

Spring 2018

Cityscape

Promoting Stewardship for Missouri's Community Forests



2018 MCFC Conference, “The Dollars & Sense of Trees” Was Packed With Value!

The Missouri Community Forestry Council Annual State Conference which was held in Columbia, MO March 13-15, 2018 had plenty of useful and interesting ideas to share with conference attendees. It started with a pre-conference workshop led by James Komen focusing on the CTLA Trunk Formula Method. This interactive workshop offered an overview of the appraisal process and an opportunity to practice in the field and learn firsthand how to avoid common errors in appraising trees.

The conference keynote presentation was by Dr. Matilda van den Bosch, she addressed the urban forestry connection to public health and elaborated on the things we can do to bolster this bond. Also on the opening day agenda was Maisie Hughes, the founder of the training and consulting firm, Rhetorical Virtue LLC. She spoke on the power and achievability of building sustainable strategic partnerships. Other speakers on the conference agenda explored a variety of topics ranging from urban wood utilization to establishing programs that urge climbing trees as a means toward higher learning.

Another unique aspect of this conference was the concurrent tours. Attendees had option of either visiting 3M wetland urban restoration project or the Stephens Lake Park Arboretum. Ultimately both groups rejoined at Stephens Lake Park for a chance to participate in both a fun climb and a 5K fun run/walk/watch.

A final highlight of the conference was the screening and follow up panel discussion of the documentary film, *City of Trees*. This stirring and compelling film raised interesting and frank discussions on some of the confounding paradoxes of urban forestry. A key take-away concept was that a community engaged and invested in tree planting can be a catalyst for community change.

Many thanks go to the conference planning committee ably led by committee chair, Jacob McMains. Appreciation is also owed toward the sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, silent auction participants and volunteers whom made this conference possible. **Next year MCFC will be back in Saint Louis, March 13-15, 2019**, and plans are already underway for another fantastic program. **Save these dates Now!**



Conference snapshots–



Columbia Parks Horticulturist , Ryan Russell (on right) led the tour of the Stephens Lake Park Arboretum. At this stop he describes the children’s grove , a magnolia and crabapple collection dedicated to inspiring awareness to mental well being needs of children.



Columbia Parks Forester, Dave Dittmer, describes the challenges of managing invasive plants at the tour of the 3M Flat Branch-Hinkson Creek Wetland, a ecological restoration project at a former waste water treatment site.

Conference snapshots—



The “Fun Climb” gave conference attendees the opportunity to climb a tree at Stephens Lake Park. Under the guidance of Guy Mott, Attendees were welcomed to ascend the tree for a memorable view of the park.



Panel discussion— engaging your community through tree planting. The panelists (left-right) Moderator Maisie Hughes at podium, Matt Vander Molen , Donna Coble, Doug Seely , Bill Thompson and Steve Hollis shared their unique perspectives and answered questions from the audience.

MCFC Broadens Its Outreach With Citizens And Legislators At State Capitol

MCFC participated for the first time this year in the Conservation Day event held at the State Capitol in Jefferson City, on March 27, 2018.

This event, organized by the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) is designed to bring conservationists from all across Missouri together at the Capitol for a day of promoting and supporting our natural resources and outdoor heritage.

CFM reserves the entire 3rd floor Rotunda for the Conservation Day, and has table spaces available for up to 30 affiliate organizations. There is no fee and the spaces are available on a first come first serve basis to CFM Affiliates such as MCFC.

Austin Lampe and Scott Skopec staffed The MCFC booth and answered questions from citizens and legislators on a wide variety of community forestry topics. Both felt their time was well spent as there was a lot of interest generated by the booth and handout information.



Conservation Day at the Capitol. Photo Courtesy of CFM

Austin Lampe and Scott Skopec



2018 5th Grade Poster Contest Winner Grace Luo From Greenwood Laboratory School In Springfield



The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Community Forestry Council have hosted the 5th Grade Missouri Arbor Day Poster Contest each year since 1998, giving students the opportunity to show their artistic abilities when they create posters with themes related to trees. Over the years, it's been estimated that nearly 40,000 posters have been created by students in Missouri!

The contest launches at the school level, where each school selects their winning poster and submits it to the state contest. These posters are then judged by a panel of individuals from the Missouri Community Forestry Council and the Missouri Department of Conservation who select the top 12 posters. The 12 posters are placed on MCFC's website for public vote, and the winner for Technical Merit is determined. The posters are also posted on MCFC's Facebook page to determine the People's Choice Award by number of "likes" for each poster.

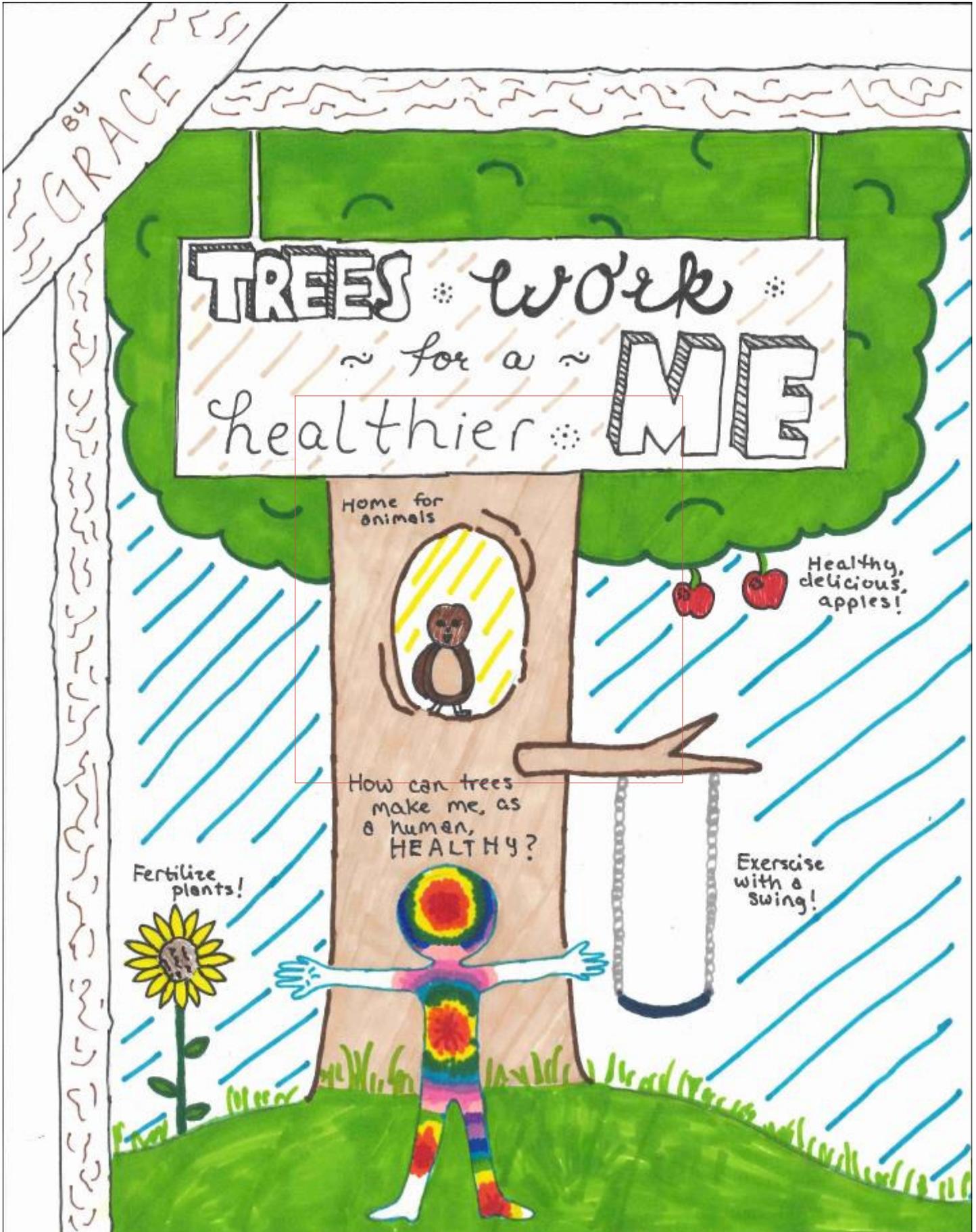
This year's contest theme was "Trees Work for a Healthier Me". Thirty-six schools participated with a total of 1,208 posters created just this year!

Grace Luo from Greenwood Laboratory School in Springfield was honored at the recent MCFC conference as the recipient of the Technical Merit Award. As winner, Grace received several prizes, including a \$100 gift card from Forest ReLeaf of Missouri. In addition, a tree will be planted by the Missouri Department of Conservation on the school grounds. Her teacher, Ms. Jennifer Grace, will also receive a \$200.00 gift card, and educational publications to use in the classroom.

Grace is seen above with MDC State Forester Lisa Allen, MCFC chairperson Scott Skopec, in addition to her father, Jun Luo and younger brother, Gavin. Congratulations to Grace on her success!



2018 5th Grade Poster Contest Winner



Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence Award Winners 2018

Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence represents a combined effort by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Community Forestry Council to recognize those who act as good stewards for trees in our communities. Presented at the MCFC annual conference, This is the fifteenth year this award has been given to winners in several categories whom have significantly contributed to their communities with outstanding, sustained tree care.



Individual Category—Lanny and Sue Rawdon

Lanny Rawdon, a retired commercial airline pilot and nurseryman, lives near Kearney, MO. As a former pilot, Lanny has visited some of the oldest and most famous arboretums and gardens in the country. These travels inspired him to work in his own community to help show people the importance of trees. With the help of his wife Sue, Lanny has been involved in several different forestry projects in Kearney, and one project stands out above all the others.

Lanny and Sue have worked tirelessly in Jesse James Park to establish an arboretum. Lanny grew his own nursery stock to create a diverse collection of trees. Most of the trees and plants planted in the arboretum come from his personal collection. Lanny and Sue have planted hundreds of trees in the park over the years, but in the past two years they have planted over 75 trees including two large ginkos, an English oak, and an elm that they moved into the park to provide additional shade. The city provided a small budget for maintenance, but Lanny and Sue have taken on much of the expense themselves.

Lanny and Sue have committed themselves to this project because of a lifetime passion for trees and their small community of Kearney. Their vision statement says it all: "Evaluate and educate, for a greener tomorrow."

2018 award winners



Organization Category—Southwest Missouri Community Forestry Council

The Southwest Missouri Community Forestry Council is comprised of arborists, foresters, and horticulturists from the area. The members are employees or volunteers of municipal governments, utility companies, private tree care businesses, lawn care companies, schools, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners and university grounds maintenance. All though the common thread is "trees," the great diversity of the group makes for a unique outlook of tree industry problems and successes. The Southwest MCFC is a creative group and has been involved in numerous projects over the past two years.

In 2016, the group recognized that volcano mulching was a very real problem for Southwest Missouri. They launched a "mulch " campaign, with the idea that if the public had proper information that they would use it to make informed decisions about their trees. The local group designed "mulching" signs and banners. Six area businesses agreed to display the signs and a large banner was placed at the City of Springfield's Yard Waste Recycling Facility. The campaign has been quite successful and has inspired other MCFC groups across the state to participate in the campaign.

In September 2017, they helped organize MCFC's participation in the national program "Saluting Branches". This program provides tree care to national cemeteries across the United States. Southwest MCFC members asked local tree companies to donate their staff, labor, and equipment. They also solicited local restaurants to provide food and drinks for more than forty tree workers. The Southwest MCFC group provided ground crew tree trimming, brush hauling, registration, parking arrangements, food and drink runners and follow up letters of thanks. They also assisted in designing and installing landscaping along the Ozark Greenway Trail that runs through the State of Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Greene County. On top of all these accomplishments, the Southwest MCFC hosted the 2017 Missouri Community Forestry Council conference.

2018 award winners



Municipality/Government Category – City of Brentwood

The Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department, whom recently were assigned responsibility for all public trees in the city, quickly recognized the need to mitigate high and severe risk trees along city rights-of-way and hired a contractor to tackle the job citywide. In order to keep city residents informed of this work the city established a policy of contacting property owners explaining the plan for the trees in front of their house and the reason why work was needed. Signs were posted on trees that would be pruned or removed a few days prior to work. These efforts allowed residents to be aware of the city's tree program and who to contact for more information.

Brentwood also initiated a complete re-inventory of park and street trees to get a clear picture of the existing urban forest resource. This new data and integrated management software allowed the City to schedule additional high and severe risk pruning and removal recommendations, and the work has already begun to pay off. The tree and limb failures associated with storms and other severe weather has been greatly reduced, and Brentwood residents expressed feeling more confident about their personal safety. Since the tree removals left visible holes in the canopy, an aggressive replanting campaign followed the original effort.

The City operates with a goal of no-net-loss of trees. So, this year Brentwood has planted over 100 large caliper trees to re-invest in the urban tree canopy. The planting effort focused on native trees and prioritized trees that would increase the overall species diversity in the city.

In addition to these accomplishments, the city also created a new city arborist position, reviewed city ordinances and guiding documents, and hosted a Municipal Emerald Ash Borer Forum.

Congratulations to all of the 2018 award winners! 🌿

MCFC Sponsors ASTI Chainsaw Safety Training

On February 14, 2018 an ASTI Chainsaw Safety Training Class largely organized by MCFC members of the SW region was provided in Joplin, MO. A total of 38 people attended and learned from the ½ day class. The American Safety Training Institute (ASTI) provided a sponsorship for the workshop to MCFC and MDC providing the balance of the funds for the program. Attendees were pleased with the information presented and learned a variety of safety procedures they should implement. This was especially valuable in the Joplin area where many of the attendees learned they were unnecessarily placing themselves in dangerous situations and how to correctly address the situation.



Tree Planting As A Catalyst For Community Change - Bill Thompson And The Again Street Park Story

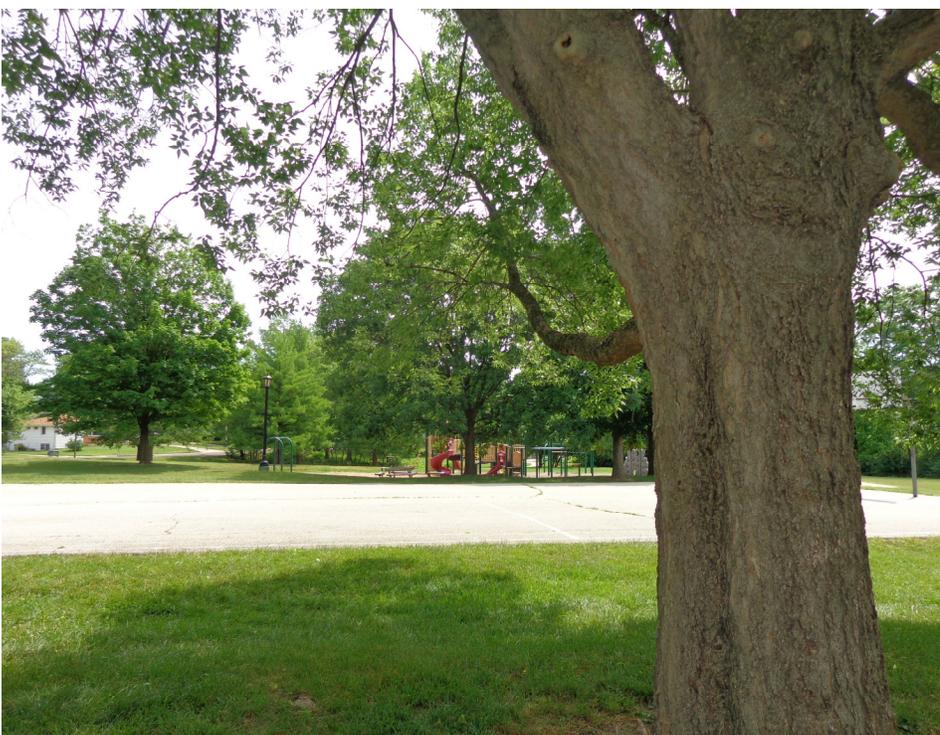
During the panel discussion on engaging tree planting volunteers at our recent MCFC conference, retired Columbia recreation specialist spoke eloquently about a volunteer tree planting project he organized about 28 years ago. I think it is worthwhile to revisit that planting project here in Cityscape, old photos and time have given us much to reflect back on.

In a brief period around 1990, a recycling program managed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources would reward individuals with a free tree for every three foot stack of used newspaper they collected. Working as a community Rec. Specialist, Bill saw that several parks in central Columbia were lacking in shade trees, so he reached out to members of the community and urged them to collect newspapers for him to trade in for trees. He was wildly successful, Stacks of newspaper arrived at Bill's office.

I was the Park Horticulturist at that time, and I agreed to help Bill with the handling and delivering of the trees when they arrived if he would organize and gather volunteers to help plant the trees. Although neither of us recall exactly how many trees there were, I'm guessing there were at least 70, about 12 of which were planted at Douglass Park, a few went to several other small parks, but the balance went to fill the wide open spaces at Again Street Park.

The free trees were mostly a collection of hackberry, red maple, pin oaks and green ash, but there were some bur oaks as well. The quality of the nursery stock was not impressive, but to my surprise, there was a fairly high survival rate. So although not all of the trees made it, many of the trees flourished and are still here today, providing shade and many more benefits for years to come.

Can volunteer tree planting projects serve as a catalyst for community change? Looking back through these accompanying photos, I think many of you would have to agree that they do



Hackberry at Again Street Park, planted in 1991 in volunteer project organized by Bill Thompson.



Bill at Again Street Park in 1991 with volunteers planting trees, Below is current view of park





Bill delivering tree to volunteers digging hole, accompanied by young child eager to help out. Approximate Location today in photo below.





Bill in March of this year, as part of the panel discussion, MCFC conference.



Volunteers from the day in 1991 on right, Above is one of the bur oaks they planted as seen today.



Bill Thompson and Brett O'Brien, Columbia Park Horticulturist at that time, discuss planting locations at the volunteer Planting day at Again Street Park, April 1991



Announcements

Missouri Tops 100 Tree City USA Communities!

Community forestry in Missouri has crossed a new benchmark this year, because for the first time ever, there are more than 100 Missouri communities participating in Tree City USA. Tree City USA is a national program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and administered in the state by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). This program provides a framework to help communities establish a healthy, sustainable urban forestry program.

Tree City USA requires communities to meet four fundamental standards. Each community must maintain a tree board or department, establish a tree-care ordinance, develop a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita, and celebrate Arbor Day each year.

Kansas City is the biggest Missouri community in the Tree City USA program, with a population of 441,000 people. Glen Echo Park is the smallest, with 159 people. Altogether, Missouri Tree City USA communities in Missouri account for 45 percent of the state's human population. To learn more about Tree City USA read: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/about.cfm>

Trees Provide Real Value To Megacity Residents.

In a recent study published in the online journal Ecological Modelling, an international team of researchers reported that in the 10 megacities they studied, tree-based ecosystem benefits had a median annual value of \$505 million, which is equivalent to \$1.2 million per square kilometer of trees. From another perspective, the value was \$35 per capita for the average megacity resident.

Read more at: <https://phys.org/news/2017-08-annual-trees-million-megacity.html#jCp>

National Phenology Network.

The USA National Phenology Network was established in 2007 to collect, store, and share phenology data and information. The USA-NPN was established in part to assemble long-term phenology datasets for a broad array of species across the United States. Scientists use observational data in the National Phenology Database and models, such as the Spring Indices, to understand how responsive species and phenological phases are to changes in climate across time and space. This information can be used to determine the extent to which species, populations, and communities are vulnerable to ongoing and projected future changes in climate. Read more at: <https://usanpn.org/>

Arbormeister Homebrew & Craft Beer Festival Returns!

Forest Releaf of Missouri is excited to once again present its signature homebrew festival. Each of the homebrews offered includes at least one ingredient sourced from a tree! This event is on September 8, 1pm—5pm, and will be held in the delightful setting of Forest Releaf's Communitree Gardens Nursery in Creve Coeur Park. All proceeds benefit Forest Releaf's mission of "planting trees, enriching communities" find out more at: <http://moreleaf.org/event/arbormeisters-homebrew-craft-beer-festival/>