



Research and Education Committee Report

Prepared by: George Hudler, Chair

Date Submitted: (April 19, 2017)

Research Subcommittee Members: George Hudler (chair), Jim Barborinas, Cathy Bentley, Beau Brodbeck, Chip Brown, Dan Struve, Davis Sydnor, Jim Urban, Roger Vanderhoof. Barb Duke, J. Eric Smith *ex officio*.

Education Subcommittee Members: George Hudler (chair), Jim Barborinas, Peggy Coates, Steve Geist, Jennifer Grimes, Shirl McMayon, Donna Miller, Anne Spafford, Kristin Wild. Barb Duke, J. Eric Smith *ex officio*.

Safe Arborists Techniques Task Force: George Hudler, Will Koomjian, Kevin Martlage, Ken James, Scott Prophet. J. Eric Smith *ex officio*.

Important dates for committee action: RFPs for the following programs were released on January 2, 2017, each with a due date of April 1:

Hyland Johns - two awards possible, \$50K each.

Safe Arborist Techniques Grant - one award possible, \$15K

Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship - three awards possible, \$3K each

Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grants - one award possible, \$5K

Arboriculture Education Grants - three awards possible, \$5K each

Accomplishments: Responses to RFPs and current state of processing are as follows:

Hyland Johns - 41 proposals received, 26 passed on to committee for full review; 15 determined by the chair to be inappropriate for further committee consideration.

Call and final review date: May 1.

Safe Arborist Techniques Grant - 2 proposals received and currently under review. Call and final review date: May 1.

Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship - three applications received, in committee review.

Call and final review date: May 1.

Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grants - four applications received, in committee review.

Call and final review date: May 1

Arboriculture Education Grants - 15 applications received and currently under review
Call to finalize review and make awards scheduled for May 1.

Objectives for the next 3 months:

A. Review and revise Wizehive application and evaluation form for research grants to distinguish purposes of the major grants (Johns, Kimmel, Duling), improve investigator focus, eliminate redundancy in narratives, and allow for better clarification of methods including data analysis plans. All of this partly intended to ensure that writer and reviewer time is spent on text with substance and not just added to fill space. The evaluation score sheet also currently has too many nebulous categories that allow for artificially high scores on proposals with serious deficiencies. Space for narrative comments by reviewers is too currently too confined, thus hampering frank reflection by reviewers which, if expanded, might allow for more productive phone calls when they finally happen.

B. Recruitment of new committee members. The chair is tapping his own cohort of colleagues (mainly in pest management fields) in an effort to expand the list of potential reviewers. Suggestions from others on the Board of Trustees or elsewhere are welcome with an eye toward breadth both in subject matter and geographic representation. Ideally, we could have three teams of six members, each assigned to process just one of the three major grants program reviews.

Next Meeting Date: All subcommittees are scheduled to meet for final evaluations and proposed awards on May 1 with intent to present recommendations to the Board of Trustees at the May 8 meeting.

Respectfully,
George Hudler