



## Arborfest 2008 a Success!

by Brian Pelot

The second annual WAA Arborfest and TCC were held on August 16th at Pierce Park in Appleton. The event is intended to promote professional arboriculture to the public and provide homeowner tips on tree care.

The event included educational talks by Linda Williams of the WDNR, Dan Traas of Ranger Services, Inc., and featured guest speaker Melinda Myers. Average attendance for the speaker sessions was thirty people!

Kids activities were plentiful, including creating leaf-rubbing booklets, throw-ball toss and the very popular kids climb. There are quite a few budding arborists in the Fox Valley.

Food was prepared by local grilling experts Mad Dog and Merrill. Educational booths provided by WDNR, WDATCP, Brown County Extension, Fox Valley Technical College, We Energies, Asplundh, and Gardens of the Fox Cities.

Attendance by the public was estimated to be around 200 people. Some people traveled from as far away as Two Rivers and Milwaukee to attend the event. One group wanted to know if the event was going to be held in the same location next year. They want to make it an annual destination for their group's get-together. We even had three inquiries on becoming a member of the WAA!

Media coverage of the event was in regional newspapers, television and radio. The main news coverage was about the TCC and EAB in Wisconsin.

A special thank-you to all of the people who helped plan and volunteered the day of the event. We hope to make next year's event even bigger and better but that will require more volunteers from the WAA. If you are interested in helping with the 2009 Arborfest, contact Brian Pelot by email at [bpelotrsi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bpelotrsi@sbcglobal.net).