

2015 Report

The new Trees of Tennessee Book was printed just before January this past year. The book highlights champion, landmark, historic, and heritage trees throughout Tennessee. The book was largely funded by a Dept. of Ag, Div. of Forestry grant, matching time from the TUFC members and TUFC funds. The book has been well received and has been a successful fundraiser. The Trees of Tennessee book has been mostly sold online but has also been used as a fund raiser for organizations that buy at the bulk rate. We would like to see this beautiful book in bookstores. If you have connections with botanic gardens, garden stores or state parks, please notify Jill Smith with their contact information.

The TUFC also received an additional Forestry grant to offset some of the conference costs and provide support to 3 urban forestry workshops. The conference offered new topics such as riparian reforestation, urban soils, bio-fuel, EAB planning & cleanup, and urban old growth forests. The conference and state tree climb competition were held at the beautiful Memphis Botanic Garden and will return to middle Tennessee in 2016. TUFC members and partners provided 3 successful workshops in Knoxville, Clarksville and Memphis for arborists, tree boards and urban forestry minded citizens. These workshops helped to provide urban forestry education in East, Middle, and West TN.

A new website was launched this year and was promoted at 6 conferences and festivals throughout middle Tennessee. The new homeowner's website provides Q & A information and links that relate to urban forestry concerns. Please visit the new website at www.tufc.com/theKey

Bruce Webster, the State Urban Forester, retired this year and to honor his legacy the TUFC created the Bruce Webster College Scholarship. Samuel Peyton, a UT Knoxville senior, was the first recipient of the award. His impressive acceptance speech gave us hope for the future of Tennessee's urban forests.

10 new arboreta were created in 2015 throughout Tennessee. The new locations include several schools and universities, the Knoxville Zoo, 2 parks, a historic home and a library. Visit our website to find out more information and to make plans to visit these locations. www.tufc.com/arboreta.html

Due to the great interest in arboreta by homeowners, we plan to launch a new backyard tree sanctuary program in 2016. Look for the announcement in an upcoming e-newsletter.