

February 2018



Your donations are making a difference!

TREE Fund is pleased to announce its 2017 grant awards for urban tree research and education. We issued ~\$225,000 in new awards in 2017, bringing our total disbursement of funding to over \$3.4 million since our inception in 2002.

2017 Research Awards

Hyland R. Johns Research Grants



Richard Hauer, PhD (University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point) will create an easy-to-use tool to evaluate and track progress within urban forestry programs. Ultimately the “[Sustainable urban forestry planning models and decision making dashboard](#)” project will help urban forest planners create a story of the current state of their urban forestry program and identify areas to improve, thus leading to a sustainable urban forest program and tree population.



Kathleen Wolf, PhD (University of Washington) will extract research about human health benefits specific to city trees and forests and conduct an economic valuation of such benefits. The “[Urban forests for human health: a focused economic valuation](#)” project will provide professionals in arboriculture, urban forestry, landscape design, etc. with additional data for justifying the costs of tree planning, planting and management.

Safe Arborist Techniques Fund Grant



Brian Kane, PhD (University of Massachusetts Amherst) will collect and analyze safety standards from around the world in the “[Arboricultural safety around the world](#)” project. It will serve as a foundation for future studies into safe working practices in arboriculture.

Directed Grant: Arboriculture Education Benchmark Review



Eric Wiseman, PhD (Virginia Tech) and Co-Investigator Sarah Gugercin (Virginia Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation) will inventory organizations involved with arboriculture/urban forestry educational grant-making programs in recent years. The “[Education Review Program](#)” project will provide a thorough analysis on such programs to guide decision-making on future TREE Fund Arboriculture Education grants.

Directed Grant: Research Impacts and Outcomes Study



Andrew Koeser, PhD (University of Florida - Gulf Coast REC) and Co-Investigator Rich Hauer, PhD (University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point) will conduct a comprehensive review of all past TREE Fund-supported research in their study “[Research Review Program](#).” Their work will gauge direct and indirect outcomes, outputs, and impacts of the funded projects.

John Z. Duling Grant



Nina Bassuk, PhD (Cornell University) seeks to improve tree transplant success and ultimately provide greater tree species diversity in the nursery industry via root manipulation. In the “[Enhancing Tree Transplant Success through the Manipulation of Root Hydraulic Conductance](#)” project, Dr. Bassuk will manipulate root growth to increase the rate and efficiency of water uptake, resulting in a production practice that can improve a tree’s ability to respond to transplant shock.

Jack Kimmel International Grants

Kimmel grants are supported by Canadian TREE Fund and its riders in the Tour des Trees outreach and fundraising event.



Rachael Antwis, PhD (University of Salford, U.K.) and Co-Investigator Stephen Parnell, PhD (University of Salford, U.K.) are exploring natural microbial communities of trees as a way to address emerging infectious diseases such as the chalara fungus infecting ash. The “[Fighting microbes with microbes to protect our native trees](#)” study aims to identify microbial signatures of ash resistance to chalara and markers of host gene expression to identify resistant trees for cultivation and reforestation.



Liliana Franco-Lara, PhD (Universidad Militar Nueva Granada) and Co-Investigator Helena Brochero, PhD (Universidad Militar Nueva Granada) aim to better understand the diseases caused by phytoplasma (a type of bacteria) that are affecting urban trees in Bogotá, including the strategically important Andean oak (*Q. humboldtii*). The “Identification of possible insect vectors of phytoplasmas in *Quercus humboldtii* Bonpl in Bogotá, Colombia” project will detect the insects associated with the Andean oak and identify the species that may be transmitting the bacteria. Findings will serve to define strategies to manage and reduce the spread of phytoplasmal diseases.

2017 Education Awards

Arboriculture Education Grants



Friends of the Urban Forest (San Francisco, CA) – The “[Green Teens – Vocational Skills Job Training](#)” initiative provides practical job skills training to low-income, high school aged youth. It is an integral part of the organization’s plans to expand and preserve San Francisco’s tree canopy, while empowering at-risk youth.



TreeFolks (Del Valle, TX) – With the “[Youth Tree Climbing Initiative](#)” TreeFolks will expand its active and educational urban forestry activities for underserved youth in Austin to include tree climbing.

Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grant



Columbus State Community College (Columbus, OH) – The “[Columbus State Arboriculture Education Expansion and Tree Care Academy Project](#)” seeks to increase awareness of the field of arboriculture and create an entry point for the college’s new Arboriculture Technician Certificate. The weeklong Youth Tree Care Academy for students age 16+ provides a hands-on introduction to arboriculture as well as the certificate program.

Frank E. Gamma, Sr. Arboriculture Education Fund



Tree Care Industry Association Foundation (Londonderry, NH) – This grant supports the Arborist Safety Training Institute which works to bring high quality, local and affordable safety training to working arborists. ASTI provides grants for job and safety training to minimize injury and promote overall workforce safety.

Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship

- **Laura Mantin**, Humber College, ON, Canada
- **Conor Smith**, University of New Hampshire

Horace M. Thayer Scholarship

Timothy Lentz, University of Delaware

John Wright Memorial Scholarship

Savannah Haines, University of Maine

Fran Ward Women in Arboriculture Scholarship

Jennifer Halterman, Pennsylvania State University

Apply today for 2018 TREE Fund grants and scholarships

Applications for these TREE Fund grants and scholarships are open through **March 15** at treefund.org:

- [Hyland R. Johns Research Grant](#) (up to \$50,000)
- [Utility Arborist Research Fund Grant](#) (up to \$50,000) **NEW!**
- [Safe Arborist Techniques Fund Grant](#) (up to \$10,000)
- [Ohio Chapter ISA Arboriculture Education Grant](#) (up to \$5,000)
- [Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship](#) (\$5,000)
- [Horace M. Thayer Scholarship](#) (\$3,000)
- [Fran Ward Women in Arboriculture Scholarship](#) (\$3,000)
- [John Wright Memorial Scholarship](#) (\$2,000)
- [Bonnie Appleton Memorial Scholarship](#) (\$5,000) **NEW!**



TREE Fund research published in 2017

Part of TREE Fund’s mission is to disseminate findings from the research we fund. In 2017, there were eighteen published papers related to TREE Fund projects, on topics ranging from vaccinating trees against disease to mitigating soil sealing. Access this new knowledge at treefund.org/researcharchive, along with all the work we’ve supported since 2004.

Next TREE Fund webinar: February 22

Join us for “Do Planting Stock Decisions Really Make Much Difference Down The Road?” a free TREE Fund webinar featuring Dr. Michael Arnold of Texas A&M University.

Can simple production or propagation decisions impact landscape performance of container-grown trees? What are the returns on your investment in the size of planting stock? Will the “little dogs” catch the “big ones” in the end? In this webinar, Dr. Michael Arnold of Texas A&M University will consider the big impacts of small planting stock selection decisions. Some of the findings might surprise you!



- **February 22, 2018 at 12:00 pm Central** (translate to your time zone [here](#))
- Pre-registration is highly recommended; in doing so, you’ll receive a reminder email the day before the program: https://auburn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Aylx9yDQSw6-Cex8k6jvhw
- CEU available from ISA, SAF, or NALP (**NEW!**)

Special thanks to Alabama Cooperative Extension System for hosting this program. Visit treefund.org/webinars to see our full 2018 webinar schedule and to watch past broadcasts.

Thank you to our January 2018 lead donors, those who have contributed \$2,500 or more to TREE Fund this month. See the full list of 2018 lead donors who make our work possible at treefund.org/about/our-donors.

- Bandit Industries, Inc.
- Steven Geist
- New York State Arborists, ISA Chapter, Inc.
- Simonson & Associates Architects LLC



Bike the Buckeye State with the 2018 Tour des Trees

Registration is open and filling fast! Sign up today at treefund.org/tourdestrees for the July 29 to August 4, 2018, ride from Columbus to Cleveland and back.

NEW this year: Virtual Tour

YOU choose the activity (i.e., walking, running, cycling, etc.), the distance, and your fundraising goal. Get details at treefund.org/tourdestrees/faqs-virtual.

Volunteer Spotlight: Tom Ordway

TREE Fund is pleased to honor Tom Ordway of Duke Energy in our Volunteer Spotlight this month. Tom is a veteran Tour des Trees rider, the TREE Fund Liaison for Indiana Arborist Association, and a tireless advocate for tree research and education. He’s a man of few words, but with his high energy level and determination, he makes things happen! Tom has garnered support for TREE Fund and our mission in many ways – from acquiring transportation for the Tour to arranging [Professor Pricklethorn](#) environmental education programs in his hometown of Indianapolis. Thank you, Tom, for your dedication and important contributions to TREE Fund!



To suggest someone for the Spotlight, please contact [Karen Lindell](#).

Tree Research and Education Endowment (TREE) Fund is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to support scientific discovery and dissemination of new knowledge in the fields of arboriculture and urban forestry.

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