



# You Need the TREE Fund... and the TREE Fund Needs You!

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Adapted from an article by Michael W. Dougherty, TREE Fund Liaison-Midwest Chapter

Have you ever:

- pruned a tree?
- performed a tree risk assessment?
- diagnosed a tree problem?
- performed a tree inventory?
- performed a root collar excavation and inspection?
- wondered about soil properties in the urban landscape?

If you can answer yes to any one of the above questions, you've probably benefited from the work of the TREE Fund! The TREE Fund (Tree Research & Education Endowment Fund) is currently the leading non-governmental source of funding for research and education programs in the field of arboriculture. Their mission is to identify and fund projects and programs which advance knowledge in the field of arboriculture and urban forestry to benefit people, trees and the environment. The foundation has distributed more than **\$6 million** to date in the form of scholarships, educational program funding and research grants to students and professionals in the industry. More than **400 research grants** have been funded, the results of which directly impact tree care practices, people's lives and arborists' techniques every day! In 2009, the TREE Fund awarded **\$183,000** in grants and scholarships and inaugurated two brand-new funding programs. Two Wisconsin researchers, **Dr. Laura Jull** with UW-Madison and **Dr. Les Werner** with UW-Stevens Point,

both received TREE Fund grants in 2009!

How can you support the TREE Fund's mission? The options are almost unlimited, but here are a few ideas. Sign up to ride the 2010 Stihl Tour des Trees (either the full tour or the one-day Ride for Research on July 24). If you can't ride, support **Dick Rideout and Team Wisconsin** with a donation, purchase raffle tickets at the WAA/DNR annual conference (a portion of which also funds student scholarships), provide an item for the *Raise Your Hand for Research* gala auction at the ISA annual conference, join the Heritage Oak Society by including the TREE Fund in your estate planning, contribute to the Endowment Fund (be sure to designate your gift to the Bob Skiera Fund), have your company become a sponsor for a TREE Fund event like the Tour des Trees, gala auction, or golf outing.

I encourage each of you to visit the TREE Fund website at [www.treefund.org](http://www.treefund.org) to see and learn about how the TREE Fund is helping each of us engaged in the field of arboriculture. The site has been recently updated, and the grants/scholarships and news pages in particular are loaded with useful information. The Tour des Trees website at [www.stihltourdestrees.org](http://www.stihltourdestrees.org) is the best source of up-to-date information about the 2010 STIHL Tour des Trees, which will trace a loop through northern Illinois next year, beginning and ending in the Chicago area. The 2010 tour route map is posted on the website, and rider registration opened January 4.

As this chapter's liaison to the TREE Fund, I have several responsibilities and

obligations, the most challenging of which is assembling a package on behalf of our chapter to be sold in the *Raise Your Hand for Research* gala auction, held during the annual ISA conference. I am appealing to any member or company for help! Do you have a condo or hunting/fishing get-away or some special unique item or talent that could become this year's submission? In the past we were privileged to offer a hand-crafted sailing dinghy (built by Dr. Bob Miller and donated on behalf of WAA), fishing and hunting packages, sporting venues and more. Do you have frequent flyer miles which could be donated? A connection with a ski resort or an outdoor adventure outfitter? How about a winery? Does anyone know someone with a hot air balloon or a lake house that could be used to create a getaway package? Anticipating all the Bear/Packer fans that will be attending the ISA conference in Chicago, I am looking for tickets to the game in Green Bay to build a package around. If you have tickets of anything unique or special to donate, contact me at [Lwyatt@charter.net](mailto:Lwyatt@charter.net) or 608-226-8329.

Now it's time for you to get involved and help the TREE Fund...help yourself...and help our industry! Please contact me with any questions, suggestions, assistance or auction item ideas! Thank you!

## **TREE Fund Deadlines:**

May 1, 2010 – Deadline to submit applications for the Hyland Johns Grants, Robert Felix Scholarships and Education Program Grants. Visit [www.TREEFund.org](http://www.TREEFund.org) for additional information.