



Southern Chapter ISA  
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Visit the Southern Chapter website at  
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You may contact the Chapter Office  
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# Southern Chapter News

# A Better Way

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## Southern Chapter ISA Conference and Trade Show

Myrtle Beach, SC February 13-18, 2014

Quid Nunc? continued from page 3

4. Providing leadership and resources for workforce development programs

In the past eleven years, the TREE Fund has awarded more than 400 research grants and 30 scholarships, totaling more than \$7.5 million. We see the benefits of this money every day in our profession often without realizing it: future professionals in arboriculture and allied fields that received TREE Fund scholarships; new treatments that improve the way we manage our rights-of-way, urban forests and individual trees; students at every level of our education system being exposed to proper tree care concepts; and of course an ever improving and safer workforce for our industry. All are the result of TREE Fund programs.

So, one of the best ways I can advance the mission of the Southern Chapter is to encourage all of you to support the Chapter activities that raise money for the TREE Fund and to give to the Fund as you are able. Doing so will allow all of us to leave the world of tree care better off than the way we found it.

### 2013-2014 Southern Chapter Officers

**Executive Director: Dwayne Carter**

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**President: Karl Pokorny**

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## Up in the Trees

By Emma Witman ([www.gainesvilletimes.com](http://www.gainesvilletimes.com)) submitted by Jon Balkcom, GA Director

With caution tape, men perched in trees and hordes of bystanders eagerly watching, the lawn outside the Martha Hope Cabin looked something like a rescue operation Saturday morning. But rather than an accident scene, a spirited competition was happening amid the trees at the Gainesville park.

For the 16th annual Georgia Arborist Association Tree Climbing Championship, 24 competitive tree climbers from Hawaii to Kentucky began ascending trees around 8 a.m. in five different events, competing in areas from pure speed to technical skill.

Odis Sisk, co-chairman of the event and a Gainesville resident, is a past winner who has competed in the international competition in Sydney, Australia. "The competition is great and all, but it's really about catching up with people we don't often get to see. It's a social gathering for people in the arborist community," Sisk said.

The lone competitor and de-facto winner on the women's side was 27-year-old Josie Spagnolo, who has also traveled nationally and internationally as a professional tree climber. "I've been climbing for 15 years, and competing in this for five," she said, expressing relief to be done with four of five events.

By the afternoon, the competition would be whittled down to 2 to 3 finalists, who then compete in the "master challenge," event chairman Neil Norton said. That winner goes on to the Southeast regional competition in Memphis.

Sisk was one of the key players in bringing the competition to Gainesville this year and last, Norton said. For the city, it's an opportunity to get the word out about tree preservation, Sisk said. "Actually, one of the reasons we choose Gainesville was to spread local awareness about proper horticulture," he said, noting some of the destructive arbor techniques and needless tree removals that go on.

Norton emphasized that the trees climbed in the event were not harmed. In fact, arborists left the trees in better shape than before. "We were here all yesterday pruning the trees, getting them ready for competition. So it's actually a nice thing for the city, they get some free arborist work done," Norton said. "We don't use spikes, or any type of equipment that can harm the trees."

In addition to the working pros, Tree Climbers International Inc., set up harnesses and saddles to hoist people into the canopy for fun, family climbing.



## Quid Nunc? Message from the President, Karl Pokorny

I have heard that saying things in Latin makes one sound more intelligent. Saying *quid nunc* (what now?), which sounds more like something a caveman would say, seems to be an exception to that rule, but perhaps it made you look at my article, which was my purpose. So ... what now? You, the members of the ISA Southern Chapter, have given me the honor of serving as Chapter President for the next year and I intend to do as much as possible to advance the goals of our Chapter in this year.

According to the Constitution of the Southern Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, our organization was founded and continues to exist to do three things:

1. Improve the practice of tree care
2. Stimulate a greater appreciation of shade trees in the South
3. Promote the welfare and programs of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)

Note that none of these goals talk about members making more money, advancing their careers, or making their business more successful. Those things do happen to

members through participation in ISA programs, but whether you knew it or not, you joined an organization that is outward focused: we are concerned with improving the health and welfare of TREES. I hope that you are as proud of that mission as I am!

The Southern Chapter improves the practice of tree care and stimulates a greater appreciation of shade trees in the South by organizing workshops and conferences in our membership area. These training and educational opportunities help develop better arborists and urban forestry managers which in turn help trees. Perhaps the most important way we can achieve all three parts of our mission, though, is to support the Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund, more commonly known as the TREE Fund (a happy naming accident for sure). The TREE Fund was created as a joint venture between the Research Trust of the ISA and the National Arborist Foundation of the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) in 2002 with four specific goals:

1. Providing scholarships for aspiring arborists
2. Providing funding for scientific research into critical urban tree care issues
3. Providing funding for arboriculture education programs in schools



continued on page 15



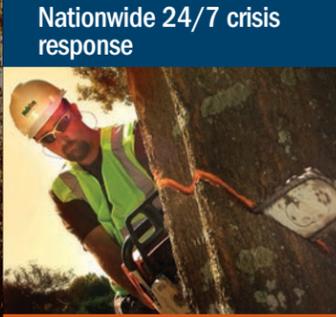

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## A Golden Opportunity

By Jim Barnhart, TN State Director

Duck River EMC, an electric cooperative in middle Tennessee, has 6000 miles of distribution line with 70,000 members. In order to provide quality/reliable power to our members, we have to address tree-related outages which impacts the majority of our members.

To do this, DREMC performs line-clearance tree pruning and removal on a quarter of our lines annually following ISA/UAA Best Management Practices. Member education on the importance of addressing tree-wire conflict and reliability is a continuous effort and pays off over time in getting improved cooperation with members.

One of our efforts was to improve our credibility doing tree work correctly was to become a tree Line USA Utility. DREMC was the first Cooperative to become a Tree Line USA Utility in Tennessee in 2005.

Part of the Tree Line requirements is to sponsor/conduct an Arbor Day Tree Planting Program. We found one of the most effective and fun ways to meet this requirement was to approach schools in our service area and plant trees with school kids. We primarily focus on elementary schools because the kids are the most willing to jump in and help and provide us their thoughts. We have five operating districts and we typically have five plantings per year, planting five or six quality shade trees on the school grounds. My forester and I get the opportunity to discuss with the kids how trees add



**Grow-Tree-Grow Ceremony**

to our quality of life and discuss “Planting the Right Tree in the Right Place,” thus avoiding tree wire conflict. In helping the kids plant their trees we have made two things famous: the Dirt Dance and the Grow-Tree-Grow Ceremony. Thank you letters and hand drawn pictures from the kids to our CEO are worth their weight in gold. When the kids say how much fun they had doing the dirt dance, the CEO has to call me, asking, “What is the Dirt Dance?” That is a good call.

If other utilities are not taking advantage of Arbor Day tree planting programs with schools in the service area, they are missing a golden opportunity to do something positive.



## Tornado Damage ReLeaf

by Patti Erwin, Arkansas State Director

The Arkansas Forestry Commission Urban & Community Forestry program partnered with the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council to hold the Arkansas ReLeaf project in Vilonia.

The goal of this Arkansas ReLeaf Project was to assist the Community of Vilonia and surrounding county in recovering from tree loss caused by tornado damage. Citizens who were impacted by the storm were eligible to receive free trees and hot dogs at the Veterans’ Memorial in Vilonia. The fire department and a local business cooked the hot dogs and provided additional food and drinks.

Many people were lined up to receive their tree and they were all given away within an hour. A mix of shade trees such as willow oak, red maple, redbud and blackgum were available to help shade homes. The day before the give-away, nine large shade trees were planted at the City Ball Park.

Past projects have included helping the communities of Vilonia, Scotland, Arkadelphia, College Station, Haskell, Sardis, Cherry Hill, Clinton and Mena who were impacted by storms as well.

## International Dictionary

The International Dictionary is an online directory of arboricultural terms with definitions and translation in many languages. Simply type in a word, choose a language, and our online dictionary provides the correct translation.

The Online International Dictionary is a tool for facilitating continuing education, as well as expanding outreach and networking possibilities for our members worldwide. Whether you want to learn how to say “tree” in German, or “tree biology” in Portuguese, take advantage of this valuable tool to participate in an international arboricultural dialogue.

Support for this project was provided by the European Arboricultural Council. Visit [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).

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## Spreading the Legacy of Toomer's Oaks

by Colin Conner, Hoover, Alabama City Forester

Legacy is an important aspect of urban trees. The legacy of Auburn University's Toomer's Oaks can be traced back to the 1930s, when the pair of live oaks simply provided a grand entrance to Auburn's campus. With time came the tradition of gathering under the trees to celebrate big football wins. Beyond football, this gathering reflected a community spirit that is unique to Auburn – an Auburn legacy, if you will, passed down for generations.



Today, that Auburn legacy is still intact, despite the deliberate poisoning of the trees in early 2010. Unfortunately and despite extraordinary efforts by the University to save the trees, Auburn's famed Toomer's Oaks are now slated for removal. A final gathering is scheduled for April 20, 2013, where new landscape plans for the area will be unveiled.

No doubt, the Toomer's Oaks legacy will live on at Auburn and at least one aspect of that legacy is now alive and well in Hoover, Alabama. For years, Auburn's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences has sold Toomer's Oaks seedlings but after the downtown trees were poisoned, the seedling supply

got scarce. Famed nurseryman and founder of Aldridge Botanical Gardens in Hoover, Alabama, Mr. Eddie Aldridge managed to procure two (1.5" cal.) Toomer's Oaks seedlings earlier this year. Mr. Aldridge graciously donated one of the seedlings to Aldridge Gardens, where it was planted during the City's March 2, 2013, Arbor Day ceremony. A crowd of approximately 40 people that included Auburn alumni, students, friends, fans, elected officials, residents, and at least one professed Alabama fan gathered to help plant the tree. The planting was special for a lot of people, even emotional for a few, and the young Toomer's Oak is now a popular stop along the Aldridge Gardens walking paths.



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STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012

	OPERATING FUND	SCHOLARSHIP FUND
CASH BALANCE, January 1, 2012	375,928.22	\$ 45,643.98
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Chapter Dues	38,046.00	
Publications and Sales	7,185.58	
Newsletter	6,750.00	
Interest Earned on Investments	1,080.10	192.43
Interest Earned on Checking	251.93	
Certification Exam	18,270.00	
Recertification	22,858.00	
Golf Income	7,750.00	
Shipping Income	50.48	
Workshops	13,420.30	
2012 Southern Chapter Conference	185,780.78	
2013 Southern Chapter Conference	74,264.35	
Transfer to Scholarship CD	(4,327.20)	4,327.20
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>371,380.32</b>	<b>4,519.63</b>
<b>Total Receipts and Balance</b>	<b>747,308.54</b>	<b>50,163.61</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Tour De Trees - Donation	5,000.00	
Postage and Shipping	5,893.66	
Printing and Office Supplies	2,934.15	
Board Meetings/Travel	28,739.70	
Insurance	1,250.00	
Contracted Services	60,313.93	
Scholarship Award	1,500.00	
Telephone - Fax	3,071.29	
Publications and Sales	6,778.86	
Newsletter	15,196.44	
2011 North American Tree Conference Expense	2,148.72	
2012 Southern Chapter Conference Expense	204,844.86	
2013 Southern Chapter Conference Expense	1,632.78	
2014 Southern Chapter Conference Expense	263.67	
Miscellaneous	300.87	
Master Card/Visa Charges	9,785.50	
Workshops	12,817.81	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>362,472.24</b>	<b>-</b>
CASH BALANCE, December 31, 2012	\$ 384,836.30	\$ 50,163.61

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012

	OPERATING FUND	SCHOLARSHIP FUND
CASH BALANCE, December 31, 2012		
Checking account - (non-interest bearing) - BB&T Bank, Mount Airy, North Carolina	\$ 5,703.99	\$ -
Checking account - (interest bearing) - BB&T Bank, Mount Airy, North Carolina	165,540.67	
Certificate of Deposit - Surry Bank & Trust, Mount Airy, North Carolina, dated 6-07-12 maturing 6-07-13 with interest @ 0.6 percent per annum	51,031.63	
Certificate of Deposit - Surry Bank & Trust, Mount Airy, North Carolina, dated 6-07-12 maturing 6-07-13 with interest @ 0.6 percent per annum	51,031.63	
Certificate of Deposit - BB&T Bank, Mount Airy, North Carolina, dated 9-21-12 maturing 3-21-13 with interest @ 0.10 percent per annum	111,528.38	
Certificate of Deposit - BB&T Bank, Mount Airy, North Carolina, dated 11-14-12 maturing 11-14-13 with interest @ 0.15 percent per annum	-	50,163.61
	\$ 384,836.30	\$ 50,163.61
Dwayne M. Carter, Treasurer February 7, 2013		

## Upcoming Events

### Arkansas

**June 4, 2013** - The Arkansas Urban Forestry Council will host its 22nd Annual Conference at the UA Cooperative Extension Service (2301 S. University, Little Rock, AR). Take advantage of opportunities at our conference, "Partnerships to Grow Your Tree Canopy," to explore new tools, technology, techniques and partnerships that will prepare you to manage our urban forests. Network with others and gain new ideas about how to improve your tree programs. [www.arkansastrees.org](http://www.arkansastrees.org).

### Georgia

**June 12-13, 2013** - The Georgia Urban Forest Council will present an Arborist Certification Study Class in Cumming GA. Please click here for more information. June 12 (CA 5.0 hrs., TW 3.5 hrs., M 3.0 hrs., Bsp 2.0 hrs., Bm 1.0 hrs.) June 13 (CA/M 3.0 hrs., Bsm 1.5 hrs., TW 1.0 hrs.)

### Louisiana

**September 6, 2013** - The LSU AgCenter will present "Electrical Hazard Awareness" at Lake D'Arbonne State Park (3628 Evergreen Rd. Farmerville, L 71241). On the agenda: "Welcome & LDAF Update," "Required Legislation: OSHA & ANSI," "How electricity works," "Electrical conductor Identification," "Distribution systems & working safely, minimum approach." Please contact Hallie Dozier at 225-578-7219. (CA/TW/M/Bp 6.5 hrs.)

**October 11, 2013** - The LSU AgCenter will present "Worksite Safety" at Chicot State Park (3469 Chicot Park Road, Ville Platte, LA 70586). On the agenda: The ANZI Z133.1 Safety Standard for Tree Care Operations," "Personal Protection Equipment," "Tree Damage Scenarios," "Chainsaw Safety and Cutting Techniques," "Rigging and Cutting Techniques, Demonstration." Please contact Hallie Dozier at 225-578-7219. (CA/TW/Bp 6.5 hrs.)

**October 25, 2013** - The LSU AgCenter will present "Electrical Hazard Awareness" in Shreveport, LA. On the agenda: "Welcome & LDAF Update," "Required Legislation: OSHA & ANSI," "How electricity works," "Electrical conductor Identification," "Distribution systems & working safely, minimum approach." Please contact Hallie Dozier at 225-578-7219. (CA/TW/M/Bp 6.5 hrs.)

**November 1, 2013** - The LSU AgCenter will present "Dirt Works" at the Burden Research Center (4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809). On the agenda: "Physical & Biological Properties and Soils," "Soils & Moisture," "Soils & Air," "Soil Profiles, Sampling for your Client, & Detecting Problems." Please contact Hallie Dozier at 225-578-7219. (CA/M 6.5 hrs., Bs 5.0 hrs., Bm 1.5 hrs.)

**December 6, 2013** - The LSU AgCenter will present "Tree Dynamics and Integrated Risk Assessment" at the Delgado Community College Student Life Center (615 City Park Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70119). On the Agenda: "Tree Dy-

namics & integrated risk assessment," "Tree biology, structure & physics," "Demo: Integrated tree risk assessments." Please contact Hallie Dozier at 225-578-7219. (CA/M 6.5 hrs., Bsp 3.25)

**January 10, 2013** - The LSU AgCenter will present "ARBorists as Athletes" at the Lod Cook Alumni Center Conference Center (3838 West Lakeshore Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808) On the Agenda: "Physiological Response of Arborists in Work Conditions," "Assessing the Efficiency of Various Techniques," "Improving Arboriculture Techniques & Tasks." Please contact Hallie Dozier at 225-578-7219. (CA/M/TW 6.5 hrs., Bsp 2.25 hrs., Bm 2.0 hrs.)

### Mississippi

**October 2-4, 2013** - The 2013 Mississippi Urban Forest Council Annual Forestry Conference will focus on healthy communities, the future of housing of all types, storm preparedness and mitigation, plus economic survival. These elements can determine why a business or citizens would want to move to your community. Our key note speaker is Dr. Kathleen Wolf. More information will be available at [www.msurbanforest.com](http://www.msurbanforest.com). Continuing education credits are available for elected officials, foresters, planners, engineers, landscape architects, arborists and others.

### Tennessee

**August 22, 2013** - The Middle Tennessee Nursery Association will host their 23rd Annual Middle Tennessee Nursery Assoc. Educational Seminar. (CA/M 5.0 hrs., Bs 4.0 hrs., U/Bp 1.0 hrs.)

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# Congratulations to the 2013 ISA Southern Chapter TCC winner - Cormac Nagan

## 2013 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package

The Southern Chapter ISA is pleased to announce the 2013 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package for the Tree Climbing Champion (TCC), held in conjunction with the Chapter's 2013 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event.

This climbing kit is being offered to each chapter champion. The package is intended to help equip the chapter representatives for the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) Competition.

### Each prize package includes:

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## Meet Our New State Directors

**Joshua Franz** (North Carolina) We would like to introduce our newest Director for the ISA Southern Chapter, Joshua Franz. Joshua comes to us from Carolina Tree Care where he has been starting up the Residential and Commercial Division of the already well-established Utility Line Clearance work at Carolina Tree. With more than 15 years experience in arboriculture, he brings a strong background in Plant Health Care, Consulting and Construction Management. He has a love of the outdoors and brings a passion for trees and for the tree industry, with focus on both safety and quality.

He is an ISA Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist, NC Pesticide Applicator and a member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists, and currently sits on the TreesSC Committee for Arborist Workshops.

**Glen Wilson** (Louisiana) "Tree climbers wanted, no experience necessary." Clueless to what an arborist was, Glen answered that help-wanted ad at the age of 19. He just knew he loved to climb trees. That was in 1979 and he was very fortunate the ad was for a tree company owned by Lawrence Hall. Mr. Hall, a past president of ISA, believed arborists were true professionals and provided his employees with copious education in all aspects of arboriculture. Also, he had the added benefit of being trained in the practical arts of tree work by Mr. Hall's son, Norm Hall. Without a doubt, Glen says he owes his career as an arborist to them and the other fine arborists at their company, A. E. P. The Care of Trees.

Over the years, Glen had periods where he worked other jobs full time, but he always kept an interest in tree work. Eventually, Glen moved to Baton Rouge and was employed as an arborist at Louisiana State University. He now works for the LSU Agricultural Center at LSU Botanic Gardens at Burden. It is an "arborist dream job," taking care of a 450-acre historical property in the heart of Baton Rouge. While assisting with an arborist training seminar at Burden, he got a chance to meet Scott Prophet and became a lead instructor with North American Training Solutions. Along with instructing, he became interested in EMS and achieved the level of NREMT Paramedic. So he also works part-time as a medic for Acadian Ambulance in Baton Rouge.

Over the last several years, he has been involved with ISA tree climbing championships at Chapter and international levels. Glen says he is so grateful for all the great friends and professional acquaintances he has made at TCCs. And now, as Louisiana State Director of the ISA Southern Chapter, he looks forward to expanding his role in supporting an organization he whole heartedly believes in: The ISA. If he had one thing to say to all the other members out there, it would be "Volunteering is good!"

**Gary Ickles** (Alabama) Gary has been involved in arboriculture on a daily basis since he graduated from high school. He is a second-generation arborist. His father started the family business in southwest New York in the late

'60s and moved the family and the company to southwest Alabama in 1979. He started dragging brush at a young age and climbed the first work tree at age 12. He worked for my father until I purchased the company in 1999.

Gary had the pleasure of meeting Ron Jackson in 1993. He pointed out that Glen was incorrectly pruning a tree and that he should learn a little more about proper tree care. If you know Ron, you know that it was a bit of a one-sided conversation. That chance meeting with Ron started Gary's education in proper arboricultural practices. He still sees Ron on a regular basis and always appreciates his insight.

Gary became an I.S.A. Certified Arborist in 1998. On April 21, 2005, he became an I.S.A. Board Certified Master Arborist — the first in Alabama. Since then he has added I.S.A. Municipal Specialist and the TCIA Certified Tree Care Safety Professional credentials. He has also started the process of becoming an ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist, which he hopes to finish this year. He will start working on the I.S.A. Tree Risk Assessment Qualification this year.

Gary has been active both locally and on the state level with different groups promoting proper arboricultural practices and worker safety. He is an approved instructor for many of the TCIA Tree Care Academy programs. He is the past president of the Alabama Urban Forestry Association and still sits on the council.

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