

For Immediate Release

Professional tree climbers test their skills in national competition

Pasadena, Calif. plays host to championships, consumer-friendly events highlighting proper tree care

CHAMPAIGN, IL (March, 2014) – All eyes will be on the tree canopies above Brookside Park in Pasadena, Calif., on April 5 – 6, as the top professional tree climbers from the U.S. and Canada demonstrate their skills and expertise at the 2014 North American Tree Climbing Championships (NATCC).

The competition coincides with a number of family-friendly activities promoting tree education and tree care. It is free and open to the public. This year's NATCC event comes home to the birthplace of tree climbing competition. The Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (WCISA), celebrating its 80th anniversary and based in Porterville, Calif., hosted the first Tree Climbers Jamboree more than 40 years ago.

“ISA's Western Chapter helped launch competitive tree climbing,” says Rose Epperson, WCISA Executive Director. “We've seen great changes in the tree care industry over the years and are excited to host this year's NATCC while marking such a milestone for our ISA chapter.”

The two-day event at Brookside Park will include a display of vintage climbing gear from the early days to share the history from the first invitational to the competition today. The public is welcome to learn about tree care at free sessions on everything from structural pruning of young trees to selecting good nursery stock. Professor Arboretum, craft stations and story time with Grandmother Oak are slated for children's activities.

Tree climbing competitions reproduce the real-life working conditions of arborists in the field. A climber is timed on the ability to safely maneuver in a tree while performing work-related tasks. NATCC winners will go on to represent North America at the International Tree Climbing Championships (ITCC), set for August 2014 in Milwaukee, Wis. The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) manages the climbing competitions, which promote safe practices and the benefits of trees through research, technology and education.

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.



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