



## **Research and Education Committee Report**

**Prepared by: George Hudler, Chair**

**Date Submitted: November 17, 2017**

### **Meetings:**

June 5, 2017 - Conference call w/ members of the Scholarship and Education Subcommittee to choose winners of the John Wright Scholarship Program. Attending - J. Barborinas, S. Geist, G. Hudler, ????

The winner is Savannah Haines, University of Maine, Forestry

June 22, 2017 - Conference call w/ members of the Scholarship and Education Subcommittee to choose winners of the Fran Ward Women in Arboriculture (\$2,000) and the Horace M. Thayer Scholarship (\$2,000) Programs. Attending - J. Barborinas, H. Dozier, S. Geist, D. Miller, R. Swanson, and K. Wild. Two applications for the Thayer scholarship; the subcommittee selected Tim Lentz, University of Delaware, Landscape Architecture. One application for the Ward scholarship; the lone candidate had exceptional credentials so the subcommittee approved the award to Jennifer Halterman, Penn State University, Plant Science/Horticulture.

September 20, 2017 - Conference call with a special subcommittee to review the Directed Grants applications intended to provide information on (1) other organizations offering financial awards for arboriculture education and (2) impacts of TREE fund-sponsored research on progress in the profession. Attending: J. Barborinas, S. Geist, G. Hudler, S. Lilly. The subcommittee awarded the arboriculture education grant (\$5000) to Eric Weisman and the TREE Fund impacts grant (\$20,000) to Andrew Koeser and Richard Hauer.

Upcoming before the December meeting of TREE Fund trustees - teleconference meeting of the Research Subcommittee to choose winners of the Kimmel International Research (2 possible, each \$10,000) and the Duling Arboricultural Research (1 for sure; 2 maybe, each \$25,000) grants.

**Accomplishments:**

(1) In addition to the awards decisions noted above, the Research subcommittee experimented with revised verbiage for announcement of the Kimmel and Duling grants and for reviewer evaluation/ranking of the proposals received. All of this in an effort to minimize redundancy that seemed to plague many previous proposals as PIs tried to fill whatever word limits were posted and to level the playing field for young vs. veteran proposal writers. The changes are understood to be "works in progress", to be subsequently modified as appropriate following future meetings of the Research subcommittee.

(2) Chair Hudler reviewed and approved two final reports.

One was for a Kimmel grant awarded to Dr. Haiying Liang, Clemson Univ.(14-JK-04; Development of molecular markers for redbay (*Persea borbonia* L.). Liang's "layman's summary" was nearly unintelligible and Hudler noted such to him. But Hudler also concluded that the most expeditious resolution was for him (Hudler) to try to write the summary and then run it past Liang for final polishing. Hudler was confident that even though he didn't understand Liang's "message", he could find others in his home department to work him through it. To illustrate the magnitude of the problem ahead, Hudler's first resource for the rewrite - a highly respected USDA scientist who works on molecular biology of bacterial plant pathogens and plant defenses - couldn't decipher Liang's paragraph, either ... because Hudler's resource worked on bacterial molecular biology and Liang's work was with plant molecular biology. Hudler's notion that when you get down to work with DNA, it's all the same ...was totally wrong and the Liang rewrite remains in limbo (but still on the drawing board) for the time being. (Note: These comments are not meant to be critical of Prof. Liang but rather to illustrate an ongoing problem with translation of some contemporary basic research to verbiage that "regular people" can understand. Please see the comments for what they are but don't circulate them beyond the Board of Trustees.)

The second final report was from the Holden Arboretum (Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grant #16-OH-01) to develop a youth (13-15 yrs) education program in "arboriculture". The PIs did what they said they would do but Hudler was disappointed to learn that only 10 students participated in the effort.

**Objectives for the next 3 months:**

For the foreseeable future, the Committee will continue to operate as two separate subcommittees to deal with their respective specialties. Efforts are afoot to try to improve publicity regarding the scholarship programs and to further refine the RFPs for the research grants.

**Next Meeting Date:** November 21, 2017

