



Crowning Achievements

Effect of Tree Species on Cooling Complex Urban Environments



PHOTO CREDIT: T. RECCHIA

In crowded urban settings, planting the right tree in the right place means more than just avoiding power lines and other targets. To Dr. Henrik Sjöman, Swedish University of Agricultural Science (Gothenburg Botanic Garden), it also means knowing the beneficial qualities of individual tree species on the environment. In his research project, “The Role of Tree Species in Cooling the Urban Climate – Application in Tree Planting and Landscape Architecture,”

funded by TREE Fund’s Jack Kimmel International Grant, Dr. Sjöman examined how different species of trees influence what humans experience and feel in terms of both real and perceived temperature comfort in complex urban environments in both summer and winter. By recording them into the microclimate model ENVI-met, Dr. Sjöman studied the impact of 62 tree species and genotypes in solitary areas such as pocket parks, residential areas, parking lots, along streets and more.

The data Dr. Sjöman acquired will supply tree planters and landscape architects with a tangible understanding of how tree species differ significantly when it comes to mitigating urban temperatures and thermal stress in the environment, providing them with even more justification for why and where a particular tree is required for a particular location. Learn more about the impact of individual tree species on the climate [here](#).

“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

“Research” is the word that we use to define a set of protocols designed to help people turn subjective assumptions into (more) objective conclusions. It can take many forms, but the requirements of good research generally include:

- Intellectual rigor in seeking out and considering credible sources beyond those easily available in the public domain, even when they are not in alignment with the researcher’s presumptions;
- An ability and a willingness to compile and analyze qualitative and/or quantitative data using generally accepted statistical and scientific methods;
- A clearly-defined method for testing those data against a hypothesis, followed by a willingness to allow results to be re-tested by others;
- Independent affirmation of data and conclusions by peers in the field of research; and
- The recognition of the research’s utility, via cites and references from other researchers in the field of study, or wide-spread adoption of findings.

That list may be a bit academic, and perhaps it’s worth flipping the definition and asking: So, what *isn’t* high quality research, really? Some red flags:

- Using non-scientific public web sites (e.g. Wikipedia) as primary sources, since none of those sites index the countless proprietary resources that require library assistance to access;
- Throwing out entire sectors of the printed and online media worlds because they do not cover certain topics in ways that the researcher may wish to see them covered;
- Working in a vacuum, without the intellectual testing that comes from the healthy give-and-take of collegial debate and discourse;
- Reaching conclusions that are only cited or referenced by other individuals who enter the realm of research with the same viewpoint as the researcher; and
- Using shock tactics or logical fallacies to make pre-determined points.

When you compare those two lists, one point should become readily apparent: people can do the “bad research” list without many resources, where the “good research” list is far more dependent on the availability of skilled human, laboratory, field and/or financial resources. Which, of course, is where TREE Fund comes in: we’re one of a small number of funding sources for tree research projects, and we play a key role in developing rigorous findings that practitioners can trust, rather than depending on hearsay, half-baked experiments, gut feelings, or professional folklore.

Our next grant will push us over the \$4.0 million mark in total funds expended to advance scientific discovery and disseminate new knowledge in our field. It’s an important milestone for our community, even as we look forward to empowering the next research project to answer the next burning question that faces us. Our grant-making processes are designed to inspire trust in our outcomes, and when you, our readers and supporters, are making professional tree care decisions with significant property impacts associated with them, you should expect – and demand – nothing less.



You are invited to the

TREE Fund After Hours Bash!

August 13, 2019

6:00 – 7:00 pm

followed by

Toast with the Host

**Jackson Terminal
205 W Jackson Ave
Knoxville, TN**

Please register for this
FREE event when you
complete your ISA
Conference registration

**Ken Ottman
Outstanding
Volunteer Award
WINNER ANNOUNCED**

**Support your favorite
Tour des Trees
Teams and Riders!**

**Free Appetizers and
Two Drink Tickets**

**BRING YOUR
FRIENDS AND
JOIN THE FUN!**

Lead Donors

We are extremely grateful to the following people and organizations who contributed **over \$2,500** to TREE Fund in February 2019:

**BANDIT
INDUSTRIES, INC.**

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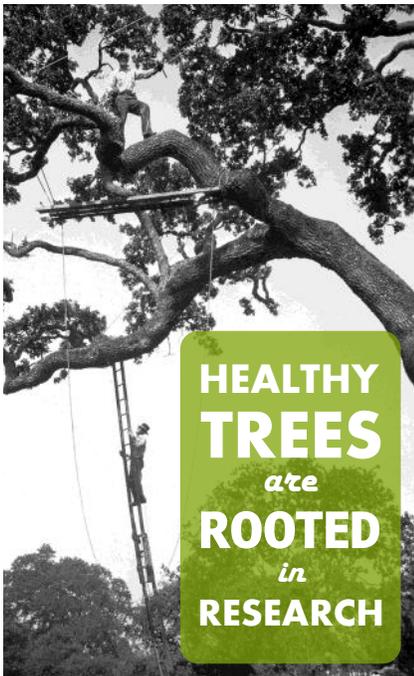
STEVEN GEIST

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**INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY OF
ARBORICULTURE**

Thank you!

See the full list of Lead Donors who make our vital work possible on our [website](#).



Visit our [Research Archives](#) to do some *safe* research of your own!

2019 Tour des Trees

Register to Ride Today!



Join us this September for five days and 450 miles of cycling through the rolling terrain of northern Tennessee and western Kentucky, starting and ending in Nashville. Not a cyclist or unable to join us this year? Do a Virtual Tour instead. Either way, you won't want to miss this year's ride! Complete details

on the 2019 Tour des Trees can be found [here](#).

Already registered? Be sure to follow the discussion and stay involved by joining our [Facebook](#) event and [Strava](#) Club!

Volunteer Spotlight

Dave Leonard

Dave Leonard is a 17-time Tour des Trees rider and a long-term TREE Fund Liaison representing the “small but mighty” Kentucky Chapter of ISA. As we prepare to visit Dave's home state this year for the first time on the Tour des Trees, he's been hard at work recruiting his fellow Kentuckians, raising funds (he ran the raffle at the Chapter's recent annual conference), and serving as an all-around champion for TREE Fund and its work. Our staff team regularly travels the country as part of our community engagement efforts, and it's not unusual that we will run into Dave, typically wearing his Tour des Trees jersey or jacket, at conferences and symposia, continuing his own education to be the best possible arborist that his customers and colleagues could ever wish to hire or recommend. Dave also has a key companion in his support for TREE Fund, as his wife Nancy has designed custom jewelry for sale at the TREE Fund booth at various industry events over the years, with proceeds benefiting our charitable mission.



Dave and Nancy are a great team with great passion for TREE Fund's work and the industry that we serve, and we are proud to acknowledge them this month in our Volunteer Spotlight.

To suggest someone for the Spotlight, contact [Teresa Recchia](#)

The Word on Webinars

If you missed February's "The Salt Dilemma: Growing Better Urban Trees in Northern Climates" webinar or any of our previous webinars, did you know you can watch recordings of them anytime by visiting our [website](#)?

Also, please mark your calendars for all of our upcoming webinars. Registration opens approximately one month before the program date. Space is limited so be sure to sign up early!



May 29, 2019 at 12 pm (Central)

Dr. Andrew Koeser, University of Wisconsin
Dr. Richard Hauer, University of Florida
Topic: Impact of TREE Fund Research Since 1992

August 29, 2019 at 12 pm (Central)

Dr. Glynn Percival, Bartlett Tree Experts
Research Laboratory, UK
Can We Vaccinate Trees to Protect Against Diseases?

June 11, 2019 at 12 pm (Mountain)

Dr. Nina Bassuk, Cornell University
*Remediating Compacted Soils Compromised
by Urban Construction*

November 19, 2019 at 12 pm (Mountain)

Dr. Kathleen Wolf, University of Washington
*Health Benefits of City Trees: Research Evidence
and Economic Values*

These one-hour programs are **FREE** and offer **1.0 CEU** credit from the International Society of Arboriculture, the Society of American Foresters, and sometimes the National Association of Landscape Professionals and the Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System. See webinar descriptions for specifics.

Contact Us

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