

BRITTON FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – 2019 funding

The Britton Fund supports research and education projects of interest and value to members of the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (WCISA). Funds received from WCISA, donations from members, workday sponsors, The Britton Fund Ride, and sponsorships from industry leaders support our mission. Britton Fund grants support qualified projects to a **level of approximately \$30,000**. Projects may continue for up to two calendar years. Britton Fund grants provide start-up funding for preliminary studies, matching funds, or planning efforts for larger studies. We encourage investigators to use matching funds and collaborate with industry leaders. The Britton Fund does not pay administrative overhead costs for grant processing.

Current issues with tree health in the states served by the Western Chapter (California, Nevada, Hawaii, and Arizona) include but are not limited to the following challenges:

- *Tree establishment*, as affected by cultural practices in the nursery. Examples: structural pruning practices, container root pruning systems, and other methods of developing healthy, structurally sound nursery stock.
- *Biology*: studies to determine life history, spread, detection, and/or control/management of endemic and/or exotic pests/pathogens. Examples: *Pittosporum undulatum* decline, invasive shot hole borers, goldspotted oak borer, lobate lac scale of *Ficus* spp, *Ficus microcarpa* stem gall wasp, *Ceratocystis* wilt of Ohia (*Metrosideros polymorpha*), deodar cedar decline and other studies of pests or diseases of important landscape trees.
- *Climate*: Effects of changing environmental conditions on survival and diversity of urban trees and open spaces. Examples include: direct effects of climate change on landscape trees, e.g., increased nighttime temperatures in urban areas, changes in water quality (salinity), changes in soil moisture availability, and application methodology, responses to poor air quality, conversion of standard landscapes adjacent to urban trees to water-conserving landscapes. Other potential topics include drought tolerance and adaptability, and species pruning requirements in response to storms and climate change.

The **product** of a successful proposal must be a report or publication valuable to professionals in arboriculture, that can be made available to WCISA members through the Britton Fund and/or the WCISA Chapter's web sites or publication (*Western Arborist*). **Qualified applicants** must be a member of the WCISA. The applicant must have superior knowledge in the subject areas and demonstrated ability to conduct research and write clearly and concisely.

Timeline:

October 15, 2018 – Pre-proposals due (less than 2 pages text, plus rough timeline and budget).

November 15, 2018 – Acceptance/rejection of Pre-proposals.

December 15, 2018 – Final proposals due.

February 15, 2019 – Results/acceptance from Britton Fund Research Committee to investigators.

Funding begins March 1, 2019. Half of the funds may be paid in March 2018 if two year project.

Evaluation criteria:

- appropriateness of the project approach (relevance to industry and WCISA membership)
- demonstration of applicant's qualifications
- feasibility of project completion according to the time line described
- potential for the budget to fund the project and deliverables
- soundness of the experimental approaches and methods

General Information about the Britton Fund's research goals, funding criteria, application instructions, and contact information are available at <http://www.thebrittonfund.org/research-proposal-guidelines/>

Proposals are evaluated by the Research Committee under the direction of The Britton Fund Board of Directors.

James Downer, chair Britton Fund Research Committee: ajdowner@ucanr.edu