



Crowning Achievements

Research Results on Developing Redbay Resistant to Laurel Wilt

Redbay is an economically, ecologically and culturally significant tree native to the southeastern United States. Recently, however, redbay populations have suffered extensive mortality due to laurel wilt. Efforts to identify redbay individuals resistant to this fungus are ongoing, with an ultimate goal of breeding resistance into natural populations.

In the study "[Development of molecular markers for redbay](#)," Dr. Haiying Liang (Clemson University) wanted to explore a solution using "marker-assisted breeding," an approach that utilized variation in redbay DNA sequences to map and identify the locations of genes that control resistance to laurel wilt.

The study initially identified over 200 potentially useful DNA markers; subsequent studies showed that around 50 of these have characteristics that meet the criteria needed for subsequent genetic studies of redbay. Read more about this project and discover additional TREE Fund research on tree diseases on the [Research Archive](#) page of our website.



Effects of laurel wilt.

L photo: Dr. Bud Mayfield, FL DOF/DOACS

R photo: ncforestservice.gov/forest_health/forest_health_laurelwiltfaq.htm

"Nature welcomes inquiry. Nature does not hide its work. Just seek, and you will find."

- Alex L. Shigo

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Leading Thoughts

By J. Eric Smith, TREE Fund President and CEO

Earlier this month, I attended the International Urban Forestry Congress (IUFC) in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Congress was a unique gathering presented by Tree Canada, Pacific Northwest Chapter of ISA, University of British Columbia, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and other partners. Nearly 800 people from 30 countries participated, and we were blessed with fascinating and useful lectures, engaging panel discussions, exceptional networking opportunities, and an unparalleled “battery charging” opportunity to spend time with colleagues away from our proverbial trenches, sharing our passions for urban forests around our ever-more-connected (for better or worse) tiny blue marble of a planet.



It was good to be reminded that TREE Fund is part of that global research network, and not just an Illinois corporation, nor just a United States nonprofit, nor just a North American charity. This is reflected in our grantmaking programs: in partnership with the Canadian TREE Fund, we typically award two Jack Kimmel International Grants annually, and a growing number of grants from our other programs have been going abroad in recent years too.

I know some readers may not consider this a positive trend, since I have had domestic partners challenge me on why they should support us if we are sending money overseas, just as I have had ISA Chapters ask why they should support us if researchers in their regions are not receiving TREE Fund grants. Regionalism is a strong force among human beings, nationally and internationally. But trees (and their symbiotic companions and parasitic predators) do not recognize property lines, nor do they hew to municipal borders, nor do they heed state lines, nor do they respect international borders.

Trees are migratory organisms across our ever-changing world, as they slowly and naturally respond to global environmental changes, or rapidly stake out new turf when we select them to line streets and shade homes on continents where nature never would have taken them. And while human preferences and prejudices vary widely from nation to nation, both native and non-native urban trees living in temperate Mediterranean climates like those found in Beirut, Perth, Los Angeles, Rome, Tunis and elsewhere may benefit from exactly the same areas of rigorous scientific inquiry, regardless of where the researchers disclosing it live and work.

I say all this as an older, pragmatic and practical American professional, and not as an inexperienced, pie-in-the-sky Utopian. Trees are a global resource, and tree science is globally relevant, regardless of any of our social, economic, religious or political leanings. TREE Fund is a small – but mighty – player in this planetary network, and we become stronger every time we gather with colleagues from around the world on behalf of the planet’s urban canopies.

New Grants Available in 2019

TREE Fund is pleased to announce the completion of two endowment funds which will both issue inaugural grants in 2019.

The \$25,000 [Bob Skiera Memorial Fund Building Bridges Initiative Grant](#) supports projects which will help arborists and urban foresters communicate the value of trees and urban forests on a national basis through technology transfer and engagement with developers, builders, civil engineers, city planners, elected officials and other policymakers.

The \$10,000 [Barborinas Family Fund Grant](#) supports projects focused on tree planting and transplantation techniques, and the improvement of tree varieties for urban conditions, to include investigations into root and soil science.

Many thanks to the Skiera and Barborinas families for their visionary leadership on these funds, and to all who helped make these grants a reality.

Lead Donors

We are grateful to the following people and organizations who contributed \$2,500+ to TREE Fund in September 2018. See the full list of 2018 Lead Donors who make our work possible on the [donor page](#) of our website. Thank you!

- Florida Chapter ISA
- ISA Rocky Mountain Chapter
- Scott and Amy Packard
- Tobe and Anne Sherrill
- Wright Tree Service

Volunteer Spotlight

This month our spotlight is shining brightly on Brandon Gallagher Watson of Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements. Brandon rode the 2016



Tour and has shared his vast knowledge of digital media with us and TREE Fund donors. As a member of the Communications Committee, Brandon has helped us take our social media presence to the next level, and he recently created our new TREE Fund Webinar logo (see it on the next page). Brandon is a tech-savvy, creative ball of energy, and we're so thankful that he has channeled all that in support of TREE Fund!

Partner with Us

We treasure our current TREE Fund Partners (listed below) and are grateful for their generous support that makes our work possible. Our 2019 partnership appeal will soon arrive in your mailbox, outlining the opportunity for us to work together again, or for the very first time! Learn more on the [Partnership Opportunities](#) page of our website.

Crown/Diamond Partners

Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC
Bartlett Tree Experts
The Davey Tree Expert Company
Green Manufacturing, Inc.
International Society of Arboriculture
Mowbray's Tree Service
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Wright Tree Service

Ruby Partners

ACRT, Inc.
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Corteva Agriscience, Agriculture Division of
DowDuPont
FirstEnergy Corp.
Ohio Chapter ISA
Tree Care Industry Association
Utility Arborist Association

Platinum/Gold Partners

Altec, Inc.
Arborjet, Inc.
The Canadian TREE Fund
Ford Motor Company
Illinois Arborist Association
Indiana Arborist Association
KASK
PECO Energy (an Exelon Company)
Penn-Del Chapter ISA
West Coast Arborists, Inc.
Wisconsin Arborist Association

Silver Partners

American Society of Landscape Architects
Anonymous
CN Utility Consulting, Inc.
DeepRoot Green Infrastructure
Florida Chapter ISA
ISA Rocky Mountain Chapter
ISA Southern Chapter
ISA Texas
Jarraff Industries, Inc.
Michael Grimm Services, Inc.
New Jersey Arborists, Chapter ISA, Inc.
SavATree
Transmission and Distribution World
Tree Service Canada
Unitil Corporation
Urban Forest Nursery, Inc.
Urban Trees + Soils
Vermeer Corporation

Bronze Partners

Arborwear
Chippers, Inc.
ECI (Lakeside Environmental Consultants, Inc.)
Independent Tree LLC
John B. Ward & Co.
Mid-Atlantic Chapter ISA
Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation
Minnesota Society of Arboriculture
New England ISA
New York State Arborists, ISA Chapter, Inc.
Pacific Northwest ISA
Simonson and Associates Architects LLC
Wachtel Tree Science Inc.
Weaver Leather LLC
Western Chapter ISA

The Word on Webinars



If you missed our last TREE Fund webinar on arboricultural biomechanics with Dr. Brian Kane of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, it's now available for viewing via the [webinar page](#) of our website.

While you're there, be sure to pre-register for our next webinar – *Emerald Ash Borer: Strategies for Conserving Ash in the Urban Forest*, featuring Dr. Dan Herms of The Davey Tree Expert Company. Please note the date change on this program; it will take place on **November 28** at noon Mountain time.

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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