

We Speak For The **TREES**



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TREE TIPS



Butterfly Tree Hosts

By Sandy Davies

We all appreciate trees for their beauty and the benefits they provide us. The list of benefits of trees is long and varied—wood and other byproducts, shade for comfort and energy efficiency, wind breaks, erosion prevention, and the list goes on. We should also remember that trees are beneficial to wildlife. When I say wildlife, I know that most of you are thinking of squirrels, deer, raccoons, and the numerous birds that inhabit and forage on trees. Maybe you have not considered how important trees are to another member of the wildlife family—butterflies.

Butterflies go through four distinctly different stages during their life cycle and have very different plant needs during the adult stage and the larvae (caterpillar) stage. The flowers that provide the adult butterfly with the nectar they need are called nectar plants, and the plants that provide the leaves for food for the caterpillar stage are called host plants. Most species of caterpillars are particular about the type of plants they can eat. If the egg was not placed on the correct plant, the caterpillar hatching from that egg will not survive. For example, milkweed is the only host plant for the Monarch butterfly.

Many native trees are excellent host plants for caterpillars. The more diversity of native trees (and other native plants) you have in your yard, the more varieties of butterflies you are likely to attract. Because many of the nectar plants that the adult butterflies (continued on page 6)



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Meet Bob Lathrop

Bob Lathrop joined the Hot Springs Public Works Department in January 2009 as the city's new urban forester. In his new capacity, Lathrop will conduct the city's extensive urban forestry program, including overseeing more than 10,000 public trees and streetscape areas; maintaining the city's Tree City USA status, including hosting National Arbor Day activities; and administering the city's landscape regulations and public tree code. A native of Flint, Michigan, Lathrop holds undergraduate and master degrees in forestry from Ohio State University. As an OSU research team member, he helped conduct acid rain and air pollution studies in southern Ohio, later moving to Grove City, OH where he became the city's first urban forester. For a number of years, Lathrop has provided urban forestry services to developers, engineering firms and municipalities as a private consultant. Services included woodlot surveys, tree preservation plans, street tree inventories, tree appraisals and urban forestry master plans. Lathrop and his wife Vicky have two daughters and two grandchildren. He is a member of the Spa Pacers running club and also enjoys touring the State on his motorcycle. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors.

Meet Alison Litchy

Alison Litchy is the Urban Forester for the City of Fort Smith as well for the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. She was born in Albert Lee, Minnesota and moved to Northern Suburbs of Chicago at the age of two. She moved to Fort Smith last year. She has a Degree in Forestry with a specialization in outdoor recreation resource management from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and is an ISA Certified Arborist. Her term on the Board of Directors begins July 1.

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