

September 23, 2019

Greetings Iowa Arborist Association:

Once again, thank you for supporting my participation in the **2019 TREE Fund *Tour des Trees* – Kentucky/Tennessee!** And more importantly, thanks for advocating for and believing in the cause for which we ride...tree research and education. I want you to know 100% of *your* donation went directly to the TREE Fund for research grants and educational programming. And, 100% of *my effort* in riding the country roads (hills and nasty dogs included) of Kentucky and Tennessee (450 miles worth) was done on your behalf. In effect, you were there right beside me...at least in spirit. By the way, if you see a barn in Kentucky or Tennessee with white smoke billowing from the roof, DON'T call 911! It's just their way of curing tobacco. This year the ride was very rural, with an abundance of peaceful scenery and surprisingly good road conditions. But in 2019 the great equalizer was the heat! Most days temperatures climbed well above 90°F, and few times we crested the 100°F mark. But I'm not complaining....better than snow, eh? Next year? That will be Colorado in 2020! A Rocky Mountain high for sure.

Thanks again!

Jeff



From left: Brandon Gilbert (FL), Jeff Iles (IA), and Randy Hopp (CA).