2016 Annual Report

Ohio Tree Care Conference - Last February, the conference was held at Kalahari Convention Center. Nearly 400 professionals “Made a Splash in Arboriculture” including keynote speaker Dr. Tom Smiley who taught sessions on Tree Risk Assessment, Growing Trees Near Concrete and Soil Management Best Practices.

Scholarships – In September, the Chapter awarded 9 scholarships. The goal in offering the scholarships is to assist individuals with the financial responsibility of professional arboricultural development through higher education in the field or via the International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist program. The following scholarships were awarded:

- Certified Arborist – $750 Scholarships
  - Robert Boehle
  - Carl Stevens
  - Matthew Stewart
  - Kelin Wilkins
- Professional Development – $500 Scholarships
  - José Fernandez
  - Jennifer Roberts
- Traditional Student – $1,000 Scholarships
  - Ann Detoro
  - Matthew McDermott
  - Ryan Vogel

Visit the Chapter’s website at ohiochapterisa.org/Chapter Information/Chapter Scholarships for complete details. Deadline for applications August 1.

Ohio Tree Climbing Championship – On September 24, the 37th annual competition was held at The Holden Arboretum. 28 men, including 4 from outside Ohio, and 2 women competed. Contestants competed in 5 preliminary events to qualify for the Masters. Individual event winners were:

Men’s Division
- Aerial
  - 1st Nick Markley
  - 2nd Jacob Sauer
  - 3rd Nic Rataczak

- Belayed Speed Climb
  - 1st Michael Moore
  - 2nd Brennan Kissman
  - 3rd Mick Stabile

- Secured Foot Lock
  - 1st Jacob Sauer
  - 2nd Justin McVey
  - 3rd Michael Moore

- Throwline
  - 1st Nick Markley
  - 2nd Archie Autenreith
  - 3rd Menno Schlabach

- Work Climb
  - 1st Nick Markley
  - 2nd Justin McVey
  - 3rd Jacob Sauer

Women’s Division
- Aerial
  - 1st Ellie Vosler
  - 2nd Cody Antonini

- Belayed Speed Climb
  - 1st Ellie Vosler
  - 2nd Cody Antonini

- Throwline
  - 1st Ellie Vosler
  - 2nd Cody Antonini

- Work Climb
  - 1st Ellie Vosler
  - 2nd Cody Antonini

Finalists for the master’s challenge men’s division were Justin McVey, Nick Markley and Jacob Sauer. Competing in the women’s division were Ellie Vosler and Cody Antonini. Congratulations Justin and Vosler on winning your Master’s Challenge; both will represent Ohio at the International Tree Climbing Championship, August 2017, in Washington, DC.

Ohio Chapter ISA Endowment Fund – The Ohio Chapter ISA Education Grant was awarded to The Holden Arboretum for its new pilot program, Forest Immersion XP camp. Funds will be used to increase awareness and interests in the areas of community forestry and arboriculture to have a positive impact on the industry and create possible career paths for students who may not hear about these opportunities otherwise. This two-day camp for middle and high school students, slated for spring 2017, will help them better understand the benefits and importance of trees in their community and will enlighten them to the plethora of related professional opportunities.

Established in 2011 within the Tree Research and Education Endowment (TREE) Fund, the $5,000 annual grant is fully funded by the Ohio Chapter ISA to increase public awareness and support the advancement of knowledge in the field of arboriculture and urban forestry. The grant application process is open to 501(c)(3) organizations including, but not limited to, arboretums, public gardens, high schools, vocational schools, 2-year colleges and 4-year colleges, which serve a target population of 16 years of age or older. The annual application deadline is April 1 for consideration.

http://www.TREEFund.org/grants/education-program-grants/ohio

TREE Fund’s Team Ohio – Nine cyclists represented Ohio in the 2016 Stihl Tour des Trees ride covering over 500 miles in North and South Carolina. Team Ohio raised over $62,254 in the 2016 event, once again surpassing its fundraising goal! We are extremely grateful to Beth Buchanan for leading the team and serving as Ohio’s TREE Fund Liaison.
The 18th annual golf outing was held at The Virtues Golf Club on June 21. Formerly known as the Longaberger Golf Course, the event attracted 40 players and raised $3,365 for Team Ohio. With an impressive score of 60, Team Freddy (Pat Bender, Kurt Lutz, Jeff Mussay and Greg Rauch) took 1st place. In 2nd place scoring 61 on this difficult course was Team Davey (Richard Foote, Bill DiGamarino, Mark Noark, Jeff Stephens). Other contests included: Longest Drive – Skip Young, Closest to the Pin – Andy Liedel, Longest Putt – Greg Rauch. And the team who had the most enjoyable day (coming in last place), Team Energy Co-op (Josh Filler, Sheamus Mulligan, Kevin & Kaylee Walker).

**Educational Opportunities** – In 2016, the Chapter provided several educational opportunities including two 7-week Certified Arborist Preparation courses and two TRAQ courses.

**Public Outreach** – Thanks to various volunteers across the state, in 2016 the Chapter’s message and ISA brochures were on display at various Tree City USA Award ceremonies, regional and local ODNR urban forestry events, Lakeland Community College, the Holden Arboretum, Kent State University Stark and many other locations across the state. We encourage members to borrow the table top display for use at their local functions. Contact the Chapter for details.

**Financial Report** – A certified public accountant examined the financial records of the Chapter and reviewed all related statements. Examination was made in accordance with the generally accredited accounting standards. A summary of the financial report appears below. As required by law, the IRS Form 990 and 990T have been submitted to the Internal Revenue Service for the Chapter year ending September 30, 2016.

**Overview Fiscal Year 10/01/2015 – 09/30/2016**

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**Investment Policy**

**Executive Director’s Report** – EpiCenter Management, with the assistance of Dixie Russell as executive director, now manages the day-to-day operations of the Chapter. EpiCenter also manages the Western Chapter ISA, the Society of Commercial Arboriculture, Street Tree Seminar, TreeCircus and several other green industry associations.

The 2016 membership year closed with 898 members; compared to 894 members at the end of 2015. The Chapter is transitioning to a new website and database where members will be able to update their record, view the Chapter’s Policies & Procedures, access the job board, register for events and much more.

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