

Viewpoint

By: M. Janet Bornancin, TREE Fund President/CEO



Happy New Year! Apocalypse averted, we are still here and primed for another productive year. At our Board and Liaison Retreat in December we welcomed new colleagues, celebrated successes, gained knowledge and recognized the leadership and contributions of our “top tier” volunteers.

In this issue two of arboriculture’s leading lights, Drs. [Hallie Dozier](#) and [Gary Watson](#), offer insights into the TREE Fund’s unique and important role in advancing our industry’s knowledge of trees and their care. Look for a geographic summary of our grant disbursements and “inside” advice for grant seekers from Dr. Dozier, who heads our Research Committee.

A review of our 2012 awards shows that we are closing in on pre-2008 funding levels. The success of the [STIHL Tour des Trees](#), our [Raise Your Hand for Research Auctions](#) and our Annual Appeal have bolstered our Annual Fund (supporting current research) and our Endowment funds (supporting future research). If registration for the 2013 Tour continues apace we’ll post a capacity Tour roster for the second year in a row, giving a strong start to our 2013 fundraising season. Read on for a preview of our 2013 special events and a tribute to our Chapter Liaisons who set, met and (in many cases) far exceeded their fundraising goals in 2012.

TREE Fund grantees play a key role in educating the tree care workforce. You’ll find their research results published in [ISA’s Journal of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry](#) and other industry publications, and they are frequent presenters at regional and international conferences. You’ll learn in this issue that we evaluate every grant application carefully, and we’re proud to support [Tree Biomechanics Week](#) again in 2013. This event attracts innovative researchers from all over the world, drawn by the opportunity to confer and collaborate for a week. Its closing symposium will sell out quickly; register early for an opportunity to learn firsthand from the leaders in biomechanics research.

Our education programs are another source of pride and inspiration. High school biology students from Minnesota’s Providence Academy, directed by Hyland Johns award recipient [Dr. Yvonne Boldt](#), presented preliminary results of their soil science project at ISA’s 2012 conference. An [Arboriculture Education grant](#) is helping students from Detroit’s most urban schools experience the benefits of time spent in nature. [Professor Pricklethorn](#) continues to get fan mail from kids he met during the Tour who took his “Give trees a chance” message to heart. And our correspondence with our scholarship recipients reminds us often that we are laying the foundation for a bright future for arboriculture.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of ISA, TCIA, our many [corporate sponsors](#) and donors like you. We are committed to cultivating innovation in arboriculture and urban forestry, and to responsible stewardship of the gifts entrusted to us. We’re looking forward to watching the seeds we sow in 2013 bear fruit.