

Winter 2021

# Cityscape

*Promoting Stewardship for Missouri's Community Forests*



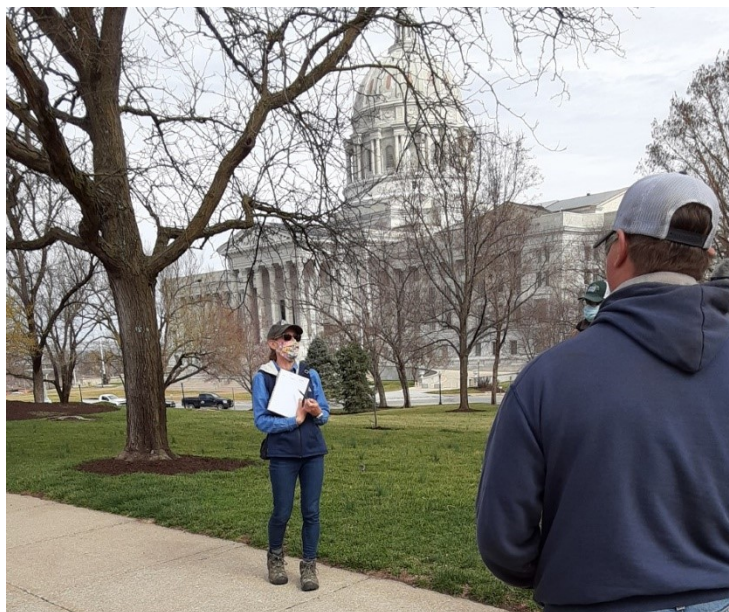
## Tour of Missouri Capitol Grounds Highlights Challenges For its Trees

A recent tour and discussion of the trees on the Missouri State Capitol grounds raised interesting questions on future management and potential planting opportunities. Organized by central region MCFC members, the tour on February 19, 2021, earned attending certified arborists 1.5 ISA CEUS.

The tour was led by Bill Ruppert, a St. Louis MCFC member and treasurer of the Missouri Green Industry Alliance. Bill has been spearheading an effort to focus on the trees of the capitol grounds, including most recently working with Skip Kincaid who generously donated his time and services to complete a tree inventory. On the tour, Bill explain some of the challenges and unique circumstances of arboriculture on the capital grounds such as accommodating large gatherings and the need for clear sight lines of the newly refurbished capitol building. The attending members also saw first-hand the diminishing effect Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was having on the canopy cover of the grounds, which lead to a hopeful discussion for a potential planting project on-site. Although plans for this project are incomplete, Bill informed the group that with the state bicentennial date fast approaching there seems to be interest in a commemorative planting this fall. 🍃

***MDC Community Forester, Ann Koenig, initiates start of program on Missouri State Capital grounds.***

***See more photos and inventory map in following 2 pages.***





## Missouri State Capitol Grounds Tour (continued)



*The stump of a recently removed green ash tree can be seen in the foreground as the group gathers around a Japanese pagoda tree (*Styphnolobium japonicum*, formerly known as *Sophora japonica*) to evaluate its condition.*



*Bill Ruppert, with copy of tree inventory in hand, discusses future of nearby cluster of Amur Maples (*Acer ginnala*) in declining health.*

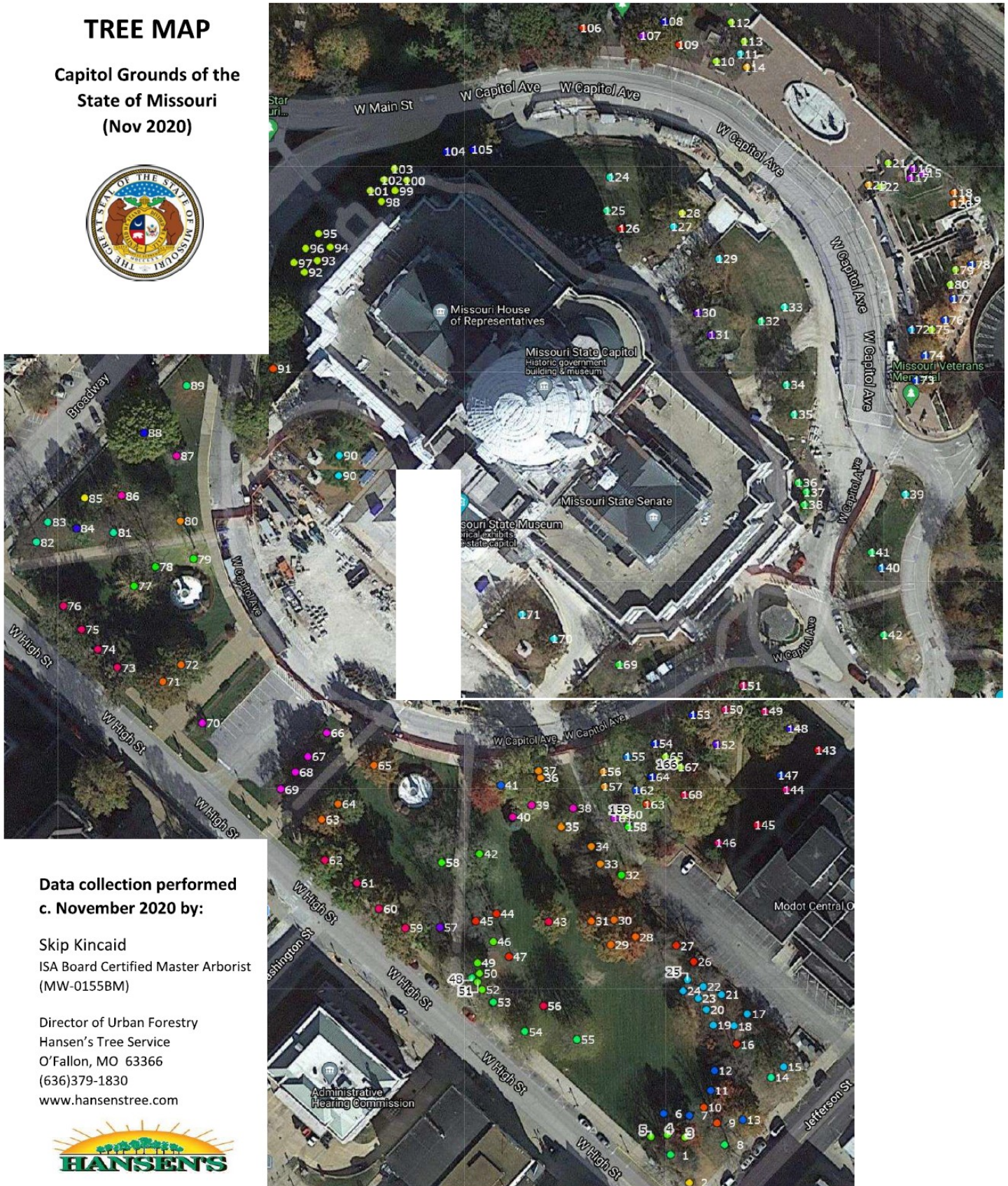


## Missouri State Capitol Grounds Tour (continued)

The inventory Skip Kincaid provided listed 180 trees in a wide variety of tree species. Map below shows placement of the trees, with species color coded to note distribution and number of each.

### TREE MAP

Capitol Grounds of the  
State of Missouri  
(Nov 2020)



Data collection performed  
c. November 2020 by:

Skip Kincaid  
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist  
(MW-0155BM)

Director of Urban Forestry  
Hansen's Tree Service  
O'Fallon, MO 63366  
(636)379-1830  
[www.hansenstree.com](http://www.hansenstree.com)





# Renown McBaine Bur Oak Suffers Significant Damage from Lightning Strike

The McBaine Bur oak, an iconic and massive *Quercus macrocarpa* located near Columbia MO on privately owned Missouri river bottomland, was struck by lightning October 23, 2020, during an early morning thunderstorm. The lightning strike appeared to have spared the upper canopy of the tree, however it set the interior of the trunk ablaze requiring the efforts of volunteer firefighters from the Boone County Fire Protection District (BCFPD) to extinguish the fire. (see- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=336376760791918> )

Visible damage to the tree includes several scorched vertical cracks on the trunk, in addition to a cavity where a chunk of wood and bark was blown off at the likely site of impact. The cavity had apparently been enlarged slightly by the BCFPD to fight the ensuing fire caused by the lightning. Although unseen from ground view, the blaze reportedly burned a hollow 10-foot section inside the trunk (See photo)

Listed as a Missouri champion bur oak, this tree has an impressive 285-inch trunk circumference, is approximately 74 feet tall with a 129-foot spread. The estimated age of the tree is between 350-400 years old.

This tree has weathered many challenges such as heavy flooding over the years, but in recent decades has shown signs of decline. The continuous practice of sightseers driving vehicles off the road and then under the tree's canopy (see ruts in photo below) has surely contributed to root damage, but likely there are other contributing factors as well.

*Continued next page-*





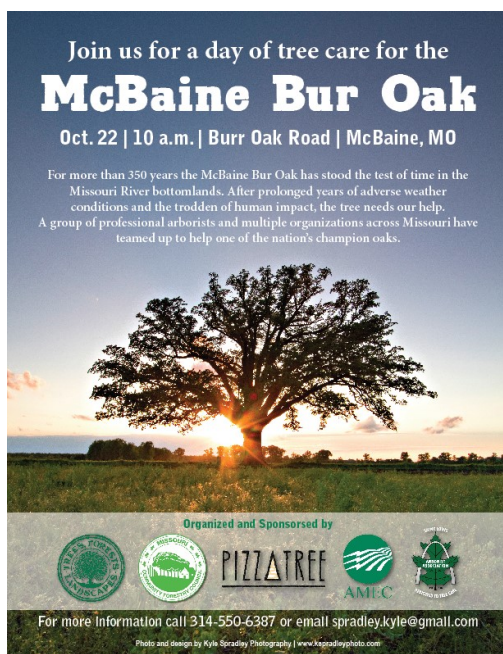
## McBaine Bur Oak (Continued)

Many MCFC members will recall that on October 21, 2013, a consortium of concerned arborist, led by Bill Spradley, of the Saint Louis tree care company Trees, Forests, and Landscapes, held a workday to prune and implement other measures to help preserve this venerable giant. (See workday poster on right ) Sadly, one measure, the installation of lightning protection, was shortly rendered useless by desperate thieves who stole the copper grounding cables for quick cash. As a result, seven years later almost to the day, there wasn't any way to protect the tree when calamity struck.

Even with this devastating injury, it is not certain it is all over for the McBaine bur oak. On February 26, 2021, Bill Spradley returned with his staff of preservation arborists to prune deadwood from the tree and assess its health. This work and a discussion of what lies ahead for the tree was live zoomed and recorded as part of the annual "Mid-MO Expo: Small Farms to Backyard Gardens" hosted by the MU Boone County Extension Council. This program is still available for viewing, tickets can be purchased for \$6.00 at <http://midmoexpo.com/>.

More information about the pruning work and restoration plans can also be found at following link-[The big tree' gets some TLC at Saturday event | Local | columbiamissourian.com](#)

As a remembrance to a time of better health for the tree see accompanying photos of the McBaine bur oak taken in 1994. Note that the Bur Oak road at that time was gravel, prior to the current blacktop paving.





# MCFC Members Follow up with Another Service Project at Springfield Missouri Veterans Cemetery

On September 18, 2019 , MCFC volunteers from the Southwest region planted approximately 100 trees at the Springfield Missouri Veterans Cemetery to commemorate the veterans service as part of a “Saluting Branches ” event. ( See- [Saluting Branches: Arborists United for Veteran Remembrance.](#) )

The trees grown in 3 gal. containers were provided by Forest ReLeaf of Missouri and have thrived since their planting date. Recently, on February 26, 2021, SWMCFC members combined forces to assist the Springfield Missouri Veterans Cemetery with training/pruning of these young trees. The group also did planting bed maintenance along the Trail of Honor that winds along Lake Springfield. While the actual pruning and maintenance didn't take long to complete, the work will be evident for decades to come in honor of the veterans and their families



# Announcements

## Missouri Forest Health Highlights 2020

This annual report provides some of the highlights and challenges facing Missouri forests.

[Missouri Forest Health Highlights 2020 \(mo.gov\)](https://mo.gov)

## Digital Guide for Plant Appraisal Now Available

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), on behalf of the Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers, announces the release of the [Guide for Plant Appraisal, 10th Edition, Revised](#) in digital format. The digital version of the Guide is now available for purchase on ISA Store. With its release in digital format, the CTLA now provides another way for readers to access this material. For those that have purchased previous versions of the Guide, the CTLA is offering a discounted price of \$30.00 on the purchase of the digital version of the book for a limited time.

## RFP: U.S. Forest Service Challenge Cost Share Grant Program

Please visit the link below regarding this year's USDA Forest Service National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program. Applications are due April 16.

[UCF 2021 Cost Share Grant Portal on Plone335 \(urbanandcommunityforests.org\)](https://urbanandcommunityforests.org)

## Forest ReLeaf of Missouri Accepting Applications for Project CommuniTree

Project CommuniTree provides free trees to community groups for planting projects. The trees are grown at CommuniTree Gardens nursery, the region's first and only community-assisted tree nursery and distribution program. An army of trained volunteers, led by our foresters, pots thousands of native species seedlings and nurtures them until they are ready to be given away. Trees are available each spring and fall on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit [Forest ReLeaf of Missouri \(moreleaf.org\)](https://moreleaf.org)

## Tree Fund Webinars offer information and CEU's

TREE Fund webinars bring you the latest in tree research, directly from the scientists themselves. TREE Fund's one-hour webinars are **free** and offer **1.0 CEU** (only for live broadcast) from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). See webinar descriptions for specifics. **Space is limited and pre-registration is highly recommended**; in doing so, you'll receive a reminder email the day before the broadcast. Next webinar- **Planning for the Next Three Letter Urban Tree Canopy Changer: Lessons Learned with DED, EAB, ETC** on Tuesday, **April 20, 2021**, at 12 p.m. Central time. See [TREE Fund Webinars – TREE Fund](#)

## Online MU Extension workshop to protect watersheds and streams now available

See following page for details







# HEALTHY YARDS FOR CLEAR STREAMS

*"I had no idea prior to taking the course of the importance yard care is to the quality of our water resources."*

— Anonymous, program participant

*"Highly impressed with the ability of all presenters to take often highly technical materials and concepts and make them understandable for lay persons."*

— Anonymous, program participant



Tuesdays  
Feb 23 – April 13  
6:30 – 8:00 pm

This course is designed to help you create beautiful lawns, gardens, and landscapes while reducing unnecessary use of pesticides and fertilizers that may run off and contaminate local streams and waterways.

Registration - \$40/person

To register, go to  
<https://extension.missouri.edu/course/healthy-yards-for-clear-streams-spring-2021>

For more information or ADA accommodations, contact: Debi Kelly, [kellyd@missouri.edu](mailto:kellyd@missouri.edu)







**Save The Date!**  
**MCFC Conference**  
**August 25 – 27, 2021**



*More information about conference program will be available soon, check MCFC website for updates.*

[MISSOURI COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL - Home \(mocommunitytrees.org\)](http://mocommunitytrees.org)

