



January 2021

*"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy,
and after all, our most pleasing responsibility."*

– Wendell Berry

[Visit our Website](#)

Volunteer Spotlight

Novelist James Lane Allen wrote that "Adversity does not build character—it reveals it," and the adversity of 2020 gave us a glimpse into the character of this month's highlighted volunteer: Arnold "Beau" Brodbeck, PhD.

Beau is both an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist and an Alabama Registered Forester. His doctorate is in forestry from Auburn University. Beau works as a regional agent with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.



Beau's year as chair of the TREE Fund Board of Trustees began just two months after the arrival of the TREE Fund's new president and CEO. Leading a nonprofit foundation with a new president while the organization seeks to expand its donor base would be challenging enough, but then the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The risks and restrictions created by the pandemic cut off most traditional fundraising events and closed a third of the nation's nonprofits.

In 2020, the TREE Fund was able to:

- stay alive when so many other nonprofit organizations succumbed to the effects of the pandemic,
- fund our full menu of grants and scholarships,
- convert to a virtual Tour des Trees,
- enhance and expand our webinars to meet the CEU needs of certified arborists, and
- begin building our Sustainability Fund.

Beau's leadership proved as calm and as rational as it was strong and determined. He also demonstrated adept diplomacy. Thanks in large part to Beau and other volunteers like him, the TREE Fund gained strength during a

Application Period Open: Hyland R. Johns Grant Program

Established in 1995 to honor one of the leaders in the arboriculture industry and a founder of the ISA Research Trust, the Hyland R. Johns Grant Program 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.

In 2021, the TREE Fund's Hyland Johns Grant program will be focused specifically on tree health in urban sites. For example:

- pest and pathogen biology and management;
- selection, evaluation, or breeding of pest or pathogen resistant trees;
- improved technology for delivery of therapeutic chemicals into or onto trees;
- assessment and mitigation of damage to trees from noxious chemicals;
- effects of arboricultural practices such as transplanting, pruning and fertilization on incidence of specific pests or pathogens.

This list is by no means inclusive, and we will consider proposals that may address many other topics related to tree health maintenance.

The TREE Fund welcomes research proposals and applications from a wide range of academic and technical disciplines, of both a qualitative and a quantitative nature.

The TREE Fund does not fund the following:

- grants to individuals;
- projects that are primarily municipal tree surveys or assessments;
- tree planting programs;
- studies of individual tree species for the primary purpose of agricultural or timber/forest planting yield; or
- commercial tree- or soil-related product testing primarily for the benefit of the company that manufactures the product.

The TREE Fund will accept completed applications only between Jan. 15 and March 15, 2021. To apply, send an email containing a brief letter of inquiry (LOI) of no more than 100 words describing your project title and concept to treefund@treefund.org before March 1. Your LOI must clearly identify the principal investigator and institution contracted for the work should your application be approved.

The TREE Fund will evaluate whether your LOI concept meets all of our application criteria and is deemed to have a reasonable possibility of success given this year's research priorities. If your LOI is approved, the TREE Fund will send you a numbered application form for your use. You may not apply without that numbered application form.

For more information about this grant and how to apply, please visit our

Application Period Open: Utility Arborist Research Fund Grant Program

The TREE Fund and Utility Arborist Association (UAA) established the Utility Arborist Research Fund (UARF) in 2010 to finance work with real importance and benefit to utility tree care professionals. In 2017, the UARF endowment reached its \$1 million activation goal, and the first grant under this program was awarded in 2018.

The TREE Fund manages the UARF endowment and administers all research grants awarded, while UAA's Research Committee advises the TREE Fund with respect to research priorities. Given the immense scope of annual utility arboriculture work on a global basis, if UARF-funded research can generate even a 1% reduction in tree-related outages, customer complaints, vegetation management complexity or emergency tree work, the financial, public relations, and worker safety returns on investment will be immense.

A total of \$50,000 is available for award in 2021; the minimum award considered will be \$10,000, the maximum \$50,000, so that one to five grants may be awarded, subject to receipt of compliant applications. Work funded by UARF is expected to be completed within one to three years of award.

For 2021, the TREE Fund and UAA are seeking UARF proposals guided by the prioritized summary of research topics polled from our wider membership, prioritized as follows, with equal consideration given to these topics:

- employee, Contractor and Public Safety (including training relevance and quality, and training frequency);
- service reliability (including tree failure and tree worker experience); and
- regulatory compliance (including training and process improvement).

While the TREE Fund and UAA encourage applications that are aligned with these priorities, both organizations also understand that social, exploratory and other research questions may arise. The TREE Fund and UAA are thus open to evaluating any proposal related to vegetation management in the utility industry. UARF may not be used to fund:

- grants to individuals;
- projects that are primarily municipal tree surveys or assessments;
- tree planting programs;
- studies of individual tree species for the primary purpose of agricultural or timber/forest planting yield; or
- commercial tree- or soil-related product testing primarily for the benefit of the company that manufactures the product.

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For more information about this grant and how to apply, please visit our website [here](#).

Application Period Open: Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grant Program

Established in 2012, the Ohio Chapter International Society of Arboriculture Education Grant Program funds arboricultural education programs or projects within Ohio. The purpose of this grant is to increase the public awareness of and support the advancement of knowledge in the field of arboriculture and urban forestry to benefit people, trees, and the environment. Successful grant applications must:

- relate to arboriculture, urban forestry or related disciplines;
- serve a target population aged 16 years or older;
- include a hands-on, interactive or experiential component; and
- include a sound evaluation component to demonstrate program outcomes and impact.

The grant application process is open to non-profit, charitable, municipal or educational organizations that can demonstrate tax-exempt status, are not engaged in partisan political or religious activity, and whose mission is consonant with the TREE Fund's charitable purpose, including but not limited to, arboretums, public gardens, high schools, vocational schools, two-year colleges and four-year colleges.

Projects are expected to be completed within one year.

Award amount: \$5,000

Applications accepted Jan. 15 to March 15, 2021

The TREE Fund will accept applications between Jan. 15 and March 15, 2021. To apply, send an email containing a brief (no more than 100 words) description of your project title and concept to treefund@treefund.org. The TREE Fund staff will confirm eligibility for consideration, and if your concept qualifies, will send you a numbered application form for your use.

[Read more](#)

Application Period Open: Scholarships

The TREE Fund offers scholarships for undergraduate students who aspire to careers in arboriculture, urban forestry, and related fields. All active scholarship programs are listed below. Before applying for any scholarship, carefully read the guidelines provided in the "Read More" links below. [Contact](#) the TREE Fund directly with any questions.

Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship Program

Supports college students studying arboriculture, urban forestry or related fields with the intention of pursuing careers in arboriculture.

Award amount: \$5,000

Applications accepted Jan. 15 to March 15, 2021

[Read more](#)

Bonnie Appleton Memorial Scholarship Program

Supports college students studying arboriculture, urban forestry, horticulture, nursery management or a related field with the intention of becoming a professional in one of these fields.

Award amount: \$5,000

Applications accepted Jan. 15 to March 15, 2021

[Read more](#)

John Wright Memorial Scholarship Program

Supports high school seniors and returning college students pursuing careers related to arboriculture.

Award amount: \$5,000

Applications accepted Jan. 15 to March 15, 2021

[Read more](#)

Fran Ward Women in Arboriculture Scholarship Program

Supports female college students enrolled in a program related to the practice of arboriculture and urban forestry.

Award amount: \$5,000

Applications accepted Jan. 15 to March 15, 2021

[Read more](#)

Tour des Trees 2021

The 2020 Tour des Trees was scheduled for Colorado but postponed by the pandemic. We held a highly successful virtual tour instead. For 2021, we're planning to have both a "real" tour and a virtual tour.

We're heading back to Colorado, but much depends on the success of the inoculation efforts for COVID-19. We will announce by mid-March whether the "real" tour will be held this year.

Watch the *TREE Press* and our website for more information.



Lead Donors

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

Arborjet
Jim and Annie Barborinas
CN Utility Consulting

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

2021 TREE Fund Webinar Series

The TREE Fund is proud to partner with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to bring you free education offerings. We are now able to accommodate up to 3,000 participants! Mark your calendars for these upcoming free webinars from TREE Fund:



Loading of a Tie-in Point While Climbing

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 12 p.m. Central
Brian Kane, PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst

[Register now.](#)

SAF CEU Cat 2: 1.00

ISA CEU Category: Practice: 1, Climber Specialist: 1, Certified Arborist: 1,
Municipal Specialist: 1, Aerial Lift: 1

LiDAR based urban tree inventory permits a better evaluation of tree services: an example from Montréal Canada

Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 12 p.m. Central
Dan Kneeshaw, PhD, University of Quebec, Montreal

Why do some trees transplant better than others?: a look at some new research on water uptake

Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 12 p.m. Central
Nina Bassuk, PhD, Cornell University

A three-pronged approach to understanding the defensive mechanisms in Green Ash resistant to EAB

July 27, 2021, at 12p.m. Central
Jeanne Romero-Severson, PhD, University of Notre Dame

Long term effects of electrical right-of-way vegetation management on floral and faunal communities

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021, at 12 p.m. Central
Carolyn Mahan, PhD, Penn State Altoona

Growing trees in paved sites

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021, at 12 p.m. Central
Alessio Fini, PhD, University of Milan

The 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 each webinar date.

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

First TREE Fund Poetry Prize Winner

Within a tree

by Lucy Meurer

Silent they stand through the passage of time,
As the rest of the world moves without seeming rhythm or rhyme.
Whether young and spry or old and wise
Each one's effect is often a surprise.

A sturdy pillar to lean on after a long day,
A pirate ship or castle in which children play,
A safe place for a nest while a bird first flies,
In trees a world of opportunity lies.

Oak, pine, maple, or fir,
Each has its own otherworldly lure.
Trees can shelter us from the storm outside,
We can build our own world while with them we abide.

Steadfast sentinels, trustworthy friends,
Places of comfort where broken things mend.
In one place all these things could never be,
Except if one were to look within a tree.

Leading Thoughts

By Russell King

TREE Fund President & CEO

The TREE Fund depends on the support of people like you not only for donations, but for helping promote the TREE Fund's cause and raising awareness of our work.



One of the most effective ways you helped last year was via social media. As people shared our posts, awareness of the TREE Fund grew. For example, one post went viral and was seen by more than a quarter of a million people.

This year, we're focusing on forming partnerships with corporations, organizations, foundation, groups and other institutions that are linked to arboriculture but are outside the traditional tree care family. We're asking for your help in identifying those institutions. If you might be able to help with some information or insight, please **get in touch**.

Foundations. Foundations may be attached to surprising entities, such as

insurance companies, financial planners, banks, etc.

Organizations. Organizations involved in, advocating for, or otherwise supporting trees, forests, urban forests, landscapes, arboretums, parks, nature preserves and sanctuaries, forest therapy (aka forest bathing, Shinrin-Yoku), the environment, human health and wellness. This might also include arboretums, research groups, environmental advocacy groups, academic and industrial research departments, and universities.

Other businesses. Business seeking to express “green values” may be interested in partnering with the TREE Fund. Often, these are customers or vendors or your employer, but there’s no reason to limit yourself to those.

Businesses with ESG investing. Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) refers to the three central factors in measuring the sustainability and societal impact of an investment in a company or business. A growing number of businesses make it possible for their employees to give to nonprofits through the payroll program (and some offer matching donations). The employees select their preferred nonprofits from a list provided by the employer. Getting the TREE Fund on those lists could prove helpful.

Of course, while we begin our journey into the pathless wood of an uncertain future, we are grateful that our traditional supporters are with us (see below). These and many other funders, both organizations and individuals, have been the soil, sun and water that have sustained the TREE Fund and helped it grow.

We all owe them our thanks, both for what they have accomplished through the TREE Fund thus far, and for what we will accomplish in the years ahead.

THANK YOU TREE Fund Crown Partners!





TREE Fund

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[Donate now](#)

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.