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New Tree Plantings in 2018

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New Tree Plantings in 2018 by Bill Meyer, WSU Senior Groundskeeper (Retired)

WSU Retiree Center Newsletter, Spring, 2018

Under the guidance of WSU's Landscape Arboretum director, Lisa Pearson, Arboretum Staff have been busy planting trees over the last two springs. Trees lost to construction, disease and insects, or storm damage have been replaced with trees having better disease and insect resistance and more interest to visitors. A few of the exceptional additions to the WSU Landscape Arboretum will be highlighted in today's feature.

One such replacement tree is the 'Northern Flare' Sugar Maple. The Sugar Maple is one of our Minnesota native trees but, surprisingly, very few of these majestic trees can be found on the WSU campus. This strikingly attractive 'Northern Flare' Maple is very hardy and is known for its uniform reddish-orange fall color. The tree was originally found in the Sisseton, SD area. The new tree can soon be found south of Krueger Library taking the spot of a storm damaged Weeping Willow.

An interesting introduction to our native tree collection is the Rock Elm, *Ulmus thomasii*. This tree has taken a most unusual journey to the WSU campus. Several years ago Jim and Nancy Reynolds took a trip up to the Zumbro Bot-toms and met with a retired forester from Lake City in search of Rock Elm seeds. Upon finding the seeds, Jim and Nancy brought them back to Winona where they carefully planted them in small containers in their backyard. Years later the small seedlings were transplanted to the WSU tree nursery where trees too small to survive on the main campus can grow and flourish. This past year, one of the Rock Elms was pronounced ready for the big leagues and was planted in a small garden between Krueger Library and Minne Hall. This year, several new additions to the garden will be made that reflect the natural environment of the Rock Elm, including two Pagoda Dogwood trees.

Plans this spring call for a new and improved cultivar of the London Plane Tree to be planted on the east side of Pasteur Hall. Introduced by the Morton Arboretum near Chicago, IL, the London Plane Tree is a rugged, long-lasting tree having exfoliating or peeling bark. It survives under the harshest urban settings. WSU introduced its first London Plane Tree 'Bloodgood' nearly 20 years ago close to the northeast corner of Tau Center. As implied in its name, the trees' origin dates back to London almost 400 years ago. The new London Plane Trees will replace a number of female Ginkgo trees that were removed this past winter due to problems with overabundant fruiting.

Acting on recommendations of the WSU Sustainability Committee, one Honeycrisp and one Sweet Sixteen Apple tree will be planted on campus this year. If this doesn't satisfy your hunger cravings, a Bali Cherry tree with edible fruits is on its way. Finally, if a variety of berries strike your fancy, you may want to sample the new blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries that will soon grace the WSU landscape, adding a new element to the campus plant materials collection.

Other interesting new tree plantings coming to the WSU Landscape Arboretum are two new Kentucky 'Decaf' Coffeetrees to complement our existing 'Espresso' Kentucky Coffeetrees. Maybe a new coffee shop in the middle of the campus is next! Finally, a few notable tree additions from last spring include a 'Shawnee Brave' Bald Cypress (my favorite), two new Amur Maackia, 'New Horizon' and 'Patriot' disease resistant Elms, two 'Red Rage' Tupelo, and our Arbor Day planting that consisted of four 'Regal Prince' oaktrees.

Maybe this spring or early summer would be a good time to check out some of the new eye-catching and mouth-watering plantings on campus.



Northern Flare Sugar Maple



Rock Elm leaves



London Plane Tree