



Tree Research & Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund) 2011 End of Year Report

Our Mission: We support sustainable communities and environmental stewardship by funding research, scholarships and education programs essential to the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge in the fields of arboriculture and urban forestry.

The Year in Review by: M. Janet Bornancin, President/CEO



It gives me great pleasure to present an overview of the activities of the TREE Fund in 2011. The number and quality of research and education programs we supported and the growth of our endowment are a tribute to the continued support of our donors and sponsors and the dedication of our volunteers and staff.

The TREE Fund Research and Education Committee, led by Dr. Hallie Dozier, reviewed 59 applications and awarded more than \$112,300 in 2011 to support new research projects in our priority areas of root and soil management, planting and establishment, risk assessment and arborist safety, and urban forestry.

An additional \$41,000+ was disbursed to support the ongoing work of multi-year grant recipients such as Dr. Brian Kane (Univ. of Mass. Amherst), recipient of our 2009 Dr. Mark McClure Research Fellowship, and Hyland R. Johns Grant recipients Dr. Bryant Scharenbroch (The Morton Arboretum) and Dr. Kelby Fite (Bartlett Research Labs).

Dr. Kane's work will contribute significantly to our knowledge of how decay impacts trees' ability to withstand stress, and how best to utilize cabling to support stressed trees. The Scharenbroch/Fite inquiry into the potential of biochar as an urban soil amendment caught the attention of the Chicago media last spring, and the project was featured in an Earth Day broadcast. Not all of our research projects make the six o'clock news, but I believe wholeheartedly that our work is making a difference in the health of our trees and the safety of those who care for them.

The TREE Fund awarded three scholarships to aspiring tree care professionals in 2011, and an Arboriculture Education Grant to purchase new materials and scientific equipment for thousands of middle school students attending outdoor "Science Camp" in California. I'm also proud to announce the debut of a new grant to support arboriculture education in the Buckeye state, funded entirely by the Ohio Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

Many of today's practicing arborists will tell you that their interest in the environment began with time spent in the company of trees as a youngster. Today's youth are in real danger of growing up "nature deprived". Because young people have fewer opportunities to interact spontaneously with nature, we seek out and support programs which will engage their interest and inspire them to consider 'green' careers.



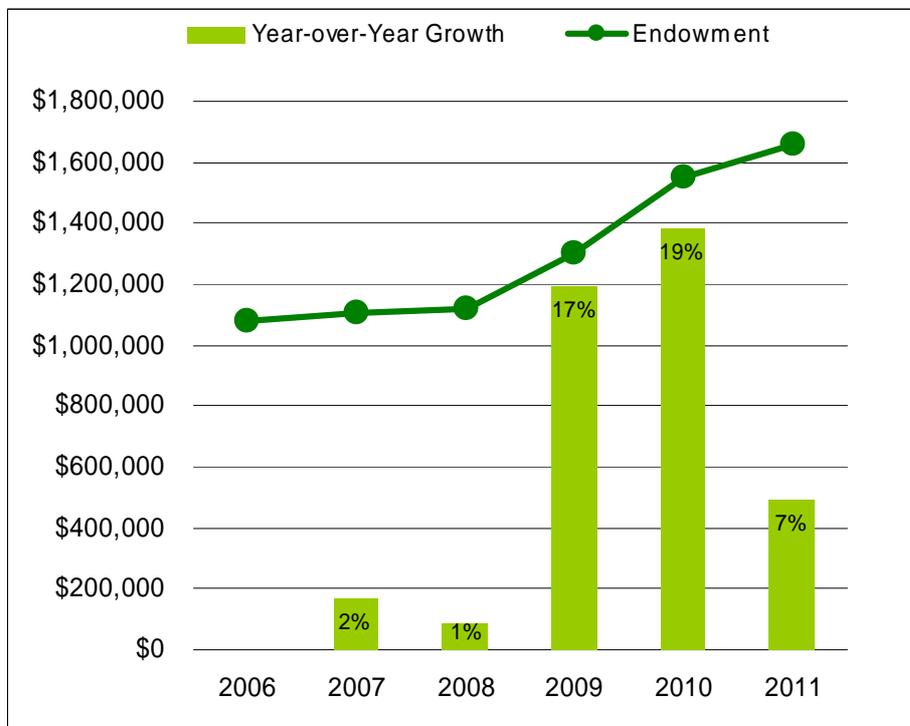


A TREE Fund grant also helped to fund last fall's Urban Tree Growth and Longevity Symposium, co-hosted by The Morton Arboretum and ISA to facilitate development of an updated research agenda for the tree care industry. All of these programs speak directly to our commitment to the future of the tree care industry and our aspiration to function as its community foundation.

The TREE Fund's outreach to tomorrow's tree stewards includes support of the five-year MillionTreesNYC Training Program (MTTP) and the public education events and tree plantings of our signature fundraising event, the STIHL Tour des Trees. Our partners and volunteers in the MTTP and the Tour can attest to the difference that trees and opportunity can make in the life of a young adult. The success of these ongoing outreach efforts continues to inspire everyone involved with them.

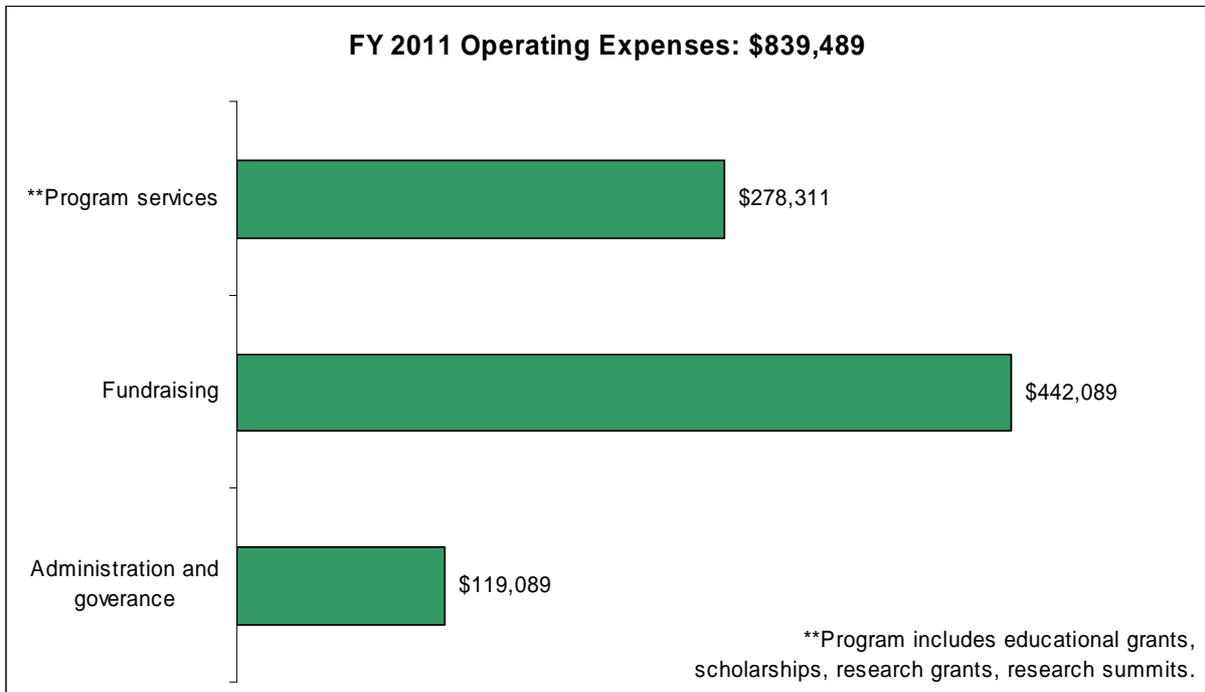
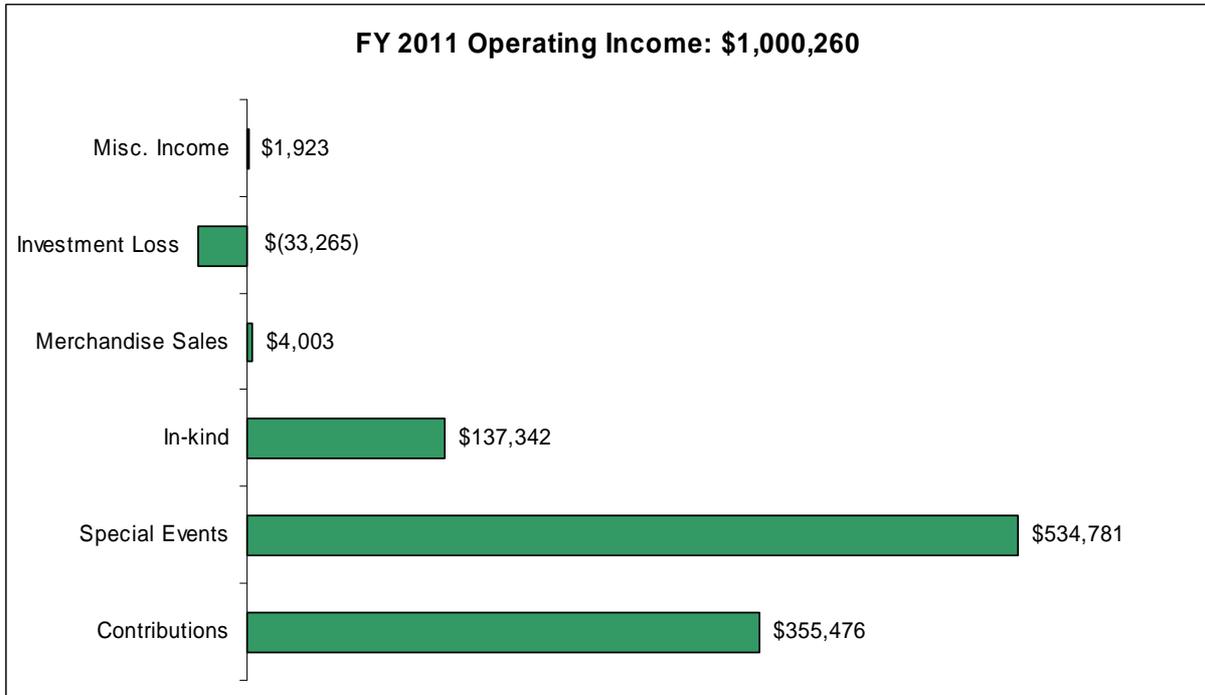
Thanks to the generosity of individual and corporate donors and the success of our 2011 fundraising events the TREE Fund received \$400,508 in donations in 2011. Of that, \$267,000 was designated for deposit to named funds within our Endowment, moving us closer to the \$3 million goal set by our Trustees several years ago. Their objective, and mine, is to insure that funding for arboriculture and urban forestry research and education is available in perpetuity.

TREE Fund Endowment Summary





Summary of 2011 Income and Expenses





Total Net Assets

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 118,663	\$ 131,491
Pledges receivable	91,000	50,000
Other contributions and grants receivable	10,444	6,000
Investments held by Chicago Community Trust	1,657,576	1,551,616
Prepaid expenses	<u>8,577</u>	<u>5,799</u>
Total current assets	<u>1,886,260</u>	<u>1,744,906</u>
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, at cost:		
Furniture and equipment	30,120	30,120
Less - Accumulated depreciation	<u>(27,946)</u>	<u>(23,041)</u>
Net property and equipment	<u>2,174</u>	<u>7,079</u>
OTHER ASSETS:		
Pledges receivable, net of current maturities	<u>72,283</u>	<u>48,426</u>
	<u>\$ 1,960,717</u>	<u>\$ 1,800,411</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 32,618	\$ 19,371
Grants payable	95,447	105,732
Deferred revenue	2,500	6,500
Accrued expenses	<u>2,837</u>	<u>2,264</u>
Total liabilities	<u>133,402</u>	<u>133,867</u>
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted	434,330	419,438
Temporarily restricted	482,258	358,304
Permanently restricted	<u>910,727</u>	<u>888,802</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,827,315</u>	<u>1,666,544</u>
	<u>\$ 1,960,717</u>	<u>\$ 1,800,411</u>



Volunteerism

Volunteers are the TREE Fund's most valuable resource! Our Board of Trustees and committees are staffed with professionals from the tree care industry and beyond who share our passion for the urban forest and the research which sustains it. TREE Fund volunteers logged more than 1000 hours in 2011 serving on our Board and committees. Volunteers evaluate our research and education proposals and assist with communications, fundraising and oversight of our financial and organizational processes.

The MillionTreesNYC Training Program (MTTP), a five-year workforce development project facilitated by the TREE Fund for New York City's Parks Department, continues as a shining example of the quality and dedication of our volunteers. Industry professionals from Asplundh Tree Expert Co., Bartlett Tree Experts, The Davey Tree Expert Company and STIHL Inc. have provided training and equipment free of charge since its inception in 2009. MTTP will graduate its third class of arboriculture trainees in 2012, young adults from inner city neighborhoods whose career prospects are measurably brighter thanks to this program and its volunteers.



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