

## WCISA and The Britton Fund Welcome the Tour des Trees Back to the West Coast

Doug Anderson

*Photos Courtesy of Walt Warriner except as noted.*



Britton Fund President Doug Anderson, sporting his Britton Fund Ride jersey beneath the official Tour des Trees jersey.

The Tour des Trees is an annual long-distance cycling adventure which serves as the TREE Fund's primary public outreach and community engagement event. This past fall, the Tour des Trees returned to Western Chapter territory with a five-day ride beginning in Reno, Nevada and crossing the finish line in Half Moon Bay, California. On Saturday evening, September 30th, the WCISA and The Britton Fund welcomed the Tour des Trees to the west coast and the City of San Jose, an action-oriented community that highly values its urban forest. Together, we paid tribute to the cyclists and celebrated our shared goals to support the important work of our tree-care professionals, science-based

research, and education. Joining us were Sara Davis, Urban Forester for San Jose, and John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director of Resource Protection and Improvement, both of whom provided a warm greeting to the riders and special guests.

The evening was filled with friendship and storytelling highlighting our collective accomplishments, with focus on the importance of funding research and recognition of the many benefits that trees provide in our daily lives. We were proud to acknowledge and thank the US Forest Service, who is providing support to fund a significant tree-planting effort in San Jose. And a round of applause honored CAL FIRE for its multitude of programs and years of leadership in the maintenance and care of trees.

The industry's numerous educational and community initiatives supported by the TREE Fund and The Britton Fund were also heralded. Championed by remarkable professionals like Professor Pricklethorn and Tim Womick's TreeCircus, their success stories are many and well known. Together, we are actively improving the quality of life for future generations. Our achievements are abundant, providing ample reasons for celebration!

The next morning, we launched the last day of the Tour des Trees with a beautiful, tree-planting ceremony to remember Karl Parker and Shirl McMayon, two past riders and good friends of our three organizations. Both will live forever in our



The TREE Fund 2023-2024 Board of Directors.





The group gathered for the Tour dinner.

hearts. Anderson's Tree Care Specialists will provide the irrigation and maintenance for three years on the two memorial trees. Many thanks to the Western Chapter Board of Directors for their support of the event as well as their continued contribution to the work of the Funds.

There is still time to support the great work of both the Britton Fund and the TREE Fund. Our 2024 rides are in the works – join us on the road because together, we care for trees!

**Doug Anderson**  
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The Memorial Planting.



The group gathered for the Memorial Planting.



A group of riders led by Doug Anderson.



The Memorial Planting. Photo courtesy of Joanna Nakeff.