



January 2017



Your donations are making a difference!

TREE Fund is pleased to announce its final round of 2016 grant awards for urban tree research and education. We issued a record-breaking ~\$550,000 in new awards in 2016, bringing our total disbursement of funding to nearly \$3.2 million since our inception in 2002.

Utility Arborist Research Fund Grant recipient:



Christopher M. Halle, PhD (Sonoma State University) and Co-Investigator Claudia Luke, PhD (Sonoma State University) will compare the efficacy of mechanical only vs. mechanical plus herbicide treatment in establishing low-growing native plant communities in a range of western ecosystems in the [“Integrated vegetation management on powerline rights of ways: effects of vegetation treatment on plant communities and wildlife diversity”](#) project. The effects on local animals and pollinators will also be studied. Thank you to Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Utility Arborist Association for their support of this \$175,000 directed grant.

2016 John Z. Duling Grant recipients:



Adam Berland, PhD (Ball State University) and Co-Investigator Jess Vogt, PhD (DePaul University) seek to understand the possibilities and limitations of virtual street tree surveys using Google Street View in their [“Evaluating virtual street tree surveys as a tool for municipal forest management”](#) project. The study will look at data quality using this approach vs. field surveys and see how analyst expertise impacts data quality. Findings will provide guidance for communities considering this innovative approach for generating street tree inventory data.



Justin Morgenroth, PhD (University of Canterbury, New Zealand) and Co-Investigator Andrew Koeser, PhD (University of Florida) will monitor physiological and tree growth responses to various root removal treatments in [“Measuring tree response to increasing root removal intensities.”](#) This work will help determine ‘acceptable’ root removal limits, and establish evidence-based root removal guidelines.

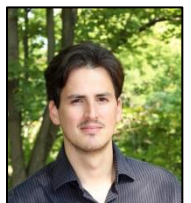


Brian Kane, PhD (University of Massachusetts Amherst) and Co-Investigator Mark Reiland (University of Massachusetts Amherst) will assess the likelihood of failure of different parts of a tree rigging system in their study [“Measuring forces at multiple locations in rigging systems.”](#) Previous work in this area has been limited by measuring forces in only one or two places in the rigging system. This more robust project will help tree care professionals understand exactly which parts of the rigging are more likely to fail under different rigging scenarios.

2016 Jack Kimmel International Grants recipients:



Francesco Ferrini, PhD (University of Florence, Italy) and Co-Investigator Simone Orlandini, PhD (University of Florence, Italy) hypothesize that the commonly used but harmful pruning practice called topping not only depresses tree health, but also directly reduces thermal comfort and human well-being in cities. They will explore this possibility in their study "[Effect of topping on microclimate condition and human comfort.](#)"



Camilo Ordóñez, PhD (Ryerson University, Canada) and Co-Investigator Andrew Millward, PhD (Ryerson University, Canada) are assessing the factors that contributed to the decline and mortality of urban trees in Toronto planted using structural soil cell technology intended to improve tree habitat quality. Their project, "[Investigating street tree decline and mortality in commercial urban spaces revitalized with structural soil cell technology to improve planting and maintenance practices.](#)" will help guide future decisions about the use of this technology.



Online applications open January 9 at treefund.org for the following TREE Fund grants and scholarships:

- [Hyland R. Johns Research Grant](#) (up to \$50,000)
- [TREE Fund Arboriculture Education Grant](#) (up to \$5,000)
- [Ohio Chapter ISA Arboriculture Education Grant](#) (up to \$5,000)
- [Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship](#) (\$3,000)

Thank you to our December 2016 [lead donors](#):

(for contributions of \$2,500 or more to TREE Fund this month)

- Bartlett Tree Experts
- Canadian Tree Research & Education Endowment Fund
- Mid-Atlantic Chapter ISA
- Urban Forestry Services, Inc.

Thank
You



Ride circles around your circle this year. The 2017 STIHL Tour des Trees will celebrate its 25th Anniversary Ride **July 30 – August 5, 2017**, staging from the ISA Annual International Conference in National Harbor, MD. The daily looped routes through Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., will allow Tour riders and the vast circle of tree friends and colleagues at the conference to interact and celebrate together! **See the route on January 9** at stihltourdestrees.org. Registration for full-time riders opens February 6.



Coming soon: TREE Fund research from 2016

Results from over ten TREE Fund research projects were published or presented in 2016. Look for summaries of the findings in our February 2017 newsletter!

TREE Fund Transitions

New board member and roles

TREE Fund is ringing in 2017 with new faces in new places. Please join us in welcoming **Sharon Lilly** to our Board of Trustees. As an icon in the tree community, we are excited to bring Sharon's insight, leadership and advocacy to our organization. We are also pleased to announce **Brian Sayers, PhD** (The Tree Doctor) as our new Chairman of the Board, **Steven Geist, BCMA, RCA** (Swingle Lawn, Tree and Landscape Care) as Chair Elect, and **Thomas Wolf** (The Davey Tree Expert Company) as Vice Chairman. Thank you to **George Hudler, PhD** (Cornell University) for heading up our Research & Education Committee and **Paul Fletcher** (Bartlett Tree Experts) for leading our Development & Communications Committee. Read more about these industry leaders and dynamic volunteers on [our website](#).



(L to R): Lilly, Sayers, Hudler, Geist, Fletcher, Wolf

Thank You, Mary!



Mary DiCarlo has been a champion of TREE Fund and its work in variety of roles since 2008, contributing strongly to the organization's growth throughout her time here. After eight rewarding years, Mary elected over the holidays to depart from her position as Director of Philanthropy for TREE Fund, citing a readiness to pursue new adventures and causes with her family and friends in the New Year ahead. All of us here in Naperville celebrate Mary's work and wish her all the best in her future endeavors. She has been an integral part of the TREE Fund community, and for many of you, she was undoubtedly the person who first forged your link with us. We are grateful for the work Mary did on our behalf, and hope you will take a moment this week to raise the toast of your choosing and offer a hearty "thank you" for all she accomplished here. Mary truly made a difference, and she will truly be missed.

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