

Springfield business journal

UCB 15 Under 15 - 2014 October 1, 2014

By Michelle Higginbotham,
Associate Publisher



According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses have been growing over the last decade while larger companies have been shrinking their workforces. Small businesses now provide more than half of all jobs in this country, and also account for just over half of all retail sales.

Locally, our economy has taken a hit in recent years from reductions in the state workforce, but the number of small businesses continues to increase, and the Springfield metro area unemployment rate has consistently been one of the lowest in the state. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, but due to their size they may not individually get the recognition they deserve.

Since 2003, United Community Bank has partnered with Springfield Business Journal to recognize outstanding small businesses in our community. Each year, 15 businesses with fewer than 15 employees are selected for this award. They must also have been in business for more than two years and be located in Sangamon or Morgan county.

UCB will host a reception at their Montvale branch to recognize the selectees, and the Honorable Leslie Graves will be the keynote speaker for the awards ceremony that follows. Celebrating the achievements of the 15 small businesses who are profiled in this issue demonstrates that the Springfield area is a great place to work and live.

Congratulations to this year's selectees, who represent a wide variety of industries but have all been successful in our community. Thank you to our sponsor, United Community Bank, for making it possible to celebrate these local businesses.

Springfield business journal

CopperTree

Snapshot

established:
2006

owners:
Mark & Laurie McWilliams

employees:
11

services:
landscape architecture &
installation/outdoor lifestyles

address:
3111 Cockrell Ln, Springfield

phone:
217-793-0900

e-mail:
info@coppertreedesigns.com

Profile

Mark and Laurie McWilliams specialize in landscape architecture and installation along with outdoor lifestyles. The couple opened CopperTree Outdoor Lifestyles eight years ago where they work with clients to both design and build pleasing outdoor living spaces and accessorize them. Mark handles the design and building aspects of the project while Laurie accessorizes the space.

CopperTree Outdoor Lifestyles differs from a traditional plant-oriented garden center. The business focuses on furniture, containers, fountains and garden art. Recently they opened a new division called CopperTree Organics and are working with a California company with over 40 years of experience.

Current trends in their industry include pool designs, fire features and outdoor kitchens. A big part of their business is creating what they describe as “cool entryways” for homes.

Mark and Laurie enjoy building relationships with their clients. They are extremely creative with design ideas and offer clients many options. They work with their clients to create customized outdoor living spaces.

