



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

We want to pause to reflect on 2023, and to say thank you to our many community members who donate, volunteer and contribute in numerous ways to help the community.

We want to thank our Tree Lafayette members and supporters. Your financial support, along with that of local non-profits, businesses, municipal organizations and neighborhood associations is vital to creating a sustainable urban forest for our community's benefit.

We work closely with our city government. We thank Mayor Roswarski for his support. We thank Mike Perry, Garrett Gaskins and the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department for being so helpful in our projects. The Street Department assists us by collecting our pruning debris. Lafayette Renew also helps us with our mission.

Third grade classroom presentations and planting of trees at elementary schools continued. Nineteen classroom presentations were held and the third grade students helped plant trees in their school yards.

We held our annual Earth Day Celebration and volunteers planted 15 trees in the North Sagamore Parkway median. Subaru of Indiana Automotive sponsored the event and tree planting.

We held our annual Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Planting on Park Avenue. We celebrated Arbor Day and many community volunteers planted 57 trees.

The City of Lafayette has been recognized as a Tree City USA city for 31 years. The City of Lafayette was also recognized as a Tree Cities of the World city.

We planted trees along Perrine Street, Charles Street, North 18th Street, Meharry Street, Elmwood Street, and in the center median of North Sagamore Parkway between the river and the railroad overpass. We also planted at Battle Ground Golf Club and a tree at the courthouse. We planted a total of 316 trees in 2023. It was a very successful year.

If you are new to us, or if you want to get more involved, we have opportunities! Planting trees and maintaining them is much of what we do, but we also need people in grant writing, social media and communication, classroom presentations, and project management. We are also looking for a new Board member, a Development Committee Chair, and a Marketing Committee Chair. If any of this interests you, we invite you to join us. We think you'll find it rewarding.

## **OUR MISSION**

**Tree Lafayette promotes a healthy community by providing education, leadership and inspiration in planting and caring for trees.**

## **OUR VISION**

**is a sustainable urban forest providing the benefits needed by our community.**

## **DONATE**

**on our website using PayPal or credit card at [www.treelafayette.org/donate](http://www.treelafayette.org/donate)**

**or mail it to:**

**Tree Lafayette  
1915 Scott Street  
Lafayette, IN 47904**

## **CHECKOUT OUR WEBSITE AT:**

**[www.TreeLafayette.org](http://www.TreeLafayette.org)**

## **QUESTIONS?**

**Email: [info@TreeLafayette.org](mailto:info@TreeLafayette.org)**

**Tree Lafayette is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with all volunteers.**

**All donations are tax deductible**

# 2023 IN REVIEW by the numbers

## 316 Trees Planted

Planted by volunteers, Restoration Nursery and Custom Cuts Landscaping.



## 7,125 Trees Watered

Watering crew of 12 water tanks and 11 personal pickup trucks plus two City trucks water trees as needed. We also utilize approximately 200 gator bags for watering.



## 1,331 Trees Pruned

Structural pruning, limbing up, remove dead wood and pruning for clearances for sidewalks, streets and signs.

But it's also more than just the numbers. It is the many benefits of trees, the value to residents, better neighborhoods, improved community, and the betterment of the environment. Read about our 2023 story below.

## EARTH DAY 2023

**Volunteers planted 15 trees in the North Sagamore Parkway center median by the Economy Inn. The event was sponsored by Subaru of Indiana Automotive.**



Sponsored by



Earth Day is widely observed around the world, marked by more than a billion people every year as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national and local policy changes.



# ARBOR DAY 2023

On Saturday, April 29th, community volunteers planted 57 trees on Park Avenue

(see pictures from the event below and on the next page)



## Arbor Day - April 29, 2023 57 Trees Planted on Park Avenue



Arbor Day is a celebration of trees and also a call for each of us to do our part in protecting and caring for our existing trees and forests, and planting more trees.



Continued on next page



## Arbor Day 2023 pictures continued



## The Greater Lafayette Green Expo

We participated with a booth at the first Green Expo. The Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan (GLCAP) Committee hosted a Green Expo on June 25th at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds East Pavilion. It was wonderful to see all of the people interested in being green, climate change and the environment.



## Riverfest

We participated with a booth at Riverfest to entertain and educate the children. Everyone loved "Squeaky" the squirrel. The children enjoyed doing leaf rubbings with leaves, paper, and crayons. It was a great day for all to enjoy the river setting.

## Trees were planted at Battle Ground Golf Club

- ◆ 20 trees planted by volunteers in the Spring. See picture.
- ◆ 21 trees planted by volunteers in the Fall.

The golf club reimbursed us for all of the tree purchase costs.





## 3rd Grade Education Program

Tree Lafayette's purpose in our community rests in "providing education, leadership, and inspiration in planting and caring for trees". By now, people have begun to notice our 30 years of plantings to improve Lafayette's urban tree canopy. The education part is less visible, but no less important. Did you know that every year, every third grader in the Lafayette School Corporation has personally participated in a classroom presentation by a Tree Lafayette volunteer about the myriad of benefits of trees and the importance of proper care of young and existing trees? They also participated in a tree planting on their school grounds. Tree Lafayette realizes that equipping children with the information they need concerning tree stewardship will also encourage them to be proactive in their communities in later life.



Nineteen classroom presentations to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students at Cole Elementary, Miller Elementary, Miami Elementary, Glen Acres Elementary, Oakland Elementary, Edgelea Elementary, Earhart Elementary, Vinton Elementary, Murdock Elementary, and St. Mary's Elementary Schools. The students planted trees in their schoolyard after the classroom presentations to gain some hands-on experience in planting trees. The students and volunteers have fun planting the trees.



Teaching children the value of trees in our schools and neighborhoods, giving them hands-on experience in planting a tree!





## 2023 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on November 14, 2023, at Lafayette Country Club. Shannon Stanis, Executive Director at NICHES Land Trust, was the keynote speaker and gave a great presentation on NICHES Land Trust. We celebrated our 30th Anniversary. The business meeting was held with Board member elections, a financial review, and the annual awards presentation.



## 2023 Awards presented at the Annual Meeting

### Volunteer of the Year Award — Sam Biederstedt

For his enthusiasm and dedication in helping Tree Lafayette with the Tree Committee, the school program, and managing the tools and such for Earth Days, Arbor Days, and the school programs.



### Volunteer of the Year Award — Connie Shoemaker

For her dedication in pruning and watering, education support, and her overall passion and support of Tree Lafayette. Does what is needed and does it well.



## 2023 Awards continued

### Preservation Award — Niches Land Trust

For protecting a broad array of natural areas ranging from small green spaces to pristine nature preserves of high biological integrity. Improve our community by protecting and preserving our most valuable asset – the natural world that's right around us. Protecting our natural areas ensures that we'll still have places to hike, bike, boat, fish, explore, daydream, witness wildlife or just enjoy the quiet and peace of nature.



### President's Award — Restoration Nursery

For helping people to change from a life of alcohol addiction, drug and substance abuse, or any life dominating addiction. Participants in the program support themselves, gain life skills and cultivate an attitude of diligence by working in the nursery and sawmill. Matt Hurja working as a partner in providing high quality trees while helping others.



### Longest Serving Member Recognition — Arlan Stavnheim

Thirty years – Visionary, Founder, Leader, Planter, Pruner, Waterer, and so much more

**President of the Board: 1993-2005**  
**Executive Director: 2006-2012**



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## City of Lafayette presented Tree Lafayette with a brass plaque



**Plaque to be installed on a rock in Columbian Park**





# Tree Lafayette 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- ♦ Founded in 1993
- ♦ 4,362 trees planted
- ♦ Tree City USA
- ♦ Tree City of the World
- ♦ Over \$1,000,000 raised in donations, grants and income



**Thanks to all of the volunteers, board members, supporters, donors, and grantors over the years who made this possible.**

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## Tree Campus K-12

Three local schools have been recognized as Tree Campus K-12 schools by the Arbor Day Foundation. The schools recognized are Cole Elementary, Edgelea Elementary, and Vinton Elementary.



Tree Campus K-12 inspires the next generation of tree stewards through experiences that bring the benefits of trees to life both inside and outside the classroom. The program fosters positive connections between youth and the trees in their community and cultivates within its participants a lifelong respect for trees on a global scale.



# OUR GREAT VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



Tree volunteers did tree care on Wednesday mornings and pruning on Saturday mornings. Thanks to volunteer groups from Caterpillar and West Side Service Organization (WeSSO) who helped prune.

**Our volunteers have fun together and do enjoy lunch together.**



## More Tree Volunteers Needed!

The **Tree Committee** needs help planting, watering, mulching, and pruning trees. It is great exercise and lots of fresh air. Let us know if you are interested.



**Help Wanted!**

Looking for a new **Board member**. Do you have a passion for trees, the environment, and our community? Let us know if you are interested.

**Help Wanted!**

Looking for a **Marketing Committee Chair**. Do you have a background in marketing, advertising, social media, graphic design or publishing? The Marketing Committee manages these and more. Let us know if you are interested.

**Help Wanted!**

Looking for a **Development Committee Chair**. Do you have a background in development, grants, or fundraising? The Development Committee manages these and more. Let us know if you are interested.

**Scan to Donate**

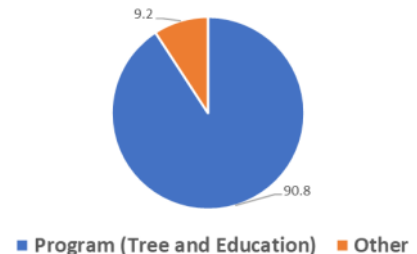
## TREE LAFAYETTE 2023 INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT

Income		Expense	
Support	39,837.20	Development	231.83
Grants Restricted	48,535.12	Tree	70,797.36
Grants Unrestricted	8,444.00	Education	2,132.19
Reimbursement	11,168.17	Marketing	3,514.44
Interest	138.41	Governance	<u>3,641.40</u>
Misc. Income	<u>69.23</u>	<b>Total Expense</b>	80,317.22
<b>Total Income</b>	108,192.13		

Opening Balance 1/1/2023    \$63,992.92

Closing Balance 12/31/2023    \$91,867.83

Expense Percentages



## OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Tree Committee:**

Larry Rose - Chair, John Slaven, John McGraw, Bob Massey, Arlan Stavnheim, Pat Rosebrock, Shirley Sterling, Sam Biederstedt, Gene Kroeschen, Barry Bruce, Bill Arthur, Bruce Bresnahan, Rich McDaniel, Dick Murray, Jim Vahle, Tom Walsh, Bill Bombassaro, Leon Dickson, Caroline Kester, Greg Shaner, Connie Shoemaker, , Allyson Steselboim, Jenelle Rotar, Garrett Gaskins, Bill Skrobutt, and Kris Brown

**Marketing Committee:**

Gene Kroeschen - Chair, Jessica Townsend, Larry Rose, Jeri Massey, Mike Perry, Shih-Hua Wang, Jennifer Brummett, and Bob Barker

**Development Committee:**

Gene Kroeschen - Chair, Mickey Penrod, Larry Rose, Bill Arthur

**Education Committee:**

Pat Rosebrock - Chair, Mickey Penrod, Larry Rose, Sam Biederstedt, Shirley Sterling, Connie Shoemaker and Allyson Steselboim



## WE THANK OUR MANY SUPPORTERS

### Companies, Foundations, Organizations

Duke Energy Foundation	Highland Park Neighborhood Assoc.	Wabash National Corp.
Wabash River Enhancement Corp.	Henry Poor Lumber Company	L&H Industrial Supplies
Tipmont REMC EnviroWatts	Laf. WL Urban Forestry Endowment	Happy Hollow Garden Club
City of Lafayette	Arni's	Centier Bank
Subaru of Indiana Automotive	Old National Bank	Lowe's of Lafayette
Lafayette Life Foundation, Inc.	Republic Services	Greater Lafayette Convention
Bennett's Green House, Inc.	RVR Management	Scholer Corporation
Fairfield Township	Evonik Corporation	Kroger Corporation
James K. & Mary Jo Risk Family Found.	Purdue Federal Credit Union	Tree Pro
Southwire Corp	The Mitchell Agency, Inc.	
SIA Foundation	Tippecanoe Bar Association	

### Individual Donors—Operations

#### **Mighty Oak (\$1000 and above)**

William & Eileen Arthur  
Robert E. & Carol Galbraith  
Billy J Oldham  
Larry & Marianne Rose  
James R. & Lisa Schrader  
John T. & Jane M. Smith

#### **Majestic Maple (\$500-999)**

Bob Falk  
Robert & Jeramy Massey  
Rich & Becky McDaniel  
Mickey J. Penrod  
Arlan N. Stavnheim

#### **Spreading Sycamore (\$250-499)**

Barry D. & Jerrie Bruce  
Samuel C. Curtis III  
Dennis DeMay  
Matt & Ashley Green  
Michael O. & Phyllis Hunt  
Gene Kroeschen  
Orvin A Lindell  
Mark S. Lundstrom

Rob & Kathy Pahl  
Daniel Shaw  
William & Melissa Skrobitt  
Shirley Sterling

#### **Elegant Elm (\$100-249)**

George & Rita Berninger  
Elaine Bold  
William Bombassaro  
Gary L. Brouillard  
Esther Chosnek  
Tara L. Balfe Clifford  
Trudy Cox  
John & Kristen Crawford  
Raymond & Christina DeCarlo  
Kay Dickson  
Robert & Mary Beth Downing  
Julie Ginn  
William Cross & Karen Hodgins  
Frank & Judith Koontz  
Richard & Cindy Murray  
Patricia Rosebrock  
James Jr. & Marilyn Ross  
Sean & Jenelle Rotar

Steven Schreckengast  
James J. & Liz Solberg  
Jane A. Turner

#### **Beautiful Beech (\$50-99)**

Robert & Ellen Barker  
Stephen & Deborah Belter  
Richard & Ellen Kizer Bennett  
Nikhil Borse  
Bruce Bresnahan  
Norbert & Carolyn Fisher  
Wilbur & Beverly Hancock  
Larry Lewellyn  
Shannon Stanis  
Allyson & Alex Steselboim

#### **Great Ginko (<\$50)**

Mallory Deardorff-Dawson  
Lawrence & Helen Mock  
R M Morehouse  
Nathaniel Pitts  
Gary & Barbara Tyner  
Brigitte M. White

### Tree Lafayette Endowment in Honor of Larry Rose, held at the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, Supporters

Tara L. Balfe Clifford	Robert E. & Carol Galbraith	Gregory & Coralie Shaner
Ned Derhammer	Larry & Marianne Rose	James J. & Liz Solberg

### AWARDS FOR YEARS OF DONATIONS (presented at the Annual Meeting)

City Bus of Greater Lafayette—5 years	Norbert A. & Carolyn S. Fisher—10 years
Dennis DeMay—5 years	Mark S. Lundstrom—10 years
Lafayette Life Foundation, Inc.—5 years	Old National Bank—10 years
Fairfield Township—5 years	Elaine Bold—15 years
George & Rita Berninger—10 years	William H. Baugh—20 years

### **Get Updates:**

**Get updates, news, and information from Tree Lafayette, including upcoming events. Sign up to receive our emails by scanning the QR Code or go to [www.TreeLafayette.org](http://www.TreeLafayette.org).**





**2024 Board of Directors:**

Shirley Sterling, President  
 Caroline Kester, Vice President  
 Bill Arthur, Treasurer  
 Pat Rosebrock, Secretary  
 Barry Bruce, Past President  
 Doug Poad  
 Gene Kroeschen, Exec. Director

**2024 Committee Chairs:**

Bill Skrobitt, Tree  
 open, Marketing  
 Pat Rosebrock, Education  
 open, Development  
 Shirley Sterling, Governance

**Advisors, etc.:**

Kris Brown, City Forester  
 Orvin A. Lindell, CPA  
 Bob Barker, photographer  
 Mickey Penrod  
 Greg Shaner  
 Larry Rose

We are looking forward to a great year in 2024 and to plant at least 220 trees. We will need your help to accomplish this. We will continue our elementary education program and hopefully hold adult education events again this year. It will take our entire team of volunteers and supporters to make this happen. Please help us make a difference. Donate or volunteer today. Please tell your friends about the importance and need for trees.

Platinum  
 Transparency  
 2024

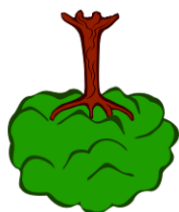
**Candid.**

### Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

**EARTH DAY 10AM, April 22, 2024, In Armstrong Park**

**ARBOR DAY, Volunteers needed! 9AM, April 27, 2024, on South 26th St.**

(For details, check our website at [www.TreeLafayette.org](http://www.TreeLafayette.org), or email [info@TreeLafayette.org](mailto:info@TreeLafayette.org))



tree  
**Lafayette**  
 treelafayette.org

Planting and Promoting a Healthy Community

**TREE LAFAYETTE**  
 1915 Scott Street  
 Lafayette, IN 47904