



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Larry Rose

President, Tree Lafayette

765-449-7908

Larry@treelafayette.org

Rob Pahl

Vice President, Tree Lafayette

765-491-5499

pahlrc@gmail.com

Tree Lafayette Board and Supporters Gather for Annual Meeting at Holiday Inn Lafayette - City Centre

Projects and tree plantings at the new Oakland School in Lafayette will be the subject of the presentation at the Tree Lafayette annual meeting to be held Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011, from 11:30 to 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Lafayette – City Centre, 515 South Street. The annual meeting is open to interested individuals and groups. Contact Rob Pahl, Tree Lafayette vice president at pahlrc@gmail.com or Sharon Shoppell at Sharon.Shoppell@alcoa.com to make a reservation by Nov. 7. Cost for lunch is \$17.00. Pay at the door.

New Board Member Laura Wright, an instructor for the Tree Lafayette third grade program, will be giving the presentation on the Oakland School, and she'll be talking about programs and plantings at the school, similar to the third grade program, but with a high school focus.

Also at the meeting, Tree Lafayette President Larry Rose will summarize Tree Lafayette projects for 2011. Tree Lafayette is a non-profit organization whose mission is to plant trees in an urban setting, and raise awareness about the importance of tree planting and maintenance in urban areas.

“2011 has been another amazing year,” says Rose. “We developed a goal of increasing the number of trees planted each year, and this year, we plan to plant 200 trees, and next year, the number goes up to 275. We want to thank all of our supporters who contribute funds to plant and promote a healthy community.”

At the meeting, Rob Pahl, Tree Lafayette vice president, will give several awards to recognize supporters and Tree Lafayette volunteers, including the Volunteer Award to

Randall McGinnis, Neighborhood Tree Steward Award to Michael Hunt, 10 Year Supporters, to Robert & Ellen Barker, Keith Brown, Raymond & Christiana DeCarlo, Elizabeth Doversberger, Dr. Burnie Fischer, Larry & Marianne Rose, and Tipmont REMC Envirowatts, and 15 Year Supporters to Dr. David Alexander.

“We’ll also recognize Tree Lafayette Board Members Larry Rose and Greg Shaner, who were honored by the Indiana Urban Forest Council for their contributions to enhance the environmental quality of life in Lafayette,” notes Pahl.

Four board members will be reelected for a three-year term: Sharon Shoppell, Sam Biederstedt, Laura Wright, and Jonathan Fisher:

Sharon Shoppell

Sharon Shoppell currently serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors of Tree Lafayette. She is the Environmental Manager at Alcoa – Lafayette Operations, joining the facility in November 2007. Sharon has worked for Alcoa for nineteen years, in various positions in Process Engineering; Environmental Engineering; Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Auditing; and EHS Management. Shoppell graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and a minor in Environmental Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

Sharon and her husband, David Lindsay, are the proud parents of two active boys. One of the things she has enjoyed the most since moving to Lafayette is giving away trees to Alcoa employees, contractors, and the Boy Scouts. She and her Alcoa crew are known to participate planting trees during Tree Lafayette’s Arbor Day event.

Sam Biederstedt

Sam Biederstedt retired in 2004 as a sales representative from McDougal Littell. He sold textbooks to Indiana and North and South Dakota Schools. He graduated from Northern State University of South Dakota in 1961 with a B.S. in Education. He taught High School in three different states.

He is President of Jesco Hills Estates Homeowners Association from 1997 to current. He’s Past president Indiana Professional Bookpersons Association from 1972-2004, and Textbook Caravan Coordinator for Indiana Professional Bookpersons Association. 1990-2007.

Sam is a Tree Lafayette pruner, and he helps plant, mulch, and water trees. He is married to Rita Biederstedt. They have two children, four grandchildren and he enjoys traveling, sports, Wii games, and volunteering.

Laura Wright

Laura Wright joined Tree Lafayette in 2010, and has become a vital part of the Education Committee. She is an instructor for Tree Lafayette education programs, including our third grade program, and high school programs like the one you saw today. Wright has extensive knowledge of forestry, having earned her Bachelor of Science

degree in Forestry from Purdue University in 2010. She hopes to earn a position as a director on the Tree Lafayette Board.

Her experience includes forest mensuration techniques including tree measurement and stand quality, and identifying native plants and tree species. She has also worked at BSA Lifestructures as a civil engineering and structural engineering intern.

When she is not volunteering for the Tree Lafayette Board, Laura works at Jane's Gourmet Deli and Catering as a server and caterer.

Jonathan Fisher

Jonathan Fisher is a funeral Director with Fisher Funeral Chapel and Cremation Services in Logansport, and Fisher Funeral Chapel, 914 Columbia Street in Lafayette. Jonathan has volunteered for many local organizations, including the Community Appearance Task Force, and the Friends of Downtown. He is an Eagle Scout.

He was recently married to Nikki Fisher.