



International Tree Climbing Championship returns to St. Louis for 50th anniversary

ATLANTA, Ga. — The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is proud to announce that the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. The ITCC will be returning to its roots in St. Louis, Missouri, U.S., where the first ISA-sanctioned tree climbing competition took place in 1976.

This event will gather the top professional tree climbers from around the world to compete for the title of champion. The ITCC offers working arborists the chance to showcase their skills and techniques in a competitive yet educational environment.

“Hosting the 50th anniversary of the International Tree Climbing Championship back in St. Louis is a true honor for the Midwestern Chapter ISA and a celebration of the volunteers who make this event possible,” said Midwestern Chapter ISA president Steve Grantham. “The dedication to climbing, expertise and passion embody the collaborative spirit of our chapter and the legacy of excellence that has defined ITCC for five decades.”

The ITCC consists of preliminary events and the Masters’ Challenge. The preliminary events feature work-related scenarios, including Aerial Rescue, Work Climb, Ascent, Belayed Speed Climb and Throwline. Awards are given to first, second and third place winners in each event for both men and women.

The total scores from all five preliminary events are combined, and the male and female competitors with the highest scores advance to the Masters’ Challenge. This challenge consists of a single event, with scores based on technique and skill. Climbers with the highest scores are declared the male and female champions.

“We are thrilled to be celebrating this huge milestone for ISA and the legacy the ITCC has built,” said ISA CEO and executive director Caitlyn Pollihan. “Tree climbing competitions have long been a way for arborists to showcase their skills and techniques in both educational and competitive settings. This milestone is even more meaningful because it coincides with the 25th anniversary of the first time women competed in the ITCC. We can’t wait to celebrate both anniversaries with climbers from around the world during this year’s competition.”

The ITCC will be held from October 9-11 in Tower Grove Park. For more information about the ITCC or other upcoming tree climbing championships, visit itcc-isa.com.

ABOUT ISA

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., U.S., is a nonprofit professional organization dedicated to promoting the importance of arboriculture and educating the public about the significance of trees and the value of their proper care. As part of ISA’s advancing the arboriculture profession, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry, including ISA Certified Arborist®. For more information about ISA and Certified Arborists, visit www.isa-arbor.com.

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