



'Out on a Limb'

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TCUSA Celebrates 30 Years

In 2006 the NADF TCUSA program celebrates its 30 year anniversary. What is even more awesome is the fact that Kansas has four communities that will also celebrate 30 years of being recognized as a TCUSA community. They are: Junction City, Dodge City, Clay Center, and Newton. Kansas, with four communities, is ranked number one in the nation with the number of 30 year communities. Ohio is second with three. Congratulations! We held the

TCUSA Anniversary Celebration at the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City, NE with the Nebraska Forest Service. There were 126 attendees and 46 Kansas communities represented. We received many positive comments on the location, speakers, tours, and networking with our friends from the North. Thanks to all those that attended and helped make it a successful event. Congratulations to Westar for their 7th year as a Tree Line USA.



What a Weird Year

First a wet August, a dry Fall and Winter and a fairly dry Spring with really sporadic rainfall events, but so far no major tornadic storms in urban areas. We also experienced a big temperature dip in December and an early warm-up in the Spring, then cooler temperatures, and now warm again. Many plants did not like these events - especially the dry spells. You could definitely tell a difference in who watered. Trees like Redbud, Birch, Red Maple, Honeylocust, Ash and even a few Oaks suffered from dieback and or death. Some blame this entirely on the dry winter, but I do not feel that it is usually one event that kills a tree, but a series of events. Do you remember in those three dry summers and that we stated we would see their effects of that for many years to come? I think we are continuing to see those affects now. For Honeylocust we can place some blame on Thyronectria canker. On Ash we have borers and

Eastern Ash Bark Beetle activity. I feel that some trees were already predisposed to stresses which may have been compounded by insect and disease issues. Evergreens suffered some from winter desiccation. Some trees - Cottonwood, Birch, and Sycamore - actually had some leaf cast in May due to dry conditions. Sycamores in particular may have also had some Anthracnose disease. Normally this is something we do not see until our first 100 degree days. I am not sure how many of you cut firewood, but I have personally seen more insects rear out of the cut wood this year than I ever have. This leads me to believe that there are more Borer and Bark Beetle problems. While there are many things we cannot do about the weather, we can water trees during dry times to assist in reestablishment and to reduce stress. Watering and mulching trees are our best two ways to combat the harsh Kansas environment.

Other than the usual varmints like scale and borer insects and canker diseases, we are seeing a leaf spot on Crabapples that has been diagnosed by KSU Pathology as a hypersensitivity to Cedar-apple rust. It can be in a number of different cultivars and some are worse than others. No big deal..... I am also seeing an increase of Spruce spider mites and Red spider mites. These on the other hand, require an aggressive spray program due to their ability to reproduce. I mentioned scale in general above, but I am seeing an increase in Obscure scale in Crabapples and I have been successful in clearing this up with oil sprays. I actually saw Lace bugs out in Lawrence in late April; to me that was early... Remember scouting and monitoring are the key in pest control. Identify the pest early and correctly and decide if it is at a threshold high enough to warrant spraying.



Kansas Forest Service
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Forestry"

Remember, "You can't get to where you are going unless, you are willing to leave where you are."

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The Kansas Urban and Community Forestry Program

is made possible with assistance from the USDA Forest Service. The program's purpose is to educate citizens and decision-makers about the economic, environmental, psychological and aesthetic benefits of trees and to assist local governments, citizen groups and volunteers in planting and sustaining healthy trees and vegetation wherever people live and work in the State of Kansas.

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Tree of the Month

Kentucky Coffeetree, *Gymnocladus dioicus* was chosen as the Pride of Kansas Tree of the Year



for 2006. This is a program sponsored by K State Research

and Extension and the Kansas Nursery and Landscape Association. While I have personally been attacked/terrorized/ridiculed over the selection of this plant, the plant and I will not

wither. I know that suckers can be an issue and the fruit can be obnoxious, however, I cannot think of a single insect or disease problem, and you cannot say that about too many trees. It is a tough, tough tree that is both tolerant of moist and dry soils and not particular of pH. It is extremely hardy from zones 3 to 8, and has a slow to medium growth rate. Coffeetree will grow to 75 feet tall with a 40 to 50 foot width and possess a very coarse texture in the winter after it drops its bipinately compound leaves. The fall color is usually a golden yellow. While some curse the

fruit, I consider it winter affect. There is a new male cultivar on the market called of all things 'Espresso'. This is a fruitless cultivar introduced by J Frank Schmidt Nursery in Boring, OR. Our current state champ in Butler County is 9 feet in circumference, 75 feet tall and 44 feet wide. The national champion is in Kentucky and is 90 feet tall. After all, it can't be too bad as SMA chose it as their tree of the year, after promoting two of the most over planted urban trees the last two years.

Pictures courtesy of "Trees" by Allen J. Coombes. Published by DK Publishing.

Newsletter Changes

This publication will replace the Tree Link newsletter that was dropped due to the fact that the title had a copyright. Knowing that we already had the 'Kansas Canopy', I thought of calling it branch or limb. Then it

occurred to me that I am usually 'Out on Limb', hence the name. You know what they say, that is where the fruit is. So, if you would like to continue to receive this newsletter please let us know. If you are able to receive

it via email that would be even better on the budget. Please send an email stating whether you would like to receive 'Out on a Limb' by email or hard copy to pmccaffr@ksu.edu
Thanks, Mac

Schedule of Events

- July 11-12 KNLA Summer Meeting, Wichita, KS.
- October 2-6 KAA Arborist Training Course, Manhattan, KS
- October 7 Tree Care Issues, OSU, Stillwater, OK
- November Community Forestry Trainings, State-wide locations and dates TBA
- November 28-29 KTF Turfgrass Conference, Topeka, KS
- December Urban Tree Issues, El Dorado, KS, TBA

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