

2ND ANNUAL POET[®] TREE PROGRAM



by Alyssa Broin

Another great showing as POET hosted their 2nd annual *POET Tree* Arbor Day events. The *POET Tree* program is a chance to give back in POET communities by planting more trees, with the helping hands of kids from local schools. Students, usually 4th and 5th graders, get the opportunity to go visit an ethanol plant and learn about the environment and how ethanol impacts our everyday lives. Not only do they get to plant a tree on-site, but they also get to take a little seedling home to plant in their own backyards.

This year, POET also partnered with South Dakota Road Trip, an educational program aimed at teaching 4th graders in S.D. more about their state. Each 4th grader that signed up for South Dakota Road Trip received a seedling to take home to plant – totaling 5,000 trees!

Overall, about 6,325 trees were planted between the two programs. By planting *POET Trees*, students have a constant reminder that they can make a difference in the world and help improve our environment – one tree at a time.



POET Biorefining – Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA, IND.

POET Biorefining – Alexandria had a wonderful *POET Tree* planting event. Plant Manager Dan McMahan spoke to the 180 students about how ethanol benefits the environment, and the children were treated to lunch. Along with these activities, they also enjoyed the reception of a Norway spruce seedling paired with an ‘I Love Ethanol’ bumper sticker.

POET Biorefining – Fostoria



FOSTORIA, OHIO

POET Biorefining – Fostoria invited the local 4th graders from the Lakota school to plant red maple seedlings. While watching a video on ethanol, the kids were able to enjoy cookies and punch. Afterwards, each of the 81 students helped shovel and fill in holes that had been dug for the trees.

“They all enjoyed themselves very much and only wish they could help out again next year,” says Administrative Assistant Amy Roelle.



POET Biorefining – Big Stone

POET Biorefining – Gowrie



GOWRIE, IOWA

POET Biorefining – Gowrie held their *POET Tree* Arbor Day event at Prairie Valley Middle School in Farnhamville, Iowa, with middle school students from Southeast Webster Grand School, Dayton, Iowa in attendance.

“The planting of the larger *POET Trees* is a commitment to continue to be good stewards of our environment,” says General Manager Gary Eischeid to the kids.

Over the course of the day, the students assisted in the planting of three spruce trees and were also given their own white pine seedling to take home. Total, there were 175 seedlings given out – ensuring a greener tomorrow!

BIG STONE, S.D.

Eight 5th graders had the fun opportunity to visit POET Biorefining – Big Stone to celebrate Arbor Day in a unique way. The students were given a brief presentation about the history of POET and the ethanol production process. They then assisted in planting three Autumn Blaze maple trees around the ethanol facility.

POET Biorefining – Jewell



JEWELL, IOWA

South Hamilton Elementary had the pleasure of planting a tree at their school with the help of POET Biorefining – Jewell. Each of the 4th and 5th grade students got their own white pine seedling to take home for the Arbor Day initiative.

“What a fun afternoon it was!” says Administrative Assistant Julie Lutjen of the day spent with the kids.

LADDONIA, MO.

POET Biorefining – Laddonia had a fun group of 5th graders from St. Joseph’s Catholic School to tour their facility for Arbor Day. The students had a great time and brought their *POET Tree* poems with them – hand-delivered! They were excited to receive their pine oak seedlings and to have the opportunity to go home and plant their own trees.



POET Biorefining – Laddonia

POET Biorefining – Macon



MACON, MO.

There were 120 4th graders who visited POET Biorefining – Macon for the Arbor Day event, and they all got to help with the planting of seven trees – three Cleveland pears and four flowering crabs – along a roadway to the plant. Each student was given a pitch or Loblolly pine seedling in a biodegradable bag to take home with them, along with written instructions to help them in the planting process. Everyone had a lot of fun!

MARION, OHIO

Ridgedale Elementary School had the fun opportunity to plant a maple tree with the help of POET Biorefining – Marion. Not only did the students get to plant a tree, but they also got the chance to listen to General Manager Cliff Brannon talk about ethanol, the importance of renewable fuels and the history of Arbor Day. Each of them received a ‘goody bag’ that included a t-shirt, a take-home seedling to plant themselves, a brochure explaining how to plant a tree and an ‘I Love Ethanol’ sticker.

POET Biorefining – Marion



POET Biorefining – North Manchester

NORTH MANCHESTER, IND.

POET Biorefining – North Manchester was not able to plant trees the day the kids came to visit due to the excessive amount of rain, but instead held their own honorary Arbor Day at a later date.

“I want to be an engineer when I grow up and work here at the plant!” an excited girl told General Manager Bryan Christjansen during the visit. When visiting the school to announce the poetry contest winner, the kids told team members what they had learned during their plant visit – that turning corn into ethanol is a very good thing!

“I would like to see every student in the country exposed to our facility,” Accounting Assistant Shelly Leifer says. “Change is always generational. If we start with our youth today, hopefully, the battle for ethanol will lessen its intensity as children exposed to the idea at a young age grow into future leaders for this country and this industry.”

POET Biorefining – Portland



PORTLAND, IND.

POET Biorefining – Portland choose to celebrate their Arbor Day tree planting event on May 13th. Approximately 150 5th graders from three different schools came to the plant to celebrate. The students assisted planting a flowering crab tree while they learned about Arbor Day and the importance of environmental stewardship.

“It was another successful Arbor Day celebration here,” says Administrative Assistant Jo Peters. “The festivities really are a lot of fun for the kids, the community and our POET team!”

SCOTLAND, S.D.

POET Research Center had a successful Arbor Day *POET Tree* planting event. After planting the tree, the students were taken inside to discuss the impact renewable fuels and trees have on the environment and their lives.

POET Research



POET - Sioux Falls (Harvey Dunn)



POET - Sioux Falls (Rosa Parks)



POET - Sioux Falls (Cleveland)

SIoux FALLS, SD

Team members from the Sioux Falls, S.D. POET office visited three elementary schools to spread the Arbor Day cheer. Autumn Blaze maple trees were planted at Cleveland, Harvey Dunn, and Rosa Parks Elementary Schools. The students were left with a better understanding of ethanol and Arbor day as well as trees to watch grow throughout their academic years.

“Thank you so much!” Brenda Hill, Principal of Rosa Parks Elementary says. “This was a wonderful gift to our school, and we are very grateful. Our students were very excited about the event and the trees!”