



2017 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*.



Rex Bastian, Ph.D.

—Award of Merit

Regional Technical Advisor—
Davey Tree
Cobden, Illinois, US

Serving as a regional technical advisor for Davey Tree over a large section of the US Midwest, Rex Bastian's career has revolved around his passion for educating others about trees. He has a strong reputation as a notable technical resource within the industry and as a mentor to many tree care professionals. Rex is also an active ISA volunteer, serving on committees and generously offering his expertise in the development of many of ISA's publications and certification programs. He says, "I would like to thank Alicia Chacalo and Larry Costello for taking the time and initiative to prepare and submit the initial paperwork for my award. I would also like to thank the employees of The Care of Trees and Davey Tree Expert Company and the ISA membership for giving me so much help and assistance during my career in arboriculture."



Zhu H. Ning, Ph.D.

—Alex L. Shigo Award for
Excellence in Arboricultural
Education

Professor (Endowed)/Urban Forestry
and Natural Resources—Southern
University and A&M College
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, US

Zhu Ning is an endowed professor in the Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Department of the Southern University and A&M College System in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She has contributed to the establishment of unique educational programs enabling students to earn advanced degrees in urban forestry and arboriculture, enhance their research skills and knowledge, and strengthen their global competency. According to Ning's students, these programs have offered life-changing learning experiences that have elevated them to new heights. Ning says, "I would like to acknowledge Southern University, USDA NIFA, USDA Forest Service, NSF, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences for their support of my international research and education efforts that benefit students both in USA and China. I want to thank ISA and its members for this prestigious award."



Y. Star Huang, Ph.D.

—Sharon J. Lilly
Award of Achievement

Director General—Taiwan
Forestry Research Institute
Taipei, Taiwan

Y. Star Huang is co-founder of The Taiwan Arboriculture Society, which became an ISA associate organization in 2014. To promote arboriculture in Taiwan, he assisted in the translation of the *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* and Certified Arborist exam into Chinese, removing the language barrier to ISA Certification. In three years' time, the number of Certified Arborists in Taiwan grew from zero to 136. Star has also initiated educational and training seminars to advocate for modern arboricultural practices.

**Jon Hickey, Sr.**

—Honorary Life Membership

Senior Arborist–Lehman
Plant Care Company
North Massapequa, New York, US

Jon Hickey, Sr. has spent 62 years of his life working in the arboriculture industry. He is considered a valuable resource by both customers and peers for his knowledge, experience, and perspective. In 1997, Jon joined a group of noteworthy tree care professionals to discuss the history and development of the arboriculture profession in ISA's documentary, *Legends of Arboriculture*. He continues to work as senior arborist for the Lehman Plant Care Company, giving his all to the profession he loves. Jon says, "First of all, I would like to thank my wife and family for supporting me in the profession that I love, and also thank ISA and all of my co-workers, peers, educators, mentors, employers, and clients who have helped me in my career and continue to help me to grow as an arborist and person."

**Andrew Koeser, Ph.D.**

—R.W. Harris Author's Citation

Assistant Professor/Environmental
Horticulture–University of Florida
Wimauma, Florida, US

Andrew Koeser is an assistant professor of environmental horticulture at the University of Florida Gulf Coast Research and Education Center. He has been writing professionally since he was an undergraduate. In just four years in his current position, he has published two books, *Trees of North and Central Florida* and *Trees of South Florida*, with a third, *Palms of Florida*, nearing the review stage. He has also authored two book chapters for other works and published 37 peer-reviewed articles.

**Susan Day, Ph.D.**—L.C. Chadwick Award for
Arboricultural Research

Associate Professor/College
of Natural Resources and
Environment–Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia, US

Susan Day is an associate professor at Virginia Tech with appointments in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation and the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences. Her research has been motivated by a desire to help practitioners solve problems. Throughout her career, Susan has studied the response of trees to the disruption of their root systems and how to better collaborate with civil engineers and developers to support a better urban forest in our cities. Susan says, "I am very appreciative of the honor of receiving the L.C. Chadwick Award. I would particularly like to thank Gary Watson, Alan Jones, and Nina Bassuk for their substantial mentorship over the years, as well as all my colleagues and students who make working with trees so rewarding—the arboriculture community fosters great friendships!"

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de Gourét Litchfield

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

Owner/Operator—Svensk
TrädVård & Utbildning AB
Ballingslöv, Sweden

de Gourét Litchfield of Ballingslöv is owner of Svensk TrädVård, Sweden's first tree care company. A past ISA Board President, he is a longstanding ITCC judge as well as an organizer of regional tree climbing championships. For more than 30 years, de Gourét has offered courses in practical arboriculture, climbing, and rigging. He designed the first arborist work-positioning belt in Scandinavia, the first commercial Cam-bium Saver, and developed hardhat adaptations that transitioned into today's specific arborist helmets.



Anders Busse Nielsen, Ph.D.

— Early-Career Scientist Award

Professor/Landscape Architec-
ture—University of Copenhagen
and Swedish University
Silkeborg, Denmark

Anders Busse Nielsen is a professor in plants and planting design at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and part-time professor in landscape architecture at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. He has authored 124 publications including 36 peer-reviewed scientific papers and book chapters. Anders' recent research has focused on the contribution of urban forests and urban green infrastructure to livable, climate-adapted cities, as well as reviews of urban forest inventory methods and urban tree species diversity.



Bamidele Oni

— Honorary ISA Membership

State Network Coordinator—
Climate and Sustainable
Development Network
Abeokuta, Nigeria

Bamidele Folorunsho Oni is the state coordinator of the Climate and Sustainable Development Network in Abeokuta, Nigeria. He is also founder and executive director of Green Impact International, a nongovernmental organization designed to reach out to communities, and especially the youth, to develop climate change awareness and engage them in tree planting. Through a work team of volunteer trainers, Bamidele has reached more than 25 communities with over 25,000 trees planted during the last five years. He says, "I owe all my inspiration to God and to all who have identified with the Green Impact International cause over the years. I also do appreciate the good gesture of ISA for the award."