Sonia Garth, Public Relations and Marketing Manager International Society of Arboriculture 217.355.9411 ext. 217, sgarth@isa-arbor.com

For Immediate Release

Toronto Host to International Organization and Arborists from Around the World

CHAMPAIGN, IL (July 8, 2013)- Known for its diversity, Toronto will be the host city for the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) International Conference and Trade Show themed "Trees and People: Growing Stronger Through Diversity." The conference will be held August 3-7 and will bring in more than 1000 arborists from around the world as they converge to learn about the latest research regarding the role that diversity plays in planning the urban forest.

The conference is being hosted by a team of volunteers from the Ontario Chapter of the ISA. These volunteers have worked with the ISA to help make sure the event provides many opportunities for the visiting arborists to experience Toronto while they are attending the conference. "ISA Ontario is honoured to host the 2013 ISA international conference and trade show in the city of Toronto," states Paul Kobold, committee chair for ISA Ontario. "Our local committee has worked closely with ISA event management to provide a successful event for arborists traveling to Toronto from around the world. But we also encourage the public to join us on Toronto Island for free family activities to help them learn about professional tree care."

The five-day event to be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre includes educational sessions and two full days of an industry trade show. Educational sessions at the conference provide continuing education credits for those professionals who are certified through the ISA certification program.

Public events will kick off on Toronto Island on Saturday, with ISA's International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC), presented by Davey Tree Expert Company, and will showcase professional tree climbers from around the globe. Saturday's activities also include an Arbor Fair with educational exhibits and a fun tree climb for children and adults. Outdoor events conclude on Sunday with the ITCC Masters' Challenge Championship round sponsored by Husqvarna.

"One benefit the ISA conference provides to the host city is the opportunity for professional arborists to interact with the local community," says Jim Skiera, Executive Director of the ISA. "There will be something for everyone, so we encourage the public to come have a fun time while learning more about the arboricultural profession."

Trees are a vital part of any urban community. "Toronto, with its diverse culture, provides an inviting environment for our arborists from around the globe to exchange research and ideas on how to care for trees in communities worldwide," adds Skiera.

For more information and a detailed schedule of activities for the Annual ISA conference, visit the conference web site at www.isa-arbor.com/conference.

About ISA

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), headquartered in Champaign, Ill. (US), is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research and education around the world. As part of ISA's mission to promote the professional practice of arboriculture, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry. To promote the importance of arboriculture, ISA also manages the consumer education web site, www.treesaregood.org, which fulfills the association's mission to help educate the public about the importance and value of proper tree care. For more information on ISA and professional credentialing for arborists, visit www.isa-arbor.com.



1