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Photos: TREE Fund 2008 Tour des Trees Cycling Event Raises Funds for Tree Research

Last update: 6:07 p.m. EDT July 29, 2008

WHEATON, Ill., July 29, 2008 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- More than 50 cyclists planted trees along a 500-mile route through Indiana, Illinois and Missouri in the 2008 Tree Research & Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund) Tour des Trees. They rode with two missions: to raise money for research and scholarships in the field of tree care and to help the public understand the importance of proper tree care to maintain the health of our community forests and urban trees.

To view the Multimedia News Release, go to:

<http://www.prnewswire.com/mnr/treefund/34248/>

"Research has shown that healthy, mature trees significantly reduce energy consumption, encourage wildlife and improve our quality of life," said Janet Bornancin, TREE Fund executive director. "Research is still needed to find better ways to maintain mature and newly planted urban trees and prevent damage from pests and disease."

The TREE Fund Tour des Trees is America's largest fundraising event to improve the care of trees through research and education. Riders of all ages and abilities raised a total of \$287,500 during this year's tour July 21-26.

Steven Asplundh, vice president of Asplundh Tree Expert Co. (a TREE Fund partner) says his company is pleased to support the Tour des Trees. He's personally put his legs on the line for the cause as a three-time rider. "From the sponsors and the TREE Fund staff, to the support volunteers and the riders, many people are needed to make this fundraiser the success that it is. It's good to know that the research grants funded by these events lead to greater knowledge, safety and professionalism in our industry."

Anita Gambill speaks for TREE Fund partner, STIHL Inc. which has sponsored the Tour des Trees for eight years. "We are proud to do our part in furthering the TREE Fund's work through our own efforts to develop low-emission engine technologies, so people who care for trees every day can be sure their tools support their environmental concerns."

Good tree care includes helping to avoid problems with trees and fix them when they arise. TREE Fund partner Duke Energy is on board with that. "We are proud to be a sponsor of an organization which educates customers on "Right Tree-Right Place," said Duke Energy's Steve Bahr. "Trees are often linked with power outages and it's important to know the safety hazards of trees and power lines."

The TREE Fund Tour des Trees began July 21st in Indianapolis, Ind. at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the Indy 500. The day ended nearly 100 miles later in Bloomington, and from there, riders traveled through Indiana with stops in Vincennes and New Harmony and then on to Carbondale, Ill. They completed their trek at the International Society of Arboriculture's Annual Conference in St. Louis, Mo. on July 26.

The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company is another long-time sponsor of the TREE Fund Tour des Trees. Regional sponsors included Wright Tree Service and the Indiana Arborist Association.

About the TREE Fund:

The TREE Fund's mission is to identify and fund projects and programs that advance knowledge in the field of arboriculture and urban forestry to benefit people, trees, and the environment. The TREE Fund has supported research that has led to important developments in:

- Understanding air pollution reduction and carbon sequestration by trees
- Determining the costs and benefits of urban trees
- Improving conditions for tree growth in difficult sites
- Strategies to manage diseases and pests that affect urban trees

For more information, please visit www.tourdestrees.org.

SOURCE TREE Fund

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