

A President's Plea

by Josh DePouw, President

Dear WAA Member,

The TREE Fund is the arboriculture industry's most important charity, supporting research, development and education that benefit us all. This year the WAA has a Chapter Challenge to raise \$13,000 for the TREE Fund. **So far only 89 WAA members have pledged to the Tour des Trees ride to support the TREE Fund's programs.** That means that over 570 members have not contributed! If you're one who hasn't, consider:

If you're a tree climber – the **Arborist Safety & Techniques Fund** supports work to develop new tools and techniques to directly benefit you in your job and provide you a safer working environment.

If you're a student, instructor or employer – the **Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship** and the TREE Fund's educational projects provide funding that benefit you and assure that qualified arborists are available for the future.

If you're a municipal, commercial or utility arborist, consultant or landscape manager – the TREE Fund's **John Duling**

and Hyland Johns grant programs fund basic and applied research that give you the tools and information to do your job better.

You can't lose by donating to the TREE Fund.

Team Wisconsin has two riders in the Tour des Trees this year – Dick Rideout and Doug Drysdale. They have to raise a minimum of \$7,000, but they have set an ambitious goal to raise \$15,000 **by June 1** to cover our entire chapter challenge. If you haven't done so already, please help Dick and Doug surpass this goal by going to the Team Wisconsin fund raising web page at: <http://www.active.com/donate/2008tourdestrees/DRideou1> and making a tax deductible donation. Or you can send a check payable to The TREE Fund, 711 E. Roosevelt Road, Wheaton, IL 60187, noting that the check is for Tour des Trees Team Wisconsin.

Thanks for supporting our profession.

Josh DePouw, President
Wisconsin Arborist Association