

Around the world, climbing arborists promote professional arboriculture and climbing safety through their involvement in tree climbing championships. The ISA Climbing Arborist Spotlight gives tree climbers a chance to share their stories, recognize their achievements, and provide insights into the industry. ISA is excited to launch this new spotlight as it is the 50th anniversary of the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC).

Sean Daley was born in the Netherlands, grew up in the United Kingdom, and started his arborist career in Wales. He is now based in Stockholm, Sweden, where he has been running his own company for the past five years called Aurora Trädvård AB or Aurora Tree Care.

As a member of the Svenska Trädföreningens, the ISA Sweden Chapter, Daley has been involved with competitions all over Europe, and more recently, Asia. He said he appreciates the knowledge and best practices that the tree climbing competitions help solidify for climbers, and also the outreach opportunities.

“Being here in a (public) park and having people running up, coming by, wondering what you are doing,” Daley said while at the 2026 Asia Pacific Tree Climbing Championship, “you get to let people know there is an industry where you can take care of trees. That trees aren’t something you take down just when you want some wood. It’s a living organism; we need to work with nature, so I think it’s a lot about public education.”

Since starting in the climbing industry, Daley said he feels there has been a push for more tree care rather than just tree removals. Through his own company, Daley said he is glad he can also advocate for tree care and tree preservation while still considering the need for tree removal on a case-by-case basis. He hopes that this is a trend that will continue, especially as more members of the public become aware of the benefits of trees.