



February 2016



Your donations are making a difference!

Most agree that getting kids outside to learn about nature is a good thing. One obstacle to doing so, however, is educators lacking the resources and confidence to conduct an outdoor classroom. To address this, the Foundation of the State Arboretum of Virginia provided professional development to all third grade teachers in rural Clarke County, VA, helped develop an interdisciplinary curriculum on tree biology and forest ecology, and guided over 35 hours of outdoor-based learning with 160 third grade students. Read more about this insightful project, partially funded with a 2014 TREE Fund Arboriculture Education Grant, on [our website](#).



PG&E pledges \$500,000 for utility research

To address the current research deficit in the utility industry and work toward fully endowing the Utility Arborist Research Fund (UARF) to ensure future utility research, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has donated \$250,000 to the Utility Arborist Association (UAA) to support immediate Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)/Utility Vegetation Management (UVM) research on utility corridors in western North America. \$50,000 of this is “seed” funding intended to encourage other companies to join forces in supporting UVM research. The research will be administered via a TREE Fund directed grant program. PG&E has also pledged an additional \$250,000 to the UARF over the next two years in the form of a matching grant. For every \$2.00 specifically donated to the UARF by an individual or company (outside of PG&E), PG&E will donate one additional dollar, up to \$125,000 per year in 2016 and 2017. To learn more about this exciting initiative or to contribute, contact [J. Eric Smith](#) at the TREE Fund.

Apply online today for grants and scholarships at [treefund.org](#). **NEW** - the Hyland Johns Research Grant now has a maximum award value of \$50,000.

Letters of intent are **due March 1** for:

- [TREE Fund Arboriculture Education Grants](#) (up to \$5,000)
- [Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grants](#) (up to \$5,000)

Applications are **due April 1** for:

- [Robert Felix Memorial Scholarships](#) (\$3,000)
- [Hyland R. Johns Research Grants](#) (**NEW** - up to \$50,000!)

Applications **open February 15** and are **due May 15** for:

- [John Wright Memorial Scholarships](#) (\$2,000)



Thank you to our January 2016 [major donors](#):
(for contributions of \$2,500 or more to the TREE Fund this month)

- ACRT, Inc.
- Bartlett Tree Experts
- Doug Drysdale
- Indiana Arborist Association
- Urban Forestry Services, Inc.

Thank
You



Register today for the 2016 STIHL Tour des Trees – the roster is filling fast! Join us for this weeklong cycling adventure October 9-15, 2016, and help share the TREE Fund’s mission with communities in [the Carolinas](#). Get a [sneak peek](#) into some of the showcase destinations on this year’s route and sign up for the fun at stihltourdestrees.org.



Nominate an outstanding TREE Fund volunteer for the Ken Ottman Award. Who do you think has gone “above and beyond” in advancing the TREE Fund’s mission? [Read more about this honor](#) and [submit your nomination](#) before **April 1st**. The award will be presented at the 2016 ISA Conference in Fort Worth.



What did they find? Read TREE Fund research results published in 2015

An important part of the TREE Fund’s mission is to disseminate findings from the research we fund. Update your knowledge of cabling, pruning and more when you read the results from the seven TREE Fund projects published in 2015 on [our website](#).



Who benefits from the success of the TREE Fund’s Annual Appeal? Everyone! With your support, we raised a record \$30,000 in our 2015 Annual Appeal. Thank you for your generosity! Your gifts will be well managed, multiplied, and difference making – for everyone – in 2016 and beyond.



ISA Chapters raise over \$500,000 for the TREE Fund in 2015

Congratulations to the [regional chapters of ISA](#), led by the [TREE Fund Liaisons](#) and STIHL Tour des Trees fundraisers, for raising an impressive **\$547,212** for the TREE Fund in 2015! The TREE Fund recognizes ISA Chapter support with Chapter Challenge achievement awards of Platinum, Gold or Bronze. Congratulations to **Florida, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Penn-Del** and **Southern** for attaining Platinum in 2015. Ohio Chapter ISA was the top fundraising chapter of the year, bringing in \$103,104 – almost twice as much as the runner-up! Kudos to **Minnesota** and **Utah** for realizing Gold status, and to **New Jersey** for achieving Bronze. We are very grateful for all these hard-working, dedicated volunteers and their chapters for such strong support of our mission - thank you! Read more about how the Chapter Challenge works and the chapters' achievements on [our website](#).

