



# TREE PRESS

## Davey Tree Establishes Educational Endowment at TREE Fund

TREE Fund is pleased to announce The Davey Fund, a \$250,000 educational endowment dedicated to supporting community-based arboricultural education in the United States. Read more about this new fund in the [news feed](#) on the TREE Fund website.



*“Nature welcomes inquiry. Nature does not hide its work. Just seek, and you will find.”*

- Alex L. Shigo

## TREE Fund Empowers Ongoing Work at Historic “Bramble and Byrnes” Research Site

Via an innovative new partnership with Asplundh, Corteva, PECO, First Energy and Penn State Altoona, TREE Fund has assumed the contract administration role for ongoing research at Pennsylvania State Game Lands 33 (the historic “Bramble and Byrnes” site) and the Green Lane Research and Demonstration Area. TREE Fund awarded a \$1,111,000 grant to Dr. Carolyn Mahan and her team in June to continue, replicate, and expand research and outreach efforts on the effects of right-of-way maintenance on floral and faunal communities at these sites. Read more about this new project [here](#).

## Grant Applications Now Open

Applications for the John Z. Duling Grant and the Jack Kimmel International Grant are open through **October 1**. Get [details and application instructions](#) on the TREE Fund website.



### In This Issue

- TREE Fund Research and Education News
- Leading Thoughts
- Thank You
- Lead Donors
- Tee Off for TREE Fund
- Top Tour Fundraisers
- Ken Ottman Award Announcement
- Word on Webinars

## Leading Thoughts

By J. Eric Smith, TREE Fund President and CEO

When I was hired as TREE Fund's President and CEO three years ago, I was asked to provide some biographical information to help our supporters get a sense of who I was and what I was bringing to the organization. One of the questions posed – “What’s your favorite tree?” – seemed to be a simple one, but it actually was and remains something of a stumper for me.



How do you answer that question, really? As a tree lover (or tree nerd, per my family), it’s a challenge right up front to decide whether to pick a single species, or a single individual. I lived in Latham, New York for nearly 20 years, and there was one huge white willow tree (*Salix alba*) in my neighborhood that I adored every time I passed by it, but if I picked that one, then it wouldn’t be meaningful to anybody outside of Latham. In my column here two months ago, I wrote about a longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) at my childhood home that was wrapped tightly with wisteria vines. I loved it dearly as a kid, but know as an adult that it was a poorly-located mess, just begging for removal.

So picking individual trees is probably a bad idea for media purposes, but is picking a single species any easier? My opinions change by the minute, depending on where I am or the time of the year. Right now in Chicago, I am loving the swamp white oaks (*Quercus bicolor*), and I can’t resist reaching out and stroking their leaves when I walk past them; shiny and leathery on top, fuzzy and soft on the bottom, just wonderful for tactile people like me. But a month or so ago, as I was training for the Tour des Trees, the American Lindens (*Tilia Americana*) were in bloom, and their tiny sweet flowers were like giant collective air fresheners for the city, making my riding experience more deliciously fragrant than is normally the case in a huge city like mine.

How could I pick one of those species over the other? Or over the one that moves me the most next month, or in the next city I visit? Honestly, I couldn’t, and can’t. But three years ago, I felt like I needed to give some answer to that seemingly innocuous question, lest I come across as difficult to our staff, so I picked the Southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), the tree most closely identified with my Low Country South Carolina roots. (Well, other than our State tree, *Sabal palmetto* – but that’s technically a grass). So that’s what the record shows, and it’s a reasonable answer, I guess, but I am reserving the right to change it, today, tomorrow, and any time in the future.

## Thank You

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make our Ohio events (Tour des Trees and TREE Fund After Hours) so successful.

We are grateful for our dedicated Tour riders, committed support team members, motivated Virtual Tour participants, passionate volunteers, supportive TREE Fund Partners, engaged researchers, generous donors, friendly event participants and of course, our outstanding host Ohio Chapter ISA. Special thanks to The Davey Tree Expert Company’s communications team for their hard work in raising awareness of the Tour and TREE Fund’s mission.

Congratulations to **M. D. Skeet (IL)**, winner of the Golden Ticket Raffle; he chose the Historic Rhode Island Weekend package.

These Ohio events raised more than \$350,000 for tree research and education, and we thank you!

## Lead Donors

We are grateful to the following people and organizations who contributed \$2,500+ to TREE Fund in July 2018. See the full list of [2018 Lead Donors](#) who make our work possible on our website. Thank you!

- Arborjet, Inc.
- Asplundh Tree Experts, LLC
- Jacques Brunswick and Louise Desjardins
- Collatos Family Foundation
- Corteva Agriscience, Agriculture Division of DowDuPont
- David Crary
- FirstEnergy Corp
- Florida Chapter ISA
- Pamela Hendricksen
- Illinois Arborists Association, Inc.
- ISA Southern Chapter
- Ohio Chapter, ISA
- PECO Energy (an Exelon Company)
- Christian Siewert
- Urban Trees + Soils
- Vermeer-Illinois
- Wright Tree Service

## Tee Off for TREE Fund at the Trees & Utilities Conference

Attending the Trees & Utilities Conference in Omaha, NE? Kick off your conference experience with golf at the 24th annual Asplundh Golf Outing to benefit TREE Fund on **Monday, August 27**.

Learn more and sign up [HERE](#) before the August 17 deadline.

## Congratulations to the 2018 Tour des Trees Top Fundraisers



Kudos to the top three individual fundraisers for this year's Tour des Trees: **Peter Sortwell** (CA), **Dick Rideout** (WI), and **Jeff Edgar** (WI). They received gift cards courtesy of SherrillTree for their accomplishment. Way to go, Peter, Dick, and Jeff!



Sortwell  
\$11,174



Rideout  
\$11,017



Edgar  
\$7,987

We are also pleased to recognize **Team Ohio** as the top fundraising team for a second year in a row. Led by captain Susan Paul, Team Ohio has raised an incredible **\$56,642**, even though their biggest fundraiser, the BBQ picnic, is yet to come in August. Thank you, Team Ohio!

Tour fundraising continues until October 1, 2018 through the [Tour des Trees page](#) of the TREE Fund website.



## TREE Fund honors Thom Kraak with 2018 Ken Ottman Volunteer Award

Please join us in congratulating **Thom Kraak** (WI), our 2018 Ken Ottman Award recipient. This annual award honors sustained high-level volunteer commitment to TREE Fund's mission and work.



Thom is the Support Team lead for the Tour des Trees, working tirelessly day and night throughout the event to make sure cyclists have the necessary food, water, and medical attention to complete the challenging ride. Thom's behind-the-scenes organization, vast knowledge, and quick problem-solving abilities keep the Tour running smoothly, and his friendly, fun-loving personality keeps things positive no matter what we might face. Thom has spent an incredible 19 years on the road with us – first as a rider and then as support. We are grateful for all his contributions and congratulate him on this well-deserved honor!

## The Word on Webinars

Join us for “**Arboricultural Biomechanics**” a free, one-hour TREE Fund webinar featuring Dr. Brian Kane of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



Dr. Kane will discuss how arboricultural practices like pruning, cabling, and rigging affect the mechanical performance of trees and their likelihood of failure. It's a must-see program for anyone working with or near trees!

- **August 23 at 12:00 pm (Central).** Translate to your time zone [HERE](#).
- [Pre-registration](#) is highly recommended, as space is limited.
- Earn 1.0 CEU from ISA, SAF, or NALP for the live broadcast.

Visit the [Webinars page](#) of the TREE Fund website to get more information, see upcoming webinars, and watch past broadcasts.

TREE Fund is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to support scientific discovery and dissemination of new knowledge in the fields of arboriculture and urban forestry.

### TREE Fund

552 S. Washington St., Ste. 109  
Naperville, IL 60540

### Contact Us

#### TREE Fund

552 S. Washington Street  
Suite 109  
Naperville, IL 60540  
(630) 369-8300  
[treefund@treefund.org](mailto:treefund@treefund.org)

Visit us online at  
[treefund.org](http://treefund.org).



PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE