



## Crowning Achievements

### Research Results on Container Size and Tree Establishment

A debate has long raged over the benefits of planting larger versus smaller size container nursery stock. Dr. Michael Arnold (Texas A&M University) sought to resolve this dilemma scientifically in the study, "[Long-Term Impact of Container Size on Tree Establishment](#)." To minimize variation in nursery production factors, he used clonal materials and produced all of the tree sizes in a common nursery using similar materials. He was also able to track tree response over seven years – two in the nursery and five in the field – generating solid long-term data.

Dr. Arnold's painstaking work revealed that as long as one is willing to forego the immediate aesthetic impacts, ecosystem services, and greater ability to withstand mechanical damage of larger-size container stock, similar longer-term sizes in the landscape can be achieved by transplanting less expensive, more easily handled, smaller container-size trees.



This research should prove very useful for urban foresters, commercial landscapers and consumers in making informed choices about the rate of transplanted tree establishment, costs associated with different container size stock, and the trade-offs between immediate aesthetic impacts and longer term tree performance.

Read the detailed findings on this project and discover additional TREE Fund studies related to soil, planting, and establishment on the [Research Archive](#) page of the TREE Fund website.

*Would you like to receive a print version of the TREE Press?  
Simply contact Karen Lindell at [klindell@treefund.org](mailto:klindell@treefund.org).*

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

*- Alex L. Shigo*

### In This Issue

- Crowning Achievements
- Leading Thoughts
- TFAH Buckeye Bash
- Lead Donors
- Arbor Day Winners
- Bike the Buckeye State
- Celebrate National Bike Month
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Word on Webinars

## Leading Thoughts

By J. Eric Smith, TREE Fund President and CEO

I live in downtown Chicago and work in Naperville, Illinois, with about a 70-mile roundtrip home-to-office commute each day. I cover most of that distance on trains, but there's about six miles each day that I do on foot. While the weather is (finally!) halfway decent this month, my walking experience is still not exactly optimal, since I'm trudging through the funky smell (somewhere between cat urine and spoiled tuna) of the dreaded Bradford, Cleveland Select, and other ornamental pear trees, typically high on the "worst trees" list for arborists and urban foresters.

They are *everywhere* in and around Chicago, both in planned locations (I look out from my condo over a sea of them in Grant Park, and there are lines of them at Naperville's train station) and in unfortunate, unplanned sites; the supposedly-sterile invaders have gone feral over the years, cross-pollinating with other pear trees, their often-thorny, always-brittle spawn popping up aggressively as weeds, to the detriment of other species. I grew up in a part of the country that was devastated by kudzu, and there is an increasing awareness that Bradford and related ornamental pear crosses may be an even more disastrous and expensive-to-mitigate plague than the creeping vines that ate the Carolinas.

And yet: in the past year, new sections of the Chicago River Walk have been completed near the confluence of the North and South Forks. I watched the construction and was pleased to see many of the scientific planting principles we espouse being deployed in the preparation stages – only to be disappointed when they ended up putting in ornamental pears! The developers of these new municipal assets *must* be aware of the fact that they are planting "bad" trees to get a few weeks' worth of pretty flowers each year, but somehow their life cycle arithmetic and aesthetic considerations still point to ornamental pears. And that's just *wrong*.

TREE Fund can play a role in better educating urban and municipal planners, developers, landscape architects, civil engineers and other related professionals to not make such mistakes. In fact, this is the purpose of the Bob Skiera Memorial Building Bridges Fund, which will award grants for programs to educate decision-makers outside of our core arboricultural disciplines on what to do – and what *not* to do – with our urban and community forests.

We are within about \$20,000 of the \$500,000 goal to activate this fund in 2019. If you'd consider making a [gift to the Skiera Fund](#), we'll be better able in the years ahead to fight the blight of bad, *bad* trees.



## Come to the TREE Fund After Hours Buckeye Bash

*and stay for  
Toast with the Host*

Tuesday, 7 August 2018  
Starting at 6:00 pm  
Park Street Cantina  
Columbus, OH

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 Volunteer Award** recipient announced
- Appetizers and drink tickets

\*Sign up at [ISA registration](#).

Learn more at  
[treefund.org/tfafterhours](http://treefund.org/tfafterhours).

## Lead Donors

We are grateful to the following people and organizations who contributed \$2,500+ to TREE Fund in April 2018. See the full list of 2018 Lead Donors who make our work possible at [treefund.org/about/our-donors](http://treefund.org/about/our-donors). Thank you!

- Altec-Styslinger Foundation, Inc.
- Minnesota Society of Arboriculture
- New Jersey Arborists, Chapter ISA, Inc.
- Wachtel Tree Science
- Wisconsin Arborist Association
- Wright Tree Service

## Arbor Day Promotion Winners

Congratulations to **Jeff McMullen** of Middletown, OH, and **Randy Miller** of Syracuse, UT, winners of our Tour des Trees fundraising promotion in honor of National Arbor Day. Jeff's name was drawn for the \$100 Amazon gift card prize, and Randy is the new proud owner of the Black Bear Adventures cycling kit. Best of all, we raised over \$13,000 that week!

Many thanks to Tour Director Paul Wood and Black Bear Adventures for making this promotion possible.

## Bike the Buckeye State

*with the 2018 Tour des Trees*

July 29 to August 4, 2018



It's your last chance to register for the 2018 Tour des Trees! [Sign up](#) before the **May 31 deadline** and join us for great cycling for a great cause – tree research and education.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park \* Liberty Tree dedication at Ohio Statehouse \* Johnny Appleseed trees \* The Davey Tree Expert Company headquarters \* Mohican State Park \* Arborwear headquarters \* 21 Tree Campuses and Tree Cities \* Cleveland's "Emerald Necklace" Metroparks \* Weaver Leather factory tour \* *and much more!*

## Celebrate National Bike Month

*with a donation to the 2018 Tour des Trees*

**May 14 to 20 ONLY** – every \$50 gift to the Tour earns you a chance to win a pair of [Canopy Pants](#), courtesy of Arborwear. These high-quality, breathable pants are perfect for work or outdoor adventures.

The prize drawing will take place on May 23, and the winner will be notified promptly. Thank you for supporting the Tour and good luck!



## Volunteer Spotlight: Laurie Skul

This month the spotlight is shining on Laurie Skul of The Davey Tree Expert Company. Laurie is a veteran Tour rider who demonstrates thoughtful leadership both on and off the road. This year she has been an exceptionally important advocate for Team Ohio and the Tour, helping with the recruitment of new riders, soliciting rest stop support, adding valuable insight to the Tour Planning Committee, and welcoming new participants with her tireless enthusiasm. In between it all, she still finds time to put in thousands of training miles on her bike. Thank you, Laurie, for all you do for TREE Fund!



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

## The Word on Webinars

Join us **May 23** at 12:00 p.m. (Central) for “Utility Arborist Research Fund: Work in Progress, Work to Come,” a free one-hour TREE Fund webinar featuring J. Eric Smith (TREE Fund) and Dr. Christopher M. Halle (Sonoma State University).



Mr. Smith will touch on UARF’s history and announce the 2018 UARF grant award. Dr. Halle will highlight the discoveries being made on the current UARF project “Integrated Vegetation Management on Powerline Rights-of-Ways: Effects of Vegetation Treatment on Plant communities and Wildlife Diversity.”



- [Pre-registration](#) is highly recommended.
- Earn 1.0 CEU from ISA for live broadcast.

Visit [treefund.org/webinars](http://treefund.org/webinars) to get more information, see upcoming webinars, and watch past broadcasts.

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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