



Crowning Achievements

Research Results on Tree Survival in Structural Soil Cells

The Bloor Street Revitalization project in Toronto, Canada, involved the planting of 133 trees in structural soil cells. These cells are an underground framework that supports the above pavement and contains soil for the trees; they typically include a system that can collect and filtrate surface water runoff while also providing passive irrigation to the trees. The Bloor trees performed poorly so were removed and replaced after five years.



Research on tree performance in soil cells is limited, so Dr. Camilo Ordóñez and Dr. Andrew Millward (both of Ryerson University) set out to isolate the factors that contributed most to the severe canopy decline. In the study, "[Investigating street tree decline and mortality in commercial urban spaces revitalized with structural soil cell technology to improve planting and maintenance practices](#)," partially funded by a Jack Kimmel International Grant, they found that the trees that performed best (i.e., were alive at the time of removal, were in good condition, and showed higher growth) had lower levels of salt in their soil, fewer signs of damage, and only moderate daily exposure to direct sunlight. Based on these findings, Drs. Ordóñez and Millward are developing guidelines to improve tree performance in structural soil cells.

Get more details about this research and find other TREE Fund studies related to soil, planting, and establishment on the [Research Archive](#) page of the TREE Fund website.

“Nature welcomes inquiry. Nature does not hide its work. Just seek, and you will find.”

- Alex L. Shigo

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Would you like to receive a print version of the TREE Press?

Simply contact Karen Lindell at klindell@treefund.org.

Leading Thoughts

By J. Eric Smith, TREE Fund President and CEO



A few days into my first post-college job with the Federal government, my boss offered me one of the most profound bits of professional advice I have ever received.

“If you want to succeed here, or in any other job,” he said, “then you have to become an *expert*.”

I asked the obvious (to me) question: “An expert in what, sir?”

“It doesn’t matter. Just make yourself an expert in something, and when you’ve done that, you’ll be *indispensable*.”

More than three decades later, I still hear and heed my boss’ words in all my work – though I’ve become a bit more discerning in the “expert in what?” piece of the equation. As President and CEO of TREE Fund, I now purposefully and continually work to improve my knowledge and skills in three areas of desired expertise:

- Identifying, cultivating, soliciting, and stewarding sources of support for professional arboriculture and urban forestry;
- Widely communicating the results our work for all those who want and need to hear it;
- Managing a fiscally-sound nonprofit corporation guided by a comprehensive strategic plan.

While I often get asked to identify trees, discuss curricula, or explain in-depth research projects, I know where I am *not* an expert, so I am never too proud to refer such questions to the real experts – or to say “I don’t know, but I’ll find out and get back to you!” In return, I am equally happy to field inquiries in my own areas of expertise – so please feel free to call on me as a resource on these fronts, whenever you need to.

One of the most personally rewarding parts of my work at TREE Fund is knowing that we empower others through grants and scholarships to identify, pursue and deepen their own expertise, hopefully making them indispensable to their own employers and home communities. And so I repeat that advice from long ago – Be an Expert! – and encourage you all to consider how TREE Fund might help you or yours in that pursuit.



You’re Invited: TREE Fund After Hours Buckeye Bash

Tuesday, 7 August 2018
6:00 – 7:00 pm
Columbus, Ohio

FREE admission for all
ISA Conference
registrants*

- **Mini-Auction** – Trips and treasures for every budget
- **Golden Ticket Raffle** – \$100 buys a chance to win the auction package of your choice (only 75 tickets available!)
- **Ken Ottman Outstanding Volunteer Award** winner announced
- Light appetizers and cash bar

*Please sign up at [ISA registration](#) so we have a head count.

Learn more at
treefund.org/tfafterhours

Lead Donors

We are grateful to the following people and organizations who contributed \$2,500 or more to TREE Fund in February 2018. See the full list of 2018 lead donors who make our work possible at treefund.org/about/our-donors.

- Michael & Karen Grimm
- ISA Texas
- Michael Grimm Services
- Ohio Chapter ISA
- PUBLIC WORK

Thank you!

Spring Sale at the TREE Fund Store

We're celebrating spring with **50% off** all items in the TREE Fund Store on **Tuesday, March 20 only!**



Cycling gear • KASK climbing helmets • Tour des Trees memorabilia

Prices include shipping and handling and all proceeds benefit TREE Fund. **Shop at** squareup.com/store/treefund.

Time is running out to apply

Applications are open through **March 15** for the [Hyland R. Johns](#), [Utility Arborist Research Fund](#), [Safe Arborist Techniques Fund](#) research grants, the [Ohio Chapter ISA Arboriculture Education Grant](#), and [all scholarships](#). Get details and apply at treefund.org.



Bike the Buckeye State with the 2018 Tour des Trees

July 29 to August 4, 2018

You don't want to miss this year's 530-mile ride through arbor-rich northeastern Ohio! The 2018 Tour route is rolling through the state capital, Columbus; beautiful Cuyahoga Valley National Park; and Cleveland's famous "Emerald Necklace" – all connected by long stretches of bucolic countryside and friendly small town America.

What are you waiting for? **Register today** at treefund.org/tourdestrees.

Not a cyclist? Can't make the Tour dates? Do a **Virtual Tour** instead – participate in the way that works best for you, wherever you are located! Get details at treefund.org/tourdestrees/faqs-virtual.



Volunteer Spotlight: Peter Sortwell

This month's volunteer spotlight is shining on Peter Sortwell, Founder and CEO of Arborwell, and first-time Tour des Trees rider. Peter has always wanted to ride the Tour, but his busy life as an arborist, business owner, community volunteer and father left little time to pursue that goal. At his recent retirement as Chairman of the Board of TCIA, the organization surprised him with "seed" money for a Tour fundraising campaign. Peter immediately registered to ride and in the first week had turned that initial gift into ~\$7,800 for tree research and education!



We are grateful for Peter's many contributions to the tree community through the years, his enthusiasm for the Tour, and his leadership at TCIA that benefits all of us in the industry. Thank you, Peter, for your support of TREE Fund and its mission!

To suggest someone for the Spotlight, please contact [Karen Lindell](#).

The Word on Webinars



Missed our February webinar on planting stock decisions? No worries – you can now watch Dr. Michael Arnold’s “Do Planting Stock Decisions Really Make Much Difference Down The Road?” at treefund.org/webinars.

While you’re there, mark your calendar for the next two webinars:

- **May 2** at 12:00 p.m. (Mountain) – “Invasive Insects of Shade Trees: A 30 Year Perspective from Colorado”
- **May 23** at 12:00 p.m. (Central) “Utility Arborist Research Fund: Work in Progress, Work to Come”

Registration opens April 2 for both programs at treefund.org/webinars.

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.

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