from a tree branch in the front yard."



"Ah! Happy Hollow Park! It is beautiful in all seasons, but I especially find quiet, restorative beauty in the Fall colors."

MEET A TREE FRIEND — JOANNE EVERS



Joanne Evers and her husband Bill moved to West Lafayette in 1982 when Bill joined the Purdue faculty. Joanne soon became a Master Teacher at the Child Development Lab at Purdue and an Academic Advisor for the Schools of Consumer and Family Sciences and Management at the University (1983-2005).

Joanne heard about the Tree Friends "Sweater Project" through Bill, a longtime member of the Tree Friends. The project wraps knitted or crocheted "tree sweaters" around young street trees to prevent vandalism in the West Lafayette village area. Happily for the Tree Friends, Joanne saw an opportunity to help out by using her love of crocheting. She has made over 30 colorful tree sweaters for the program, creating her own sweater patterns.

Spring, summer and fall will find Joanne and Bill working in their yard where they have spent the last 30 years creating a bird and butterfly sanctuary. They participate in the Feeder Project through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, counting birds that frequent their feeders from November through April.

Joanne's work with the League of Women Voters is outstanding. She joined the League in 1995, continues to be an active member, and has held many board positions both locally and at the state level. She has served as VOTE 411 (online voters' guide) Co-Coordinator since 2013. Joanne encourages everyone to "Register to vote and to vote in EVERY election."

The Tree Friends greatly appreciate Joanne's crocheting skills, creativity, and her commitment to the West Lafayette community.

SUPPORTING THE TREE FRIENDS WITH YOUR DONATIONS

One of the functions of the West Lafayette Tree Friends is to provide financial support to the City to maintain and improve the urban forest that we all enjoy – and which also brings ecological and financial benefits to the City and our residents. Our specific focus is to plant and maintain the trees that line many of our streets ("street trees").

We begin our annual fund drive in November of each year – and Thank You to all who have already contributed to our 2020-2021 drive. The needs are ongoing, and we appreciate

donations throughout the year. We need and appreciate support for (1) the General Fund that receives contributions for unrestricted support, (2) the Tribute Tree program for honoring individuals or groups for \$400 per tree, and (3) the newly established WL Tree Friends Endowment.

All contributions should be directed to the West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department, which acts as our financial agent, located at 222 North Chauncey Ave., West Lafayette, IN 47906. Please be sure to indicate which of the three funds you are donating to (General Fund, Tribute Tree, or Endowment). Questions? Contact the WL urban forester at bpatz@wl.in.gov or (765) 775-5160. To donate now, click this link <https://wltreefriends.org/donate>. You may also view there the latest list of donors to our current Fund Drive.

LET'S PLANT TREES – TOGETHER!

Visit our Website

STREET TREE SPOTLIGHT "WINTER KING" GREEN HAWTHORN

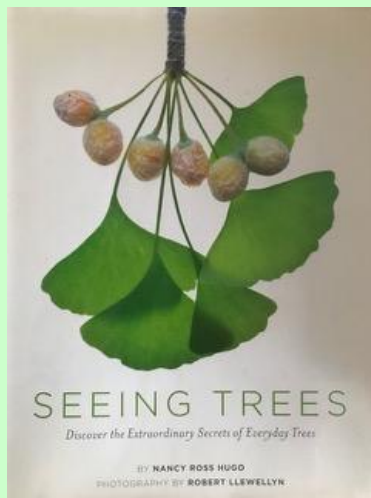


This Green Hawthorn (*Crataegus viridis* Winter King) is a dense, rounded, deciduous, nearly thornless tree that is tolerant to drought and urban pollution and is disease resistant. This makes it an ideal candidate for the rough life as a street tree – as well as a good choice for your yard. The lovely white spring blossoms are followed by large red fruits that persist well into winter. Edible, they can be harvested to make jelly or left for the hungry birds.

For more information about this tree, click on this link to the Purdue Arboretum:
[http://mlp.arboretum.purdue.edu/webui/oecgi3.exe/INET_ECM_DisPI?
NAMENUM=203&DETAIL=0&startpage=1#.X-Ixx9hKiUk](http://mlp.arboretum.purdue.edu/webui/oecgi3.exe/INET_ECM_DisPI?NAMENUM=203&DETAIL=0&startpage=1#.X-Ixx9hKiUk)

**SEEING TREES: DISCOVER THE
EXTRAORDINARY SECRETS
OF EVERYDAY TREES**

by
Nancy Ross Hugo
Photographs by Robert Llewellyn



Seeing Trees celebrates "Tree Watching." It is an invitation to get up close and personal with individual trees and to see each as a botanical masterpiece. The art of Robert Llewellyn's intricate photographs and the science of Nancy Ross Hugo's informative text blend together to reveal the beauty of leaves, flowers, cones, fruits, seeds, buds, bark, and twig structure of ten trees common in America.

Hugo and Llewellyn spent two years of intense tree viewing and decided to focus on the exceptional traits of ordinary trees in their own backyards and neighborhoods. Hugo writes, "Every time I think about, much less witness, the way a pleated beech leaf unfolds from its bud, the way a catalpa flower directs pollinators to its nectar, or the way a sycamore petiole protects the leaf bud below, I am astounded by the genius of the thing and I want to observe more." Llewellyn's sharp and detailed images not only enhance the text but will amaze and delight you.

Seeing Trees makes you want to get outside and explore the nearest tree and to look at the trees you see and love with new eyes and appreciation.

IN CLOSING...



Dust of Snow

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree.

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

~Robert Frost

BE SAFE! BE WELL!

Finally, a favor to ask. If you like this newsletter we send you, would you forward it to a few friends who perhaps don't know about it?

They can sign up to receive it themselves [right here](#). Thanks.

Find previous issues of *Urban Leaves* [here](#).

Show your appreciation for someone with a Tribute Tree, and make a contribution to the health and beauty of West Lafayette. [For more information](#)