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STIHL Named Title Sponsor for 2009 Tour des Trees

Leader in outdoor power equipment takes lead role in America's largest fundraising event for tree research

(VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.) – Leading outdoor power equipment manufacturer STIHL Inc. announced today it will be the title sponsor of this year's Tour des Trees, a cross-country cycling and education event to benefit the Tree Research and Education Endowment (TREE) Fund. The event is America's largest fundraiser to improve the care of trees through research and education.

The 2008 Tour des Trees raised more than a quarter million dollars for the TREE Fund, a charitable organization dedicated to advancing knowledge in the field of arboriculture and urban forestry to benefit people, trees and the environment. Since its inception in 1992, the Tour has generated more than \$4.1 million and has funded a host of diverse projects, such as post-Katrina research on the impact of hurricane flooding on mature trees.

"STIHL has been a great supporter of both the Tour des Trees and the work of the TREE Fund for more than nine years, and they are extremely well respected within the arboriculture community," said Janet Bornancin, executive director of the TREE Fund. "Their involvement showcases their dedication to further research on urban tree care and encourages others within the industry to follow their lead."

"We at STIHL are committed to projects that demonstrate our support for socially responsible environmental stewardship," said Roger Phelps, promotional communications manager for STIHL Inc. "Just as STIHL invests resources into making energy-efficient products that minimize environmental impact, we also invest in organizations like the TREE Fund that finance research that has significant impact on future generations."

The STIHL Tour des Trees will travel primarily through New England this year, kicking off in New York City on July 19 and ending in Rhode Island at the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) International Tree Climbing Championship on July 25. Recent Tours have cycled through the Midwest and Northern California.

"STIHL continues to raise the bar with industry support," said Jim Skiera, executive director of the ISA. "Their contributions to the field of arboriculture and urban forestry ensure that training programs, field research, and public education continue to receive the funding they need to prosper."



Other sponsors of the STIHL Tour des Trees include TREE Fund partners Asplundh Tree Expert Co., Duke Energy, and The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. More information on the STIHL Tour des Trees, including information on riding in the Tour or donating to the TREE Fund, is available at www.tourdestrees.org.

About STIHL Inc.

STIHL Inc. manufactures the world's largest selling brand of chain saws and produces a full line of powerful, lightweight, and versatile handheld outdoor power equipment for homeowners and professional users. STIHL products are sold through servicing power equipment retailers from coast to coast— not mass merchants. STIHL products sold through U.S. STIHL dealers are for distribution in the United States only. For more information or for the name of the closest STIHL retailer call toll free 1-800-GO STIHL (1-800-467-8445) or visit the STIHL Web site at www.stihlusa.com.

STIHL is also pleased to support the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), National FFA, Professional Landcare Network (PLANET), the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), and the National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD).

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, visit www.treefund.org.

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