



TREE Fund Launches New Website

by Laura Wyatt, TREE Fund Liaison

The TREE Fund launched a newly redesigned website at <http://www.treefund.org> earlier this year. The new site features current and historical information on grants and scholarships and enables on-line applications! Valuable information on events, news, opportunities to volunteer, sponsorships and critical information for donors is also included. TREE Fund is now set up to accept donations electronically! Check it out!

One of the grant programs featured on the new site is the Education Program Grants. Thanks to the Robert Felix Memorial Fund, established through the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), this program supports the development of arboriculture educational programs and materials for K-12 students. Grant award amounts typically range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and may vary from the amount requested. Applications are due May 1st. For an application or additional information visit the TREE Fund website at <http://www.treefund.org>. Be sure to share this opportunity with youth educators within your network.

A successful Educational Program Grant project or program must:

- Focus on increasing arboriculture or urban forestry knowledge
- Target children ages 5-18
- Have a hands-on component

Funded by TCIA membership donations, other foundations, businesses and agencies, the educational programs that the

TREE Fund currently supports include:

- **Careers in Arboriculture DVD and Facilitator's Guide:** Funded by USDA Forest Service NUCFAC, Asplundh, Bartlett and Stihl, the DVD's target audience is high school students. In addition to high schools and technical schools, this DVD is popular with universities and colleges, small businesses, and arborists. View the video on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8Qn1iAMISl>.
- **Trail of Trees:** An interactive public education program targeted to children ages three to eight, the Trail of Trees is presented by Tim Womick (<http://www.treefamily.org/appleseedz.htm>) usually in conjunction with the TREE Fund Tour des Trees. Age appropriate biology, vocabulary, tree care and a tree planting are usually included.
- **Treetures:** This is a public education program targeted to children ages three to eight using a life-size squirrel-like character, Professor Arbor E. Tum (<http://www.treetures.com/TScience.htm>), a tree researcher who engages the children and distributes handouts.
- Funds have also been provided to underwrite student attendance at the TCI Expo.

The new website also provides information on the Robert Felix and John Wright memorial scholarships and facilitates online application!

Robert Felix Memorial Scholarships

Established by the Tree Care Industry Association through their former National Arborist Foundation, these scholarships are funded by investment earnings from the endowment of the Robert Felix Memorial Fund.

The annual scholarship program provides up to four scholarships of \$3,000 each for college students studying arboriculture, urban forestry or a related field with the intention of entering the profession of arboriculture. Students interested in this scholarship, must complete their application and submit reference letters by **May 1**.

NEW! John Wright Memorial Scholarship

A \$2,000 John Wright Memorial Scholarship is available for high school seniors and returning college students interested in a career in arboriculture. Established in 2008 by the Wright Tree Service, the intent of this award is to enable undergraduate-level students to attend college without accumulating burdensome debt.

Deadline for applications is June 15th.

For additional information and to apply, visit <http://www.treefund.org>.