

# Arborescence

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE

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**SPRING 2011**

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**Want to Contribute  
to Arborescence?**

MSA is looking for a few good people. Okay, not just a few. But if you are passionate about this industry and want to share that enthusiasm, we are looking for the following: writers, committee members and photo's. Please contact Heidi Van Schooten.

# Arborescence

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## President's Message

**Pierce Wasmund**

*MSA President*

The Tree Climbing Competition (TCC) is an annual event held by the MSA that brings together some of the states best tree climbers and arborists. The TCC has five events that the climbers participate in: the work climb, aerial rescue, footlock, speed climb, and throwline. Each event is scored through time and tasks that the climbers complete. The top competitors, with the highest scores for the five preliminary events, are then able to compete in the Master's Challenge. The winner of the Master's Challenge is "champion" and given the opportunity to compete at the International Tree Climbing Championships (ITCC).

The TCC is fun for all who participate. The climbers that compete will likely meet some new people from the MN arborist community. The same can be said for the people judging, teching, and watching. Meeting new people and seeing some of the new techniques that climbers are using is a great way to learn. The TCC can also be a place to learn about safety and production.

Safety is production. This is something I have been thinking about since attending the Aerial Safety session at the Shade Tree Short Course presented by John Ball of South Dakota State. In watching his talk, it made me think about some colleagues that have been injured and of the injury I experienced this winter. Getting things done in a timely manner is great, but it needs to get done safely. If we take short cuts or do not pay attention - something will happen. If someone gets hurt and needs to miss work, production takes a hit.

I encourage everyone who is interested in learning more about climbing, safety, and production to attend the TCC this year. Compete, help out, or just watch. If you just want to make some connections, you can do that too. For myself, the TCC has been a stepping stone into the MSA community. I started as a tech, decided to compete, and made some connections along the way.

If you are interested in participating in this years TCC please contact George and Lynn Welles: [lynn@northeasttree.net](mailto:lynn@northeasttree.net).

## Welcome New Members!

***New members as of March 2011***

Christopher Haugen, Rainbow Tree Care  
Charles Kraemer, Landscape Charlie  
Jeff Palmer  
Jonathan Heaton, Bartlett Tree Experts  
Jonathan Hoadley, Natures Green Solution  
Michael Kohler  
Charles Melby, City of Rochester  
Patrick O'Connor, Carr's Tree Service  
Jay Oukrop, Lake States Tree Service  
Steven Quale, Steve's Quality Tree Services  
Todd Rieck, Mankato Landscapes, Inc.  
Don Samuelsen, A'GA'PE Tree Care  
Ryan Schwochert, Lake States Tree Services  
James Veiman  
Bill Weis, City of Rochester  
Shelly Wolleran, Steven Bassett Inc.

## ISA Update

**Jim Vaughan**

*Council of Representatives (COR) – MSA representative*

ISA representatives, consisting of the Board and COR (Council of Representatives), have been actively updating policies and procedures for ISA members. The final statements addressing a wide range of topics is available on the ISA website. Also related to this action, and available on the web, are new End Statements (goals) and Objectives to guide and direct the ISA membership for years to come.

There is a new emphasis on Certification Code of Ethics, which means that ISA would like all Certified Arborists to read, agree to and adhere to the principals outlined in the Code (again available on the ISA web site). It seems there has been differing opinions in other chapters on what qualifies as an ethical practice/expectation of a Certified Arborist. Try to keep to the old adage that if it doesn't quite feel right to you that it probably isn't; so go with your intuition and experience on displaying proper ethics in the field. Obviously this is a subjective topic, but we must rise up to a higher level in this industry, particularly if we have reached Certified Arborist status. Who else will raise our standard of profession?

There were recent Board elections among the COR members to elect 3 COR members to the ISA Board, with 3 new faces (one from Michigan, one from Germany and one from New Zealand; adding a nice international flavor) to be installed on the board in July at the Conference (and next Board meeting). The Board has 15 total members, so 3 will be leaving to accommodate the 3 newly elected members.

If you haven't checked out the "new and improved" ISA website, please do. It has dramatically improved and it is easy to peruse, with lots of great information.

Finally, the ISA Annual Conference is July 23- 27<sup>th</sup> in Sidney Australia. Consider attending to support our international colleagues.

## MSA Vice President Nominations!

Do you know someone you think would be a great asset to the MSA Executive Committee? Why not nominate them for MSA Vice President? MSA will be holding elections in the fall to fill the VP position as Pierce Wasmund's Presidential term comes to a close and Jacob Ryg steps into that role. The elected individual would serve on the MSA Executive committee for 2 years as Vice President, move into the President's role for 2 years, and finish out their term on the committee as Past President for the following 2 years. If you know a great candidate, please contact Andy Hovland at [branchandbough@yahoo.com](mailto:branchandbough@yahoo.com) with the individual's name and contact information. Thank you for supporting MSA!

## Newly Certified by ISA

*March 2011*

### **New Certified Arborists**

Jeff Palmer 11/27/2010

### **Board Certified Master Arborist**

Faith Appelquist 11/27/2010

### **New Municipal Specialists**

Rodney Eggiman 1/30/2011



MSA is now on facebook. If you are a facebook user, join the MSA group. It is just another way for MSA members to connect with one another and share information!



## TREE Fund

### STIHL Tour des Trees

The 2011 STIHL Tour des Trees "VA2DC Tour" will feature an autumn tour of Virginia, opening with a 1-day Ride for Research in Virginia Beach October 2nd. This 30-mile fun ride offers local and recreational cyclists an opportunity to join the STIHL Tour des Trees for the day, with no fundraising requirement. Full-Tour cyclists will experience the history and beauty of Virginia on an itinerary that also includes Williamsburg, Richmond, Charlottesville, Front Royal, Reston and Washington, D.C.

Highlights of the VA2DC Tour include a private tour of STIHL's chainsaw production facility, a day in historic Williamsburg/Jamestown including dinner with the members of the MidAtlantic Chapter of ISA, a visit to Monticello, tree plantings, school visits and 65 miles of spectacular scenery along the Shenandoah Valley's world-famous Skyline Drive. The 2011 Tour concludes October 8 in Washington, D.C. at American University, following visits to the National Arboretum, Casey Trees and the National Mall.

Register to ride for the 2011 VA2DC Tour or the Ride for Research at [www.stihltourdestrees.org](http://www.stihltourdestrees.org). Can't ride? Please support our cyclist/fundraisers with a generous donation!

Keep up with all of our special events online at [www.treefund.org](http://www.treefund.org) and [www.stihltourdestrees.org](http://www.stihltourdestrees.org).



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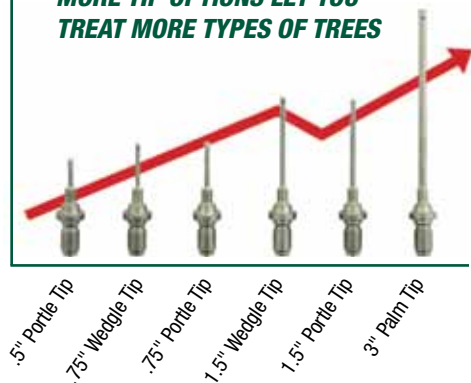
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# RAW Winter 2011 Update

**Brittany Stewart**

*MN GreenCorps Member, RNeighbors*

<http://www.rneighbors.org/>



On Thursday, February 17, the Rochester Arborist Workshop proved to be one of the one of the most widely attended programs of the year. Over 220 foresters gather from as far as Sioux Falls, South Dakota to Ames, Iowa to learn about how they can improve their tree care techniques.

Some of the topics discussed during the workshop was how to manage roots from nursery production and establishment through maturity, young and mature tree pruning strategies, pollarding, directional pruning, diagnosing and treating declining trees, and an update on Thousand Cankers disease.

Special thanks to all that helped make this event a success: Minnesota Society of Arboculture, University of Florida Environmental Horticulture Department – Dr. Ed Gilman, Maier Forest and Tree.

Thanks to everyone who came out!

A Green Future

When attending RAW workshops, you're not only getting innovative information but you're creating opportunities for future caretakers of urban trees. A portion of the funds raised from RAW workshops go towards scholarships for arborist students.

RAW is a proud partner with RNeighbors, a Rochester, MN non-profit organization that provides tools to grow great neighborhoods. Our favorite program of theirs is RNeighborWoods, which empowers and educates the community to grow a sustainable urban forest, benefiting the health, social, and economic aspects of Rochester neighborhoods.



## Climbers' Corner: Full Length Tree Pull

**Sam Kezar**, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist  
North American Training Solutions

Often times when we encounter a tree to fell it's a good idea to install a pull line to either add some insurance to our pre-fell planning or to provide the force necessary to pull the tree in the intended direction of the fall. This article will look at different way from what you may already use to help pull over trees.

The original way I was taught to install and use a pull line in a tree was to isolate a crotch high and center in the tree and then tie a running-bowline and pull it up to secure the line up in the tree. This is fine in most situations, but it can result in a few issues. Getting the line out from under the tree (and not cutting it) is often challenging. Sometimes the tree falls on the line or knot and may break the line (not cool). Isolating the crotch with a throwline isn't always easy. Finally, when pulling on the tree with the line up top, a few safety issues can arise if the line is pulled before the felling cuts have been made.

An alternative technique I have learned works around the issues I mentioned and is easier and faster to install. First, toss your throwline through a high, center part of the tree as if you where installing a normal pull line, but do it from the backside of the tree (opposite the direction of fall), letting the throwline pass all the way through the tree to the ground. Then, tie your pull line to the throwline and pull it back through the tree to the backside. At this point take the end of the pull line and tie a running-bowline to the base of the tree just above where you plan to make your felling cuts. The pull line is now set.

The biggest advantage this technique has is that the line ends up pulling from the base of the tree and places the forces along the whole length of the tree. It also keeps your pull line from getting tangled in with the fell. Once the tree is on the ground, the pull line is now on the top of the tree and the attachment knot is right there at the base.

I have been using this technique for a while now and have found it to have a few distinct advantages to traditional the pull line installation and function. The next time you're out felling trees and need a pull line, try this out and see how it works for you. Like most things, each situation is different, but this is just another tool for the toolbox. Have a great summer season and be Safe!

Sam Kezar, Aspen Arboriculture Solutions, is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and TCIA Certified Treecare Safety Professional. Sam is also an instructor with North American Training Solutions. Sam can be reached via email [sam@aspenarbo.com](mailto:sam@aspenarbo.com).

## North American Tree Climbing Champion (NATCC)

The inaugural North American Tree Climbing Championship (NATCC) took place on February 19th-20th in beautiful Savannah, GA. Held in conjunction with the ISA Southern Chapter TCC, the entire event consisted of sixty-one male and six female competitors from the United States and Canada. Minnesota sent three competitors; Kris Frederickson, Nathan Gruber, and Taylor Hamel. The end of the competition saw Jared Abrojena of the Western Chapter and Marilou Dussault of the Quebec Chapter named men's and women's NATCC champions. Odis Sisk finished as the Southern Chapter TCC champion. It is believed that the NATCC will rotate through, and be hosted by, a different Chapter TCC each year. However, we don't think the event will come to Minnesota in February! Brrrrr!



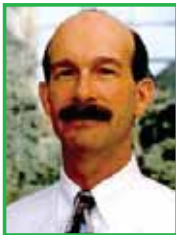
Photos of Kris Frederickson during her speed climb in a Magnolia and work climb in a Live Oak!

# MSA Winter Picnic Highlights

The MSA Winter Picnic was held on Tuesday March 15th at Como Park Pavilion. We had a great turn out this year! Thanks to all of you who attended both the meeting and social hour. For those of you who couldn't make it this year, consider joining us in the future, as it is always a good place to socialize and connect with others in the field. We were fortunate to be joined by Minnesota's own Midway-Frogtown Arborator's Band at the event. This local band is made up of a combination of forestry students and professionals in the field. They spent the evening playing traditional European folk music that was enjoyed by all.



## Tree Dissection Clinic Hands-on Practical Application



Featuring  
**Dr. John Ball**  
**Gary Johnson**

**Dr. John Ball**  
University of South  
Dakota, Professor of Forestry

Dr. Ball is a perennial Minnesota arboricultural favorite. He has authored over 120 articles concerning arborist safety, pruning, plant health care and diagnostics to name only a few. Dr. Ball

has been around the world speaking about a huge variety of arboricultural related topics. This is his third time speaking at a RAW event, we guarantee you will not be disappointed.

**Dr. Gary Johnson**  
University of Minnesota  
Associate Professor of Urban  
and Community Forestry

Gary has been a member of University of Minnesota's faculty since 1992, an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist and former landscape design/build business owner and superintendent of grounds for Illinois Wesleyan University since 1988. Obviously, he has a hard time holding down a job.



Promoting Innovative Arboriculture

# Rochester Arborist Workshop

Hands-on Practical  
Application

Featuring  
**Dr. John Ball**  
**Gary Johnson**

**Tree Dissection  
Clinic**  
**Friday, May 20**  
7:30 am-1:30 pm

West Silver Lake Park  
702 West Silver Lake Drive NE  
Rochester, MN 55906





# 2011 Minnesota Tree Climbing Championship

The MSA would like to invite everyone down to Rochester for this year's Tree Climbing Championships! The contest will be Saturday, May 21st with the Master's Challenge event on May 22nd. We are pleased to announce that The Rochester Arborist Workshop group will be offering a Tree Dissection Workshop on Friday, May 20th. (Look under the 'Calendar' section at [www.msa-live.org](http://www.msa-live.org) to find the full brochure.) So make it a long week-end and earn some fun, outdoor CEU's! Below is the info for the hotel.

## Best Western Soldiers Field Tower & Suites

Welcomes Guests of the MN Society of Arboriculture  
May 19-22, 2011

Non Smoking Tower Guestrooms with Two Queen Beds, Microwave, and Refrigerator \$63.00

To speak to a reservation agent call 1-800-366-2067 and ask for the MN Society of Arboriculture rate.

or

Book Online at <https://www.msiwebbooking.com/ajax/default.aspx?id=e65c5b80-29c3-4068-9c96-5a4c0b240d89>

Click on "Group Reservation" and enter MNSOCARB for group code.

**Please reserve your room by Thursday, April 28, 2011 to receive special rate.**

Indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna, and fitness center

On-site restaurant and lounge

Free parking

Complimentary hot breakfast buffet with scrambled eggs, sausage, waffles and continental breakfast items

PLUS Free shuttle transportation to anywhere and everywhere in town!

Announcing the 2011 ArborMaster Climbing Prize Package for the MSA Tree Climbing Champion (TCC), held in conjunction with the chapter's 2011 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event. This climbing kit is being offered to each chapter champion (both man and woman, if applicable)! The package is intended to help equip the chapter representative(s) for the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) Competition.

Each prize package to include:

- Petzel Vertex Helmet with Professional Hearing Protection provided by Husqvarna
- 150' ArborMaster® Climbing Line with eye splice from Samson
- New Lanyard w/Positioner (made w/Lava Rope) & RopeBoss Wingman Stretchtop from SherrillTree
- Buckingham \$50 Gift Certificate
- Silky POCKETBOY 170 (med teeth)
- OREGON® POWERsharp® Precision Saw Chain Sharpening System
- 50% savings for an ArborMaster® 2-Day or 3-Day Hands-On Training Module

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# 2011 Minnesota Chapter Tree Climbing Championship

(Qualifying event for the ISA TCC)

Sat. May 21st and Sunday May 22nd  
West Silver Lake Park  
702 West Silver Lake Dr., Rochester, MN



The Minnesota Society of Arboriculture Tree Climbing Championship welcomes professional tree climbers of all skill levels.



Winners will be eligible to compete at the ISA Tree Climbing Championship in Sydney, Australia on July 23 - 24, 2011



Men's and Women's divisions.

#### Pre-registration and fee payment is required:

MSA Member: \$75

Non-member: \$115 (fee includes MSA membership, required for competition)

#### For further information contact:

George Welles, Northeast Tree, Inc.	e-mail: <a href="mailto:George@northeasttree.net">George@northeasttree.net</a>	ph: 612-910-8274
Lynn Welles, Northeast Tree, Inc.	e-mail: <a href="mailto:Lynn@northeasttree.net">Lynn@northeasttree.net</a>	ph: 612-910-8280
Northeast Tree, Inc.	e-mail: <a href="mailto:sales@northeasttree.net">sales@northeasttree.net</a>	ph 612-789-9255



#### Mission Statement of the Tree Climbing Championship Committee:

*To promote proper and innovative arboricultural climbing techniques and equipment through friendly competition and fun educational activities.*

## Featured Tree Series

**Dr. Dale E. Herman,**

*Dept. of Plant Sciences, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND*

### Prairie Torch® Buckeye

Prairie Torch® Buckeye is a very winterhardy hybrid buckeye selected in northwestern Minnesota. It was introduced by NDSU in collaboration with Bergeson Nursery, Fertile, MN. In NDSU trials, it grew faster than most buckeye accessions for the first 10 – 15 years, producing a dense, globose form. With age it broadens, becoming more mushroom-shaped. The ultimate size of trees is small to medium (20 – 25 feet), which fits well in residential landscape sites. The foliage is of high quality, fairly coarse-textured, and typically composed of seven leaflets, which incline downward in an umbrella-like fashion. These characteristics lend a tropical touch to the tree's appearance. Autumn coloration in sandy or loamy textured soils, is brilliant orange-red. This cultivar and also those below, are far superior in foliage qualities to most seed propagated Ohio Buckeye – *Aesculus glabra*. Limited but increasing availability in nursery trade. Hardy to USDA hardiness zone 3. Small shade and landscape specimen tree. It is propagated by grafting, also possible by budding and softwood cuttings. Two other quality hybrid buckeyes include Autumn Splendor Buckeye from the University of MN and Homestead Buckeye from South Dakota State University. These three superior cultivars do not defoliate prematurely due to physiological leafscorch like the Ohio Buckeye.



**A1. Quality green foliage, leaf scorch resistant.**



**A2. Close-up of fall color extravaganza.**



**A3. Brilliant orange-red autumn coloration.**



# Minnesota TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP

## Participant Registration Form



Contestant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: State: Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Residency or employment verified: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: day (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ evening (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: State: Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Member: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (Participant must be a member of MSA)

Number of years climbing: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you competed in a TCC before? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size (circle one):        S        M        L        XL        XXL

Registration: Make checks payable to **Minnesota Society of Arboriculture**

Member of MSA: \$75

Non-member:    \$115 (fee includes cost of MSA membership)

Send completed form and waiver to

George/Lynn Welles  
MSA TCC Committee  
c/o Northeast Tree, Inc.  
2527 Jackson St NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418-3625

Questions? Contact George Welles @ 612-910-8274 or [george@northeasttree.net](mailto:george@northeasttree.net); or Lynn Welles @ 612-910-8280 or [lynn@northeasttree.net](mailto:lynn@northeasttree.net).



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## Important Dates

Visit [www.msa-live.org](http://www.msa-live.org) to learn more.

**Arbor Day!**  
April 29

**Rochester Arborist Workshop**  
Tree Dissection Clinic  
Friday May 20  
West Silver Lake Park, Rochester

**Tree Climbing Championship**  
May 21-22  
West Silver Lake Park, Rochester

**Festival of Trees**  
May 21-22  
West Silver Lake Park, Rochester

**ISA 86th Annual Conference**  
July 23-27  
Sydney, Australia

**Minnesota Tree Care Conference**  
Thursday, October 6  
MN Landscape Arboretum

EXAM DATE	LOCATION
05.20.2011	Alexandria
07.22.2011	Cottage Grove
10.05.2011	Chanhausen
12.09.2011	Minneapolis