

*For Immediate Release*

## Two United States Competitors Crowned 2015 World Tree Climbing Champions

CHAMPAIGN, IL (March 26, 2015) – Tree Climbers James Earhart and Jamilee Kempton, both from the United States, earned World Championship titles at the [International Tree Climbing Championship](#) (ITCC) held Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22, at Rowlett Park in Tampa, Florida.

The ITCC, an annual event held by the [International Society of Arboriculture](#) (ISA) and presented by the Davey Tree Expert Co., brought together 58 professional tree climbers from 17 countries to compete for the title of World Champion. Competitors from North America, Europe, and countries as far away as Hong Kong, New Zealand, and Australia were all on hand.

“Every year, the International Tree Climbing Championships is our signature event for professional arborists to showcase their unmatched combination of skill and athleticism,” says ISA President Mark Roberts. “As an organization, we couldn’t be more proud of this year’s event or of our two winners, James Earhart and Jamilee Kempton.”

James Earhart of Hustle, Virginia competed for his fifth time at internationals and earned his first championship. A climber from the US has not won the men’s title since 2009. Earhart is the owner of Arbor Care Complete Tree Service.

The women’s champion, Jamilee Kempton of Waimanalo, Hawaii competed in her third international championship. Not since 2004 has a female competitor from the US won the international title. Kempton works for Oahu Tree Works as a climber and crew leader.

Tree climbing competitions demonstrate the working conditions of professional arborists while up in trees. The events provide a learning environment for developing professional skills and techniques.

“The ITCC demonstrates that professional arborists have the required knowledge, training, and expertise to perform tree work safely,” explains ISA Executive Director Jim Skiera. “The competition also introduces the public to what professional, competent, and safe tree care should look like.”

Competitors competed in five separate preliminary qualifying events in which the top three scorers were awarded medals and cash prizes. The top overall scorers (four men and three women) then moved on to the Masters’ Challenge Finals sponsored by Husqvarna. The male and female world champions receive cash prizes, chainsaws, champion belt buckles and plaques, as well as other prizes donated by event sponsors.

To qualify for the ITCC, regional competitions are held around the world by chapters and associate organizations of the ISA. Winners of those events earn the opportunity to represent their organization/country at the international event.

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

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**For More Information**

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

**About The Davey Tree Expert Company**

The Davey Tree Expert Company's more than 8,000 employees provide tree care, grounds maintenance and environmental consulting services for the residential, utility, commercial, and government markets throughout the U.S. and Canada. Davey has provided Proven Solutions for a Growing World since 1880 and has been employee-owned for 35 years. For more information, visit [www.davey.com](http://www.davey.com).

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