



January 14, 2010

Press Inquiries:

Kate Davis

800.294.3840

[kate@themeridiangroup.com](mailto:kate@themeridiangroup.com)

TREE Fund Inquiries:

Mary DiCarlo

630-369-8300 ext. 202

[marydicarlo@treefund.org](mailto:marydicarlo@treefund.org)

## **Cycle Illinois with the 2010 STIHL Tour des Trees**

*America's Largest Fundraiser for Tree Research Rides a "Chicago Loop" this July*

(NAPERVILLE, Ill.) – Registration is now open for America's largest fundraiser for tree research, the 2010 STIHL Tour des Trees to benefit the Tree Research and Education Endowment (TREE) Fund.

The weeklong cycling event launches from Chicago's magnificent Millennium Park on July 18, 2010 and travels westward to the Mississippi River and Iowa before looping back to the world famous Morton Arboretum in Chicago's western suburbs on July 24.

"Last year's STIHL Tour des Trees had so many memorable moments, from our daybreak ride through Manhattan and Rolling Stones keyboardist Chuck Leavell playing for us at the launch, to all the trees we planted in New England along the way," said Paul Wood, owner of Black Bear Adventures and tour director for the past five Tours.

"We're looking forward to making more great memories this year, as we launch from the most spectacular venue in Chicago, finish at the Morton Arboretum, and cycle through some of the Midwest's prettiest country in between," Wood said. "The Tour is a great way to support tree research, make lifelong friends, and see the country in a completely new way."

Cyclists interested in riding in the STIHL Tour des Trees can register online at [www.stihltourdestrees.org](http://www.stihltourdestrees.org). Riders can sign up for the full 7-day Tour or any portion thereof. The registration fee is \$100 until June 1 and \$125 from June 2 until registration closes July 5.

To participate in the weeklong Tour, riders must raise a minimum of \$3,500, which will be applied toward scientific research grants and educational scholarships administered by the TREE Fund. Full- and partial-Tour registrants receive all lodging, meals, snacks, beverages, and mechanical support for the duration of the Tour, along with an official STIHL Tour des Trees cycling jersey, wind jacket and t-shirt.

New for 2010 is a one-day "Ride for Research" on Saturday, July 24 featuring two of Chicagoland's most scenic and noteworthy research facilities, Fermilab and the Morton Arboretum. Local riders are invited to join the STIHL Tour des Trees for the day to help raise awareness of the need for tree research and professional tree care. The \$75 registration fee for the "Ride for Research" covers lunch, a t-shirt, entrance to the Morton Arboretum and a donation to the TREE Fund.

Last year's STIHL Tour des Trees, which kicked off in New York City, raised nearly a half million dollars to benefit the TREE Fund, and 100% of the costs of the event were supported by its



sponsors. In addition to their financial support, 2009 Tour sponsors STIHL Inc., Asplundh Tree Expert Co., The Davey Tree Expert Co., and Bartlett Tree Experts went on to partner with New York City's MillionTreesNYC Training Program. Managed by the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation and New York Restoration Project, the program provides paid on-the-job forestry, ecological restoration and horticulture training and career guidance to unemployed young adults in New York City. The MillionTreesNYC Training Program is a pilot program of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.

Since its inception in 1992, the Tour des Trees has generated more than \$4.4 million and has funded a variety of research projects, including new disease control methods that could reduce pesticide usage, new technology to increase post-planting survival in urban trees, and improved safety methods for arborists and other tree care professionals.

Sponsors of the 2010 STIHL Tour des Trees include STIHL Inc., Wright Tree Service, ITC Holdings, APS, and Utility Lines Construction. More information on the STIHL Tour des Trees, including details on riding in the Tour or donating to the TREE Fund, is available at [www.stihltourdestrees.org](http://www.stihltourdestrees.org).

**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
- Quantifying the costs and benefits of urban trees
- Improving conditions for tree growth in difficult sites
- Implementation of strategies to manage diseases and pests that affect urban trees

For more information, visit [www.treefund.org](http://www.treefund.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](http://www.stihlusa.com).

STIHL is pleased to also support the work of the Tropical Forest Foundation, 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).

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