



## Crowning Achievements

### Research Results on Establishment of Bare Root Transplants

Bare root transplanting of large landscape trees is increasing with the availability of air excavation tools to dig the trees. This method offers the ability to retain the majority of the structural root system at transplanting, which theoretically should allow the tree to establish more quickly. Dr. Gary Watson and Angela Hewitt of The Morton Arboretum set out to test this concept in the study, "[Establishment and stability of large trees transplanted bare root.](#)"

Watson and Hewitt found that large bare root transplanted trees can indeed establish more rapidly – typically in about two growing seasons – than those using the traditional standard soil ball method. Interestingly, this does not appear to be dependent on tree size.

Read detailed findings on this project and discover additional TREE Fund studies related to planting and establishment on the [Research Archive](#) page of the TREE Fund website.



*“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

As the leaves begin to color and drop here in Northern Illinois over the next few weeks, we will be rolling out our individual year-end fundraising appeal, as hard as it is to believe that the end of the fiscal year is already drawing near. We're on track for another great year in 2018, but the unrestricted operating funds earned via the year-end appeal are crucial to our ongoing success, so my thanks to all in advance for considering us in your charitable plans in the weeks ahead.



The “charitable” component of that sentiment is more important than usual this year, as many of you are no doubt evaluating how changes in the Federal tax code could impact the deductibility of your gifts to TREE Fund and other nonprofits. While TREE Fund is not in the business of providing financial advice, we do know that many of you may find it financially beneficial this year to use the increased standard deduction in lieu of itemizing your deductions (including charitable giving), which will reduce the strictly financial tax return benefit you receive from each dollar of your charitable giving in 2018.

I respectfully hope, though, that you do not change your giving plans for that reason, since the charitable good you do for TREE Fund is actually independent of any *quid pro quo* tax benefit you receive as a result of your philanthropy. Charity is, by its very definition, the voluntary giving of help, typically in the form of money, to those in need – and TREE Fund does indeed need your continued support if we are to build on and expand our research and education programs going forward, especially as Federal funding for urban forestry may decline in parallel with lower revenues from Federal taxes.

TREE Fund is a charity, at bottom line, worthy of support for the good work we do, and for the benefits that our research and education results deliver to communities around the world. It is only through your charitable support that we are fully able to be a force for good in the world, funding vital, beneficial work that few others do. I've spent most of my career in the nonprofit sector, and I know that when push comes to shove, that sense of doing something righteous, and making a difference through your gifts, is the truly fundamental motivator for donors, one that resonates deeply in ways that simple monetary benefit from tax deductibility cannot.

Here's hoping you share that sentiment with me, and that we can continue to count on you to do good for a good cause this year when you receive a letter from me asking for your support in the weeks ahead. You may or may not receive a meaningful tax benefit from giving to us this year, but the moral and ethical benefit of sharing your resources openly and without restriction on behalf of TREE Fund or other charities you respect is profound and lasting. At the end of the day, it's simply a good thing to do – and I remain personally committed to ensuring that we leverage your support widely, and serve as responsible stewards for funds entrusted to our care.

## Landscape Below Ground Conference IV

The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL

October 15 - 17, 2018

This conference features top scientists and practitioners from around the world (including many TREE Fund researchers) providing an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the latest research and best management practices for establishing and maintaining trees' roots in challenging urban situations. Learn more and register before October 8 at [The Morton Arboretum's website](#).

## Lead Donors

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

- ISA Texas
- Mowbray's Tree Service
- Pacific Northwest ISA
- Penn-Del Chapter of ISA
- Ward D. Peterson
- J. Eric Smith and Marcia Brom Smith

## Last Chance to Support the 2018 Tour des Trees

If you've been meaning to give but just haven't gotten around to it, now's the time to take action! Tour fundraising ends **October 1, 2018**, on the [Tour des Trees page](#) of the TREE Fund website. 100% of your gift supports tree research and education. Thank you!

## Grant Applications Closing Soon

Applications for the Duling and Kimmel Grants close **October 1**. Get [details and application instructions](#) on the TREE Fund website.

## Asplundh Golf Outing Kicks Off Trees & Utilities Conference in Omaha

by Kristin Wild, Corporate Communications, Asplundh Tree Experts, LLC

After a successful event last year in Kansas City, MO, Asplundh brought its 24th Annual Golf Outing to Benefit TREE Fund to Omaha, NE for the Trees & Utilities Conference once again. It was a great start to this joint collaboration of the Utility Arborist Association and the Arbor Day Foundation. Mother Nature also supported the event with sunshine and reasonable temperatures during the afternoon of August 27 when more than 50 golfers teed off for TREE Fund at Shoreline Golf Course in Carter Lake, IA.

All the golfers were treated to complimentary beverages on the course and a festive awards reception afterwards, courtesy of Altec Industries. In addition to Altec and the many golfers from utilities, suppliers and other vegetation management contractors, Asplundh was thrilled with the excellent support received from the 17 hole sponsors displayed on the poster below. Although the final tally of proceeds is pending, Asplundh expects to be able to direct a



Winning foursome (L to R): Eric Albert, Dominion Energy; Andrew Dodson, Independence Power & Light; Chairman of the Board and CEO Scott Asplundh; and Mark Styslinger, Altec Industries.



significant portion of the total donation toward the Utility Arborist Research Fund.

Many thanks to the golfers and event sponsors for putting the FUN in this fundraiser, which supports the research and education that advances utility arboriculture.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Randy Miller & Geoff Kempter

Please help us celebrate **Randy Miller** of CN Utility Consulting, Inc. and **Geoff Kempter** of Asplundh Tree Experts, LLC in this month's Volunteer Spotlight. Together they have just published the long-awaited book *Utility Arboriculture*, ISA's Utility Specialist Certification Study Guide. Congratulations!



Miller

Kempter

Randy is a former Chairman of the TREE Fund Board of Trustees, veteran Tour rider, and current chair of the Liaison Committee that leads and develops TREE Fund champions in allied organizations. Geoff is a former TREE Fund Trustee, one of the founders of the Tour des Trees event, and a long-time TREE Fund advocate. Thank you both for your continued support of TREE Fund.

## The Word on Webinars

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 *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 webinar; it will take place on **November 28** at noon Mountain time. We apologize for any inconvenience and hope you will be able to join us.

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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