



2016 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*.



Edward F. Gilman, Ph.D.

—Award of Merit

(Retired) Professor—University of Florida/Gainesville
Gainesville, Florida, US

Following a distinguished, 36-year career as a researcher, educator, author, and extension specialist, Ed Gilman retired in June from the University of Florida as professor of urban trees and landscape plants. But he has not retired from arboriculture. Ed has a passion for studying trees and tree care to discover new knowledge that will help practicing arborists, growers, and landscape architects collaborate more and do their jobs better. His talent for securing grants by using the language of arboriculture to describe the needs of the industry resulted in the development of one of the largest university arboricultural research programs. Also a prolific author, Ed's most influential and recognized work is his book, *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning, Third Edition*.



Sharon J. Lilly

—Award of Merit

(Retired) Director of Educational Goods and Services—ISA
Acworth, Georgia, US

Sharon began her relationship with ISA as a volunteer, leading the effort to develop the ISA certification program. She chaired the ISA Certification Board and Test Committee and then served as the 1996-97 ISA Board president. When her term expired, Sharon joined ISA staff as director of educational goods and services and took the professional development of arborists to a whole new level. Her contributions include the *Arborists' Certification Study Guide*, the *Tree Climber's Guide*, and numerous educational collaborations, such as ISA Best Management Practices, the *Introduction to Arboriculture* series, and the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification course and manual. Although she recently retired from ISA, Sharon Lilly's efforts to advance arboriculture will have an enduring impact on its future.



P. Eric Wiseman, Ph.D.

—Alex L. Shigo Award for Excellence in Arboricultural Education

Associate Professor—Virginia Tech
Christianburg, Virginia, US

Eric Wiseman is an associate professor in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech. He incorporates Alex Shigo's concepts and principals into his courses to encourage students to consider a tree as a living system and use arboriculture to modify, manipulate, and improve the system's functionality. Dr. Wiseman has made great strides in the development of Virginia Tech's undergraduate program in urban forestry. He is working to elevate it to an independent major for greater visibility to prospective students. Dr. Wiseman is presently involved in a project to study the professionalization of urban forestry generally, and how the recruitment of young people into higher education programs will ensure a future of well-educated, well-trained tree care professionals.


Jennifer Juzwik, Ph.D.

—L.C. Chadwick Award for
Arboricultural Research

Research Plant Pathologist—
USDA Forest Service
Northern Research Station
Saint Paul, Minnesota, US

Jennifer Juzwik has worked as a research plant pathologist for the USDA Forest Service for more than 30 years. She has conducted highly influential research on tree diseases, especially in the areas of oak wilt management, thousand cankers disease of black walnut, and hickory decline and dieback. Working in Forest Service Research and Development provides Dr. Juzwik the opportunity to use the results of her studies for technology development and transfer. She is currently working on a rapid diagnostic tool for oak wilt detection. Dr. Juzwik recognizes that arborists are often the first detectors of invasive species in the urban forests, and she is committed to supporting and training them through the development of improved disease detection and diagnostic tools.


George Gonzalez

—Sharon J. Lilly
Award of Achievement

President—Land and
Tree Consulting
San Pedro, California, US

George Gonzalez, currently president of Land and Tree Consulting, retired in 2015 as chief forester and division manager for the Urban Forestry Division after 29 years of service to the City of Los Angeles, California. One of his many accomplishments during his tenure was developing City Plants, an outgrowth of Million Trees L.A., which focuses on increasing canopy coverage and providing work force development. George is also co-founder of the Society of Municipal Arboriculture's Municipal Forester Institute, an annual program that has been completed by hundreds of municipal arborists. He considers his work in educating non-traditional forest partners about their impact on the care of city trees to be one of his most important contributions to the industry.


Paul Revell

1950–2016

—Sharon J. Lilly
Award of Achievement

(Awarded Posthumously)
Charlottesville, Virginia, US

This year, the ISA family lost Paul Revell, an ISA Certified Arborist since 1999 and a committed advocate of the ISA Certification program. He worked for the Virginia Department of Forestry for 30 years and served as urban and community forestry coordinator for 20 of those years. Paul began promoting ISA certification within his department by offering field staff an annual pre-exam training program and later collaborated with the ISA Mid-Atlantic Chapter to initiate annual training for anyone interested in ISA certification, helping hundreds of individuals prepare for the exam. He also served ISA for 12 years as a Certification Proctor. Paul Revell's dedication to the advancement of ISA Certification and the tree care profession is a legacy to the arboriculture industry.



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Tomás Martínez-Trinidad, Ph.D.

— Early-Career Scientist Award

Research Professor—
Colegio de Postgraduados
Texcoco, Mexico

Tomás Martínez-Trinidad received a Master's in Silviculture from the Colegio de Postgraduados in Mexico and a Ph.D. in Arboriculture at Texas A&M University. He is currently a research professor in the forestry program at the Colegio de Postgraduados, the lead institution in Mexico for arboricultural studies, and has published nearly 30 papers in several internationally-recognized journals. To date, Dr. Martínez-Trinidad feels the most influential research he has worked on has been evaluating the impacts of carbohydrates and of PBZ on the growth and vitality of urban trees. When Dr. Martínez-Trinidad lectures or teaches courses, he reaches out to students with an interest in arboriculture to provide advice and guidance as they build a foundation for future career goals in the industry.



Justin Morgenroth, Ph.D.

— Early-Career Scientist Award

Senior Lecturer—University of
Canterbury in Christchurch
Christchurch, New Zealand

Justin Morgenroth's interest in the effects of pavement on street trees developed while studying for his Master's in Forest Conservation at the University of Toronto. His doctorate work in urban forestry at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand focused on the impact of porous pavements on street tree growth in relationship to soil condition. Both papers were published in *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* and have motivated additional industry research. Currently, Dr. Morgenroth is a senior lecturer at the University of Canterbury, an associate editor for AUF, and the incoming chair of ISA's Science and Research Committee. His areas of research continue to expand through international collaborations, and his goal is to develop more efficient ways of measuring and monitoring urban forests.



Melissa LeVangie

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

Director of Marketing and
Sales—Shelter Tree, Inc.
Petersham, Massachusetts, US

Melissa LeVangie's love for trees began during childhood. When she learned about the field of arboriculture, she knew she had found her calling. Currently the director of marketing and sales for a gear supply company, Melissa has worked as a practicing arborist for many years and has competed in numerous climbing competitions, winning 13 local competitions and winning or placing in several ITCC events. Her conversations with other women in the field identified a need to create more educational resources specifically designed for women. As a result, Melissa developed the popular Women's Tree Climbing Workshop in 2009. She has conducted nine workshops to date for nearly 150 women, sharing her commitment to safety, skill, and professional development and a passion for arboricultural joy.



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**David Lonsdale, Ph.D.**

—R.W. Harris Author's Citation

Plant Pathologist/Consultant
Hampshire, United Kingdom

David Lonsdale is a prominent plant pathologist, entomologist, and arboricultural consultant in the United Kingdom, as well as an acclaimed author of publications related to the field of arboriculture. He specializes in tree decay research and tree risk assessment, and is the author of the textbook *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management*. In addition to authoring numerous scientific and general papers, Dr. Lonsdale was the editor of the original German-to-English translation of *The Body Language of Trees*, as well as other tree care-related books translated from German. He was co-editor of the textbook *Habitat Conservation for Insects—A Neglected Green Issue*, and Dr. Lonsdale's most recent work is the 2013 publication, *Ancient and Other Veteran Trees: Further Guidance on Management*.

**Adrina Bardekijan, Ph.D.**

—Honorary ISA Membership

Manager of Urban Forestry
Programs and Research
Development—Tree Canada
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Adrina Bardekijan, an arboriculture researcher, educator, and practitioner, received her Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from York University in Toronto, Ontario, in April 2015, successfully defending her doctoral dissertation, "Learning from Limbwalkers: Arborist's stories in Southern Ontario's urban forests." She considers this work to be her greatest achievement to date, bringing the social aspects of working in the field into focus within broader urban forestry. She developed a microdocumentary called "Limbwalker" and looks forward to sharing her research results through publication. Currently, Dr. Bardekijan directs, manages, and provides strategic direction for Tree Canada's national urban forestry program portfolio to empower urban forestry practitioners, facilitate the exchange of urban forestry information across Canada, and provide national infrastructure through its five working groups.

**Oluwasina Akinlemibola**

—Honorary ISA Membership

Master's Degree Student—
Hochschule für Nachhaltige
Entwicklung
Eberswalde, Germany

Oluwasina Akinlemibola completed his undergraduate program in Forestry and Wood Technology at the Federal University of Technology in Akure, Nigeria, and is currently studying for a Master's Degree in Global Change Management in Eberswalde, Germany. He previously worked as a forester in Nigeria, striving to educate loggers about the impact of deforestation and illegal removal of forest resources on climate change. Using the Nigerian environment as a case study, Oluwasina has written a series of seminars and projects to educate the public about how to curb the effects of deforestation worldwide by adopting mitigation and environmental restoration methods with a focus on hands-on field research, community building, and leadership. His career goal is to be a successful forester, arborist, and global change manager.