

For Immediate Release

Tree Climbers Demonstrate Arborist Skills

CHAMPAIGN, IL (May 11, 2011) - Trees in the urban environment provide numerous benefits not only environmentally but socially and economically as well. However, to maximize their benefits trees must be able to thrive in our communities and to do so they need proper long term care. Professional arborists provide the care they need to survive, which includes proper pruning and maintenance. Some arborists who provide this type of care improve their skills through competitive tree climbing competitions.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is a leader in the dissemination of the latest research and technology impacting arboriculture practices and providing educational opportunities for arborists to grow in their profession. In support of the profession, ISA also promotes the practice of arboriculture and works to create greater public awareness regarding the profession, trees and their benefits, and proper tree care techniques.

Professional tree climbing competitions are one way in which ISA provides education not only for arborists but for the public as well. Each year professional tree climbing arborists display their skills at competitions around the world. These tree climbing competitions simulate the working conditions of arborists in the field as a way to demonstrate to the public some of the tasks required for professional pruning and maintenance.

Each individual event during a competition displays techniques used by professional arborists while working among trees. The tasks demonstrate proper entry into the tree, and maneuvering and working in the tree with approved techniques both for the safety of the climber and the tree. The rules established for the competition by the ISA follow international safety standards for arboriculture practices.

The events are hosted by chapters of the ISA the organization who began holding competitions more than 35 years ago. ISA holds the world championships each year in conjunction with their annual tree care conference. Winners of the regional competitions are invited to compete at the international event.

The competitions began as a way to provide a learning environment that would help improve safety and climbing techniques for those arborists in the industry who work aloft in the trees. "Tree climbing competitions are an opportunity for arborists from around the world to learn new techniques from one another and to see the use of new and different equipment," says ISA Executive Director Jim Skiera.

Since the events are open to the public, they also provide an educational opportunity for people to see how professional arborists care for trees. "Competitive tree climbing introduces the public to the skills professional tree climbing arborists must use for safe, professional tree work", says Skiera. "This knowledge can help prepare them to know how to hire a skilled professional to care for their trees." Trees have a better chance of survival in the urban environment when they are provided with proper professional care.

To learn more about tree climbing competitions visit itcc.isa-arbor.com. For more information on the benefits of trees and professional tree care, visit www.treesaregood.org.

About ISA

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), headquartered in Champaign, Ill., is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research and education around the world. To promote the importance of arboriculture, ISA 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. Also, as part of ISA's dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry. For more information on ISA and Certified Arborists, visit www.isa-arbor.com



International Society of Arboriculture

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