

For Immediate Release

Strandbad in Thun Site for European Tree Climbing Championship

(August 27, 2013) - The Strandbad in Thun, Switzerland is the site for the European Tree Climbing Championships (ETCC) sponsored by STIHL. The ETCC, to be held on September 7 and 8, will showcase the top professional tree climbers from across Europe and is hosted by the Swiss Arborist Association (Bund Schweizer Baumpfleger).

This unique event is part of the International Society of Arboriculture's (ISA) Tree Climbing Championship Series and will follow rules established by the ISA that test the competitors' ability to professionally and safely maneuver in a tree while performing work-related tasks in a timely manner. Events are designed to simulate tasks that professional tree climbers may perform in the field while caring for trees.

The ETCC provides a competitive but educational opportunity for arborists in Europe to demonstrate and exchange new climbing techniques, equipment, and safe practices. Male and female competitors perform five different events during the preliminary round of the competition that demonstrate the difficulty of the tasks and the need for safety. Preliminary events for the ETCC will begin on Saturday at 8:00 am.

The male and female competitors with the highest scores during the preliminary events move on to compete in the Masters' Challenge competition which will be held on Sunday beginning at 8:30 am. The Masters' Challenge winners from each division are named the European champions and qualify to compete for the World Championship in 2014.

Numerous industry sponsors, including Main Event Sponsor STIHL, provide support for the event to help showcase the profession to the public and introduce them to the skills of professional arborists.

For more information on the ETCC and International Tree Climbing Championships, visit <http://www.itcc-isa.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 isa-arbor.com.

About ETCC

The ETCC is managed by a group of volunteers as the European Tree Climbing Championship Operations Committee of the ISA. Along with providing the competition to demonstrate new climbing techniques and equipment, the ETCC also increases interaction between various firms including ISA European Chapters and Associate Organizations and their members, as well as manufacturers and equipment suppliers.



International Society of Arboriculture

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