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For immediate release

Scott Packard Installed Chair of Tree Care Industry Association

MANCHESTER, NH – Scott D. Packard, president and CEO of Wright Tree Service, Inc. in Des Moines, Iowa, was installed as the Chair of the Board of the Tree Care Industry Association at Winter Management Conference in Aruba. Packard, who will serve a one-year term, began his service on the TCIA board in 2005.

A member of TCIA since 1977, Wright Tree was founded in 1933 by John L. Wright. His son, John R. Wright, took over the reins in 1982 until his death in 2002. The company began as a residential and commercial company during the Depression and quickly moved into line clearance work – concentrating on that area since 1938. Wright still operates a residential and commercial company (Wright Outdoor Solutions) and nursery in Des Moines, Kansas City and Tulsa, but about 95 percent of revenues come from line clearance work. The company presently has contracts in 26 states with approximately 2,000 employees.

Packard joined Wright in 1998, and in August of 2001 was named president and chief operating officer. That year, John Wright gave him the task of putting together a way to transfer ownership of the company from the Wright family.

“We formulated a plan over the next year and decided that employee ownership, known as an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), would be the best way to proceed,” Packard explains. Today, the company is 100 percent employee owned.

Unlike many commercial tree care company presidents, Packard didn’t get his start in the trees, but rather in construction and finance. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in accounting.

“I spent about 15 years in the Detroit area working in the contracting business as a staff accountant, eventually working my way up to treasurer and chief financial officer for a large general contractor,” he says. “I first moved to Iowa to take a job with Herman M. Brown Company, a large construction equipment firm, and became the chief operating officer.”

After Brown was sold in 1998, Packard landed at Wright Tree that same year as vice president of administration.

John Wright served on the board of directors of TCIA in the 1990s, finishing as chair in 1999. His service demonstrated the need to Packard for a strong industry trade association.

“My first involvement with TCIA was serving on the ethics committee and then with the Voice for Trees political action committee, which is of vital interest to our company,” he notes. “I feel that it benefits all of our companies to have a strong industry voice in Washington. It was also important to me to give something back, to help develop a common mission for the benefit of the industry,” he explains. “As board and committee members, we put aside our competitive differences to work together for safer workplaces and a better-trained, more professional industry that adheres to ethical best business practices.”

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Long term, he would like to keep the association working toward an updated standard for line clearance tree trimming, keep pushing OSHA to write a specific standard for commercial tree care operations based on the industry standard ANSI Z133, and continue to advance safety in all segments of the industry.

Packard is a member of the Des Moines Rotary, and has also given his time to Social Venture Partners. He and his wife, Amy, have three children: Kyle, a graduate of The Citadel and currently serving as a lieutenant with the 2nd Ranger Battalion; Charles, a graduate of Iowa State University; and Colleen, a sophomore at the University of Iowa.

The Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), founded in 1938 as the National Arborist Association, is a 70-year-old public and professional resource on trees and arboriculture. It has more than 2,000 member companies who recognize stringent safety and performance standards and who are required to carry liability insurance. TCIA has the nation's only Accreditation program which helps consumers find tree care companies that have been inspected and accredited based on: adherence to industry standards for quality and safety; maintenance of trained, professional staff; and dedication to ethics and quality in business practices. Editors: If you would like additional information or digital photos, please contact garvin@tcia.org.

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