



2014 Awards of Distinction Recipients

ISA has been honoring members and industry professionals with the Awards of Distinction since 1963. Honorees are recognized in such categories as research, publishing, education, and advancing the cause of the organization. The winners are selected by a diverse group of experts in arboriculture. Look for feature articles on each of these winners in upcoming issues of the *Arborist News*.



Dr. Kim Coder
—Award of Merit

Professor, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
—University of Georgia Athens, Ga. (US)

Dr. Kim Coder has dedicated his career to arboricultural education as a professor, author, speaker, and leader. He believes that greater knowledge not only increases the quality of life for trees, but also the arborist's quality of life through a better understanding of tree physiology and tree health maintenance.

Dr. Coder, professor of tree biology and health-care at the University of Georgia, has authored more than 500 scientific and popular publications and delivered over 100 presentations worldwide. He has served the green industry in a variety of leadership roles, including past president of the ISA Board of Directors, the ISA Southern Chapter, and the Arboriculture Research and Education Academy.

In recognition of his significant role in advancing the principles, ideals, and practice of arboriculture, Dr. Coder has been named the 2014 recipient of the Award of Merit, the highest honor bestowed by ISA.



Dr. Michael Dirr
—R.W. Harris Author's Citation

Professor Emeritus of Horticulture—University of Georgia, Watkinsville, Ga. (US)

ISA honors Dr. Michael Dirr with the 2014 R.W. Harris Author's Citation.

Dr. Dirr, professor emeritus of horticulture at the University of Georgia, is recognized as a prominent authority on plants, gardening, and woody plants. He has published more than 300 articles and authored several books. His major work, "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants," is now in its sixth edition. It is one of the most widely-used resources in the arboriculture and landscape industries and has sold more than a quarter-million copies.

Dr. Dirr has introduced over fifty new varieties of plants and has managed research projects that have transferred to practical knowledge through his teaching and publications. Dr. Dirr's work has made a significant impact on the green industry and provides an enduring resource for all who have an interest in the urban landscape.



Dr. Alessio Fini
—Early-Career Scientist Award

Researcher, Department of Agri-Food Production and Environmental Sciences
—Florence University, Florence, Italy

Dr. Alessio Fini, the 2014 recipient of ISA's Early-Career Scientist Award, is a promising, young researcher in the field of arboriculture, with an exceptional knowledge of tree physiology. As a student at the University of Milan, Italy, his research thesis was highly commended and published in the "European Journal of Horticultural Sciences."

Dr. Fini continued his research at Florence University where he received his Ph.D. and is now a researcher on staff in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Environmental Sciences with a particular focus on the morpho-physiological conditions of trees and shrubs in the urban environment.

Dr. Fini is a frequent speaker at international conferences and workshops and has published his research in numerous academic, peer-reviewed, and professional journals. He is considered a creative and conscientious professional dedicated to contributing new information to the arboriculture knowledge base.



Dr. C.Y. Jim

—L.C. Chadwick Award for Arboricultural Research

Professor, Department of Geography—University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

This year, ISA is pleased to honor Dr. C.Y. Jim with the L.C. Chadwick Award for Arboricultural Research.

Dr. Jim is the chair professor in geography at the University of Hong Kong. His research focuses on the nature-in-city principle from an arboriculture and urban forestry perspective. Using Hong Kong and other compact cities in Mainland China as his living laboratories, Dr. Jim assesses direct and indirect urban influences on trees, from large urban forest eco systems and urban parks to individual trees and green roofs.

With a teaching and research career that spans more than 30 years, and publication of nearly 300 scientific works, he is has achieved international recognition.

Dr. Jim has inspired many of his students to enter the field of arboriculture and is considered a cornerstone of the expanding arboriculture and urban forestry research community in Asia.



Dr. Brian Kane

—Alex L. Shigo Award for Excellence in Arboricultural Education

ISA Certified Arborist®
Associate Professor, Massachusetts Arborist Association commercial arboriculture endowment, University of Massachusetts –Amherst, Amherst, Mass. (US)

Dr. Brian Kane is an associate professor of commercial arboriculture under the Massachusetts Arborist Association endowment at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Because of his sustained commitment to his students' development and success, he is being honored this year with ISA's Alex L. Shigo Award.

Brian Kane, who is also an ISA Certified Arborist® and Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist®, believes education is critical for career development in the field of arboriculture. Students say he brings a mix of academic rigor and real-world experience to the classroom, always challenging them to excel.

Dr. Kane encourages student participation in his tree research, supports them in tree climbing competitions, and guides them to become skilled commercial arborists. His dedication to teaching and commitment to arboriculture ensures his long-term influence on the advancement of the industry.



Dr. Cathie Lavis

—Alex L. Shigo Award for Excellence in Arboricultural Education

Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, Forestry, and Recreation Resources—Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan. (US)

Dr. Cathie Lavis is an associate professor and extension specialist in landscape management at Kansas State University's Department of Horticulture, Forestry, and Recreation Resources. ISA is proud to recognize Dr. Lavis with the 2014 Alex L. Shigo Award for Excellence in Arboricultural Education.

Dr. Lavis is committed to helping students realize the importance of caring for trees in an urban environment and engaging them in the wonder of trees. In 2013, she led her arboriculture class on a successful campaign to certify Kansas State University-Manhattan as a Tree Campus USA, uniting community stakeholders for support while motivating her students to meet the five core standards for sustainable campus forestry.

Dr. Lavis's efforts initiated an annual campus Arbor Day celebration and student learning project that will be carried into the future by Kansas State arboriculture classes.



Scott Prohett

—Award of Achievement

ISA Certified ARborist®,
ISA Certified Tree Worker
Climber Specialist®

President/Lead Instructor
—North American Training
Solutions, Loganville, Ga. (US)

Training is not only Scott Prohett's business, it's his passion.

Prohett is president and lead instructor at North American Training Solutions, in Loganville, Georgia. For nearly 30 years, he has trained thousands of arborists worldwide in all aspects of practical arboriculture, promoting the development of a positive safety culture within every organization.

Prohett, a 2010 ISA True Professional of Arboriculture, is a founding member of ISA's Safety Committee and a current member of the ANSI Z133 Committee. He has competed and volunteered in many capacities for both regional and international tree climbing competitions eventually serving as the ITCC committee chair for three years. Prohett has also been a technical advisor for many ISA publications and training materials and has developed equipment to improve safety and encourage best practices among his fellow arborists.

ISA is proud to honor Scott Prohett with the 2014 Award of Achievement.



Arthur Bruce Smith (1959–2014)

—Millard F. Blair Award for
Exceptional Contribution
to Practical Arboriculture

(Awarded Posthumously)
Sarasota, Fla. (US)

Arthur Bruce Smith's friends say his greatest contribution to the arboriculture industry was his willingness to get involved. He served the ISA Florida Chapter in many capacities and was an active volunteer leader for the International Tree Climbing Championships. Smith also assisted the Brazil Chapter with training programs and helped establish the first Brazil Tree Climbing Championship. He served on the ISA safety and certification test committees and provided technical assistance for ISA publications and training videos. Smith was recognized as the consummate volunteer who simply wanted to make a difference.

As a founding instructor of North American Training Solutions, Smith touched the lives of thousands of arborists with his knowledge and dedication to his fellow professionals.

Smith was a practicing arborist for 35 years. He owned and operated Arborscape Tree Care Professionals in Sarasota, Florida. For the impact he made on the industry and his fellow arborists, ISA honors Bruce Smith with the 2014 Millard F. Blair Award for Exceptional Contribution to Practical Arboriculture.



Jerri Moorman

—Life member award

(Retired) Executive Assistant
—International Society
of Arboriculture
Sidney, Illinois, (US)

Jerri Moorman, former executive assistant to the executive director of ISA, retired in December 2013 after more than 37 years of service. For her dedication to ISA's mission and impact on the advancement of the Society, Jerri was awarded an ISA Honorary Life Membership in 2014.

Jerri was hired in 1976 to provide administrative assistance to an ISA staff of two. That year, she was involved in two major initiatives—mailing the first issue of the *Journal of Arboriculture* and planning the first annual conference held under the name of the International Society of Arboriculture (formerly International Shade Tree Conference).

During Jerri's tenure, she managed multiple aspects of association administration, including maintenance of ISA membership records, logistics planning for the annual conference and other events, and administrative support for the ISA Board of Directors and various volunteer committees. As ISA staff grew to nearly 50 over the years, Jerri was highly valued for her knowledge of ISA's history and for her natural ability to build strong working relationships with ISA members and volunteers worldwide.