



TREE Fund Report

Information provided by Gary T. Majeskie, WAA TREE Fund Liaison

The TREE Fund's mission is to identify and fund projects that advance knowledge in the field of arboriculture and urban forestry to benefit people, trees and the environment. Additional information about the TREE Fund can be obtained on the Web site, www.treefund.org.

Administration

At the November 12th board meeting in Baltimore a balanced annual budget was passed for 2007. The strategic plan for the TREE Fund is in the process of being approved. Five values are included in the plan: integrity, transparency, collaboration, discovery and accountability. The 2007-2010 strategic plan has a goal to grow the endowment to \$3 million by 2010 and fund \$300,000 in research.

• Grant Programs/Research

Since 1975, the TREE Fund through the ISA Research Trust has awarded grants to aid, stimulate and encourage scientific studies of trees.

• Hyland Johns Grants

The TREE Fund awarded six grants for a total of \$125,000 in 2006. Applications can be downloaded from www.treefund.org. Deadline for 2007 is May 1, 2007.

• John Duling Grants

The TREE Fund awarded fifteen grants for a total of \$95,659 in 2006. Application deadline for 2007 was November 1, 2006. Deadline for 2008 is November 1, 2007. Grants are up to \$7,500 and the priorities for funding are compiled by the research committee. The research committee is currently reviewing the applications.

• Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship

Four students are selected each year and given \$3,000 for pursuing a career in arboriculture. Applications can be downloaded from www.treefund.org. Deadline for 2007 is May 1, 2007.

• The Safe Arborist Fund *(formerly the Tree Dynamics and Arborist Techniques Fund)*

The purpose of the fund is to provide research grants supporting training and the techniques and equipment that arborists using in climbing, rigging and working on trees; and the means of identifying potential hazards, to provide a safer working environment. WAA member and WTCC champion Jeanette Bowden has recently joined the committee.

Careers in Arboriculture DVD

The DVD was released in spring, 2006, and funded by a NUCFAC grant and three corporate donors. TREE Fund board member Dave McMaster helped produce the ten-minute DVD designed to promote careers in arboriculture to young adults. The DVD has won two media awards and has been received favorably by all those who have viewed it. They can be purchased individually from the TREE Fund for \$24.95 plus shipping and handling.

Tour des Trees

The WAA had four riders in the 2006 Tour des Trees: Jeannette Bowden, Doug Drysdale, Joe Hoffman and Dick Rideout. They helped raise over \$9,000 for the TREE Fund. Their commitment and dedication is appreciated. We were fortunate to have these riders representing our chapter.

The "Shade Crusade" Tour des Trees 2007 will take place July 20th to July 26th. The 16th annual Tour des Trees fundraising bike ride will begin in Sacramento, California, and end seven days and 550 miles later in San Jose, California. Contact the TREE Fund office at (630) 221-8127 for information and a registration form.

2006 TREE Fund Gala Auction

The 2006 TREE Fund Gala Auction in Minneapolis was very successful, netting over \$50,000. Many thanks again to our WAA members who helped underwrite the

expense of offering: the Kissimee, Florida, condo (Angelo Jose Loyo), The Bog golf package (WE Energies/Jeff Treu), and the original wine by Wisconsin vintner Mike Wendt for the TREE Fund Gala Auction. These items raised \$900 for the TREE Fund.

Chapter Challenge Update

The TREE Fund board approved a three-tiered chapter challenge on a trial basis for 2006. As reported earlier, the 2006 Chapter Challenge ran for 1.5 years and ended December 31, 2006. The Chapter Challenge for 2007 will run for one year (January 1-December 31, 2007). The three tiers are Bronze Leaf (\$20/member), Gold Leaf (\$30/member) and Platinum (\$40/member). The thought with the tiered approach is that those chapters that never reach their challenge will be recognized for what they do raise and those chapters (WAA included) that raise more than their challenge will also be recognized for the higher level.

The WAA platinum-level challenge for July 1, 2005-December 31, 2006, was \$23,940. This challenge is based on numbers of ISA members within the chapter as of June 30, 2005. The WAA exceeded our challenge, contributing \$24,931 or 104%. WAA members raised money from the Tour des Trees, chipper raffle, winter golf outing, contributions to the Felix Scholarship, direct donations to the TREE Fund and from our Gala Auction packages.

A sincere thank-you to all WAA members, vendors and sponsors who contributed to the TREE Fund this past year. We can be proud the WAA continues to be a strong supporter of tree research, helping to "unlock the secrets of tree care."

Please contact me with any questions or comments.