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For Immediate Release

Professional Tree Climbers from North America Compete in Longmont

CHAMPAIGN, IL (September 11, 2015) – Thompson Park in Longmont, Colorado is the site for this year's North American Tree Climbing Championship (NATCC) on September 19-20. Forty-three of the top professional tree climbers from the U.S. and Canada will demonstrate their skills as professional arborists while competing for the title of North American Champion and a chance to compete at the International Tree Climbing Championships (ITCC) in San Antonio, Texas on April 2-3, 2016.

Hosted by the City of Longmont and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, the NATCC will also offer arborist workshops presented by the Society of Commercial Arboriculture. Saturday, September 19 will also include the Arbor Fair and Expo featuring family-friendly activities such as a fun tree climb.

"Tree climbing competitions reproduce the real-life working conditions of arborists in the field" says Jim Skiera, Executive Director of the International Society of Arboriculture, the organization that manages the tree climbing competitions. "These events promote safe work practices within the industry and help to educate the public about the profession and the benefits of trees and proper care."

Sponsored by Husqvarna, the competition kicks off Saturday with <u>five preliminary events</u> where male and female competitors 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 competitors with the highest scores during the preliminary events move on to the Masters' Challenge championship round on Sunday, September 20.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information and a schedule of events visit http://www.itcc-isa.com/natcc.

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.

The <u>Rocky Mountain Chapter</u> is a part of a world-wide network of chapters. Through outreach and education, the chapter fosters an appreciation for trees in the Rocky Mountain Region and supports the practice, technology and research of arboriculture.

