

## Lynn Layden – West Lafayette Tree Friend Extraordinaire

Lynn Layden has been involved in many activities but the city of West Lafayette is especially grateful for the years she has spent growing and maintaining the urban forest. Lynn was there at the dawn of the efforts by Helen Lillich to get trees planted throughout the residential areas and along Sagamore Parkway in West Lafayette. When Helen died in 2010 Lynn stepped up and took the reins of the West Lafayette Tree Friends.

During her more than five years as chair, Lynn has seen the addition of over 800 trees in West Lafayette while educating the public about the emerald ash borer. She also assisted with the creation of a tree trial on Kalberer Road where new varieties of trees can be observed and evaluated.

Lynn has organized the yearly fund drive, written hundreds of thank you letters to donors, written reports, attended meetings, met with potential donors and supporters, made presentations about the Tree Friends, hosted booths at the West Lafayette Farmers Market and more.

While her organizational and leadership abilities have been outstanding, Lynn is no sit-around administrative type! With the help of fellow Tree Friends and her trusty pickup she has lugged around a 120 gallon water tank and loaded up with mulch dozens of times. During the drought this fall, she watered trees at 9 AM four days a week for ten weeks! When not watering or mulching Lynn helps the Tree Friends prune street trees for pedestrians, bicyclists, trucks and buses. When a new tree planting is about to take place, Lynn readily steps up to be a Tree Friends representative in that neighborhood meaning she works with each homeowner about receiving a tree, selecting the species and site and checking on the final installation.

As she ends her reign as chair of the Tree Friends, we applaud, thank and are ever so grateful to Lynn Layden, a true friend of the trees of West Lafayette.

