



TREE FUND Report



Fall 2014

Three Cheers for TREE Fund Volunteers!



With revenues topping the quarter-million dollar mark, the TREE Fund's 2014 special events season is an undisputed success. How does a small foundation with a staff of five raise more than \$750,000? With a LOT of help!! TREE Fund volunteers are our most valuable resource, and we're blessed with a deep bench of loyalists whose passion for trees inspires them to give generously of their time and resources to support our cause.

This summer, Toronto arborist and veteran Tour rider Warren Hoselton was honored with the TREE Fund's Ken Ottman Award for his support of the TREE Fund on both sides of the US-Canada border. Together with his "arbor ego", Professor Elwood Pricklethorn, Warren has enthusiastically supported the TREE Fund's vision for the Tour des Trees as a vehicle for educating children about the value of trees. As a Tour rider, fundraiser and member of the Board of the Canadian TREE Fund, Warren also has contributed substantially to the success of the Jack Kimmel International Grant program (administered by the TREE Fund with funding from the Canadian TREE Fund). Warren received the Ottman Award beer stein on stage at the ISA Welcome Ceremony, and his name has been added to the plaque in the TREE Fund office.



There are countless others whose contributions deserve thanks and recognition. The STIHL Tour des Trees' lengthy volunteer roster ranged from local Scouts, garden club members and librarians to top executives in the tree care business. Every Tour rider ranks as a top volunteer, personally raising thousands of dollars for research and education and helping to build our audience, often one donor at a time.

Within the Wisconsin Arborist Association, **Laura Wyatt, Adam Alves, Dick Rideout, Eric Petersen and Ken Ottman** marshalled the volunteers and resources needed to keep our wheels rolling in Wisconsin. Wisconsin Tour "architects" **Dick Rideout, Thom Kraak, Doug Drysdale and Jeff Edgar** lovingly constructed the route, solicited, donated and often planted trees for the dedications, engaged local officials, volunteers and media to welcome the cyclists and, in Kraak's case, mobilized a statewide network of food service pros to help keep his army fed.



Daily logistics, under the supervision of Tour Director Paul Wood, were managed by a small squadron of volunteers, many of whom were recognized this year for 4 or more years of service to the event (Thom Kraak's history with the Tour dates back to 1997). Fellow Support Team veterans **Kathy Gilmour, Joanna Nakeff, Sue Wells, Maggie Harthorn and Amy Kraak** capably managed the million details that populate a weeklong



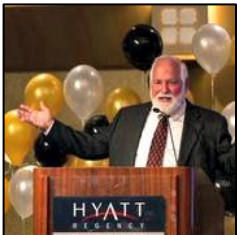
cycling tour, and had new recruits **Jen Pehmoeller, Colleen Skiera and Hiedi Squibb** up to speed in no time. Felix scholarship winner **Matthew McKernan** recruited **Cathie Lavis**, his advisor at Kansas State University, to the Tour's luggage management crew. Not content to just sling suitcases all week, the KSU team also helped out with hotel registrations and planted the last tree of the Tour, just in time for the Sauk City Pricklethorn event. Wheel and Sprocket's ace mechanics, **Amelia and Julian Kegel**, kept everyone's gears shifting smoothly all week. It was, by all accounts, the best Tour support team EVER. A big THANK YOU to everyone who signed on for a week of hard labor and made it look like fun!



The Raise Your Hand for Research Auctions also benefitted from a huge infusion of enthusiastic, creative and seemingly tireless volunteers. **Wendy Robinson** and **Beth Buchanan** worked both the back and the front of the Live auction, setting up and then staffing the event. **Kristin Wild** also qualified for overtime compensation, working a split shift between the TREE Fund booth and the Live Auction.



The Wisconsin Arborist Association was front and center at the auction, as well. **Eric Peterson's** office became our default storage facility in Wisconsin, and **Kim and John Gardynecki** helped transfer the goods to the WI Center and had some fun assembling the STIHL tricycle. **Laura Wyatt** helped set up the Silent Auction, clerked at the Live Auction, and recruited **John Wayne Farber, Ian Brown, Kim Sebastian, Lila Zastrow and Valerie Kupczak-Rios** to the team. **David Graham** rounded up some greenery for the podium and a "priceless" signed climber's helmet for the catalog. **Ken Ottman**, our emcee, was the star of the Wisconsin show. He also gets credit for soliciting the donation of a handcrafted canoe, a vintage Harley Davidson and a one-of-a-kind sculpted egret, and recruiting **Adam Alves** and crew to 'schlep' it all from the Conference Center to the hotel.



As always, the TREE Fund Liaisons and Trustees turned out in force to staff the Live Auction. Board members **Mike Robinson, Hallie Dozier, Jim Barborinas, Randy Miller, Brian Sayers and Doug Gober** were seemingly everywhere we needed to be, selling tickets, staffing the TREE Fund booths and shaking the trees (and some arborists) for donations. We had a formidable team in Wisconsin, and the bottom line reflects their dedication and know-how. Thank you to EVERYONE who helped make 2014 a success. We couldn't have done it without you!

