

## **CR Ficus Tree Disease Update**

I have provided a summary of the report that I presented at the 2/9/16 Board meeting on the CR Ficus Tree disease issue that is currently affecting our Park.

After discussion with Frank Saldano, the arborist who visited our Park last September, and research on the subject, and conducting my own visual and microscopic observations of affected trees, it is evident that many of our trees are in the early to late infestation stage of a fungus that has become prevalent throughout the Southwest of the United States. The physical symptoms of the disease include: bark cankers, leaf yellowing/browning, bark cracking/peeling, evidence of black fungal spore masses on exposed tree sapwood, and limb/branch die back. I have placed a one page fact sheet in the home owner's office that describes the symptoms, environmental conditions, the disease, prevention and treatment for this issue. In addition, CR homeowners may call me at (928) 276-4354 for tree inspections and assessments.

**IMPORTANT:** The first line of defense in preventing the disease is to maintain sufficient watering levels during the summer. Drip irrigation systems are generally insufficient to maintain proper tree health during our summer months. If you prepare to leave the Park for the summer, please be aware that Ficus Trees should receive approximately 20 minutes of a gentle, continuous flow of water 2-3 times per week as close to the tree's drip line as possible. Garry Schmitt (BOD).