



KAREN ZUMACH RECEIVES MARK STENNES AWARD AT 2024 SHADE TREE SHORT COURSE

MINNEAPOLIS (March 21, 2024)—Tree Trust, a Minnesota nonprofit, today announced Karen Zumach, Tree Trust’s Director of Community Forestry, received the Mark Stennes Award at the 2024 Shade Tree Short Course.



The Shade Tree Short Course, organized by the University of Minnesota, provides training for arborists, public works staff and those who care for trees across the state.

Mark Stennes was passionate about sharing his love for trees with people. A tree biologist focused on pathology, Mark dedicated his career to the study of elm trees and is credited with the discovery of the St. Croix Elm. Further, Mark’s mentorship inspired many to progress in the field of arboriculture. Created in 2014 by the Shade Tree Short Course Steering Committee, the Mark Stennes Award recognizes Mark’s leadership, research, and support of the green community.

Karen Zumach helps guide Tree Trust as a member of the Tree Trust senior leadership team and has been on staff at Tree Trust for 16 years. During her tenure, Karen has led the distribution and planting of more than 55,000

trees, increased the survival rate of urban trees by planting well-established trees instead of seedlings, encouraged communities to plant diverse trees to avoid the over-representation of a single species (with 83 different varieties of trees planted in 2023), inspired women arborists, and persistently educated legislators about the importance of preserving the ash tree canopy which resulted in over \$25 million dollars in funding to help Minnesota’s communities save and preserve their treescapes. Karen is the current president of The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MNSTAC), well-known for its role in supporting community forestry in Minnesota. Both Tree Trust founders, Don Willeke and G. Rolf Svendsen, served as past chairs of MNSTAC’s board.

Karen commented about her selection as the award recipient, "I am deeply honored to receive the Mark Stennes Award. This recognition is not just a reflection of my personal commitment to arboriculture, but it stands as a testament to the collective effort of everyone at Tree Trust and our community partners."

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About Tree Trust

Tree Trust, a nonprofit founded in 1976 and based in St. Paul, Minnesota, focuses on transforming lives and landscapes. Tree Trust accomplishes this mission by providing meaningful opportunities for greening local communities through tree planting and offering youth valuable work skills and experience through practical job training, creating a brighter future of self-sufficiency. Learn more at www.treetrust.org.