For Immediate Release

International tree climbers to compete at world championships in Tampa

CHAMPAIGN, IL (February 9, 2015) – Sixty of the world's best professional tree climbers from 17 countries will compete for the title of world champion at ISA's <u>International Tree Climbing Championships</u> (ITCC) on March 21 and 22 at Rowlett Park in Tampa.

Presented by <u>The Davey Tree Expert Company</u>, the ITCC will kick off on Saturday, March 21 with <u>five preliminary</u> <u>events</u> where male and female competitors will demonstrate to the public the skills required when working in trees. Each event tests the ability to professionally and safely maneuver in a tree while efficiently performing work-related tree-care tasks. The male and female competitors with the highest scores during the preliminary events move on to the Masters' Challenge championship round, sponsored by Husqvarna, on Sunday, March 22.

"This competition brings together the best arborists from around the globe to learn from one another about safer, more efficient techniques and equipment," says ISA Executive Director Jim Skiera. "Tree climbing competitions also provide the opportunity for the public to better understand the skills it takes to professionally care for trees."

Sandra Reid, vice president of Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning for Davey Tree, agreed with Skiera. "The elite climbers who take part in ITCC events remind everyone of the value of dedicated arborists working safely and using proper techniques," she said. "As presenting sponsor, Davey Tree proudly supports the ITCC and its commitment to ensuring safe and innovative means of practicing arboriculture across the globe."

Professional tree climbing competitions are held around the world. Winners of regional competitions are invited to compete at the ITCC. The events are free and open to the public. To help people learn more about tree care, an <u>Arbor Fair</u> will take place on Saturday and Sunday, also at Rowlett Park. Family-friendly entertainment and educational activities including a tree climb are among the events the public can experience.

For complete information, visit the event website.

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 <u>www.isa-arbor.com</u>.

About The Davey Tree Expert Company

The Davey Tree Expert Company's more than 8,000 employees provide tree care, grounds maintenance and environmental consulting services for the residential, utility, commercial, and government markets throughout the U.S. and Canada. Davey has provided Proven Solutions for a Growing World since 1880 and has been employee-owned for 35 years. For more information, visit <u>www.davey.com</u>.



International Society of Arboriculture

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