



February 8, 2010

TREE Fund Report

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 that 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!

STIHL Tour des Trees

WAA's "Team Wisconsin" was represented by two riders in the 2009 Tour des Trees: **Dick Rideout and Doug Drysdale**. Together with WAA and other supporters Team Wisconsin raised \$11,380 for the TREE FUND. Their commitment and dedication is greatly appreciated! As a side note, Doug is a personal friend of Dick's and isn't professionally involved in arboriculture. Doug loves to ride, appreciates trees and supports the TREE Fund mission. For the first time the total expense of the Tour des Trees was underwritten by sponsors so every rider donation went directly to research! At last count TdT 2009 raised **\$441,000** for tree research.

The **2010 STIHL Tour des Trees will launch from Chicago's beautiful Millennium Park on July 18** and travel westward to the Mississippi River and Iowa before looping back toward the Chicago area. The 2010 Tour concludes with a 30-mile "Ride for Research" through Chicago's western suburbs and a grand entrance into the Morton Arboretum during the International Society of Arboriculture's International Tree Climbing Championship on July 24. Sign up to ride the 2010 STIHL Tour des Trees, either for the full Tour or the 1-day "Ride for Research" on July 24. **We are looking for riders for Tour des Trees-Team Wisconsin! For more information contact Dick Rideout at Richard.Rideout@wisconsin.gov or 608-267-0843 or visit the Tour des Trees website at www.tourdestrees.org**

TREE Fund Gala Auction

The *2009 Raise Your Hand for Research Gala Auction* in Providence, RI was very successful, netting more than \$85,000. **Many thanks to Dr. Bob Miller** for donating a hand-crafted wooden sailing dinghy as the WAA auction package. WAA member **Steve Asplundh** was the winner bidder. Thanks, also, to **We Energies (Jeff Treu)** for the donation of a golfing package to The Bog Golf Course.

If you have something special that can be included in the Gala Auction, please contact me at 608-267-0568 or Laura.Wyatt@wisconsin.gov. Sporting event tickets, hotel/resort contacts, restaurant/store gift certificates, time shares, anything hand made out of wood, art. . . about anything someone is likely to bid on. I am searching for Packer-Bears tickets as center of a Green Bay Football Weekend . . . who won't want to visit Titledown. . . **PRICELESS!**

Chapter Challenge Update

WAA has met and exceeded the challenge at the “platinum” level by raising **\$13,330. THANKS to all for helping us reach our goal!** This continues our perfect record of 20+ years of meeting the Chapter Challenge!!

Bob Skiera Fund

Since 2005 the TREE Fund has been holding a fund of approximately \$20,000 collected in memory of Bob Skiera. In 2008 the WAA Board of Directors agreed to focus our TREE FUND fundraising efforts toward the goal of growing the Bob Skiera Fund to the \$100,000 level at which point a named fund could be established and grants awarded. The WAA TREE Fund Committee has accepted the challenge to guide this project. We will soon be meeting with members of Bob Skiera’s family to designate a focus for future distributions from the fund. Look for updates in the *Wisconsin Arborist* newsletter and be sure to designate all TREE Fund donations to the Bob Skiera Fund.

A sincere thanks to all WAA members, vendors and sponsors who contributed to the TREE Fund this past year. We can be proud the Wisconsin Arborist Association continues to be a strong supporter of tree research, helping to “unlock the secrets of tree care.”

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Wyatt, WAA TREE Fund Liaison