



2018 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*.



Bruce Fraedrich, Ph.D.

—Award of Merit

Vice President of Research,
Bartlett Tree Research
Laboratories
Charlotte, North Carolina, US

Bruce Fraedrich holds a Ph.D. in plant pathology and has been on staff at Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories since 1975, serving as vice president of research since 1991. With a primary focus on disease research and tree risk management, he has led advancements in pruning, tree injection techniques, lightning protection, support systems, and soil management. Bruce collaborates in the development and revision of ANSI A-300 standards and the accompanying ISA Best Management Practices with a career-long commitment to promoting professionalism within the industry.



Richard Hauer, Ph.D.

—L.C. Chadwick Award for
Arboricultural Research

Professor of Urban Forestry,
College of Natural Resources,
University of Wisconsin -
Stevens Point
Stevens Point, Wisconsin, US

Richard Hauer is a professor of urban forestry in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point where, in addition to providing instruction in his classes, he has managed the undergraduate research symposium and serves as a research mentor for countless urban forestry students. Rich has been awarded nearly 50 research grants and has published more than 90 peer-reviewed and educational articles, as well as book chapters and manuals, and given over 300 professional presentations.



Melinda Jones

—Sharon J. Lilly
Award of Achievement

Executive Director,
ReLeaf Michigan
Houghton Lake, Michigan, US

In 1976, Melinda Jones began her forestry career contracting and inspecting line clearance for DTE Energy. After serving in numerous management positions, she eventually became DTE's director of labor and employee relations, compensation, and HR technology. Melinda now devotes her time to ReLeaf Michigan, a nonprofit organization she co-founded in 1988 to focus on tree planting and educating communities about trees. Melinda is known among ISA's circle of women arborists as the originator of the annual Women in Arboriculture meeting at the ISA Annual International Conference.



Ken Palmer

—Alex L. Shigo Award for
Excellence in Arboricultural
Education

Co-Founder, ArborMaster® Training
Willington, Connecticut, US

A three-time winner of the International Tree Climbing Championship, Ken Palmer founded Arbormaster® in 1995 with Rip Tompkins. Over the years, they have successfully provided superior education and training to connect modern technique with modern technology, develop skills, and promote safety by creating custom courses for arborists around the world. Ken has also published educational articles, presented at conferences and workshops, and collaborated with Rip and ISA on the Arbormaster® DVD training series, making a significant impact on the advancement of the industry.



Rip Tompkins

—Alex L. Shigo Award for
Excellence in Arboricultural
Education

Co-Founder, ArborMaster® Training
Little Compton, Rhode Island, US

Rip Tompkins won the International Tree Climbing Championship in 1996 and has remained involved ever since as head judge, Rules Committee member, ITCC Committee chair, and special advisor to the European Tree Climbing Championship Committee. Their involvement with climbing competitions helped Rip and Ken Palmer launch Arbormaster®, training thousands in climbing and rigging, precision felling, chain saw safety, pruning, and aerial rescue. Rip and Ken have also served on the ANSI Z133 Committee to develop and update tree care safety guidelines.



Jessica Vogt, Ph.D.

—Early-Career Scientist Award

Assistant Professor, Department
of Environmental Science and
Studies, College of Science and
Health, DePaul University
Chicago, Illinois, US

Jessica Vogt is an assistant professor of environmental science and studies at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. She received a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from Indiana University Bloomington in 2015 with an interest in urban social-ecological systems and sustainability science. Jess's research lab, the Lab for Urban Forestry in the Anthropocene, or LUFA for short, enables her students to study how urban forests and the people who care for urban trees are managing challenges through the lens of sustainability science.





Samuel Ma

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

Owner, Kassod Arbor Tree
Consultancy & Services Ltd.
Hong Kong

Samuel Ma, BCMA, is the owner of Kassod Arbor Tree Consultancy and Services Limited in Hong Kong, as well as a tree worker training company in Taiwan and an arborist gear company. Samuel has a passion for helping the industry make its communities better through tree care and serves the profession as an ISA Hong Kong Board Director, as an Asian Pacific Tree Climbing Championship Committee liaison, and as chair of the Hong Kong Tree Climbing Competition, having organized the first Hong Kong competition in 2014.



A. James Downer, Ph.D.

—R.W. Harris Author's Citation

Advisor/Instructor,
University of California
Cooperative Extension
Ventura, California, US

Jim Downer holds a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology and is a farm advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension. He also teaches classes in arboriculture and plant pathology at CalPoly, provides instruction for the Ventura County Master Gardener program, and presents at conferences around the globe. Jim has managed an active research program for three decades, resulting in his publication of a combination of nearly 500 peer-reviewed and educational/instructional articles. He is also currently co-authoring a book and planning a future study of tree drought adaptations in the desert southwest.



Scott Baker

—Honorary Life Membership

President, Tree Solutions, Inc.
Seattle, Washington, US

Scott Baker has been involved in arboriculture for 45 years, and for the last 20 as a consulting arborist for the company he founded—Tree Solutions, Incorporated—in Seattle, Washington. Scott uses a science-based approach to his work introducing new tools and techniques as they become available, such as the micro-resistance drill, sonic tomography, and pull testing. Scott is also a highly-regarded speaker and educator and believes that every opportunity to teach others about trees is a step toward improving our urban ecosystem.