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Tree Lafayette
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Tree Lafayette is a non-profit that plants trees in the city of Lafayette and works to make our community a more natural environment for a good life.

Tree Lafayette also believes in teaching our children about planting and caring for trees and the benefits of trees to everyone, our community, and our world.

To learn more about Tree Lafayette, or to make a donation, please view our website at : www.treelafayette.org

To join us for the November 9, 2016 Tree Lafayette Annual Meeting, please call 765-474-0548 to make your reservations.

The importance of trees

Local education and global findings take focus at annual Tree Lafayette meeting

Laura Sietsma is happy to talk about trees. Sietsma is a professional forester, a board member for Tree Lafayette, and gives regular presentations to third graders about the benefits of trees. **She will also be delivering the keynote speech for the Tree Lafayette annual meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 9, 2016 at the Lafayette Country Club. Reservations are \$20 per person.**

As a professional forester for **ArborAmerica**, a Spanish-owned company, Sietsma monitors a grove of black walnuts in West Point. She says this region is a great place to grow black walnut trees.

“It is an experimental tree plantation. I basically monitor the trees for proper growth, insects, disease, or problems.” She said it would be a few more years before the trees will be large enough to harvest for veneer.

Sietsma joined Tree Lafayette in 2010, and at the end of 2017, she will be leaving the board, but she will still be a member of the organization and will continue to lead Tree Lafayette’s education initiative. **Tree Lafayette is currently sponsoring Sietsma’s presentations to third**

graders in the Lafayette School Corporation, and is getting interest from some Tippecanoe County Schools as well. Sietsma gives a 45-minute presentation immediately followed by a tree planting.

“It’s fun for me. We see new kids each time, so it is always new to them. It’s a very interactive pro-



gram.” When asked what the kids liked learning the most, Sietsma didn’t even pause.

“The biggest tree is the Sequoia Redwood. Some trees are thousands of years old. And...rubber comes from trees...that really amazes some of the kids.” She likes the third grade audience because she says they are still young enough to be excited and old enough to remember how much people depend on trees, beyond the resins to make chewing gum. **Major points covered in the student presentations include how**

Continued on page 2

Update from the Executive Director

Welcome to our new look. The 2016 autumn newsletter has been redesigned. Hope you enjoy it.

Tree Lafayette plants trees in public spaces throughout Lafayette. Volunteers drive the organization. A board of directors governs Tree Lafayette. Five standing committees, with help from other volunteers, carry out the work of the organization. A sixth committee will be formed to oversee



our annual Arbor Day project, which brings together over 200 volunteers to plant trees each spring. Our volunteers provide care for our trees after planting—watering, pruning, and maintenance of mulch beds. Because of this care, our tree survival rate is high.

Our tag line is "planting and promoting a healthy community". We believe strongly in the broken window theory. If the city doesn't care, if the neighborhood doesn't care, if the win-

dows are broken and not fixed, a series of related urban problems start. By planting trees, by planting flowers, by having neighborhood parties, the broken windows can be fixed. The caring begins for the quality of life in our community.

Yes, it takes money for us to improve our community. Please donate to Tree Lafayette to help us add to our community's tree canopy, care for trees we have planted, and continue to educate children and adults about how much trees do for us.

On the count of three: One, plant more trees, Two, donate more funds, and three, say trees and smile, the community is our picture.

—Larry Rose

Continued from Page 1

The importance of trees: for third-graders and the world

trees are: helping us breathe through photosynthesis, improving water quality, preventing erosion, providing animal and bird habitats, and improving our breakfasts with maple syrup.

She smiled after the comment about maple syrup. However, Sietsma said her speech for the

Tree Lafayette annual meeting audience won't have such a sweet focus. She is planning a more global emphasis concerning the value of trees and will present information related to the recent Paris Accords on ecology. She adds that **"anyone can make a difference by planting a tree, you don't**



Autumn is the best time for root development

If you think spring is the only time to do major work in your yard, you may be surprised. Fall is a great time for planting trees. Fall temperatures are best for root growth, since roots grow well in cool soil. Planting in the fall allows root development now and again in early spring without dedicating water and nutrients to leaves.

Be sure to research your tree before planting - check that your tree species is right for your location. For example, some species prefer moist sites some prefer dry sites. When you have chosen your tree, make sure to inspect it

for any deformities or diseases. All trees should have normal, well developed branches and vigorous root systems. They should also be free from defects such as knots, holes, damaged bark, insects, and other imperfections.

Basic instructions for planting a tree follow, for further instruction, an excellent video on tree planting can be found at arbordayfoundation.org.

1) Locate where the trunk starts to flare out into the root system (root flare), it can be buried in its current packing material. Remove excess soil to expose the root flare. Measure distance from the flare to the bottom of container or root system. Dig the hole only as deep as that measurement and 2 to 3 times wider than the root ball. Dig and turn the soil to reduce compaction from the sides of the hole. Place the tree in the hole. Remove all man-made materials from root ball. If burlap is present, a small amount can be left on the bottom of the root ball.

2) Firmly pack soil around the root

ball, making sure not to compact. Backfill the hole with soil and pour water around the root ball to settle the soil. Do not add soil amendments to the backfilled soil.

3) Place a 2-3-inch layer of mulch starting 4-6 inches away from trunk. When choosing mulch, do not use utility, pallet or artificially dyed mulch. Instead, use organic mulch: preferably pine, cedar or hemlock free from harmful materials.

4) If a tree is planted in an exposed or windy site a minimum of one stake should be placed, 2 feet below ground on the outside of the root ball and about 2 feet from the trunk. Horizontally tie the trunk to the stake with nylon material. No wire or garden hose material should be used.

Once planted and mulched, water the tree away from the trunk and onto the root ball (root zone). Newly planted trees need a minimum of 15-20 gallons of water per week. Remove stake(s) after one year.



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Thank you to all our volunteers!