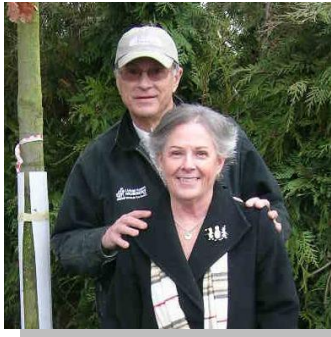


## “There’s still so much to learn”

### TREE Fund Trustee Jim Barborinas Back for a Second Tour of Duty



Jim Barborinas’ credentials as a champion of the TREE Fund were already impeccable. He served as Liaison to the PNW Chapter for “more years than I can count,” was a cyclist in the first Tour des Trees in 1992, served on the TREE Fund Board from 2003-2007 and was honored with the [Ken Ottman Volunteer of the Year Award](#) in 2008.

His resume wasn’t lacking citations for service to the industry he’s loved since he was a teenager. But Jim recently “re-upped” as a TREE Fund Trustee and is applying his trademark enthusiasm to the opportunity he sees ahead.

“There’s still so much we need to learn [about trees and their care],” he said recently. In his dual roles as a consulting arborist and a nurseryman, Jim comes face to face with new tree care questions and challenges daily. “The TREE Fund has stepped up to the challenge of providing the knowledge the tree care industry needs and uses every day,” he said. “I’m a practical knowledge guy, and a big advocate of research.”

Jim is owner (with his wife, Annie) of [Urban Forestry Services, Inc. and Urban Forest Nursery](#) in Mt. Vernon WA. He inherited his passion for the outdoors from his dad, and earned his B.S. and M.S. in Forestry and Resource Management from Southern Illinois University. He narrowly escaped a career as an Illinois Christmas tree farmer, choosing instead to collaborate with his friend and mentor, former Illinois Director of Conservation Bill Rutherford, on the creation of Illinois’ 2,000-acre Wildlife Prairie State Park. From there Jim moved on to the Peoria Park District.

But Peoria couldn’t compete with the allure of the Pacific Northwest. A new position with Professional Forestry Services of Olympia WA allowed Jim and Annie to follow their dream to Washington. Even better was the welcome that Jim and family received from the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the ISA and the opportunity to become more involved. They put down roots and haven’t looked back.

Roots, coincidentally, are one of Jim’s favorite subjects and played a critical role in his decision to accept a second term as TREE Fund Trustee. As a nurseryman he’s trying to improve root systems and avoid root girdling issues in his nursery stock by using grow bags instead of traditional plastic containers or B&B transplanting. “But we’ve learned that all root systems are different. One solution never applies to every cultivar, and there’s always room for improvement.”

Jim’s innate curiosity makes him a natural champion of research, and his infectious enthusiasm will serve the TREE Fund well. “I was ready to be on the Board again. I’m looking forward to the camaraderie of working closely with the people who do what I do. And I’m full of questions. Now I can help find the answers.”