



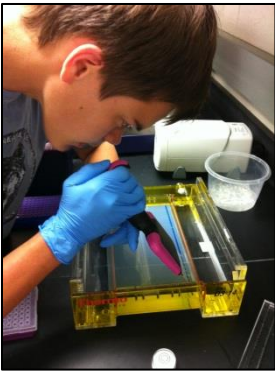
TREE FUND Report



Fall 2014

Note from a Grateful Grantee

Yvonne Boldt was a 2012 Hyland R. Johns grant recipient for her project "[Maple Tree Soil Applications](#)." Dr. Boldt evaluated the effects of five different soil treatments on the establishment of newly planted Autumn Blaze maples, finding that none cause large scale dramatic disruptions to the communities of bacteria and fungi in the soil. Her project was unique in that she engaged her high school students in the study, giving them hands-on research experience. She recently wrote us this letter, highlighting some pleasantly surprising additional results achieved by this TREE Fund grant.



My son Brendon is going to Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York on a full ride scholarship for Computer Science. He worked for 3 years on the Maple Tree Soil Application Research Project and was a poster presenter at ISA in Portland in 2012. He will be helping this summer with the final phases of data processing and paper writing. I have no doubt that the work he did on this research project made him stand out among his peers in competition for the scholarship he received.

Over 40 other students at Providence Academy have gained valuable research experience through the Maple Tree Soil Application Research Project and have stronger college applications because of it. Finally, this research project, which started out as a "pet project" that my high school, Providence Academy, allowed their biology teacher to do, has been adopted by the school as an official part of our program offerings. The school's board and headmaster have reduced my teaching assignment to give me the bandwidth to work on novel research projects with the high school students year round, and we will continue to work with soil applications in urban landscape environments.

All of this has been made possible because of the generosity of the TREE Fund. Please offer my sincerest thanks to those from the TREE Fund who chose to show confidence in a high school biology teacher and her students by giving us the Hyland R. Johns Grant in 2012.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Yvonne Boldt
Biology Teacher, Providence Academy*

