

*For Immediate Release*

## New Zealand Sweeps International Tree Climbing Championships

CHAMPAIGN, IL (August 7, 2013) – Two New Zealanders emerged on top at the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) presented by the Davey Tree Expert Co. The event held Saturday and Sunday, August 3 and 4 on Toronto Island in Toronto, Ontario, Canada brought together professional tree climbers from 19 countries to compete for the title of World Champion. A total of 64 competitors came together from North America and countries as far away as Japan, New Zealand, Australia, and throughout Europe for the event.

Scott Forrest won the title of 2013 ITCC Men's World Champion making this his second championship win. This is the sixth international competition for Forrest who won the title in 2011. He has worked as an arborist for 15 years and has competed in competitions for 13.

Women's champion Nicala Ward-Allen, who has competed four times at the international competition, captured her first championship title. Ward-Allen has been climbing for 11 years and holds an ITCC world record for the Secured Footlock, a rope ascension event of the competition.

The event, organized by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and hosted by the Ontario Chapter of the ISA, is held annually in conjunction with the ISA Annual International Conference. Regional competitions are held around the world by chapters and associate organizations of the ISA. Competitors earn the opportunity to represent their chapter at the international event.

The tree climbing competitions demonstrate the working conditions of professional arborists who work in the trees. The event provides a learning environment for those involved as they demonstrate and develop their professional skills and practice safe techniques. "The ITCC provides a great opportunity for arborists from around the world to learn about new techniques and see new equipment in practice," says Jim Skiera, Executive Director of ISA. "Competitive tree climbing also introduces the public to the skills professional tree climbing arborists must use for safe, professional tree work."

Competitors competed in five separate preliminary qualifying events in which the top three scorers were awarded medals and cash prizes. The top overall scorers (five men and three women) then moved on to the Masters' Challenge Finals sponsored by Husqvarna. The male and female world champions received cash prizes, chainsaws, champion belt buckles and plaques, as well as other prizes. They also earned the privilege of returning in 2014 to defend their title at the international championship to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, US on August 2 and 3.

For more information on the ITCC and for complete results, visit [www.itcc-isa.com](http://www.itcc-isa.com).

### *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](http://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](http://www.isa-arbor.com).*



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