

For Immediate Release

Two Europeans Claim the title of Tree Climbing World Champions

CHAMPAIGN, IL (August, 2012) - A veteran champion and a first-time champion emerged on top at the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) presented by the Davey Tree Expert Co. The event held Saturday and Sunday, August 11 and 12 at Laurelhurst Park in Portland, OR brought together professional tree climbers from 17 countries to compete for the title of World Champion. A total of 61 competitors came together from as far away as Japan, New Zealand, Australia, and countries throughout Europe for the event.

Bernd “Beddes” Strasser of Germany won the title of 2012 ITCC Men’s World Champion. This is Strasser’s ninth championship title, the most championship titles of any ITCC champion. Strasser has been a self-employed arborist for 23 years.

Prior ITCC competitor, Veronika Ericsson of Sweden, claimed her first title as the Women’s World Champion. This was Ericsson’s third time competing at the international competition. She has been working as a contract tree climber for the past four years and holds the European Tree Worker credential.

The event was organized by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and hosted by The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the ISA. Regional competitions are held around the world by chapters of the ISA and other arboriculture associations. Competitors earn the opportunity to represent their chapter at the international event. The ITCC is held annually in conjunction with the ISA’s annual conference.

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 equipment from one another,” 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 2013 to defend their title at the international championship to be held in Toronto, ON, Canada on August 3 and 4. For more information on the ITCC, and for complete results visit <http://itcc.isa-arbor.com/>.

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, 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



International Society of Arboriculture

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