



## What Has Wisconsin Done for the TREE Fund Lately?

Please give big thanks to the following WAA members for their contributions to tree research this year:

- The following Tour des Trees riders secured a total of \$12,601 in pledges for the TREE Fund: Jeanette Bowden, Doug Drysdale, Joe Hoffman and Dick Rideout.
- The following donors of items for the Gala Auction at the 2006 ISA annual conference earned \$885: WE Energies donated a Bog golf package, Angelo Jose Loyo donated a condo stay in Kississimee, and Mike Wendt donated homemade wines.
- Total contributions to the TREE Fund totaled \$13,486. THANK YOU!

Also in the limelight, one of our very own WAA board members, Rich Hauer, received a 2006 John Z. Duling Grant from the TREE Fund for \$5000. The WAA board of directors voted at their meeting in October to match the grant. The following is an excerpted summary of Dr. Hauer's research project.

*Street trees can damage sidewalks and curbs. Repair to eliminate safety issues and potential liability from trip-and-fall injuries can damage trees. Construction damage to street trees from curb and sidewalk repair is known to reduce the condition and increase mortality. Limited short-term data exist that empirically document the relationship between root damage and tree decline*

*and mortality in street trees. Long-term data (i.e., 20-25 years) do not exist. This study would collect data to quantify the long-term effects of construction damage to urban street trees.*

*Understanding the short- and long-term implications of tree mortality and reduction in condition of trees subjected to construction related injury is important for public decision makers, urban planners, urban foresters, arborists, and others to know when making management decisions related to urban design and street tree populations. This study is a continuation of work initially started in 1989 that found increased mortality and a decline in tree health (condition rating) to street trees following curb and sidewalk repair four to eight years earlier. This current effort will study the same tree population and document if continued greater mortality and reduction in tree health are detected 20 to 25 years after curb and sidewalk repair. This study uses a cohort of trees with a known level of construction damage and will shed greater light on the dynamics of street tree populations following construction activities. It will also provide further information to understand urban tree populations and interactions with a built environment.*

Our industry will certainly benefit from such a necessary long-term study!