



# 2015 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*.



### Daniele Zanzi

—Award of Merit  
Owner—Fito-Consult  
Varese, Italy

Daniele Zanzi is the recipient of the 2015 Award of Merit, the highest honor bestowed by ISA. Zanzi's passion for arboriculture began as a boy while spending time in his uncle's landscape nursery in Varese, Italy. His university studies and early career encompassed the scientific aspects of agriculture and forestry, but his heart led him back to arboriculture. In 1982, Zanzi founded Fito-Consult, a pioneering tree care firm, and became a member of ISA.

Zanzi has organized and conducted numerous educational events in collaboration with many of the great innovators of arboriculture. In 1988, Zanzi brought Dr. Alex Shigo to Italy to introduce

his modern arboriculture concepts through a series of workshops and seminars. Zanzi has also translated several of Dr. Shigo's books into Italian to further spread his message.

Zanzi is a passionate advocate for the international growth of ISA. In 2003, he founded the Modern Arboriculture Institute, an international, private institution for research and education. Zanzi is co-founder and former president of the ISA Italy Chapter, and he has tirelessly served the industry as an ISA Board Director, president of the European Arboricultural Council, and in many other capacities throughout his career.



### Richard Harper

—Award of Achievement  
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist®  
Extension Assistant Professor/  
Arboriculture and Urban  
Forestry Program – University  
of Massachusetts-Amherst  
Belchertown, Massachusetts, US

BCMA™ Richard Harper recognized the value of ISA certification early in his career while working as a professional IPM tree care worker in the New York City metro area. When he joined Cornell University's Extension Program as commercial horticulture/IPM specialist in 2001, he focused on improving industry professionalism. Harper was aware that many tree care workers wanted to earn credentials to make themselves more marketable.

Harper initiated discussion with colleagues about developing an arborist certification training program for those wishing to become ISA Certified

Arborists. With the support of other industry professionals, the program launched in 2004 with a series of four weekly classes. This highly popular annual training continues today. More than 200 participants have earned the ISA Certified Arborist® credential, and many more have taken the course for review and professional development. Harper is currently an extension assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Science at UMass-Amherst, but guest-lectures for the arborist certification training program and supports its continued success.



### Dr. Nina Bassuk

—Alex L. Shigo Award for  
Excellence in Arboricultural  
Education  
Urban Horticulture Institute  
Professor/Program Leader –  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York, US

Dr. Nina Bassuk, a native New Yorker, completed her Ph.D. in Horticulture at the University of London. Since becoming professor and program leader for the Urban Horticulture Institute in 1980, she has shaped the program through the evolution of knowledge and practice. Dr. Bassuk engages her students and instills in them a passion for learning about all elements of a sustainable landscape. They develop the skills of good landscape stewards by putting theory into practice as they create, install, and maintain new landscapes.

Dr. Bassuk helped organize the Student Weekend Arborist Team, giving students experience in performing public tree inventories for small communities that have no budget for tree maintenance. The outcome has been positive for both the students and 50 communities to date.

She co-authored *Trees in the Urban Landscape* and has written more than 100 papers regarding plant growth in the urban environment. Dr. Bassuk has also contributed to the knowledge base through her research in improving technologies for plant growth and development in the urban landscape.



### Dr. David Nowak

—L.C. Chadwick Award for  
Arboricultural Research

Project Leader –USDA Forest Service  
Northern Research Station  
Syracuse, New York, US

Dr. David Nowak received a Ph.D. in Urban Forest Ecology from the University of California-Berkeley in 1991. As project leader for the Northern Research Branch he has spent the last 26 years building the research program and sustaining collaborative relationships with his team and other green industry organizations to assess urban forests and the services they provide.

Most of Dr. Nowak's research is related to developing national assessments on urban forests; developing new tools and procedures for i-Tree to aid managers; and linking tree impacts

to environmental regulations. He feels that leading the development of the i-Tree modeling suite is one of the most important contributions he has made to the industry, bringing the science of quantifying forests and their services to managers and the general population. To Dr. Nowak, the integration of all science aspects of ecosystem services into an easy-to-use tool is critical to making informed forest management decisions.



### Mark Bridge

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

Co-owner/Partner –Baumpartner  
Tree Company; Baumklettern  
Schweiz; Treemagineers  
Basel, Switzerland

Mark Bridge is highly regarded among practicing arborists around the world. He is co-owner of Baumpartner, a tree care company in Basel, Switzerland, that focuses on residential and municipal tree care. He is also co-founder of Baumklettern Schweiz, a training company offering skills training for on-rope tree work. In addition, Bridge co-founded Treemagineers, a company that develops concepts for improved product design in relationship to how tree work is actually performed.

Bridge, a two-time European Tree Climbing Competition champion, has taught climbing and

rigging techniques to thousands of arborists worldwide. His ability to present workshops in English, German, French, Swiss German (and a little Spanish and Italian) makes him an invaluable instructor from an international perspective. Bridge is also an excellent teacher because of his awareness of the high level of trainer responsibility and trainee trust required. He credits the collective, synergistic efforts of his partners and many dedicated individuals for his ongoing success in continuing to move practical arboriculture forward.



### Dr. Christopher Luley

—R.W. Harris Author's  
Citation

Vice-President/Pathologist –  
Urban Forestry LLC  
Naples, New York, US

Dr. Chris Luley recognized a need within the industry for straightforward information presented in a format that working arborists could easily access and use. As a result, Dr. Luley developed the "Visual Identification Series" of books, beginning with the popular *Wood Decay Fungi* and followed by *Pest Management in the Landscape* and *The ABCs Field Guide to Young and Small Tree Pruning*. All serve as excellent references for arborists in the field.

One of Dr. Luley's greatest contributions to documented research was his involvement in

an eight-year pruning study in Rochester, New York, which provided important data on branch failure rates relative to maintenance practices. He believes the industry needs more research-based evidence that supports maintenance practices believed to be beneficial at the population level. Dr. Luley has authored and co-authored more than 50 scientific publications, popular articles, position papers, and poster presentations based on his research and practice, and encourages sustained evaluation and investigation within the industry.



### Dr. Gregory Dahle

— Early-Career Scientist Award

ISA Board Certified Master Arborist®  
Assistant Professor of Arboriculture  
and Urban Forestry – West Virginia  
University  
Morgantown, West Virginia, US

Dr. Gregory Dahle's initial career interest in wildlife management took a significant turn when he joined the Davey Resource Group as a project coordinator and discovered arboriculture. Seeking further education, Dahle received an M.S. in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry at Purdue University in 2004 and was a member of the inaugural class of Board Certified Master Arborists. In 2009, he earned a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolution at Rutgers University. In his current faculty position at Western Virginia University, Dahle combines his research with teaching arboricul-

ture and urban forest management courses.

Dahle's research focuses on tree biomechanics and risk assessment. He has made important contributions to many projects, including the 2010 and 2013 Biomechanics Research Week and Symposium. As 2014-15 president of the Arboricultural Research and Education Academy (AREA), Dahle focused on promoting student membership and involvement. He is also committed to growing the West Virginia University Student Arboriculture and Urban Forestry Club and mentoring students who will guide the future of arboriculture.



### Dr. Andrew Koeser

— Early-Career Scientist Award

ISA Board Certified Master Arborist®  
Assistant Professor of Landscape  
Management – University of Florida  
Gulf Coast Research and Education  
Center  
Apollo Beach, Florida, US

Dr. Andrew Koeser credits working at ISA Headquarters as an intern while earning his M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) for helping him discover his passion for developing arboricultural teaching tools. He continued to work as ISA's science and research manager for two years before devoting himself full-time to the completion of his Ph.D. in Crop Sciences at UIUC with emphases in horticulture and biometry.

In the Department of Environmental Sciences, Dr. Koeser divides his

time between research and extension services. He is also a faculty member at the Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology. His main research focus is tree risk with a goal of enhancing current efforts to improve risk assessment. Dr. Koeser will serve as the 2015-16 president of the Arboricultural Research and Education Academy (AREA) and has written or co-written nearly 50 articles for peer-reviewed journals and trade magazines. He is also co-writing a series of tree identification books designed as visual tools for identifying trees unique to the different regions of Florida.



### Daniel Diodati

— Honorary Life Membership Award

Retired/Part-time Advisor –  
Urban Forestry Consulting  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

In 2009, Daniel Diodati retired after serving 31 years as the urban forest manager for the City of Saint-Léonard, a borough of Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Today, he puts his knowledge and experience to use as a part-time advisor for a Montreal urban forestry consulting firm. He greatly enjoys the opportunity to approach arboriculture from a new perspective.

As a member of the ISA Quebec Chapter Board of Directors, Diodati was instrumental in bringing arboricultural education and certification to French-speaking Canadians, acting as lead translator of the Canadian French version of the Glossary of Arboricultural

Terms and translating the Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas and ISA's Best Management Practices: Tree Risk Assessment. He also worked with a team of experts to translate the Arborists' Certification Study Guide, the final building block for translation of the ISA Certified Arborist® exam into Canadian French. The exam is now available to French-speaking arborists worldwide, and Diodati is awarded the Honorary Life Membership for his substantial contributions to the advancement of arboriculture.