

For Immediate Release

New Zealand Captures 2016 Tree Climbing Championship Titles

Women's title holder is first first four-time female champion

CHAMPAIGN, IL (April 20, 2016) – Tree Climbers James Kilpatrick and Chrissy Spence, both representing the Asia-Pacific region, earned World Championship titles at the [International Tree Climbing Championships](#) held recently at Brackenridge Park in San Antonio, Texas, US.

The ITCC, an annual event managed by the [International Society of Arboriculture](#) (ISA) and presented by [The Davey Tree Expert Company](#), brought together 64 professional tree climbers from 18 countries to compete for the title of World Champion. Competitors from North America, Europe, and countries as far away as Hong Kong, New Zealand, and Australia were in attendance.

“The ITCC demonstrates that professional arborists have the required knowledge, training, and expertise to perform tree work safely,” explains ISA Executive Director Jim Skiera. “The competition also provides opportunity for us to introduce the public to what professional, competent, and safe tree care should look like.”

The women's champion, Chrissy Spence of Morrinsville, New Zealand competed in her tenth international championship. Having won the championship three times previously, in 2005, 2007, and 2011, she is the first four-time women's champion. The last time Spence had competed at the ITCC was in 2011 when the event was held in Australia. She currently works for Pro Climb as a contract tree climber.

James Kilpatrick, the 2016 men's champion, owns his own company, Kilpatrick Tree Care. He is originally from New Zealand and lives in Hamburg, Germany. This was his fourth international event competing as the men's Asia Pacific Champion. He's earned two championship titles in Germany and three in New Zealand. Kilpatrick is also the current world record holder in the ITCC Men's Secured Footlock with a time of 13.65 seconds.

“The arborists who compete at the ITCC have a high level combination of skill and athleticism,” adds Skiera. “As an organization, we couldn't be more proud of this year's event and of the skills demonstrated by James and Chrissy during the competition.”

ITCC participants competed in five separate preliminary qualifying events. The top overall scorers (five men and three women) then moved on to the Masters' Challenge Finals sponsored by Husqvarna. World champions receive cash prizes, chain saw prize packages, plaques, as well as other prizes donated by event sponsors.

To qualify for the ITCC, regional competitions are held around the world by chapters and associate organizations of the ISA. Winners of those events earn the opportunity to represent their organization/country at the international event.

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International Society of Arboriculture

P.O. Box 3129 • Champaign, IL 61826-3129
www.isa-arbor.com • 888.472.8733

For More Information

Sonia Garth, Public Relations and Marketing Manager
International Society of Arboriculture
217.355.9411 ext. 217, sgarth@isa-arbor.com

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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.

About Davey Tree

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 more than 35 years. For more information, visit www.davey.com.



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