



Creating a Culture of Safety

International Tree Climbing Championship *with Arbor Fair and Expo*

Brackenridge Park • San Antonio, Texas, US

1-3 April 2016

www.itcc-isa.com

Presented by:

DAVEY 
Proven Solutions for a Growing World

ISA 

International Society of **Arboriculture**

www.isa-arbor.com • p. +1 217.355.9411 • isa@isa-arbor.com



™

INTERNATIONAL

— 1976 - 2016 —



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***Special Thanks to the ISA Texas Chapter
and the City of San Antonio***

✪ Friday, 1 April ✪

- 8:00 am–4:00 pm Professional Workshop: Structural Pruning
9:00 am–12:00 pm Professional Workshop: Practical Applications of the Z133 Safety Standards
11:00 am–4:30 pm Arbor Expo
1:00 pm–5:00 pm Professional Workshop: ASTI Chain Saw and Chipper Operation and Safety
4:00 pm–5:00 pm Professional Workshop: In-Tree Tech Training

✪ Saturday, 2 April ✪

- 8:00 am–10:30 am Professional Workshop: Soils and Tree Physiology
8:00 am–6:00 pm ITCC Masters' Qualifying Events
9:00 am–4:00 pm Arbor Fair and Expo
11:00 am–1:30 pm Professional Workshop: Diagnostics: Pests and Diseases of Trees
2:00 pm–4:30 pm Professional Workshop: Very Easy Tree Identification
6:15 pm–7:00 pm Entertainment
(Food and beverage available for purchase)
7:00 pm ITCC Awards Ceremony

✪ Sunday, 3 April ✪

- 8:30 am–1:00 pm ITCC Masters' Challenge
9:00 am–12:00 pm Professional Workshop: Rigging Techniques and Knots
9:00 am–3:00 pm Arbor Expo
10:00 am–2:00 pm Arbor Fair
1:00 pm–4:00 pm Professional Workshop: Wildlife Laws and Nest ID
1:30 pm–2:15 pm ITCC Head-to-Head Footlock
2:30 pm–3:30 pm SCA Rakemaster Challenge
3:30 pm–4:30 pm Professional Workshop: TCC Tree Selection Workshop
4:30 pm ITCC Awards Ceremony





Arbor Fair



Saturday, 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Sunday, 10:00 am–2:00 pm



Educational Displays

City of San Antonio Graffiti
Removal Program
CPS Energy ARC demo
San Antonio Arborist Association
San Antonio Zoo
Saw Mill demonstration
Smokey Bear (Texas A&M Forest Service)
Texas Project Learning Tree
TREE Fund



Food Trucks

Hippie Mommas–variety of flavors
KHILL BBQ–barbecue truck
Tasty Sweet Treats–dessert truck



Artisans and Craftsmen

Jewelry by Diane Tarullo
KB Wood Turnings
Face Painting by Dawn DeWitt Studios



Entertainment Schedule

Ben Smith (Acoustic performer)
Saturday: 12:00 pm & 2:00 pm
Sunday: 10:00 am

Tree Circus with Tim Womick
Saturday: 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, & 3:00 pm
Sunday: 11:00 am & 1:00 pm



Special thanks to our ISA Texas
Arbor Fair Planning Committee

Mark Bird
Jim Carse
John Giedraitis
Ross Hosea
Rebecca Johnson
April Rose
Kristen Schneider
Lara Schuman



Arbor Expo



Friday, 11:00 am–4:30 pm
Saturday, 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Sunday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm



Exhibitors

All Access Equipment
Arborjet
Bandit of Texas
Buckingham Mfg.
The Davey Tree Expert Company
Husqvarna
J.L. Matthews
Kask
Petzl
Rock Exotica
Samson Rope
Sterling Rope Company, Inc.
Tracked Lifts
Ultimate Tool and Safety
Vermeer



About ISA

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is a nonprofit organization based in Champaign, Illinois (US) Coordinating with our international network of members, chapters, and associate organizations, ISA promotes the professional practice of arboriculture and supports tree care research and education around the world. We also offer the only internationally-recognized credentialing program in the industry. You can learn more about ISA at www.isa-arbor.com.



About the ITCC

The International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) is a program of the ISA that helps promote safe and professional work practices among arborists working in and around trees performing specific tree care tasks. Individuals competing at the ITCC have won a qualifying competition held by a chapter or associate organization, and/or a larger regional competition. These events help facilitate and promote the following goals of the organization:

Networking and Membership



Through its network of chapters and members worldwide, ISA uses the climbing competition series to increase the awareness and use of industry safety standards and best practices while helping to facilitate an exchange of knowledge and information among those arborists working in and around trees, and other industry professionals. The Expo portion of the event provides a dynamic platform for interaction among arborists, manufacturers, and suppliers that drives innovation and advances the culture of safety.

Credentialing – Skills that are assessed during the competition correlate to the job tasks required to perform safe tree work. Participation in the event helps individuals earn the ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist® credential and/or earn continuing education units to maintain certification.



Education



Competitors and volunteers learn about the latest equipment and techniques used during the event to help them work more safely and efficiently when on the job. In addition, professional workshops are offered throughout the event to provide expanded opportunities for all arborists, not only those working aloft.

Public Awareness – Opening this event to the public helps arborists become recognized as qualified, competent, and safe tree care professionals. Trees are good. Trees need care. Arborists care for trees. (www.TreesAreGood.org).



Incorporating the Arbor Fair provides ISA the opportunity to fulfill our mission of educating the public about the value of trees, their benefits to the environment, and the need for their proper care.



International Tree Climbing Championship *Creating a Culture of Safety since 1976*

The first tree climbing competitions began in California as a way for climbing arborists, equipped with nothing more than a rope, to train for the classic skills that would prepare them to perform an aerial rescue if necessary to save the life of another climber. The competitions grew in popularity as more and more tree care companies encouraged their workers to learn these vital skills.

The Western Chapter of the ISA began to incorporate the competitions as an official chapter event. Due to the influence the competitions were having on training, Western Chapter members solicited the ISA Board to hold a larger tree climbing competition as part of its annual conference. The first official "ISA Tree Trimmers' Jamboree" was held in 1976 in St. Louis, Missouri (US).

Official rules were established and over the years new events and techniques have been introduced. The event expanded internationally in 1991 with the participation of the first European competitor. This expansion allowed for the introduction of even more innovative techniques and a revitalization of individual events. The new event structure, which included the Masters' Challenge Championship round, was introduced at the 1996 competition in Cleveland, Ohio (US) along with a name change from Jamboree to International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC).

The ITCC experienced further growth with the introduction of women at the 2001 competition in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (US). Seven women competed that year, and Christina Engel of Germany was crowned the first women's champion. Today one third of the competitors at the world championship are women.

In addition to the ITCC, the ISA now holds three annual regional events in Europe, North America, and the Asia Pacific. The winners of these events, as well as winners of competitions held by ISA chapters and associate organizations around the globe, are invited to the International Championship.

The ITCC has reinvented the tree climbing equipment and tree care industries by bringing the end users and manufacturers together. The result has been an explosion of inventions and products specifically designed for tree care applications.

Industry safety standards in nearly every participating country have benefited from these innovations. The events instill a respect for the role of the tree climber and a strong focus for the individuals of the climber community to improve safety in the work environment for all arborists.



1976 • St, Louis, Missouri (US) • First ISA Tree Trimmers' Jamboree naming the first champion, Tom Gosnell of the Western Chapter.

1987 • No climbing competition in 1987 and 1988 due to lack of insurance to cover event competitors.

1989 • St. Charles, Illinois (US) • The Footlock technique for the Speed Climb was deemed unsafe due to no protection from an open fall and was removed from competition.

1990 • Toronto, Ontario (Canada) • Introduction of the requirement for competitors to be tied in and/or on belay at all times while aloft.

1991 • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (US) • Footlock technique was reintroduced as the Secured Footlock with the mandatory use of techniques to prevent climbers from an open fall.

1994 • Halifax, Nova Scotia, (Canada) • Event run under the first official competition rule book created to standardize all ISA associated tree climbing competitions. First representatives from European Chapters competed.

1995 • Hilton Head, South Carolina (US) • Competition rules were reviewed and adjusted to align with international safety standards; Ken Palmer becomes the first male to win three championship titles.

1996 • Cleveland, Ohio (US) • Introduction of five preliminary qualifying events and the Masters' Challenge championship round. The first Masters' Challenge Champion title was awarded to Rip Tompkins of New England.

1997 • Salt Lake City, Utah (US) • Competition run under the new official name of the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC).

1998 • Birmingham, (England) • The first ITCC held off the North American continent.

1999 • Stamford, Connecticut (US) • Up to 20 countries represented at the ITCC, resulting in the first non-U.S. Masters' Champion-Bernd "Beddes" Strasser from Germany.

2001 • Milwaukee, Wisconsin (US) • Introduction of the women's division at the ITCC. First women's Masters' Champion crowned, Christina Engel of Germany.

2004 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (US) • Height of the men's Secured Footlock rope climb changed from 40 feet to 15 meters (49'2.5").

2008 • St. Louis, Missouri (US) • First representatives from the Asia-Pacific Tree Climbing Championship competed at the ITCC; the competition's return to the city where the ITCC was first held in 1976.

2011 • Paramatta, (Australia) • The second ITCC held off the North American continent. Chrissy Spence of New Zealand becomes the first woman to be a three-time Masters' Champion. First competitors from the North American Tree Climbing Championship participated at the ITCC.

2012 • Portland, Oregon (US) • Bernd "Beddes" Strasser wins his 9th ITCC Men's Masters' Champion title.

2014 • Milwaukee, Wisconsin (US) • The height for the women's Secured Footlock moved from 12 meters to 15 meters to be the same as the men; first women's 15 meter world record time (20.72 seconds) was set by Nicala Ward-Allen of New Zealand.

2015 • Tampa, Florida (US) • The first year the ITCC is not held at the same time as the ISA Annual International Conference; the first time that both the male and female champions are from the United States.

2016 • San Antonio, Texas (US) • The ITCC returns to the location of the 10th ITCC (1986), Brackenridge Park.





40 years and still climbing

2016 San Antonio, Texas

2015 Tampa, Florida
2014 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
2013 Toronto, ON, Canada
2012 Portland, Oregon
2011 Sydney, Australia
2010 Chicago, Illinois
2009 Providence, Rhode Island
2008 St. Louis, Missouri
2007 Honolulu, Hawaii

2006 Minneapolis, Minnesota

2005 Nashville, Tennessee
2004 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2003 Montreal, QC, Canada
2002 Seattle, Washington
2001 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
2000 Baltimore, Maryland
1999 Stamford, Connecticut
1998 Birmingham, England
1997 Salt Lake City, Utah

1996 Cleveland, Ohio

1995 Hilton Head, South Carolina

1994 Halifax, NS, Canada

1993 Bismarck, North Dakota

1992 Oakland, California

1991 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1990 Toronto, ON, Canada

1989 St. Charles, Illinois

1988 No competition

1987 No competition

1986 San Antonio, Texas

1985 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1984 Quebec, QC, Canada

1983 Indianapolis, Indiana

1982 Louisville, Kentucky

1981 Boyne Falls, Michigan

1980 Hartford, Connecticut

1979 San Diego, California

1978 Toronto, ON, Canada

1977 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1976 St. Louis, Missouri

Past ITCC Competition Chairs

- 1976 John Hudson, Midwestern Chapter
- 1977 Bill Hascher, Penn-Del Chapter
- 1978 Mel Melnicke
- 1979 Bailey Hudson, Western Chapter
- 1980 John Broder
- 1981 Sam Noonan, Western Chapter and Don Blair, Western Chapter
- 1982 B.G Hubbs, Kentucky Chapter
- 1983 Mike Domino, Indiana Chapter
- 1984 Sam Noonan, Western Chapter
- 1985 Rod Brusoius, Wisconsin Chapter
- 1986 Mark Peterson, Texas Chapter
- 1987 Ralph Bronk, Rocky Mountain Chapter (*No Competition*)
- 1988 No Chairman, (*No Competition*)
- 1989 Jim Skiera, Illinois Chapter
- 1990 Jim Skiera, Illinois Chapter
- 1991 Jim Skiera, Illinois Chapter
- 1992 Gordon Mann, Western Chapter
- 1993 Gordon Mann, Western Chapter
- 1994 Gordon Mann, Western Chapter
- 1995 Herschel Hale, Southern Chapter
- 1996 Herschel Hale, Southern Chapter
- 1997 Herschel Hale, Southern Chapter
- 1998 Ken Meyer, Western Chapter
- 1999 Ken Meyer, Western Chapter
- 2000 Ken Meyer, Western Chapter
- 2001 Ken Palmer, New England Chapter
- 2002 Ken Palmer, New England Chapter
- 2003 Ken Palmer, New England Chapter
- 2004 Rip Tompkins, New England Chapter
- 2005 Rip Tompkins, New England Chapter
- 2006 Rip Tompkins, New England Chapter
- 2007 Scott Prophett, Southern Chapter
- 2008 Scott Prophett, Southern Chapter
- 2009 Scott Prophett, Southern Chapter
- 2010 Bruce Smith, Florida Chapter
- 2011 Bruce Smith, Florida Chapter and Scott Prophett, Southern Chapter
- 2012 Scott Prophett, Southern Chapter
- 2013 Andrew Hordyk, Ontario Chapter
- 2014 Andrew Hordyk, Ontario Chapter
- 2015 Andrew Hordyk, Ontario Chapter
- 2016 Eduardo Medina, Illinois Chapter



ITCC Men's Hall of Champions

1976	Tom Gosnell, Western	1996	Rip Tompkins, New England
1977	Tom Smith, Western	1997	Mark Chisholm, New Jersey
1978	Sam Noonan, Western	1998	Michael Cotter, Mid-Atlantic
1979	Sam Noonan, Western	1999	Bernd Strasser, Germany/Austria
1980	Paul Harlow, New England	2000	Bernd Strasser, Germany/Austria
1981	Bob Hunter, Western	2001	Mark Chisholm, New Jersey
1982	Bob Hunter, Western	2002	Bernd Strasser, Germany
1983	Bob Maltby, New England	2003	Bernd Strasser, Germany
1984	Rick Husband, Texas	2004	Bernd Strasser, Germany
1985	Steve Bannan, Penn-Del	2005	Dan Kraus, Pacific Northwest
1986	Craig Cutler, New Jersey	2006	Bernd Strasser, Germany
1987	No Insurance, No Jamboree	2007	Bernd Strasser, Germany
1988	No Insurance, No Jamboree	2008	Bernd Strasser, Germany
1989	Bob Weber, Penn-Del	2009	Jared Abrojena, Western
1990	Greg Clemens, Ohio	2010	Mark Chisholm, New Jersey
1991	Ken Palmer, New England	2011	Scott Forrest, New Zealand
1992	Bob Weber, Penn-Del	2012	Bernd Strasser, Germany
1993	Ken Palmer, New England	2013	Scott Forrest, New Zealand
1994	Jim Harris, Pacific Northwest	2014	Scott Forrest, New Zealand
1995	Ken Palmer, New England	2015	James Earhart, Mid Atlantic

ITCC Women's Hall of Champions

2001	Christina Engel, Germany/Austria
2002	Wenda Li, Ontario
2003	Kiah Martin, Australia
2004	Kathy Holzer, Pacific Northwest
2005	Chrissy Spence, New Zealand
2006	Eléna O'Neill, New Zealand
2007	Chrissy Spence, New Zealand
2008	Josephine Hedger, UK/Ireland
2009	Anja Erni, Switzerland
2010	Josephine Hedger, UK/Ireland
2011	Chrissy Spence, New Zealand
2012	Veronika Ericsson, Sweden
2013	Nicala Ward-Allen, New Zealand
2014	Josephine Hedger, UK/Ireland
2015	Jamilee Kempton, Western

ITCC Arthur Bruce Smith Volunteer Spirit Award

2015 Krishan Schultz, Midwestern

ITCC Spirit of the Competition Award

2005 Melissa LeVangie, New England
2006 Melissa LeVangie, New England
2007 Gabrielle Kluever, KPB Dutch
2008 Scott Forrest, UK/Ireland
2009 Terunobu Takahashi, Japan
2010 James Earhart, Mid-Atlantic
2011 Susan Wright, Pacific Northwest
2012 Kiah Martin, Arboriculture Australia
2013 Boel Hammarstrand, Sweden
2014 Jamilee Kempton, Western
2015 Rebecca Barnes, Queensland
Arboriculture Association

ITCC Footlock World Record

Men-15 meters

Time: 13.65 seconds

James Kilpatrick, New Zealand

(Set at 2011 APTCC - Singapore)

Women-12 meters

Time: 13.26 seconds

Nicala Ward-Allen, New Zealand

(Set at 2010 ITCC - Chicago)

Women-15 meters

Time: 20.17 seconds

Jamilee Kempton, Western

(Set at 2015 ITCC - Tampa)

ITCC Team Competition Champions

2010 Rhys Brace, Josephine Hedger, UK/Ireland
2011 Scott Forrest, Chrissy Spence, New Zealand
2012 Ross Kite, Nicala Ward-Allen, New Zealand
2013 James Kilpatrick, Nicala Ward-Allen, New Zealand
2014 James Kilpatrick, Nicala Ward-Allen, New Zealand
2015 Jared Abrojena, Jamilee Kempton, Western

2016 International Tree Climbing Championship Competitors

Men's Division

Competitor	Chapter/Org	Competitor	Chapter/Org
Barton Allen-Hall	Arb Australia	Rory MacInnis	New Jersey
Trevor Burton	Atlantic	Brian Krawczyk	New York
Krisztián Kmety	Austria	James Kilpatrick*	New Zealand
Peter Vergote	Belgium	Dale Thomas	New Zealand
Jiri Voda	Czech Republic	Jacob Sauer	Ohio
Jason Gerrish	Florida	Mark Gaudet	Ontario
Jerome Pagny	France	Robert Bundy	Pacific NW
Gregor Hansch+	Germany	Derrick Martin	Penn-Del
Ronny Epple	Germany	Jesse Antonation	Prairie
Beau Nagan	Illinois	Vincent Jolin	Quebec
John Montgomery	Indiana	Mark Gistitin	Queensland Arb
Lam Chor Pam	Hong Kong	Luke Glines	Rocky Mountain
Sem Pagnoni	Italy	(TBD at time of printing)	Southern
Masatake Watanabe	Japan	Johan Pihl	Sweden
Jason Diehl	Kentucky	Lin Wei Ming	Taiwan
Harrie Verbeek	KPB Dutch	Miguel Pastenes^	Texas
Wagner Velasquez	Mexico	Vincente Pena-Molina	Texas
Lucas Drews	Michigan	Ryan Torricollo	Utah
James Earhart**	Mid-Atlantic	(TBD at time of printing)	Western
Drew Dunavant	Mid-Atlantic	Colin Bugg	Wisconsin
Josh Hodson	Midwestern		
Rob Juetten	Minnesota		
Kyle Donaldson	New England		

**2015 ITCC Returning Champion
 *2015 Asia Pacific Champion
 +2015 European Representative
 ^2015 North American Champion

Women's Division

Competitor	Chapter/Org	Competitor	Chapter/Org
Jessica Knott	Arb Australia	Kali Alcorn	Prairie
Louise Sørensen	Denmark	Marilou Dussault^	Quebec
Alisha Amundson	Florida	Vera Bizzell	Queensland Arb
Ines Huth	Germany	Boel Hammarstrand	Sweden
Hoi Kei Kay Cheung	Hong Kong	Josephine Hedger	UK/Ireland
Gaby Kleuver	KPB Dutch	Jamilee Kempton**	Western
Jocelyn Lohse	Mid-Atlantic	(TBD at time of printing)	Western
Rebecca Seibel-Hunt	Minnesota	Shelly Wollerman	Wisconsin
Marcy Carpenter	New England		
Stef White	New Zealand		
Chrissy Spence*	New Zealand		
Krista Strating	Ontario		
Erica Georgaklis	Pacific NW		

**2015 ITCC Returning Champion
 *2015 Asia Pacific Champion
 ^2015 North American Champion

2016 TCC Committee

Terry Flanagan, ITCC Chair • Pacific Northwest Chapter
Eduardo Medina, ITCC Operations Chair • Illinois Chapter
Mark Bridge, Head Tech/ETCC Operations Chair • Swiss Arborist Association
John Coles, Rules Committee Chair • Norway Chapter
David James, APTCC Operations Chair • New Zealand Chapter
Bill Conn, NATCC Operations Chair • New England Chapter

2016 ITCC Event Operations Committee

Eduardo Medina, Operations Chair • Illinois Chapter
Tom Greenwood, Head Judge • Arboriculture Australia
Mark Bridge, Head Technician • Swiss Arborist Association
Kevin Bassett, Local Arrangements • Texas Chapter

2015-2016 ITCC Rules Committee

John Coles—Chair, Norway Chapter
Tim Bushnell, Penn-Del Chapter
Tom Greenwood, Arboriculture Australia
Phillip Kelley, Pacific Northwest Chapter
Marcin Leszczynski, Federation of Polish Arborists
Rip Tompkins, New England Chapter

2016 ITCC Event Administration and Logistics

John Coles, Rules Committee Chair • Norway Chapter
Rip Tompkins, Rules Committee Rep • New England Chapter
David Graham, Photography • Wisconsin Chapter
Dwayne Neustaeter, Emcee • Prairie Chapter
Kara Stachowiak, Event Logistics and Administration • ISA
Alex Julius, Head Scorer • ISA
Sonia Garth, Publicity • ISA
Bill Yauch, Videography • ISA



2016 ITCC Event Volunteers

Asociación Mexicana de Arboricultura

Daniel Rivas Torres

Brazil Chapter

Alexandre de Queiroz

Rogério Mazzeo

Florida Chapter

Sebastian Koerber

Travis Morales

Michael Suarez

Germany Chapter

Oluwasina Akinlembola

Hong Kong Chapter

Chor Keung Lam

Samuel Ma

Illinois Chapter

Mike Dirksen

Italy Chapter

Giorgio Zenone

Japan Arborist Association

Kazuo Kawamoto

Masaya Matsumoto

Hironobu Tedo

Mid Atlantic Chapter

Paul Herb

Trenton Thomas

Midwestern Chapter

Noel Boyer

Lorimer Christianson

Mike Christianson

Matt Pregon

James Rosa

Kristian Schultz

Rhonda Shunk

New England Chapter

Brian Kane

New York Chapter

Mark Brooks

Rachel Brudzinski

Jim Bruner

Mark Moeske

Ohio Chapter

Wendy Bowman

Justin McVey

Mark Noark

Joe Shaw

Ontario Chapter

Cody Menken

Pacific-Northwest Chapter

Phillip Kelley

Penn-Del Chapter

Tim Bushnell

Jeff Dice

Corby Fetterolf

Norman Parks

Anthony Tresselt



2016 ITCC Event Volunteers

Prairie Chapter

DJ Neustaeter
Zach Neustaeter

Rocky Mountain Chapter

Craig Bachmann
Chad Delzell
Charles Erickson
Court Sherwood
Charlie Wagner

Southern Chapter

Heath Gober
Gregory Jackson
Travis Vickerson
Warren Williams

Sweden Chapter

de Gourét Litchfield

Texas Chapter

Sarah Armanovs
Keith Babberney
Gene Basler
Jim Breaux
James Carse
Margo Cummings
Rachel Cywinski
Joseph D'Ailleboust
Jeremiah Davis
Emily Driscoll
Steve Driskill
Elysia Etter

Zaina Gates
Scott Geer
Brad Hamel
Neal Howerton
Paul Johnson
Nicolas Martinez
Rachel McGregor
Erick Palacios
Rafael Parada
Tony Poncik
Kristoffer Rasmussen
Sharon Reed
Jacob Sanchez
Lisa Schissler
Kirsten Schneider
Curtis Schoessow
Brian Scott
Kenneth Smith
Nathanael Sponseller
A.J. Thibodeaux

Western Chapter

Bob Bennett
John Gauthier
Matthew Kortenhoven
Andrew Misch
William Owen

Wisconsin Chapter

Gregory Good
Don Roppolo



Competitor Bios WOMEN

2015 ITCC Returning Women's Champion

JAMILEE KEMPTON #05 • Western Chapter (United States)

Returning champion Jamilee Kempton of Waimanalo, Hawaii, is competing in her fourth international event. Jamilee, an ISA Certified Arborist®, works as a climbing arborist and has a degree in Subtropical Arboriculture from Windward Community College. She recently returned to school as a full-time student working towards completing a business degree. Jamilee is partnered with Steve Connolly and enjoys hiking with her dogs and doing yoga, which she has credited with helping her prepare for the competition.

2015 Asia Pacific Tree Climbing Champion

CHRISSEY SPENCE #24 • New Zealand Chapter

2005, 2007, and 2011 Women's International Champion
2008, 2009, and 2010 Asia Pacific Women's Champion

Back this year for her tenth international competition is three-time world champion Chrissy Spence from Morrinsville, New Zealand. Chrissy has an Advanced National Certificate in Arboriculture and has been climbing for 12 years. She has worked both in New Zealand and in other countries, sometimes on large jobs that included the use of cranes and helicopters, but is currently working in Auckland as a climbing arborist and trainer. In her free time Chrissy enjoys hiking, badminton, surfing, and in general spending time outdoors in the forest, mountains, or by the ocean.

2015 North American Tree Climbing Champion

MARILOU DUSSAULT #18 • Quebec Chapter (Canada)

2011 and 2013 Women's North American Champion

Marilou Dussault, of Montreal, Quebec has been climbing for 10 years. This is her ninth time at the international event, and she is a three-time North American Tree Climbing Champion. Marilou holds a professional diploma in Arboriculture and Tree Pruning. She is employed by the Centre de Formation Horticole de laval as an instructor in their arboriculture and pruning program. Marilou has a 6-year-old son, Liam, and enjoys hockey, snowboarding, skateboarding, and free running.

JESSICA KNOTT #52 • Arboriculture Australia
2013 Asia-Pacific Women's Champion

Competing in her sixth ITCC is Jessica Knott of Heathcote Junction, Victoria, Australia. She has a diploma in horticulture as well as a Cert IV certificate in arboriculture. Jessica has been working for 15 years with her father in the family-owned business. She is married to Troy and enjoys netball, bike riding, and running. Jessica also enjoys traveling with her dad when he competes in off-road racing events.

LOUISE SØRENSEN #23 • Denmark Chapter

Louise Sørensen of København, Denmark is competing in her second international event. She is employed as an arborist at K&S Tree Care, ApS. Louise is learning to play the ukulele and enjoys bouldering.

ALISHA AMUNDSON #31 • Florida Chapter (United States)

Appearing in her first ITCC is Alisha Amundson from Oviedo, Florida. She has worked in arboriculture for 11 years as a grounds worker and climber, but now owns her own company, Tree Girl Designs. Alisha has a two-year-old named Sawyer, and she enjoys outdoor activities like fishing, mountain biking, airboating, riding motorcycles and of course landscape design. She also spends time riding motorcycles and doing wood carving.

INES HUTH • Germany Chapter

(Information not available at time of printing)

HOI KEI KAY CHEUNG #17 • Hong Kong

Hoi Kei Kay Cheung from Shek Wai Kok Estate, Hong Kong is competing in her first ITCC. She is an ISA Certified Arborist® and Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist®.

GABY KLEUVER #67 • KPB Dutch Chapter (The Netherlands)

Gabrielle (Gaby) Kleuver from Oirlo, Netherlands has been climbing for 16 years and is competing at her third international event. She is an ISA Certified Arborist®, ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist®, and certified European Treeworker. Gaby has worked for various companies since 1999 as a climber in arboriculture then started her own business, Ayla Boomverzorging, in 2011. She has one child, Louka, 13. In her free time, she enjoys mountain biking with Louka and her partner and hiking in the mountains.

JOCELYN LOHSE #21 • Mid-Atlantic Chapter (United States)

Jocelyn Lohse, a six-time international competitor from Richmond, Virginia, is an ISA Certified Arborist® and Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist®. She has worked for five years as a climbing instructor at Riverside Outfitters, a tree-climbing based summer camp. Jocelyn also previously worked as a tree climber for True Timber Tree Service. She is married to Scott Ross and enjoys gardening, kayaking, music, and playing with her dogs.

REBECCA SEIBEL-HUNT #64 • Minnesota Chapter (United States)

Making her fifth appearance at the ITCC is Rebecca Seibel-Hunt of Plymouth, Minnesota. She is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist® and Certified TreeCare Safety Professional (CTSP) with a bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Rebecca is employed as a field arborist at Bartlett Tree Experts and volunteers as an instructor for women's tree climbing workshops. She and her partner, Beth, have been together for 15 years.

MARCY CARPENTER #16 • New England Chapter (United States)

Marcy Carpenter of Douglas, Massachusetts is competing in her sixth ITCC. She has worked in the tree care industry for 10 years and currently operates Arbor One Inc. with her husband Ed. Marcy has an associate degree in Arboriculture from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and a bachelor's degree in Urban Forestry from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Gardening, rock climbing, and spending time with her husband and their 3 ½ year old daughter Sophora are what Marcy enjoys during in her spare time.

STEF WHITE #27 • New Zealand Chapter

This is Stef White's second year competing at the ITCC. Previously self-employed, she now works for Asplundh as a contract climber. Stef has a certificate in arboriculture from WINTEC. She has been climbing for four years and is from Hamilton, New Zealand. Stef enjoys hiking, running, surfing, and water bomb fights.

KRISTA STRATING #25 • Ontario Chapter (Canada)

2014 Women's North American Champion

Krista Strating from Hamilton, Ontario, the 2014 women's North American champion, is returning for her seventh ITCC. She is an ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist® and ISA Certified Arborist® with Certificates in Horticulture and Arboriculture from Humber College in Toronto, where she has been teaching climbing for three years. Krista has been working in the industry for eight years and currently works as an arborist for the City of Mississauga. Most of her hobbies revolve around sports such as soccer, baseball, dodgeball, and hockey. She also does a lot of recreational tree climbing and rock climbing.

ERICA GEORGAKLIS #19 • Pacific-Northwest Chapter (US/Canada)

Making her first appearance at the ITCC is Erica Georgaklis from La Conner, Washington. Her family ran a nursery business so she has been involved in arboriculture for many years, but began climbing three years ago and is now self-employed through Insight Tree Care LLC. Erica has a bachelor's degree in Ecology from the College of the Atlantic. In her free time, she enjoys sailing, hiking, birding, and gardening.

KALI ALCORN #38 • Prairie Chapter (Canada)

Kali Alcorn is from Olds, Alberta, Canada and is appearing in her first international competition. She has been working in the arboriculture industry for three years starting out in estimates and sales but now works full time doing tree work at For Trees Company, Ltd. Kali is an ISA Certified Arborist® and has a Landscape Technician Diploma and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Landscape Management. She enjoys traveling, hiking, snowboarding, and adventuring.

VERA BIZZELL #65 • Queensland Arborist Association (Australia)

Another newcomer to the ITCC is Vera Bizzell from Widgee, Queensland, Australia. She has been working in arboriculture for 15 years and is currently self-employed and travels as a contract tree climber. Vera initially studied Visual Art and Design but then did a traineeship in Horticulture earning her Cert II credentials in Parks and Gardens. She later earned a diploma in Conservation Land Management and then a Cert III in Arboriculture. Vera enjoys horseback riding, photography, being outside with her animals, and anything else that lets her be creative.

BOEL HAMMARSTRAND #46 • Sweden Chapter

All the way from Sweden, is Boel Hammarstrand appearing in her third international competition. She is from Stockamollan, Sweden and went to Hvilan Utbildning AB Horticulture College. Boel holds the NPTC qualification and the European Treeworker certification. After college, she began her career as an apprentice for a company in the UK where she became lead climber, supervisor, trainer, then an assessor. Boel started her own business working as a traveling contract climber but now works based mainly in Sweden performing contract climbing, training, NPTC assessments and workshops. She enjoys knitting, doing crafts, gardening, reading, and going out on her bike.

JOSEPHINE HEDGER #20 • United Kingdom

2014 Women's European Champion

2008, 2010, and 2014 Women's International Champion

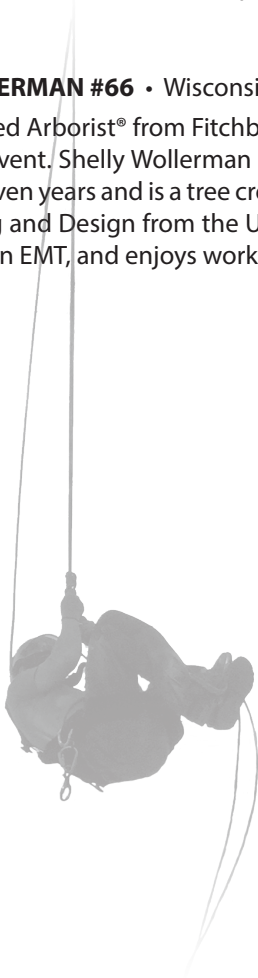
Three-time ITCC women's champion, Josephine Hedger of Sway, Hampshire, UK, returns for her eighth ITCC. She is the owner and primary climber for Arbor Venture specializing in providing quality tree care and industry training and assessments. Josephine studied arboriculture while in college and holds national tree climbing and chain saw qualifications. She is partnered with John Trenchard and in her free time enjoys playing the drums, recreational tree climbing, and spending time with her dogs.

Western Chapter (United States)

(Information not available at time of printing)

SHELLY WOLLERMAN #66 • Wisconsin Chapter (United States)

This ISA Certified Arborist® from Fitchburg, Wisconsin is competing in her sixth international event. Shelly Wollerman has worked for Steven R. Bassett, Inc. in Madison for seven years and is a tree crew foreman. She has a bachelor's degree in Landscaping and Design from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Shelly volunteers as an EMT, and enjoys working out and spending time with friends.





Competitor Bios MEN

2015 ITCC Returning Men's Champion

JAMES EARHART #15 • Mid Atlantic Chapter (United States)

James Earhart of Hustle, Virginia returns to defend his championship title. He has been competing for 12 years and this is his sixth ITCC. James is an ISA Certified Arborist® and is owner/operator of Arbor Care Complete Tree Service. He and his wife Stephanie have been married for 10 years and they have two children, Abigail (4) and Joslyn (2). James enjoys playing guitar, golf, hunting, and archery.

2015 Asia Pacific Tree Climbing Champion

JAMES KILPATRICK #50 • New Zealand Chapter
2010, 2011, and 2012 Asia Pacific Men's Champion

Returning to the ITCC is James Kilpatrick as the 2015 Asia Pacific Tree Climbing Champion. James is originally from New Zealand but is currently the owner/operator of Kilpatrick Baumpflege based in Hamburg, Germany. He has a Diploma in Arboriculture from WINTEC in New Zealand and 12 years of experience as a climber. James is a certified European Treeworker and currently holds the World Record in the ITCC Men's Secured Footlock with a time of 13.65 seconds.

2015 European Tree Climbing Representative

GREGOR HANSCH #47 • Germany Chapter

Representing the European Tree Climbing Championship is Gregor Hansch of Berlin, Germany. He is self-employed as a tree climber/arborist.

2015 North American Tree Climbing Champion

MIGUEL PASTENES #56 • Texas Chapter (United States)

Miguel Pastenes is returning to the ITCC for his seventh international competition. This year he competes as the reigning men's North American Tree Climbing Champion. Miguel has been climbing for 13 years and works for Arborilogical Services, Inc. based out of Wylie, Texas.

BARTON ALLEN-HALL #39 • Arboriculture Australia

From Melbourne, Australian Barton Allen-Hall competes in his third international event. He is a self-employed arborist who has been climbing 10 years. Barton has professional certificates in arboriculture and training, as well as, a diploma of Arboriculture from NMIT.

TREVOR BURTON #73 • Atlantic Chapter (Canada)

Competing in his eighth ITCC is Trevor Burton from Aylesford, Nova Scotia. Trevor attended Nova Scotia Agricultural Community College and is an ISA Certified Arborist®, and both an ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist™ and Aerial Lift Specialist™. He has been climbing for 19 years and is owner/operator of Burton's Towering Tree Services, where he focuses on everything from tree health to utility work. Trevor enjoys all aspects of nature and spending time with his wife, Heather, and their two daughters Cara (12) and Lily (8).

KRISZTIAN KMETY #51 • Austria Chapter

This is the first international competition for Krisztian Kmety from Feldkirchen, Kärnten, Austria. He has been climbing for 12 years and is a certified lumberjack and forester who works as a climber/arborist. Currently attending college, Krisztian is married to Anita and they have two children, Hanna (14) and Kamilla (7). He enjoys photography, cycling, and spending time with his family.

PETER VERGOTE #61 • Belgian Arborist Association (Belgium)

Peter Vergote from Elversele, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium is climbing in his third international competition. He is an arborist and tree worker with 14 years of climbing experience who owns his own company providing freelance/subcontract climbing. Peter has a degree in Green Management and is a Certified European Treeworker. He and wife Tine De Keyser have four children, Jens (10), Joren (8), Woud (8), and Wolf (2). Peter is also the singer/front man in the band, Tree Magic Beers, which is composed of him and four other arborists.

JIRI VODA #62 • Czech Republic Chapter

In his second International competition is Jiri Voda from Vysocina, Czech Republic. Jiri earned a degree from the College of Polytechniks in Jihlava, and has been climbing for eight years. He is back in school at Mendel University in Brno studying arboriculture. Jiri enjoys playing the drums, biking, and reading books.

JASON GERRISH #77 • Florida Chapter (United States)

Jason Gerrish of Miami, Florida is a self-employed arborist. This is his second time competing at the ITCC, but he has been climbing for 23 years. Jason and his wife Meadow have two children, Marin (15) and Jiles (10). He enjoys spending time with his family, milling wood, hobby farming, recreational climbing, and water sports such as kayaking, boating, and surfing.

JEROME PAGNY #80 • Societe de Francais (France)

From Taverny, France, Jermone Pagny, who has been climbing for six years, is competing in his first international event. He stays active bouldering, playing sports, and enjoying life.

RONNY EPPLE #42 • Germany Chapter

2006 Men's European Champion

Ronny Epple from Munsingen, Germany is no stranger to the ITCC having competed four times in the past. He is a forestry worker and tree care specialist who has been climbing for 17 years. Ronny is self-employed (Baumkletterteam Ronny Epple) as an arborist and does a variety of work including climbing trees for seed collection. He and his wife Tine have two children, Lilly, who is three, and one-year old Mike. Ronny has a variety of hobbies including skiing, hiking, and traveling.

CHOR PAU LAM #22 • Hong Kong Chapter

This is the first international competitor for Chor Pua Lam of Hong Kong. Chor has been employed by Greenland Resources Limited for 12 years and has been climbing for five years. He is an ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist® and enjoys trail running in his free time. Chor his wife, Leung Wai Ngan, have two children.

BEAU NAGAN #55 • Illinois Chapter (United States)

Competing in his third ITCC is Beau Nagan of Westchester, Illinois. Beau, who has been climbing for 18 years and competing for eight, began working with his father's tree and landscape service at a young age. He holds two associates degrees from Joliet Junior College, one in Landscape Management and one in Turf Management. Beau also earned a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University in Urban Forest Management and is an ISA Certified Arborist Utility Specialist™. He has been working for four years as an arborist at The Morton Arboretum. Besides spending time with his wife, Jessica, and their two daughters, Ramona (5) and Isabel (2), Beau enjoys playing harmonica, running, and recreational tree climbing.

JOHN MONTGOMERY #84 • Indiana Chapter (United States)

John Montgomery from Rockville, Indiana is competing in his first ITCC. He is an ISA Certified Arborist® who has been climbing for 15 years and is self-employed doing business as Advanced Tree Solutions. John's hobby is training german shepherds. He has two children, Devon (19) and John (17).

SEM PAGNONI #28 • Italy Chapter

Competing in his second international event is Sem Pagnoni from Carugate, Milan, Italy. He is a self-employed arborist and has been climbing for seven years. He enjoys slacklining and sculpturing.

MASATAKE WATANABE #54 • Japan Arborist Association

Coming from Fujiedasi, Shizuoka, Japan is Masatake Watanabe. He is an ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist™ and is competing in his first international event.

JASON DIEHL #74 • Kentucky Chapter (United States)

Jason Diehl, an ISA Certified Arborist® from Louisville, Kentucky, has been competing for 17 years. He worked 14 years as a production climber for various companies in the Chicago, Illinois area and is now employed by At Height Inc. Jason also worked four years as a professional splicer for climbing rope. He spends a lot of his spare time league bowling and helping out at climbing competitions, including the ITCC.

HARRIE VERBEEK #83 • KPB Dutch Chapter (The Netherlands)

Harrie Vebeek from Waalre in the The Netherlands is competing at the ITCC for his second time. He is a certified European Treeworker and ISA Certified Arborist® who has been competing for nine years. Harrie has worked as an arborist/tree climber for 13 years at Soontiens Boomverzorging Eindhoven. He works and travels throughout Europe providing him the opportunity to experience different types of work. Currently he is spending eight months working in Australia. In his free time, Harrie likes to mountain bike ride and to travel.

WAGNER VELAZQUEZ #30 • Asociación Mexicana de Arboricultura (Mexico)

Wagner Velazquez is the first representative from Mexico to compete at the International Tree Climbing Championship. He has been climbing for 10 years. Wagner, who enjoys "futbol", is married to Ariana and they have a six-year-old daughter, Leslie.

LUCAS DREWS #76 • Michigan Chapter (United States)

From Rockford, Michigan, Lucas Drews is back for his fourth international competition. He is an ISA Certified Arborist® and is currently employed as an arborist for Woodland Tree Services, Inc. Lucas has been climbing for 16 years and has a degree in Horticulture from Ferris State University. Besides working as a climbing arborist, he also does safety training and coordination. Lucas and his wife Angela have a daughter Eleanor who is almost four. He enjoys camping, hiking, and spending time with his friends and family.

DREW DUNAVANT #41 • Mid-Atlantic Chapter (United States)

Andrew (Drew) Dunavant is from Richmond, Virginia and works for Truetimber Tree Service Inc. He is an ISA Certified Arborist® and Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist™ who has been climbing for 11 years, but this is his first time to compete at the ITCC. Drew is married to Karyn and they have two children, Arden (4) and Thayer (2).

JOSH HODSON #48 • Midwestern Chapter (United States)

Another first-timer to the ITCC is ISA Certified Arborist® Josh Hodson from Bettendorf, Iowa. He has worked for various tree companies since 2005, and is currently employed by The Davey Tree Expert Co. Josh has been climbing for 11 years. He and his wife Melissa have four children; Cayleb (11), Triston (7), Jaydon (3), and Aleyna, three months. Since he has three boys, Josh says they are a big baseball family but he also enjoys skiing and camping with the family.

ROB JUETTEN #78 • Minnesota Chapter (United States)

Rob Juetten is competing in his fourth ITCC. He works for Hayden's Ridge Tree Service in Roberts, Wisconsin, and has been climbing for 14 years. Rob, an ISA Certified Arborist®, has four children, Mariah (19), Ariel (15), Chloe (8), and Jackson (6). He enjoys fishing, spending time outdoors, and spending time with his children.

KYLE DONALDSON #75 • New England Chapter (United States)

First-timer Kyle Donaldson of Danielson, Connecticut has been climbing for 10 years and is a self-employed arborist who runs the Celtic Tree Care company. He has an associate degree in Arboriculture/Urban Tree Management. Kyle says he picked arboriculture as a career at the young age of six. He is married to Meghan and they have two children, Grant (4) and newborn daughter Claire.

RORY MACINNIS #29 • New Jersey Chapter (United States)

ISA Certified Arborist® and New Jersey Certified Tree Expert, Rory MacInnis, from Manahawkin, New Jersey is competing in his second ITCC. He says an internship during college led him to make climbing trees his career. Rory, who set a goal of owning his own tree company, has been climbing for 13 years and operates Pine Barrens Tree LLC. He and his wife, Lauren, have one child, Center, who is 10 months old. When he is not working, Rory enjoys hiking, backpacking, and rock climbing.

BRIAN KRAWCZYK #53 • New York Chapter (United States)

Brian Krawczyk from Rochester, New York is competing in his sixth international championship. He is an ISA Certified Arborist® and works as a climber/foreman for Birchcrest Tree and Landscape. Brian has been climbing for 13 years, and has a bachelor's degree from Mercyhurst College. Besides climbing trees and being outdoors, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Colleen, and their two children, Clare (6) and Quinn (3).

DALE THOMAS #60 • New Zealand Chapter

This competitor from Auckland, New Zealand is self-employed and operates Kiwi Klimbers. Dale Thomas is competing for the first time at the ITCC but has 15 years of experience as a climbing arborist. He is married and enjoys surfing during his free time.

JACOB SAUER #59 • Ohio Chapter (United States)

Jacob Sauer of Columbus, Ohio, is competing in his second ITCC. He is an ISA Certified Arborist® and has been climbing for 12 years. Jacob is the owner of his own tree care company. He and his wife, Bess, have three children, Kayla (9), Guthrie (5), and Ida, three months. Jacob likes to stay busy doing wood working, barn building, metal fabrication, rock climbing, and spending time with his kids.

MARK GAUDET #43 • Ontario Chapter (Canada)

From Saint Catherines, Ontario, Canada, Mark Gaudet is making his first appearance at the ITCC. He has been climbing for five years and has worked for Arborwood Tree Service, Inc. since 2011. Mark graduated at the top of his class from the Urban Arboriculture program at Humber College. He has also completed other training courses provided by Arboriculture Canada and for the past two years has been a teacher in the Arboriculture program at Humber. Outside of work, Mark enjoys recreational climbing with his partner Erikka. He also likes to binge watch Netflix, and enjoys snowboarding, cooking, and traveling.

ROBERT BUNDY #40 • Pacific Northwest Chapter (US/Canada)

Returning for his fourth ITCC is Robert Bundy of Milwaukie, Oregon. He is an ISA Certified Arborist® and has been competing for 10 years. Robert worked for Peacock Tree Preservation for more than 10 years but recently became self-employed operating as Arborist Robert Bundy LLC. He is married to April and when he is not working he enjoys rock climbing.

DERRICK MARTIN #79 • Penn-Del Chapter (United States)

Competing in his first international event is Derrick Martin of Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He is an ISA Certified Arborist® employed by Goods Tree Care and has been climbing for 10 years. Derrick is married to Desiree and they have two children, Connor and Cassidy.

JESSE ANTONATION #72 • Prairie Chapter (Canada)

Jesse Antonation of Grand Pointe, Manitoba, has been climbing for 16 years, and this is his fourth time competing at the ITCC. He is an ISA Certified Arborist® and the owner of Trilogy Tree Services. He and his wife Carla have been married for 10 years and have two children. In his free time, Jesse enjoys woodturning, woodworking, and fishing.

VINCENT JOLIN #49 • Quebec Chapter (Canada)

This competitor, who says he “was born in a tree,” is competing in his first ITCC. Vincent Jolin from Compton, Quebec, Canada graduated from college in 2000 and says he has been working ever since. He was previously employed by the City of Montreal as an arborist and now owns his own tree care company, Arbovie. When he isn't climbing trees, Vincent enjoys music, volleyball, wood working, and watching the sun set.

MARK GISTITIN #44 • Queensland Arborist Association (Australia)

This is the second international event for Mark Gistitin of Tintenbar, New South Wales who has been competing for eight years. He has been working in arboriculture for 15 years doing all sorts of work from ground crew, climbing, consulting, and training. Mark has a diploma in Arboriculture and is currently self-employed doing business as Integral Tree Care P/L. He and his partner, Kit, have two children, Zoe (4) and Nieve (3). Mark enjoys surfing, skate boarding, and tree climbing.

LUKE GLINES #45 • Rocky Mountain Chapter (United States)

Luke Glines from Greeley, Colorado is competing in his ninth ITCC. An ISA Certified Arborist® and Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist™, he runs his own business, Luke Glines Tree Experts. Luke has been climbing for 20 years and has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Arts in Theology. In his spare time, Luke enjoys reading, riding motorcycles, traveling, and spending time with his family.

Southern Chapter (United States)

(Information not available at time of printing)

JOHAN PIHL #58 • Sweden Chapter

2012 European Men's Champion

Competing at his 10th international event is Johan Pihl, from Jorlanda, Sweden. Johan has been working as a climbing arborist for 11 years. He is an ISA Certified Arborist®, ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist®, certified European Treeworker, and has a degree in Arboriculture and Science. Johan and his wife Lisa have been married for four years and have one child, Malte who is one. In his free time, he enjoys motocross, Super Motard racing, water sports, and snowboarding.

LIN WEI-MING #26 • Taiwan Arboriculture Society

Lin Wei-Ming of Taipei City, Taiwan is appearing in his first international competition. He is an ISA Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist™.

VICENTE PENA-MOLINA #57 • Texas Chapter (United States)

This is Vicente Pena-Molina's second time to compete at the ITCC. He has been employed by Arborilogical Services, Inc. for 11 years and has been competing for seven.

BEN SAXTON #81 • United Kingdom

Ben Saxton is from Calverton, Nottingham, United Kingdom and his competing in his first ITCC. He has been climbing for seven years, and worked for an arboriculture company before becoming self-employed as a contract tree climber in both the UK and Germany. Ben and his wife Sharon have one child, Jodie, 14. In his free time, he likes rock climbing, taking walks, and spending time with his family.

RYAN TORCICOLLO #82 • Utah Chapter (United States)

Another ITCC first-timer, Ryan Torcicollo of Kamas, Utah has been climbing for 10 years. He is an ISA Certified Arborist® and operates Great Western Timber Co. Ryan enjoys fishing and hunting as his hobbies.

Western Chapter (United States)
(Information not available at time of printing)

COLIN BUGG #63 • Wisconsin Chapter (United States)

Returning for his third ITCC is Colin Bugg of Madison, Wisconsin. He is an ISA Certified Arborist®, has been climbing for 10 years, and owns his own company, Cambium Climbing. Colin lived and worked in Oregon before returning to Wisconsin to raise his family. He and his wife Emily have a three-year-old daughter Cordelia and are expecting a baby in May. Colin enjoys hanging out with his family, doing Crossfit and yoga, online research, and social media.



WORK CLIMB EVENT

(80 points)

Sponsored by



The Work Climb Event tests the competitor's ability to move about the tree. The various stations in this event represent work being done in and around the tree, such as pruning. Each station demonstrates the skills and abilities needed to perform safe and efficient tree work.

The event format is as follows:

- The competitor starts from a staging area near the top of the tree.
- The competitor completes four or five work stations throughout the tree, performing a specified task at each station.
- The competitor rings the bell or sounds the horn before continuing to the next station.
- The competitor may complete the stations in any order.

Work Stations:

Handsaw: The competitor rings a bell using his/her hand saw.

Limb Toss: The competitor tosses a limb into a target.

Limb Walk: The competitor rings a bell on the end of a limb without activating a buzzer.

Pole Saw: The competitor rings a bell using a pole pruner.

Landing Station: The competitor lands safely in a target.

Scoring the Work Climb (80 possible points)

The Work Climb Event is worth up to 80 points. Scoring for this event is based on completion of stations (35 points), discretionary points from the judges (15 points), and time (30 points). No points are awarded for any task not completed correctly. There is a predetermined time limit for this event.

AERIAL RESCUE EVENT

(50 points)

Sponsored by



The Aerial Rescue Event simulates a job-site emergency, testing the competitor's ability to rescue an injured person in a safe and efficient manner.

This is a timed event, beginning when the competitor first finds the victim (represented by a dummy), and ending when s/he safely brings the victim to the ground or when time runs out.

The event format is as follows:

- The victim is installed in the tree 20 to 25 feet (6 to 7.5 meters) above the ground.
- The incident has just occurred, and the competitor, as first responder, will assume control of the site.
- The competitor must enter the tree using a previously installed line.
- While the competitor is entering the tree, the emergency medical technician (EMT) arrives. The EMT, unable to perform the aerial rescue his/herself, informs the competitor to lower the victim to the ground safely, so that the EMT can perform an assessment.

Scoring the Aerial Rescue (50 possible points)

Up to 45 points are awarded in total for six scoring sections listed below.

Up to 5 efficiency points can be awarded based on completion time.

Risk Assessment & Rescue Plan	7 points
Ascent & Movement to Casualty	7 points
Casualty Assessment & Handling	13 points
Descent	7 points
Landing	7 points
Unclipped Casualty within time limit	4 points

THROWLINE EVENT

(30 points)

The Throwline Event tests the competitor's ability to install a climbing line into a tree using a throwbag and throwline. In this event eight (8) branch unions, designated as targets, represent different climbing points in the tree that would be suitable as a tie-in point. Their suitability is based on the tie-in point's location in the tree and capacity to hold the weight of the climber.

The event format is as follows:

- The competitor has 6 minutes to set two throwlines in the tree.
- The competitor is allowed an unlimited number of throws.
- There are two sets of four targets on each side of the tree (8 total targets), distinguished by colored tape. The competitor must choose one target from each side, making for a total of two possible line sets.
- A throw is only scored if the throwline is in the target area and both ends are isolated, meaning they are hanging parallel and touching the ground.
- Additional points may be earned for installing a climbing line through one target on each side of the tree.
- Up to 4 points may be earned for completing the event within a certain amount of time.

Scoring the Throwline (30 possible points)

- Competitors may register only two throws with the judges.
- Isolating a throwline in the targets is worth 9, 7, 5, and 3 points, respectively, depending on the difficulty and height of the throw. The time is recorded when the first throwline is scored.
- Additional points can be scored for installing a climbing line over one target in each set. Installing a climbing line is worth 4, 3, 2, and 1 points, respectively, depending on the difficulty and height of the throw.
- A 3-point deduction is given if a competitor does not install at least one climbing line within the time limit.
- Up to 4 points may be earned for completing the event within a certain amount of time.
- The competitor with the highest point total is the winner.
- In the event of a tie, the competitor with the fastest time is the winner. If the times are identical, the competitor with the fastest first score is the winner.

BELAYED SPEED CLIMB EVENT

(20 points)

The Belayed Speed Climb Event tests the competitor's ability to climb a predetermined route from the ground to about 60 feet (18 meters) up a tree, using a belayed climbing system for safety.

The event is timed, and the contestant who reaches and rings the bell at the top of the course in the least amount of time wins.

What is Belaying?

Belaying is a means of securing a climbing line. When a person is being "belayed" they are having someone tend the slack in their rope as they ascend into the tree. Many arborists use devices that can grab the rope to allow them to tend their own rope without the assistance of another person.



Scoring the Belayed Speed Climb (20 possible points)

The Belayed Speed Climb Event is worth up to 20 points. The event is based purely on time. The fastest competitor to ring the top bell is the winner and receives 20 points. The remaining competitors' scores are calculated by subtracting the fastest competitor's time (in seconds) from the times of each of the other competitors. For every 2-second difference in time between those scores, 1 point (of the 20 possible points) is deducted from the competitor's score. No more than 20 points may be earned or deducted for this event.

SECURED FOOTLOCK EVENT

(20 Points)

Sponsored by



The Secured Footlock Event measures the competitor's ability to vertically ascend into a tree. Footlocking is a commonly used technique to ascend into the tree. Many climbers will use the footlock to enter into the tree because it is much faster and less tiring than some other methods.

The event format is as follows:

- The event is timed, with a maximum time limit of 60 seconds, and the contestant with the fastest time wins.
- Competitors must ascend 15 meters (49' 2.5").
- Mechanical ascenders may not be used.



Scoring the Secured Footlock (20 possible points)

The event is based purely on time. The fastest competitor to the top is the winner and receives 20 points. The remaining competitors' scores are calculated by subtracting the fastest competitor's time (in seconds) from the times of each of the other competitors. For every 1-second difference in time between those scores, 1 point (of the 20 possible points) is deducted from the climber's score. No more than 20 points may be earned or deducted for this event.

Head-to-Head Secured Footlock

The competitors who complete the Secured Footlock Event in the best time will compete on the second day of competition in the Head-to-Head Secured Footlock Event.

Sponsored by



The Head-to-Head Secured Footlock Event is a stand-alone event. Two climbers compete at the same time on separate climbing systems. The event is timed, and the competitors with the fastest time for men and women win. Performance in this event does not contribute to competitors' standings in the Masters' Challenge.

MASTERS' CHALLENGE

(300 points)

Sponsored by



The Masters' Challenge Event is the championship round of the competition. The various stations in this event represent work being done in and around the tree, such as pruning. Each station requires the competitor to demonstrate the skills and abilities needed to perform safe and efficient tree work.

This is a timed event, pre-determined by the judges, based on the difficulty of the tree and its stations. Time is only used in the event of identical scores.

The event format is as follows:

- The competitor starts from outside the arena, without any equipment installed in the tree.
- The competitor must assess the tree, install a climbing system, and ascend into the tree.
- The competitor completes as many work stations as he or she can, performing a specified task at each station.
- The competitor rings the bell or sounds the horn before continuing to the next station.
- The competitor descends from the tree and removes all equipment from the tree before time runs out.

Work Stations:

Handsaw: The competitor rings a bell using a handsaw.

Limb Toss: The competitor tosses a limb into a target.

Limb Walk: The competitor must ring a bell on the end of a limb without activating a buzzer.

Scoring the Masters' Challenge (300 possible points)

The Masters' Challenge is worth up to 300 points. Judges score the competitor's movements from their time of entering the arena until returning to the ground and removing all equipment they installed during the event. Skill points are awarded in the following areas:

Installation of climbing line	18 points
Entry into the tree	15 points
Completion of stations (pts/station)	60 points
Descent/removal of gear	12 points
Discretionary pts. from judges	15 points

Incomplete tasks receive no scoring points. 20-points are deducted if all equipment is not removed within the time limit. The competitor with the highest point total in this event is the overall winner and World Champion.

DEFINITIONS/TERMINOLOGY

Handsaw: A saw used for cutting or pruning trees.

Belaying: Belaying is a means of securing and slowing a climbing line. When a person is being “belayed” they are having someone tend the slack in their rope as they ascend into the tree. Normally, when a person climbs a tree, they have to belay and tend to their own rope using a type of climbing knot. There are also devices that can grab the rope to allow a person to be able to tend their own rope without the assistance of another person.

Lanyard: Short rope equipped with connecting devices (carabiners, snaps, and/or eye splices); work-positioning lanyards are used for temporarily securing a climber in one place.

Plumb bob: A small-diameter cord with a weight on the end. The plumb bob line is attached to the branch and the weight hangs 6–12 inches (15–30 cm) off the ground. Climbers will walk out on a limb to reach a bell for points, and if the weight or bag touches the buzzer, the climber does not receive points for that station. The climber must keep his or her weight on the rope.

Pole pruner: A long handled tool used to make small pruning cuts that are out of reach.

Prusik hitch: A type of multi-wrapped friction hitch used in climbing and rigging; a common use is to attach the Prusik loop to the climbing line when footlocking.

Throwline: A device consisting of a small weight attached to a thin, lightweight cord/line; used as a pilot line to set climbing or rigging lines in trees.

NOTES/AUTOGRAPHS

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Competition Results

Awards Ceremonies

We invite you to the Awards Ceremonies to find out the winners of all the events.

Preliminary Awards Ceremony

Saturday, April 2, 7:00 pm

Masters' Awards Ceremony

Sunday, April 3, 4:30 pm

If you are unable to attend the awards ceremony, you may view the results online within four days of the event.

For results online visit www.itcc-isa.com.



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