



# MISSOURI ForestKeepers MONITOR

FALL 2007

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## CommuniTree Gardens

New Not-for-Profit Tree Nursery and Education Center

**IN JUNE, FOREST RELEAF OF MISSOURI AND** local community and business leaders celebrated the dedication of a new community tree nursery in Creve Coeur Park in St. Louis County.

Formerly known as Project CommuniTree, the nursery was dedicated as *CommuniTree Gardens* in recognition of its expanded role as a demonstration site for native and “utility-friendly” trees, in addition to proper tree planting and care.

Once fully developed, CommuniTree Gardens will feature an educational tree trail to teach the public to plant the right tree in the right place, an overall arboretum with examples of larger native shade trees, and expanded facilities for volunteer training and education.

The dedication included an honorary planting of the first tree in the garden and remarks by Karen Foss, Vice President, Public Relations, Ameren; John D. Hoskins, Director, Missouri Department of Conservation; Charlie A. Dooley, County Executive, St. Louis County; Christopher Erker, President, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri and Partner, Bryan Cave; and Nancy von Brecht, Executive Director, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri.

“Properly planted and cared for, trees are valuable and growing assets,” said Hoskins at the opening ceremony. “We commend Forest ReLeaf for its efforts to improve our existing community forests by promoting the proper selection, planting and care of trees.”

Now located on the corner of Creve Coeur Mill Road and the Page Avenue Extension in Maryland Heights, the nursery was previously situated on



*Nancy von Brecht, Forest ReLeaf's Executive Director, speaking at the dedication of CommuniTree Gardens in June. On the stage with her is (from left): Cynthia Metcalfe, Commissioner, Missouri Department of Conservation; John Hoskins, Director, Missouri Department of Conservation; Charlie Dooley, St. Louis County Executive; and Karen Foss, Vice President of Public Relations, Ameren.*

noise-abatement property at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. At that location, over a ten year period, a largely volunteer workforce successfully grew and distributed nearly 38,000 trees for community plantings throughout the region. At the new site, Forest ReLeaf expects that 4,000 to 5,000 trees will be distributed annually for public planting projects.

During the June event, Karen Foss, Vice President of Public Relations for Ameren said, “We are thankful for the resources Forest ReLeaf provides for the community. Together, we can all do our part to raise awareness about the importance of community plantings and proper tree selection and care.”

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**MISSION:**

To develop a network of informed citizens working to conserve, sustain and enhance Missouri's urban and rural forest resources through volunteerism, advocacy, and management.

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Courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation

The Missouri Forestkeepers Network is a statewide volunteer program administered by Forest ReLeaf of Missouri in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Membership is free.

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# Summersville Loggers Win Professional Acclaim

By Jim Low, News Service Coordinator, Missouri Department of Conservation

**THE LAST THING A LOGGER EXPECTS WHEN**

he fells a tree is a standing ovation, but that is what Ron Tuttle and his family logging crew got when they attended the annual meeting of the Missouri Forest Products Association (MFPA) in Osage Beach in July.

Harvesting timber runs in the family. Tuttle and brothers Don and Gary Tuttle have more than 20 years of logging experience. They work in partnership, along with Don's son Jason and Ron's son Keith. Their business is based in Summersville, Missouri.

When the MFPA, in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), began offering Professional Timber Harvester Training, the Tuttles took every course they could, learning the fine points of safety, directional felling, forest management and reducing damage to remaining trees.

"We learned there was a need for it, so we started putting it in our work practices," said Ron Tuttle. "We just decided that's the way we would do it."

The Tuttles' conscientiousness paid off with contracts to harvest trees on MDC Conservation Areas like Angeline and Sunklands. They also have logged extensively on private land, including

Pioneer Forest, Missouri's largest private forest and a showcase of uneven-age forest management.

Over the years, their reputation for doing things right has earned landowners' trust. "Especially around here at home, we can do business with a handshake," said Ron. "It makes you feel kinda happy with yourself."

Doing things right also brought the Tuttles to the attention of Conservation Department Forestry Regional Supervisor Tom Draper, who nominated Ron for the 2007 Missouri State Logger of the Year Award. He noted the loggers' insistence on practices that protect the land and forests and a commitment to excellence that causes them to go "above and beyond" what is expected of them.

"They maximize their production by excellent forest product utilization," said Draper. "When you look at their operations after they finish, it is obvious that very little material is wasted."

When he accepted the Professional Logger of the Year Award, Ron Tuttle brought his partners to the event and gave them equal credit for the achievement. "We do this as partners," he said.

The Conservation Department and the Missouri Forest Products Association select State Logger of the Year Award recipients from among regional loggers of the year nominated by Conservation Department foresters. Foresters are asked to nominate only outstanding loggers, so not every region has a nominee every year. This year's other regional recipients were:

- **Southwest:** Tom Heidlage, Pierce City
- **Southeast:** Dustin Lindgren, Patton
- **Northeast:** Jack and Brad Buster, Kirksville
- **Northwest:** Roger Whetstine, Troy, Kansas

For more information about the Professional Logger of the Year program, contact John Tuttle: Missouri Department of Conservation P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180 phone: 573-522-4115, ext. 3304 e-mail: john.tuttle@mdc.mo.gov.



FEATURED SPECIES:

# PAWPAW

*Asimina triloba* (L.) Dunal



Illustrations courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation

This member of the tropical Custard apple family (Annonaceae) is known for its fruit, which is similar to a banana with a custard-like texture, and can be eaten raw or baked. Many different species of birds and animals feed on the fruit, which ripens in the fall and looks somewhat like a banana. Although much more common in the woods than in urban areas, the tree can occasionally be found in shady areas in city parks or along streams. The pawpaw grows into a large shrub or small tree up to 30' in height, and is often found in suckering colonies. The tree's simple, long leaves often turn a bright golden yellow in the fall and stay on the trees late into the season. In spring, it produces unusual, dark reddish-purple flowers.

**LEAVES:** Alternate, simple, six to 12 inches long and about half as wide; emit an unpleasant odor when bruised; short and stout leaf stalk; often appears droopy in summer.

**BARK:** Ranges from light grey to dark brown and smooth; the bark of older trees becomes blotched and scaly.

**FLOWERS:** Interesting, solitary blooms from March through May; both male and female parts are contained in the same flower; about one inch across.

**FRUIT:** Banana-shaped; three to five inches long; yellow when ripe; contains several seeds.

**HABITAT & RANGE:** Found in dense shade in moist soils in ravines and valleys, and along streams. Range is scattered throughout the state.

## Treevia

### FUN FOREST FACTS TO KNOW AND TELL!

- The Bradford pear is native to Korea and China. It was first brought to the US from Nanking, China in 1919.

## Q&A

**Q:** I love the way Bradford pears look in the spring, but the older they get, the more they seem to break and split after storms. Are there any other pear trees that are stronger and less susceptible to wind and ice damage?

**A:** 'Bradford' is a cultivar of the Callery pear. Several other cultivars have been developed which are stronger. Look for 'Cleveland Select' or 'Aristocrat.' However, ornamental pears have been widely over-planted and are becoming a threat to native areas. Please see the articles on page seven of this issue and consider planting a native flowering tree instead.

Have a question about Forestkeepers, trees, or what you read in this issue? Contact us at [information@forestkeepers.org](mailto:information@forestkeepers.org) or by mail to: Q&A, c/o Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, 4207 Lindell Blvd., Suite 301, St. Louis, MO 63108.

# Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Missouri Forestkeepers Network:

Geniece Brandes	Joyanna Osborne	Francesca Vacca
Community R-VI Science Club	Celeste Prado	Chris Veach
Marilyn DeLine	Tina Probst	Ken Vollmer
Betty Gawthrop	Quest (Crocker Schools)	Jessi and Don Weber
Louise and Jeff Levine	Rockwood Summit High School	Jonathan Yousaf
Michelle Menne	Stockton Kindergarten Summer School	Robert Zinser
Moonisa		

Do you know someone who might be interested in becoming a Forestkeeper? Call 1-888-9-FOREST or visit [www.forestkeepers.org](http://www.forestkeepers.org) for details on joining our network of more than 1,800 citizens who are working to conserve, sustain, and enhance Missouri's urban and rural forest resources.

## FALL ACTIVITY

*A seasonal project to enjoy with the whole family*



## Orienteering

Fall is a great time to get outside. Through orienteering, you can learn to use a compass, follow a map, develop your navigational skills, and connect to your surroundings. Take turns with your family members plotting a course around your property (e.g. take 15 paces to the tall red oak, go north 12 paces, then turn east). Then follow the landmarks and directions to reach a surprise destination. Look for books and beginners' classes to learn more about this popular past time.

Information to get you started can be found at [mdc.mo.gov/howto/compass/](http://mdc.mo.gov/howto/compass/) and at [www.mdc.mo.gov/conmag/1997/06/60.htm](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/conmag/1997/06/60.htm).



## CommuniTree Gardens

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Von Brecht added, "the widespread damage from area storms over the past year has heightened the need for public education to restore and protect our community trees. We are very pleased with the new location and the opportunities it will bring Forest ReLeaf, our friends, and our partners to educate the public about the value of our trees."

AmerenUE is the major sponsor of the program and the Missouri Department of Conservation is a key partner. Additional support is currently provided by: Bryan Cave LLP; the Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis; Fleishman-Hillard Inc.; Fred Weber, Inc.; Missouri-American Water Co.; Saint Louis County Parks; Sam's Club; The Crawford Taylor Foundation; The Trio Foundation of St. Louis; and individual donors.

Forest ReLeaf of Missouri is a regional, not-for-profit organization founded in 1993. The organization's mission is to provide trees for public and not-for-profit plantings and present educational programs to promote stewardship of the trees and forests in Missouri and other communities in the region. Ultimately, Forest ReLeaf's vision is a region of healthy trees and forests sustained by volunteer efforts and its continued partnership with the public and private sectors. Forest ReLeaf also administers the Missouri Forestkeepers Network in partnership with the Conservation Department.

For more information about how you can obtain free trees for your community or get involved, please visit [www.moreleaf.org](http://www.moreleaf.org) or call 1-888-473-5323 toll-free.



# FORESTKEEPERS BULLETIN

## I Hurt My Tree?

**YES, YOU MAY HAVE! INSECTS AND DISEASES DO DAMAGE OUR TREES, BUT MOST PEST PROBLEMS DO NOT IMPACT A TREE'S OVERALL HEALTH. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, THE REASON FOR A TREE'S DECLINE IS PEOPLE. EVERYTHING YOU DO AROUND A TREE MAY IMPACT ITS HEALTH. HERE ARE A FEW COMMON PROBLEMS:**

### PLANTING

For decades, it was recommended that a tree be planted with the root ball located slightly below or at the same level as the surrounding soil. We now know that this technique has caused root problems in many trees. Planting in this manner favors the formation of roots that circle around the trunk rather than growing out and away from the tree. Over time, these circling roots will girdle the tree, constricting growth by limiting the movement of water and nutrients.

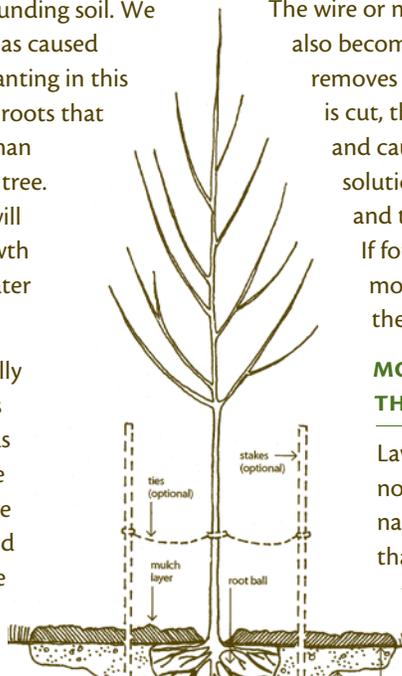
Girdling roots can be substantially reduced by not planting trees as we have in the past. Research has shown us that we need to locate the root flare, or the point where the roots come off the trunk, and plant the tree with the root flare at or up to one inch above the surrounding ground.

### STAKING

Sometimes a tree needs to be staked to hold the root ball firmly in place, such as when the tree is planted in a very windy location. This support should be left on for no more than one growing season. It is a sad fact that stakes and ties are often forgotten and left on a tree far too long. When this happens, the material that is used to tie the tree to the stake (i.e., wire, strings, tubing, etc.) constricts the tree and prevents it from growing at that point. The constriction can become so tight that

the tree will actually try to grow over the wire. Inevitably, the tree will snap or break off at the point of constriction.

The wire or materials used to stake the tree can also become dangerous for the person that removes the tree decades later. As the tree is cut, the chainsaw can hit the material and cause a kickback at the operator. The solution is simple — remove all stakes and ties as soon as they are not needed. If for some reason they are needed more than one year, adjust them so the tree can grow.



### MOWING AND TRIMMING THE LAWN

Lawn mowers are meant to cut grass, not bark, wood, or roots. It is unfortunate, but often in an attempt to get that last blade of grass, people will get too close to the tree with their mower. When this happens, roots are cut or the trunk of the tree is bumped, which damages the cells that move water and nutrients.

If the lawn mower doesn't get the tree, then the string trimmer may. Damage from a string trimmer often circles completely around a tree's trunk. This damage stops the ability of the tree to move water and nutrients up and sugars (tree food) down through the damaged area. The tree must now grow over or around this damage. It also unnecessarily exposes the tree to pests through the

By Jon Skinner,  
Urban Forester,  
Missouri Department  
of Conservation

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**PREVIOUS  
TECHNICAL BULLETINS:**

- #1 Our Upland Oak-Hickory Forests
- #2 Bottomland Forests
- #3 Missouri's Coniferous Forests
- #4 Urban Forests and Plantations
- #5 The Gypsy Moth
- #6 Dogwood Anthracnose
- #7 The Japanese Beetle in Missouri
- #8 Butternut Canker and Its Dwindling Host
- #9 Asian Longhorned Beetle
- #10 Chip Mills in Missouri
- #11 Community Forestry
- #12 Proper Pruning
- #13 How to Hire an Arborist
- #14 Can These Trees Be Saved?
- #15 Maintenance of Backyard Trees
- #16 Selecting Professional Tree Care
- #17 Tree Protection During Construction
- #18 Poison Ivy
- #19 Tick-Borne Diseases
- #20 Chiggers
- #21 Snakes of Missouri
- #22 Managing Your Forest
- #23 Are You Protecting Missouri's Water?
- #24 Selling Timber the Smart Way
- #25 Timber Stand Improvement
- #26 Benefits of Livestock Fencing
- #27 Edge Feathering
- #28 Managing for White-Tailed Deer
- #29 Turkeys & Woodlands
- #30 Underutilized Trees for Missouri Landscapes
- #31 Managing Your Yard for Trees and Grass
- #32 Windbreaks: Protection That Grows
- #33 Evergreens: Selections for Your Landscape
- #34 Specialty Products
- #35 Heating with Wood
- #36 Utilizing Eastern Red Cedar
- #37 Black Walnut: Missouri's Most Valuable Tree
- #38 Those Pesky Insects
- #39 Diseases and Healthy Forests

You can access these bulletins online at [www.forestkeepers.org](http://www.forestkeepers.org) by clicking on "Newsletters" on the homepage.

## I Hurt My Tree?

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wounds. Repeated damage by string trimmers will cause the tree to decline and die an early death.

To prevent this damage, use mulch! Mulch holds moisture for the roots, keeps grass and weeds down, and eliminates the need to get near the tree.

### CONSTRUCTION

All forms of construction compact the soil and can damage tree roots. Even simple things such as parking vehicles or equipment on the site will do this. The best thing you can do to protect a tree from construction is to keep all construction activities away from the tree.

Just how far away is the key question. The answer depends on the type of tree, your soils, and the age of the tree. In general, younger trees can tolerate some soil compaction, but it is important to preserve the area under the tree's branches out to the dripline. The dripline is defined as the farthest reach of the limbs. In general, older trees will need larger protection zones.



*At a minimum, protect the ground under the branches out to the furthest branch tips, or the drip line.*

### Here's one formula for determining this distance:

1. Measure the tree's circumference at 4.5 feet above the ground.
2. Divide that number by 3.14.
3. Multiply the results by 1.5.

The resulting number is the number of feet to stay away from the trunk in all directions.

*[Example: Tree circumference = 47.1 inches  
(47.1 ÷ 3.14) × 1.5 = 22.5 feet]*

Once the protection zone is determined, fence it off. To fully protect the tree, nothing should enter this area for any reason.

### WATERING

All plants need water. Unfortunately, like us, they can get too much of a good thing. Trees are often drowned by well-intentioned owners. Most established trees can take care of themselves and do not usually need watering. Newly planted trees lack adequate root systems and consequently need regular watering.

I recommend watering the entire root system with the equivalent of 1.5 inches of rain once a week. You can achieve this by watering early in the morning with a sprinkler. Place something to catch the water in the sprinkler pattern. A round cake pan works well. When 1.5 inches of water is in the pan, move the sprinkler to another portion of the root system. If the tree shows signs of wilt, then a little more water may be added.

In extreme cases of drought, all trees will benefit from additional water. Keep in mind that in these circumstances you cannot water large trees enough. They may require hundreds, if not thousands, of gallons to meet all of their needs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET OR BY CALLING 1-888-936-7378.**

#### PLANTING

**Tree Planting Breakthrough!**

[www.mdc.mo.gov/conmag/2005/04/50.htm](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/conmag/2005/04/50.htm)

#### MULCHING

**Mulch: Your Tree's Best Friend**

[www.mdc.mo.gov/documents/forest/urban/F00111.pdf](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/documents/forest/urban/F00111.pdf)

#### CONSTRUCTION

**Protecting Trees from Construction Damage:**

**A Homeowner's Guide**

[www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/housingandclothing/DK6135.html](http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/housingandclothing/DK6135.html)

#### WATERING

**Watering Trees**

[www.mdc.mo.gov/forest/urban/watering.htm](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/forest/urban/watering.htm)

# Bradford Pear: An Introduced Plant Threat

By Steve Clubine, Prairie Wildlife Biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation

**AS IF WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PESTS INVADING GRASSLANDS,** there is a new threat resulting from the Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*). Yes, the seemingly lovely tree that lines many streets and driveways is a real nuisance in more ways than one. In addition to being susceptible to breakage and splitting due to its weakly-attached branches, the Bradford pear has now caused a threat to natural areas.

The cultivar was introduced by the USDA as a fast-growing, elegantly-shaped tree for landscaping yards and driveways. It was promoted as a self-sterile tree, or one that did not produce fruit. Unfortunately, it was discovered that the branches of the trees are very weak, as after about 20 years of growth they break under moderate windstorms and ice. New cultivars were then introduced that are somewhat stronger, but they cross-pollinated with the Bradfords. This resulted in hybrids which suddenly began producing small, but abundant, fertile fruit. The seeds and fruit are eaten by birds and squirrels, resulting in non-native thickets of seedlings on hillsides and in idle fields, pastures, and roadsides.



Two websites can help you can learn more about the Bradford pear problem. One is from the South Carolina Native Plant Society titled, "Who Let the Pears Out? The Trouble with Bradford Pears," [www.scnps.org/articles/pears.html](http://www.scnps.org/articles/pears.html). The other source is from the Maryland Native Plant Society titled, "The Downside of Non-Native Plants," by Kristen S. Traynor, [www.emmitsburg.net/gardens/articles/frederick/2004/non-native\\_plants.htm](http://www.emmitsburg.net/gardens/articles/frederick/2004/non-native_plants.htm).

## EXPERTS RECOMMEND:

- Plant species other than Bradford pears, such as white dogwood, serviceberry, or fringe tree, which have attractive white spring blossoms but do not spread. Missouri's Grow Native! program offers information on alternative trees to plant. Visit [www.grownative.org](http://www.grownative.org).
- Remove Bradford pears from your property.
- Ask for the alternative species at your favorite nursery. Tell them why you prefer the other species over the invasive exotics that they carry, so they will become aware of the problems and their customers' concerns for the environment and wildlife habitat.

## Alternative Spring Flowering Species

As alternatives to Bradford pear, consider the following native trees, all of which have attractive white blossoms in the spring:

### FLOWERING DOGWOOD

*Cornus florida*

Missouri's beloved state tree! Usually flowers in mid-April to May, often in tandem with redbud. Excellent as a specimen tree or can be planted in groupings.



### FRINGE TREE

*Chionanthus virginicus*

Provides an attractive display of flower clusters in hanging fringes. Very fragrant. It does well in landscaped settings, but is under-planted as it can be hard to find at nurseries.

### SERVICEBERRY

*Amelanchier arborea*

Showy white flowers appear in early spring. Its compact size (it rarely reaches 30'), flowers, attractive fall color, and red fruit make it a useful landscape tree.



# Reminder: Fall Reporting Deadline

It's time to wrap up those tree observations and other activities! The deadline for this fall's Activity Reports is **November 1**.

You can submit your reports online or download additional reporting forms at [www.forestkeepers.org](http://www.forestkeepers.org). You may also obtain an additional copy of the reporting kit by calling 1-888-9-Forest, or simply by sending your request to [information@forestkeepers.org](mailto:information@forestkeepers.org).

Remember, when you turn in your report, you can select your choice of many great thank-you gifts!

We hope to hear from you soon.



# Free Trees for Your Community

With winter approaching, it's not too early to think about next spring's projects. Community tree planting is a great activity for members and you can get free, three-gallon trees from Forest ReLeaf of Missouri!



For more information, see the article on page one of this issue, visit [www.moreleaf.org](http://www.moreleaf.org), or contact them toll-free at 1-888-4-RELEAF (473-5323).



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