Trying Times for Trees & Humans

Dear Trees Forever Friends:

In a year none of us will ever forget, we’ve learned new words (“social distancing”), new technology, how to estimate a 6-foot distance and that you need to speak clearly when wearing a mask. We’ve gained a deeper appreciation for the easy pleasure of meeting in person, and how we may have taken that for granted. At Trees Forever, we’ve also been deeply humbled by your loyal and generous support. Thank you for staying with us during this trying time.
Upcoming Events

Memorial Tree Plantings
September 24
Squaw Creek Park
Marion, Iowa

September 27
Whiterock Conservancy
Coon Rapids, Iowa

Iowa's Living Roadways Celebration
November 5
Virtual

Our Woodland Legacy
December 10
Virtual

For up-to-date information on all upcoming Trees Forever events, be sure to check our online calendar at www.TreesForever.org/Events.

New Des Moines Office!
Our Des Moines office has a new home, and we couldn’t be more proud. A huge thanks to the Krause Group for donating the spacious location at 1515 Linden Street (aptly named for a tree).

We now have room for staff meetings, Growing Futures team education, tool storage (lots!) and a convenient spot to park our truck and trailer.

Facebook.com/treesforever
Twitter.com/Trees_Forever
Instagram.com/trees_forever

Celebrating 30 Years, Branching Into the Future

Dear Trees Forever Family,

I have some exciting news. As you know, I founded Trees Forever more than 30 years ago. We’ve come a long way together, with so many of you volunteering, planting trees, developing new partnerships and supporting us financially. In the near future, I will move from day-to-day management to help launch the Trees Forever Branching Into the Future Campaign. Our goal is to grow the endowment to provide more funds for needed planting projects; expand major programs such as Growing Futures, our youth employment initiative; and create an inspiring mission-focused campus around our building.

As you can imagine, I am so proud of what we’ve accomplished together over the past three decades. None of us tree lovers wants to sit on our laurels because we know there is so much more to be done! I am committed to growing the next generation of tree planters and a trust fund to support them. I’m as passionate as ever about the essential role that trees, forests and natural areas play in our daily lives, and their ability to transform farms and neighborhoods.

Your passion and hard work allowed Trees Forever to grow these 30 years. Thank you. As we move beyond the COVID-19 challenge, I’m hoping our paths cross again soon.

Shannon Ramsay
Founding President & CEO

Dear Friends,

The Trees Forever Board and Foundation are committed to ensuring the future of Trees Forever. Shannon will continue to be involved, remain the Founding President and a Trustee on the Trees Forever Foundation. It was her vision that shaped Trees Forever into the ‘boots on the ground’ volunteer organization that is it today.

This is an exciting time for Trees Forever as Shannon moves her focus to fundraising, and we seek an Executive Director to lead the organization’s day-to-day management.

The Trees Forever Board is assisted by The Overture Group based in Cedar Rapids for a national search to hire an Executive Director. Interested candidates should contact Brandi Mueller at The Overture Group directly at: bmueller@theoverturegroup.com

Thank you for your continued support and volunteerism. I care deeply about creating a future that is green and nurturing for all — all ages, races, backgrounds and abilities. It is a privilege to have your partnership in this mission.

Trees Forever is a remarkable organization. Together, we’ve made a big difference for our states and for the planet. Thank you.

Shannon Ramsay
Founding President & CEO

Dave Blankenship, Chair
Board of Directors
It's Award Season!

Gratitude has never been more important than it is in this year of stress and uncertainty. Though our beloved Annual Celebration was cancelled, we could not possibly cancel our tradition of honoring those partners and volunteers who have made exemplary contributions to our mission.

“People are an essential and irreplaceable part of Trees Forever’s mission and success,” said Shannon Ramsay. “Giving out these awards brings so much joy to our staff and board and really emphasizes that our mission is accomplished through partnerships.”

In consideration of COVID-19, we will bestow the awards in virtual fashion at our September board meeting. The award program will be recorded and posted online for viewing and sharing.

Thank you, award winners, for the many ways you help plant a better tomorrow!

Debbie Fluegel presents Dr. Katy Everett (right), Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Sustainability Director, at Eureka College (Eureka, Illinois), with her Advocate of the Year Award.

Holly Beale, Datacenter Sustainability Lead for Microsoft, visits with Growing Futures teammates in Des Moines. Microsoft is 2020 recipient of the Outstanding Partner Award.

TreeKeeper and Outstanding Volunteer Rick Worcester deploys his John Deere to wrangle a large tree in Cedar Rapids.

Our Outstanding Partner Award goes to Jill Johnson of the U.S. Forest Service.

Trees Forever Program Manager Kevin Bennett presents the Outstanding Volunteer Awards to the Carlinville, Illinois, Tree Board (upper right) and to the Carlinville Bee City Board (lower right).

Congratulations and many thanks to our Award Winners!

**Outstanding Advocate Award**
Katy Everett, Ph.D., Eureka College
Eureka, Illinois

**Outstanding Partner Award**
Microsoft
Des Moines, Iowa

**Outstanding Partner Award**
Jill Johnson, US Forest Service
St. Paul, Minnesota

**Outstanding Volunteer Award**
Carlinville Bee City USA Board
Carlinville, Illinois

**Outstanding Volunteer Award**
Carlinville Tree City USA Board
Carlinville, Illinois

**Outstanding Volunteer Award**
Rick Worcester, TreeKeeper
Anamosa, Iowa

**President’s Award**
Mike Jensen, Mayor
Story City, Iowa

**President’s Award**
Tracy Peterson, Board Treasurer and Past Board Chair
Adel, Iowa

This year’s President’s Awards go to Tracy Peterson, Trees Forever board treasurer and past board chair (above) and Mike Jensen (right), long-time volunteer and mayor of Story City, Iowa.
Grow a Canopy for the Next Generation!

Neighborhoods with graceful, tree-lined streets. Habitat for all manner of creatures. Natural areas with healthy ecosystems. Precious top soil for nutritious crops. Beauty, intricacy, a sense of wonder — what will be your legacy?

The treasures we enjoy today need to be protected and grown for the next generations. Legacy gifts help secure an unlimited future of trees.

When you leave a gift in your will or trust for Trees Forever, you’re growing a canopy for those who come after. If you’ve already made the decision to leave a legacy gift for us — thank you! If you’d like more information, please contact Lisa Williams at 319-373-0650 x 120.