



TREE PRESS

June 2020

"I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech-tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines."

- Henry David Thoreau

[Visit our Website](#)

Crowning achievements

The TREE Fund granted the following scholarships and the Ohio ISA Education Grant in May.

Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grant, \$5,000

Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Tree Steward Training Program

Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship, \$5,000

John Hoogendoorn, University of New Brunswick

John Wright Memorial Scholarship, \$5,000

Robert Leighton Simonton, Virginia Tech

Bonnie Appleton Memorial Scholarship, \$5,000

Layla Lang, Cuyahoga Community College

Fran Ward Women in Arboriculture Scholarship, \$5,000

Monica Kusik, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Tour des Trees 2020 postponed

The TREE Fund Board of Trustees, in response to the effects of the pandemic restrictions and risks, has postponed the Colorado Tour until 2021. Your support of the Tour and donations are vital to the life of TREE Fund, and we are deeply grateful.



To enable the TREE Fund family to fully express its support despite the pandemic, we are creating a new virtual tour. The details will follow.

Registration for the new 2021 tour in Colorado will open in January.

We're also thankful for your patience and understanding as we analyzed whether the traditional tour was possible, reasonable, and responsible. Among the many factors considered, registered rider responses to a survey were most important. As many of them indicated by their responses, an event held during uncertain times faces countless hurdles involving logistics, finances, diminished participation, insurance, public health, regulations, and more.

In the end, no matter what precautions we might take, the risk to rider and volunteer safety was higher than we could take in good conscience. You matter.

Our priority now is to get a virtual campaign underway. Happily, the new virtual tour will offer engagement and tree camaraderie as we carry on "Rollin' in Place" this year (a lot of exciting fundraising incentives and ideas are in store!), with plans to host Tour des Trees in Colorado in 2021. Keep an eye on your inboxes for more information. We invite all to participate and look forward to engaging with you virtually!

Please note that, because registration fees cannot be refunded or deferred, anyone who previously registered for Tour des Trees 2020 "Rollin' the Rockies" will receive a Tour des Trees "Rollin' in Place" jersey. If you did not previously place your jersey order, Maggie will be in touch to collect your sizing information. Jerseys will also be available for sale; more details to come.

There is no way to express the depth of our gratitude for those of you who have already gone above and beyond in your fundraising efforts this year. We are grateful and will continue to pursue methods of showing our thanks as we work our way through these changes. (All prior donations will simply be absorbed into the virtual campaign, and riders will be included in all fundraising incentives moving forward.)

Thank you again for your patience, understanding, and continued support of the TREE Fund. The funds raised by the tour are what keep the TREE Fund up and running and we are so very grateful that when times get tough we can depend on you, our TREE family.

Russell King, TREE Fund President and CEO
Paul Wood, Tour Director
Maggie Harthorn, Community Engagement Manager

Tell us what you think

We'd like to gauge everyone's interest in the upcoming "Rollin' in Place" virtual Tour des Trees. Please take a moment to let us know what you think [here](#).

Thank you!

Lead donors

We are deeply grateful to the following people and organizations who contributed \$2,500 or more to the TREE Fund in May 2020:

Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC
Corteva Agriscience, Agriculture Division of DowDuPont
FirstEnergy Corp.
PECO Energy (an Exelon Company)
Wisconsin Arborist Association

See the full list of lead donors who make our vital tree research and education work possible on our [website](#).

TREE Fund free webinar series

The TREE Fund is proud to partner with the [Alabama Cooperative Extension System](#) to bring you free education offerings. Mark your calendars for these upcoming free webinars from TREE Fund:



Protecting trees from construction impacts
Tuesday, June 23 at 3 p.m. Central
Andrew Loeser, PhD

Enhancing Tree Health in Water Sensitive Urban Design: Role of Mycorrhizae
Tuesday, July 14 at 4 p.m. Central
Brandon Winfrey, PhD, Monash University

Soil Assessment for Urban Trees: Part 2 Action Plans
Tuesday, September 29, 12 p.m. Central
Bryant C. Scharenbroch, PhD, University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Measuring Multi-stemmed Trees
Tuesday, October 13 at 12 p.m. Central
Yasha A. S. Magarik, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
Lara Roman, PhD, Research Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, Philadelphia Field Station, Northern Research Station

TREE Fund's 1-hour webinars are *free* and offer 1.0 CEU credit for live broadcasts 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 information becomes available on our [website](#) approximately one month before webinar date. Missed a webinar? Watch it anytime on our [webinar archive page](#)

Leading thoughts

by Russell K. King, TREE Fund President and CEO

The pandemic's postponement of the 2020 Tour des Trees is a loss for the TREE Fund in many ways. Postponing is the only ethical choice, but doing the right thing can often be costly.



The close-knit TREE Fund family cherishes its camaraderie, so the emotional loss is real. The tour is also our primary means of raising unrestricted donations that pay “operational” costs—that is, it’s the money needed to keep the TREE Fund running—and we now face a herculean challenge.

Operations is the nonprofit work no one wants to pay for. We accept it as part of a for-profit business, but not for nonprofits. It makes no sense, of course. Here, operations make the research possible. The operational tasks of the TREE Fund--administration of 19 grant and scholarship programs, dissemination of emerging knowledge, maintenance of research tracking and archiving, oversight of endowment funds of more than \$4.1 million, coordination of grant application evaluations and report reviews, communications, legal and regulatory compliance, board and committee facilitation, budgeting, auditing, governance, strategic planning, international networking, database management, donor development and fundraising, and more--are essential to survival. Without operations, the vital work of supporting research and education will halt.

Making a distinction between research and operations can be misleading. A portion of unrestricted/operational donations directly supports research. For instance, the Hyland Johns and Jack Kimmel grants—up to \$35,000--are funded in part or in whole by unrestricted/operational funds.

In fact, all funds donated to the TREE Fund, whether restricted or unrestricted, support scientific research important to arboriculture, and the support far exceeds the actual dollars donated. For every dollar the TREE Fund gives to research, \$2.63* in additional funds are, on average, leveraged (*report of Dr. Richard Hauer and Dr. Andrew Koeser, 2018; <https://treefund.org/archives/17878>).

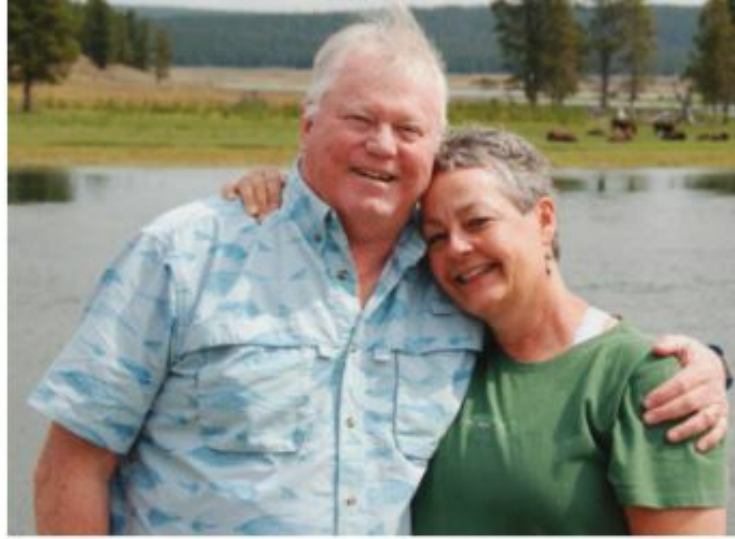
My point is this: Without the Tour des Trees, the TREE Fund needs your help in new ways. We’re a charitable foundation, not a membership organization—we don’t have income from dues or product sales—so we are entirely dependent on your generosity. The TREE Fund is growing, forging a new and more robust future, but it needs your help in building a bridge over the “pandemic gap” and into tomorrow. Thank you, in advance, for being part of this great cause.

Donate now

In Memoriam: **Nelsen Money**

Long-time TREE Fund

supporter and leader of utility arborists Nelsen Money passed away in May. He is remembered with great fondness by many in the TREE Fund family.



The late Nelsen Money and his wife Pam

Will Nutter, a member of the TREE Fund Board of Trustees, told the *Utility Arborist Newsline*:

“Nelsen is one of the most giving people I have ever met, giving of his time, experiences, and his

wisdom. Nelsen always worked in the background as to not draw attention to himself. He preferred to pass the attention and torch to others around him for the greater good of our industry and profession.”

Randy Miller, also a member of the TREE Fund Board of Trustees and who followed Nelsen as president of the Utility Arborist Association, described him as a, “hall-of-famer caliber guy, both personally and professionally.” What he valued most from Nelsen was his “measured judgement and sound advice during a dynamic period in the UAA’s history.”

Nelsen is remembered as a leader and mentor who cultivated other leaders, coaching, supporting, and inspiring them, as needed.

We offer thanks to the Utility Arborist Association for providing this information. You can read more about this remarkable man in the July/August edition of the Utility Arborist Newsline.

TREE Fund achieves highest rating

TREE Fund has reached Guidestar's highest level of achievement for nonprofit transparency--the platinum award. GuideStar is the world's largest and most authoritative source of information on nonprofit organizations. Major donors tend to look to GuideStar as the “seal of approval” before making donations.



THANK YOU

TREE Fund Crown Partners!



TREE Fund

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TREE Fund is a 501(C)3 nonprofit with a mission to support scientific discovery and dissemination of new knowledge in the fields of arboriculture and urban forestry.