



Tree Line

A publication of the Kentucky Division of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Program
Sarah C. Gracey, Editor

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Municipal Forestry Institute 2016 - Lorri Grueber, Arborist, City of Frankfort

Editor's note: Kentucky has several graduates of the Society of Municipal Arborists' Municipal Forestry Institute. The most recent graduate is Lorri Grueber of Frankfort. KDF was able to assist sending Lorri by utilizing some unspent grant funds. Thank you Lorri for sharing your experience with us! We hope her story inspires more Kentucky MFI graduates!



Photo of Lorri, credit: The State Journal

This past February, I had the privilege of attending the Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia at the National Conservation Training Center. For those of you that may not be familiar with MFI, it is the product of a handful of incredibly talented and knowledgeable urban forestry professionals. The week-long training is sponsored by:

Society of Municipal Arborists
Oregon State University
United States Forest Service
Urban & Community Forestry
Davey Resource Group

It is five days (starting on Sunday) of intense leadership training, focused specifically on urban forestry and designed to provide very specific tools to advance urban forestry programs. Because urban forestry is so "new", there are few places to turn to get this information and insight. It's like the "John Wooden, Zig Ziglar, Norman Schwarzkopf Jr., Triple Tower of Power" for urban forestry professionals.

I'll be honest, I had mixed emotions. I was thrilled to receive assistance from the KY Division of Forestry to cover registration and excited at the opportunity to learn from highly successful urban foresters; however, I had heard stories from previous attendees and was not looking forward to taking every meal for the next 5½ days with strangers, did not like the idea of being sequestered for the week and wasn't crazy about "moving cheese" (pre-MFI reading assignment).

After the first 24 hours though, I began to realize that I was immersed in a safe environment where we could share challenges and successes and



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actively participate in potentially life-changing education, without the intrusions of daily life.

The Cadre (core instructor group) worked tirelessly to provide not only entertaining delivery of the information, but timely delivery as well. Some of the topics covered included “Lead by Managing Change”, “Practicing Tree Politics”, “Working Effectively with Volunteers & Partnerships” and “Moving Your Urban Forestry Program Forward”...all very real and relevant topics.

Many of us in urban forestry are tree people first and “people” people second (if at all). Through MFI, I have been able to identify personal strengths and opportunities and I look forward to my continued growth as a leader...and those “strangers” I mentioned earlier are now friends and colleagues and I miss sharing breakfast with them.

So, if you get the opportunity to attend MFI, I would highly recommend taking full advantage; especially if you are early in your career and/or newer to the industry. I wish I could have attended MFI 20 years ago when I was just beginning my career! You will have long days, be invited out of your comfort zone and be rewarded in multiple ways for accepting the challenge.

I'd like to thank KDF, the City of Frankfort, NCTC and the Cadre and other students for a week I'll not forget.



Municipal Forestry Institute - Class of 2016

Yellow-Poplar Weevil - Forest Health Bulletin

Abe Neilsen, Forestry Health Specialist, KDF



Photo 1 - Feeding damage caused by adult yellow-poplar weevils in May.

Background

Feeding damage from the yellow-poplar weevil, a type of beetle, has been reported in parts of eastern and southeastern Kentucky. The weevil has a long snout and stout legs and is often misidentified as a tick. This weevil feeds on yellow-poplar but can also be found on sassafras and magnolia. In 2015, eastern Kentucky was a part of the region wide outbreak of yellow-poplar weevil that affected North Carolina, Tennessee, Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Early reports indicate that parts of Kentucky could experience higher than normal feeding damage in 2016.



Photo 2 - Holes in yellow-poplar leaves can be seen from the ground.

Life cycle and damage

Yellow-poplar weevils overwinter as adults in the leaf litter until April or May. From April through July three different life stages of the insect feed on and damage the leaves (old adults, new larvae, and new adults).

- Early May – adult feeding results in holes in the leaves (Figure 1 and 2).
- May and early June – adults mate and lay eggs in the midrib on the underside of the leaves. Newly-hatched larvae feed as leaf miners until they pupate.
- June through early July – new adults emerge and begin feeding on leaves. This feeding often results in a scorched leaf appearance (Figure 4). During heavy infestations entire canopies can turn brown, creating a noticeable pattern of damaged yellow-poplar trees across the landscape (Figure 5).
- Mid to late July – adults stop feeding and move into leaf litter and remain inactive until spring.



Photo 3 - An adult yellow-poplar weevil next to feeding damage.

Management

The yellow-poplar weevil is generally considered a minor pest with occasional local infestations that typically do not need to be managed. However, chemicals are available for landowners who would like to reduce damage and limit the unsightly leaf browning during outbreak periods. Foliar-applied insecticides containing acephate or carbaryl may be used to target adults.



Photo 4 - Scorched appearance of leaves after feeding of newly emerged adults in June

Tree Health

Leaf drop can occur in July when leaves are heavily damaged, especially if trees are drought stressed. Trees that are defoliated annually or that are facing any other stressors may experience slowed growth. But overall, feeding damage should not impact the long term health of an otherwise healthy tree.



Photo 5 - Large scale browning of yellow-poplar trees seen in June and July.

Photos 1-3 are by Abe Neilsen of KDF, Photos 4 and 5 are by Paul Merten, US Forest Service.

Forest Fast Break Videos!



Thanks to our friends at ForestInfo.org and the North Carolina Forest Service, KDF has three new videos to share - Forest Fast Breaks. Each one focuses on a different topic:

- Urban Forests
- Urban Forest Wood Usage
- Urban Forest Benefits

All three of these Forestry Fast Breaks may be viewed by visiting the Kentucky Division of Forestry's Facebook page. They are located in the video section. We encourage you to share them, download them and use them on your own website. Whether your city, tree board, parks department or forestry division has a website, these short videos are a great way to provide public outreach. Please feel free to use and share them!



“No, it is not necessary to manage our forests, but there is one compelling reason why we should: Nature is indifferent to human need.”

- Gifford Pinchot

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Upcoming Events

- ♦ June 23 - BCA's [Rain Garden workshop](#), 1-2 pm, registration required.
- ♦ June 24 - KAA's [Chipper Operator Specialist workshop](#), Nicholasville, \$25/\$35, 3.5 ISA CEUs, 9 am - 2 pm.
- ♦ June 25 - Bernheim's [Four Seasons of Wild Edibles](#)", 9 am - 12 pm, \$20/\$30
- ♦ June 26, YDG's [Sunday Supper](#) (Farm to Table Dinner) - dinner in the garden
- ♦ June 27-28 ISA Certified Arborists Preparation Course and Exam, Frankfort, \$75/\$100, click [here](#).
- ♦ Until July 5 - Bernheim's ["Vanishing Acts: Trees Under Threat"](#) exhibit.
- ♦ July 6, BCA's [Wednesday Walk](#), 10 - 11 am, stroll with tree ID.
- ♦ July 6, YDG's [Day Trip to Thoroughbred Daylilies](#), Paris. \$80/\$90.
- ♦ July 16 - Bernheim's ["Children and Nature: Cultivating the Nature Rich Life"](#) - a day with Richard Louv, a free ticketed event, registration required.
- ♦ Aug. 13-17 - ISA's [Annual International Conference & Trade Show](#), Fort Worth, Texas.
- ♦ Aug. 21, YDG's [Hummingbird Festival](#) - free with regular admission!
- ♦ Oct. 20-21 - KAA's [Annual Conference](#), Louisville.
- ♦ Nov. 16-17 - ADF's [Partners in Community Forestry](#) national conference, Indianapolis, IN.

To find out more information about the organizations and events listed above, click on the hyperlinks (hover on the brown text, press Control and click) and visit their websites. Note pre-registration is required for most events, and there are fees for some events:

- * Arboretum - State Botanical Garden of Kentucky - ca.uky.edu/arboretum
- * Bernheim Arboretum - bernheim.org
- * Boone County Arboretum (BCA) - bcarboretum.org/default.aspx
- * International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) - isa-arbor.com
- * Kentucky Arborists Association (KAA) - ky-isa.org
- * Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) - arborday.org
- * Northern Kentucky U&CF Council (NKUCFC) - nkyurbanforestry.org
- * Yew Dell Botanical Gardens (YDG) - yewdellgardens.org

Red and Rover

Brian Basset



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THE GARDEN OF EDEN