



Ohio Chapter International Society of Arboriculture 2023-2024 Annual Report

The Ohio Chapter ISA is a 501(c)3 educational foundation whose fiscal year is October 1 - September 30. During the 2024 Ohio Tree Care Conference, the following board members took office:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Scott Conover – President | José Fernández – Director | Kodi Riedel – Director |
| Brian Kralovic – Vice President | Brian Goodall – Director | Zack Shier – Director |
| Thomas Munn – Treasurer | Frank McGraw – Director | Steve Schneider – Past President |
| Dixie Russell – Secretary | Stephanie Miller – Director | |

The following committees were active throughout the year: Education/Public Outreach, Finance, Marketing, Membership, Ohio Tree Climbing Competition, Ohio Tree Care Conference, Research, Safety, Proper Tree Planting, and Workforce Development. Contact the Chapter if you are ready to give back to the profession.

Ohio Tree Care Conference (OTCC) – The February Conference was held at Cherry Valley Hotel and attended by 583 tree care professionals. The trade show featured 42 companies showcasing their products and services. Ashley Kulhanek was the keynote speaker, and 42 sessions focused their messages on the 2024 theme, *Trees—From the Ground Up*.



During the 2024 annual meeting, the following **awards** were presented:

- Award of Achievement
 - Ernie Brinker for years of service coordinating Climbers’ Corner during OTCC
 - Jose Fernandez for the development of the Chapter’s Oak Wilt Education program
- President’s Award – Brian Goodall for his dedication to arboriculture
- Honorary Chapter Membership – Steve Schneider

Scholarships—The new Workforce Development directed the development of a career webpage, and the committee focused its efforts on perpetual funding. In 2024, Ryan Thomas and Devan Webster were presented with \$500 professional development scholarships.



Ohio Tree Climbing Championship – In April, the annual competition was held at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati. Forty individuals competed in the event, and Evan Beck and Lily Soderlund, winners of the Masters’ Challenge, proudly represented Ohio at the International competition in Atlanta. Five students from Cuyahoga Community College participated in a new student competition, and the safety committee sponsored the recreational climb. Thanks to the hard work of Chair Jay Butcher and the numerous volunteers and sponsors, the competition was educational and successful.

TREE Fund Update – 85 riders participated in the 425-mile 2024 Tour des Trees event from in New England. Team Ohio captain Brian Kralovic was joined by Laurie Skul and Jenny Rexroad who represented the Buckeye State.



There were no qualified applications for the \$5,000 Ohio Chapter Education Grant administered by the TREE Fund. The grant application is open to 501(c)(3) organizations, including, but not limited to, arboretums, public gardens, high schools, vocational schools, and 2-year and 4-year colleges, serving a target population of 16 years of age or older. The annual application deadline is March 15.



Educational Opportunities – The Chapter offered 12 Tree Talk Tuesday webinars. The one-hour monthly online learning opportunities were free of charge to Chapter members and \$20 each for non-members. Non-member funds raised were used to support the scholarship program.

During the year, the Chapter held 2 TRAQ qualification courses, 1 renewal course, 1 TPAQ course, 3 certified arborist prep courses, 1 municipal arborist training course, 2 risk assessment workshops, and 1 proper tree planting hands-on workshop.

Public Outreach – For the 8th year, the Chapter participated in the Ohio High School Landscape Olympics hosted by the Ohio Green Industry Association. Students from 18 high schools and vocational schools participated in various green industry skills events to broaden students’ educational experience and introduce them to career opportunities in the green industry. The Chapter coordinated 2 events: one safely demonstrating climbing systems and functionality, and the other focused on chain saw use and maintenance.

The Chapter also had an exhibit at the Paul Bunyan Show in Cambridge that provided a great opportunity to help educate consumers and foresters.



The year brought great sadness at the loss of several industry greats. On October 12, 2023, T. **Davis Sydnor** passed away at the age of 83. Countless members attended Dr. Sydnor’s classes at The Ohio State University. Dr. Sydnor served as Chapter president from 2011-2012.

Alan Shauck, age 66, passed away on April 23, 2024, in his home. His generosity and passion for arboriculture were unmistakable, and his commitment to the profession was evident to those who knew him. Al served as Chapter president from 2007-2009.

On May 7, 2024, **Rick Basnett**, age 58, passed away. Rick changed career paths and was pursuing to become an ISA Certified Arborist. He was a first-time attendee at the 2024 Ohio Tree Care Conference.

On July 16, 2024, **Mark Hoenigman**, age 67, passed away with his wife Janet by his side. Mark’s passion bloomed into Sanctuary Farms, a small endeavor he started because he couldn’t bear to see any plant—sick or not—discarded. He found solace amongst the “misfits” and single cultivars, especially in the last years of his life. Mark represented Ohio on the ISA Council of Representatives for many years, and Janet served as Chapter president from 2006-2007.

Membership Report – As of September 30, 2024, the Chapter reported 1,026 members, finally attaining its goal of surpassing 1,000 members! A new membership category for Master Gardener Volunteers was added in January 2024. ISA CEUs meet their educational objectives.

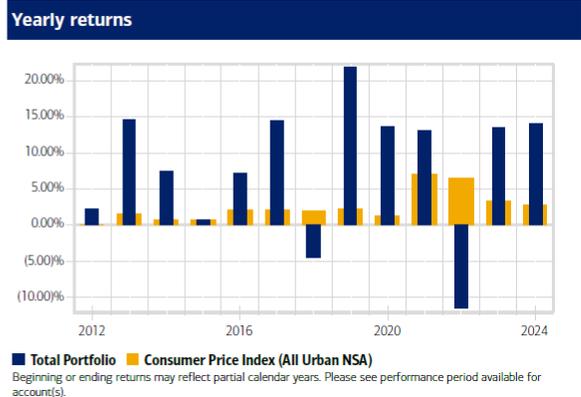
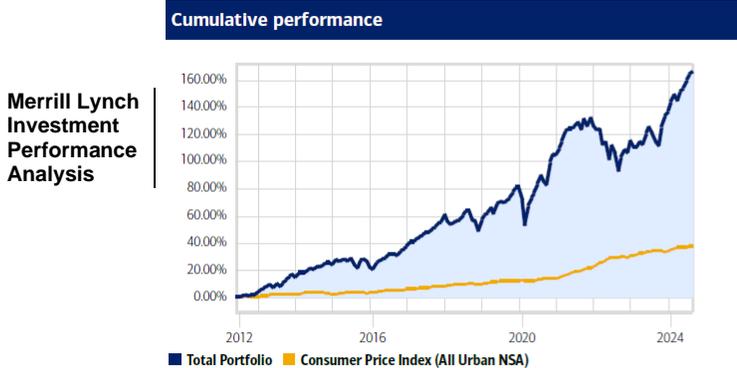
Consumer Marketing – The Chapter’s “Trees 4 Ohio” license plates continue to be available for purchase across the state. In addition to providing funds for Chapter educational events, the plates encourage readers to visit www.Trees4Ohio.org, where they can search for Chapter members who are available for hire. Thanks to the continued efforts of the marketing committee, radio commercials and digital advertisements reached over one million adults statewide.

Financial Report – A certified public accountant examined the Chapter's financial records and reviewed related statements. The examination was carried out following generally accredited accounting standards. A summary of the financial report appears below. As required by law, IRS Form 990 and 990T were submitted to the Internal Revenue Service.

Overview Fiscal Year 10/01/2023 – 09/30/2024 / Current Assets \$365,879

| Revenue | | Expenses | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Administrative/Membership | \$ 47,193 | Administrative/Membership | \$138,531 |
| Buckeye Arborist | 16,495 | Buckeye Arborist | 30,398 |
| Certification/Educational Events | 279,309 | Certification/Educational Events | 201,323 |
| Scholarships | 3,255 | Scholarships | 1,485 |
| License Plate Program | 4,491 | Total Expenses | \$371,737 |
| Investment Income/(Loss) | <u>13,813</u> | Net Income/(Loss) | \$39,566 |
| Sub-Total | \$364,556 | | |
| Realized/Unrealized Gain/(Loss) | <u>46,747</u> | | |
| Total Revenue | \$411,314 | | |

Performance period: 07/26/2012 to 09/30/2024



Merrill Lynch Investment Performance Analysis

■ Total Portfolio ■ Consumer Price Index (All Urban NSA)

■ Total Portfolio ■ Consumer Price Index (All Urban NSA)
Beginning or ending returns may reflect partial calendar years. Please see performance period available for account(s).