CURRENT TREE FUND GENERIC RESEARCH PRIORITIES AS DEFINED ON WEBSITE AND GRANT RFP'S

TREE Fund promotes science-based tree care for current and future generations. We offer research grants in the following areas:

- **Root and Soil Management:** Many urban tree problems originate below ground. Promoting root development, protecting roots from injury and conflicts with infrastructure are issues that arborists encounter regularly. Managing roots includes soil management.
- **Propagation, Planting and Establishment:** Survival and vigorous growth of trees after planting are of concern to arborists and the entire green industry. Arborists are increasingly dealing with problems that originate in, or could be avoided by, the planting process.
- **Plant Health Care:** Healthy plants have more effective defense systems and are better able to resist pests. Complete understanding of plant health may lead to new pest control strategies.
- **Risk Assessment and Worker Safety:** Safety is a major concern. It can be a life-or-death issue to tree workers and the public. Detection of defects and knowing how they develop are important. Improved equipment and work practices are needed.
- **Urban Forestry:** Urban forestry is the careful care and management of urban forests, i.e., tree populations in urban settings for the purpose of improving the urban environment.

TREE FUND COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANTS TO BE AWARDED IN 2019-2023

HYLAND R. JOHNS GRANTS

- **Background:** Our signature grant line established in 1995, though not currently backed by an endowment, nor a specific sponsoring organization or individual. Because of its history and importance in our portfolio, this is the one research grant we should continue to award annually, despite it not being endowed.
- **Scope:** Funds longer term research and technology transfer projects that have the potential of benefiting the everyday work of arborists. Projects are expected to be completed within three to five years, with a maximum award value of \$25,000. No project may receive more than one award from this program.

BARBORINAS FAMILY FUND

- **Background:** Established by the Barborinas Family of Washington State with a goal of \$100,000 and now fully funded. Will begin awarding grants of \$10,000 in 2019 to support work of interest to nurseries and related industries, with awards every other year.
- **Scope:** Will be formally defined later this year, but initial gift documents noted "tree research and/or arboriculture focused on tree planting, roots and the improvement of tree varieties for urban conditions" and "research having to so with street tree varieties, planting or transplanting techniques."

BOB SKIERA MEMORIAL FUND

- **Background:** Established jointly by TREE Fund and the International Society of Arboriculture with a goal of \$500,000, which was achieved in the summer of 2018. Issues annual grants valued at ~5.0% of the Fund's current value to support tree worker safety research.
- **Scope:** The Skiera Fund provides financial support for the "Building Bridges Initiative," 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 maximum award value of Skiera grants is \$30,000, which includes \$5,000 from the John White Memorial Fund.

SAFE ARBORIST TECHNIQUE FUND

- **Background:** Established jointly by TREE Fund and the International Society of Arboriculture with a goal of \$250,000 and now fully funded. Issues annual grants valued at ~5.0% of the Fund's current value to support tree worker safety research.
- **Scope:** Supports research and development and technology transfer on the techniques and equipment that arborists use in climbing, rigging, and working on trees; and the means of identifying potential hazards, to provide a safer working environment. Grant-funded projects are expected to be completed within two years of initial fund disbursement. The maximum award value of SATF grants is \$10,000.

JACK KIMMEL INTERNATIONAL GRANTS

- **Background:** Paid for annually by Canadian TREE Fund (CTF) under TREE Fund's sponsored grants program, with no endowment backing it. Typically one or two awards per year at \$10,000 each for researchers outside the United States, with CTF paying a 7.5% administrative fee to TREE Fund.
- **Scope:** These grants are available to researchers whose work is primarily outside of the United States. Projects are expected to be completed within one to two years. Grant award amounts are limited to a maximum of \$10,000 and will vary depending upon the adjudged value of the project relative to the needs of the arboriculture community.

JOHN AND EVELYN DULING FUND

- **Background:** Established via an estate gift from the Duling Foundation. Proceeds from this pool partially funds annual research grants in John Duling's name, with a maximum award value of \$25,000, and which are also funded via annual operations.
- **Scope:** Provide start-up or seed funding to support innovative research and technology transfer projects that have the potential of benefiting the everyday work of arborists. John Z. Duling Grants may be used to support exploratory work in the early stages of untested, but potentially transformative, research ideas and approaches. Examples may include application of new approaches to research questions, or application of new expertise involving novel disciplinary or interdisciplinary perspectives. Projects are expected to be completed within one to three years with a maximum grant award of \$25,000.

UTILITY ARBORIST RESEARCH FUND

- **Background:** Established jointly by TREE Fund and the Utility Arborist Association with a goal of \$1,000,000 and now fully funded. Issues grants annually at ~5.0% of the Fund's current value to support annual utility arboriculture research grants.
- **Scope:** Work funded by UARF is expected to be completed within one to three years of award. Maximum grant amount is \$50,000. The following topics have been identified by UAA and TREE Fund as areas of particular interest or emergent need; this list is not exhaustive, but is offered to provide perspective on the types of research questions UARF is intended to address:
 - Developing cost effective processes for assessing the risk of failure to seemingly healthy trees;
 - Assessing tree contact as it relates to wildfire ignition;
 - Evaluating the inherent tree-related reliability of common types of energy delivery infrastructure;
 - Assessing risks caused by crown asymmetry due to line clearance pruning;
 - Comparing the costs, benefits, values, and hazards of different methods of right-of-way management for both power transmission lines and pipelines;
 - Assessing wildlife and plant communities' response to various right-of-way management protocols, to include the development of a "portable" research protocol that would allow consistent evaluation of various vegetation management techniques across multiple sites.