



## Crowning Achievements

### ***Back to Forestry School***

The Forestry and Landscape Management Program (FLMP) at Kent Roosevelt High School has been in existence for over 20 years and, as you can imagine, its tree climbing equipment has experienced a lot of wear and tear during this time. Climbing gear must be replaced frequently to remain safe, and this requires a great deal of expense. Through their 2018 Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grant administered by TREE Fund, “Setting Young People Up for a Future in Arboriculture,” Kent



Roosevelt’s FLMP has been able to purchase five new, complete climbing sets. Additional support from TREE Fund’s 2019 Education Crown/Diamond Partner and campus neighbor, The Davey Tree Expert Company, greatly expanded their grant budget bringing the total number of new sets up to 15!

This modern gear has already taught 18 high school students safe, efficient climbing techniques and skills. Throughout the school year students use the new gear to work on community tree care projects, and share their passion for trees and climbing with fellow students and parents by giving climbing demonstrations. Tree care companies and institutions of higher education benefit greatly from having access to high school students who are already trained as productive climbers and arborists. Kent Roosevelt is known for assisting its forestry students with finding careers in the industry and tree care companies have become accustomed to recruiting from them. Many FLMP alumni have continued their arboriculture education at colleges such as Ohio State ATI, Kent State University, Cuyahoga Community College and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, before entering the tree care industry. Read more about the impact of this grant on Kent Roosevelt High School’s FLMP by visiting [treefund.org](http://treefund.org).

The Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grant supports arboricultural education programs or projects within the State of Ohio for people over 16 years old. If you have a tree project in Ohio that could benefit from this type of grant, please visit our [website](http://treefund.org) to learn more.

“Nature  
welcomes inquiry.

Nature does not  
hide its work.

Just seek,  
and you will find.”

- Alex L. Shigo

### **In This Issue**

- Crowning Achievements
- Leading Thoughts
- TREE Fund After Hours
- TREE Fund ISA Conference Symposium
- Lead Donors
- Fall Grant Cycle Open!
- Tour des Trees 2019
- Volunteer Spotlight
- The Word on Webinars



## Leading Thoughts

By J. Eric Smith, TREE Fund President and CEO

I am writing this month's column on July 29, 2019, which is my father's 80th birthday. He was a career Marine Corps officer, serving with distinction for 28 years, including arduous combat tours in Vietnam and Lebanon. After his final active duty military assignment as Chief of Staff at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, he worked on for another decade as the general manager of WAGP, a radio station operated by his church in South Carolina's Low Country. In July 2002, he finally decided to retire for good, ready to enjoy many well-deserved years of rest and relaxation with my mother. One month later, he was driving on one of the Low Country's narrow causeways when an elderly driver inexplicably lost control of his car and hit him head on. He died from his injuries three days later, in the same hospital where I was born. He was 63 years old.

As a "gentleman of a certain age," I have found myself reflecting on my father's story in recent years, as my work life has often involved long separations from my family. Those reflections were part of the mental arithmetic that led me to recently announce my retirement as President and CEO of TREE Fund, effective October 31. My wife and I have both worked hard, lived simply, and saved well for a long time, so I'm blessed to have the ability to take that next step into retirement now. Sure, I could hang on and keep working the "nine to five" to put some more money in the savings account, as my father did, bless him, working diligently toward a retirement which he never got to enjoy. But I learned a lesson from that: it's okay to let go and leave when you can – so I am.

I'll be riding the Tour des Trees again this year and hopefully (health permitting) for many years to come, and I plan to stay engaged with and supportive of the amazing global network of tree care researchers and practitioners who have taught me so much during my time at TREE Fund and have been so generous and welcoming to me over the past four years. I had a robust freelance writing practice earlier in my career, and I plan to get back to that in the years ahead, so if you ever need a hired pen, we should talk. I've also got some book-length manuscripts that have been begging for my time and attention, so I'll be glad to return to those personal projects soon.

I have a few more of these columns ahead before I step aside from my current role, so for this month, I want to close simply by expressing my deepest gratitude to you all. I am proud to have supported your collective success in my own small ways. Your work, your gifts, and your faith in the crucial importance of urban and community forests truly move me. Thank you!



You are invited to

## TREE Fund After Hours!

August 13, 2019  
6:00 – 7:00 pm

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!**



### TREE Fund Symposium at ISA Conference

On August 13, 2019, Dr. Richard Hauer, Dr. Andrew Koeser, Dr. Arnold "Beau" Brodbeck and TREE Fund Chairman Steve Geist, RCA, BCMA, will present an interactive symposium called, "Looking Backward and Forward Through TREE Fund Research: Impacts, Practical Research Outcomes and You." in the Knoxville Convention Center. All ISA conference attendees are invited to join what should be a lively discussion, moderated by TREE Fund President and CEO, J. Eric Smith.

## Lead Donors

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

**BANDIT INDUSTRIES, INC.**

**JACQUES BRUNSWICK  
AND LOUISE DESJARDINS**

**COLLATOS FAMILY  
FOUNDATION**

**FLORIDA CHAPTER ISA**

**ISA SOUTHERN CHAPTER**

**RONALD ROMERO**

**SAVATREE**

**UNITIL SERVICE CORP.**

**WEST COAST  
ARBORISTS, INC.**

**Thank you!**

See the full list of Lead Donors who make our vital tree research and education work possible at [treefund.org](http://treefund.org).

## Fall 2019 Grant Cycle Begins!

TREE Fund is accepting Letters of Inquiry (100 word limit) for its fall 2019 grant cycle until September 15, 2019. For approved Letter of Inquiries only, grant applications will be accepted until October 1, 2019. Visit our [website](http://treefund.org) to learn more.



## Tour des Trees 2019

Tour des Trees is just around the corner and our riders and teams have been working extremely hard to reach their fundraising goals—and it shows. We are pleased to announce that in early August they hit over \$200,000, officially marking the two-thirds point to reaching this year's \$300,000 campaign goal! Help them get all the way there by supporting a rider or team in person at TREE Fund After Hours on August 13 (details on page 2) or by clicking [here](#). Remember that ISA Chapter contributions are due to riders and teams by August 23.

**Attention Riders!** In addition to submitting your fundraising minimum by September 3, please make sure you have set up your **fundraising page** and made all of your **travel arrangements**. We also encourage you to join the Tour's **Facebook Event Page** and **Strava Club** to help you stay in-the-know and prepare for your 425+ mile ride. Happy training, happy fundraising and see you next month in Nashville!

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Joanna Nakeff

This month we are excited to honor long-time TREE Fund volunteer, Joanna Nakeff! Jo is known and loved by all as the one-of-a-kind, irreplaceable “Mama Care Bear” to many a Tour des Trees rider. Since 2007 Jo has joined Team Canada on the Tour as a full-time volunteer, filling bottles, giving hugs, ringing cowbells and doing everything in her power to ensure that every rider ends each day with a smile (and a piece of Canadian candy)! But maybe her most important role is making sure that the rolling office of Tour Director, Paul Wood, stays plugged in and on top of the many moving parts during the ride each day.



Jo gives new meaning to being a Tour des Trees volunteer. Not only does she spend the week creating a great experience for Tour riders, she is also commonly found supporting local coffee shops, engaging with community members and encouraging the volunteer support team (usually through hugs, candy, and her lovely Joanna smile). Our Tour des Trees family wouldn't be the same without Mama Care Bear at the helm. We can't wait for that big hug in Nashville this September, Jo!

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

## The Word on Webinars

TREE Fund is pleased to announce that registration is now open for our August and September webinars! Sign up soon for Dr. Glynn Percival's August 29 webinar, "Can We Vaccinate Trees to Protect Against Diseases?" and James Urban and Paul Josey's webinar, "The Landscape Architect in the Nursery: Selecting Trees and Enforcing Specifications," on September 10 by visiting our [website](#). Reminder—space is limited!



TREE Fund's one-hour webinars are **FREE** and offer **1.0 CEU** credit for live broadcast from the International Society of Arboriculture, the Society of American Foresters, the National Association of Landscape Professionals and sometimes the Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System. Registration and more detailed CEU credit information becomes available on our [website](#) approximately one month before webinar date.

Missed a webinar? Watch it anytime on our website's [webinar archive](#) page.



### August 29, 2019 at 12 pm (Central)

Dr. Glynn Percival, Bartlett Tree Experts  
Research Laboratory, UK

*Can We Vaccinate Trees to Protect Against Diseases?*

### September 10, 2019 at 12 pm (Mountain)

James Urban, Urban Trees + Soils, and  
Paul Josey, Wolf Josey Landscape Architects  
*The Landscape Architect in the Nursery: Selecting  
Trees and Enforcing Specifications*

### November 19, 2019 at 12 pm (Mountain)

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



### Contact Us

#### TREE Fund

552 S. Washington Street  
Suite 109  
Naperville, IL 60540  
(630) 369-8300  
[treefund@treefund.org](mailto:treefund@treefund.org)

Connect with us online at [treefund.org](http://treefund.org)  
and on social media:

#treefund

  @TREEFund

 @TREE\_Fund



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