



December 2016



Leading Thoughts

J. Eric Smith, TREE Fund President and CEO

When I sat down to write a year-end note for this newsletter in December 2015, I was still a relative newcomer to TREE Fund and the professional community we serve. To improve both my personal knowledge of our field and TREE Fund's organizational capabilities, I set goals to meet, listen and learn from as many of you as I could, and to manage TREE Fund's fundraising, "friendraising" and grant-making activities as efficiently and effectively as possible. So as we now prepare to close the books on 2016, I wanted to provide you with some summaries on how we did against those goals from a year ago.

On a personal note, I visited 26 states in 2016, and was awed by the hospitality I received, by the commitment of so many volunteers in so many communities, and by the extraordinary learning opportunities I was afforded via conferences, presentations, and one-on-one visits with so many of you. Organizationally, while we're still working to finalize contracts and secure year-end pledges, it looks like 2016 will be a record-setting year for us in terms of the value of new grants awarded, even as we increased our endowment fund by about 20% - from just under \$3.0 million to roughly \$3.7 million.

Our STIHL Tour des Trees riders also set a fundraising record: when all the final pledges are paid, we should be just a hair over \$400,000 raised, all of which will go out in 2016 or 2017 in grant awards, or be added to endowment when designated by donors. Our new TREE Fund After Hours was a success both in terms of net proceeds and attendance, and we were proud to work with the Utility Arborist Association and Pacific Gas & Electric Company to achieve the first year of the PG&E Challenge, putting us on track to meet the \$1.0 million goal for the Utility Arborist Research Fund in 2017.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of too many individuals and corporate partners to name here, but if you supported us in 2016, then these successes are yours just as much as they are ours. Our year-end appeal notes that "growth rings in the new year," and we confidently aim to build on 2016's accomplishments from the very start of 2017, in what we think will be a truly transformative year for TREE Fund. So watch this space . . . exciting times are ahead, thanks to you!



Mark your calendar - online applications open **January 9** at treefund.org for the following grants and scholarships:

- [Hyland R. Johns Research Grant](#) (up to \$50,000)
- [TREE Fund Arboriculture Education Grant](#) (up to \$5,000)
- [Ohio Chapter ISA Arboriculture Education Grant](#) (up to \$5,000)
- [Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship](#) (\$3,000)

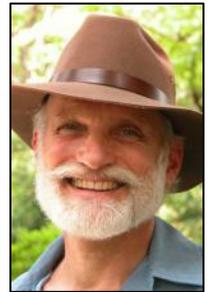
Your donations are making a difference!

The TREE Fund is pleased to announce additional 2016 grant awards for urban tree research and education. As part of a strategic goal to increase the number, value, and impact of grants, the TREE Fund Board awarded a \$100,000 Research Fellowship Grant – our largest grant – for the second time since 2013. Other awards include a grant from the Frank E. Gamma Arborist Education Fund to the TCIA Foundation to support the Arborist Safety Training Institute, and the Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grant supporting arboriculture education in that state. With these grants, the TREE Fund has issued \$279,000 in new awards in 2016 so far. We expect to finalize contracts on an additional \$268,000 in new grants by year end, bringing our total 2016 awards to a historic level – just shy of \$550,000.

2016 TREE Fund Research Fellowship Grant recipients:



In the “[Innovative Practices to Enhance Soil Quality for Vacant Urban Lot Afforestation](#)” project, **Mitchell Pavao-Zuckerman, PhD** and **Raymond Weil, PhD (both U. of Maryland)** will evaluate approaches to improve urban soil quality, including the use of agricultural cover crops, in vacant lots. The work will benefit commercial and municipal urban forestry by refining practices for improving soil quality and providing a minimum data set to evaluate soil quality. This study also supports the training of a PhD student who is also a practicing landscape designer, thus expanding the scope of professions that address soil quality and management for urban forestry practice.



2016 Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grant recipient:



Through its two-day [Forest Immersion XP camp](#), The Holden Arboretum seeks to increase awareness and interest in the areas of community forestry and arboriculture among middle and high school students.

Thank you to our November 2016 [lead donors](#):
(for contributions of \$2,500 or more to the TREE Fund this month)

- Asplundh Tree Expert Co.
- The Davey Tree Expert Company
- Vermeer Manufacturing Company



Missed the latest TREE Fund webinar featuring Dr. Bryant Scharenbroch? Watch “Soil Compaction and Urban Trees: Strategies for Gaining Ground” and access supporting materials at treefund.org/webinars. All previous TREE Fund webinars are available for viewing there as well.



Scholarship Fund Named for Larry Hall

The Illinois Arborist Association Board recently approved renaming the Illinois Arborist Fund the **Larry R. Hall Memorial Scholarship Fund for Education and Training** in honor of industry great Larry Hall. Larry was a mentor and friend to many in arboriculture; he passed away last April. Donations to the fund may be made at treefund.org.



TREE Fund Transitions

The TREE Fund would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to Randall H. Miller, BCMA (PacifiCorp), Hallie Dozier, PhD (Louisiana State University), and Roger Phelps (STIHL) for their years of dedicated service and inspiring leadership of our organization. Randy has served as a Trustee for seven years, most recently as Chairman of the Board. Hallie has been on the board for nine years, shaping our grant and scholarship programs as Chair of the Research and Education Committee. Roger contributed two years leading the Communications Committee. All three will step down at the end of 2016. We appreciate all that these outstanding volunteers have done to advance our mission, and we look forward to future collaborations as they move to the next chapter of their careers. Thank you!



Congratulations to Kevin Kindy of Kindy Tree Service and Steve Scherdin of Flower City Tree, the proud new owners of the Reverse-S™ Cutting System and the Intimidator™ 15XP chipper, respectively. Thank you to **Green Manufacturing** and **Bandit Industries** for offering these Show Specials at TCI EXPO 2016 and donating the sales proceeds from these items to the TREE Fund.



Give the gift of education this holiday season

Now through December 31, 2016, donate to the Bonnie Appleton Memorial Fund that supports student scholarship, and Mid-Atlantic Chapter ISA will **match 100% of your tax deductible gift**, up to \$15,000. [Learn more](#) and download a donation form, or donate online at treefund.org. Thank you!



Warm wishes to you – from all of us at the TREE Fund – for a happy holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

Eric, Barb, Mary, Karen, Robin

Like what you've read? Help us do more!

