



Tree Research Findings  
and TREE Fund News

## Tracing the History of Arboriculture through TREE Fund Awards

by Laura Wyatt

As the new TREE Fund liaison for WAA, I wanted to take a good look at the outcome or yield resulting from the investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars in tree research. How significant are the outcomes? Has this research made a difference? A complete listing of all awards, dating back to 1975, is available at <http://www.treefund.org/grants/Grants.aspx>. What I quickly discovered was a "who's who" of modern arboriculture. Grant number 001 was awarded to Alex Shigo, the man many arborists refer to as the father of modern arboriculture. His first funded project was entitled, *Tree Injection & Its Effect on Trees*. Wisconsin's very own Dr. Bob Miller wasn't far behind with grant number 038, *Analysis of Shade Tree Adaptability to Urban Conditions Based on 150,000 Street Trees*.

As I continued to read through the research awards and summaries I soon learned that nearly every critical issue and individual of significance within the field of

arboriculture was included. A history of arboriculture could easily be traced from the trail of TREE Fund grant awards.

The funds supporting this history of tree research isn't the result of multi-national corporations or a single philanthropist, but the combined effort of thousands of arborists coming together to fund and support much-needed research. It is you and it is me who must step forward.

Each year the WAA receives a chapter challenge for the TREE Fund. For the last two years the WAA has obtained the platinum leaf level that is based on a \$40/member giving level. We are blessed with a diversity of members with varied abilities to give. Some members give \$5 while others are able to give \$500. What is most important is that **every member gives**. Each gift is important and represents an investment in our profession and the future.

One of our chapter's most successful fund-raising efforts supporting our chapter

challenge is Tour des Trees. Team Wisconsin has two riders in the Tour des Trees this year – Dick Rideout and Doug Drysdale. They must raise a minimum of \$7,000 to even have the privilege to ride, but they have set an ambitious goal to raise \$15,000 **by June 1** to cover our entire chapter challenge.

So far only **89** WAA members have pledged to the Tour des Trees ride to support the TREE Fund programs. That means that over **570 members have not contributed!** If you're one that hasn't, please consider making a donation. Help Dick, Doug and the WAA *surpass* this goal by going to the Team Wisconsin fund-raising Web page at: <http://www.active.com/donate/2008/tourdestrees/DRideou1> and making a tax deductible donation. Or you can send a check payable to The TREE Fund, 711 E. Roosevelt Road, Wheaton, IL 60187, noting that the check is for Tour des Trees Team Wisconsin.

On Wisconsin!