



# Southern Chapter News

SUMMER  
2011

By Ted Harbourt, Louisiana Director

## A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words

Many different methods are used to teach safety in arboriculture. The printed word is used in manuals, books, brochures, and in newsletters like this. Quotes and cute phrases are often printed on t-shirts and bumper stickers. Teachers, public speakers, and guest lecturers use the spoken word along with handouts to deliver their message. Demonstrations are also required for the hands-on skills to be learned in arboriculture.

New advances in computer technology and cell phone applications have grown exponentially in the last few years. Power Point presentations with enhanced computer graphics, conference calls, texting messages, pictures, and videos have all made for improved delivery of information both in quality, quantity, and speed of transmission. Now all one has to do is “google it” on the computer or cell phone, and we literally have the information at our fingertips.

Sometimes a single picture can conjure up thoughts of potential dangers in arboriculture. The coiled up cobra represents all of the possibilities (large and small) for being injured on the job. Hopefully, this form of imagery can provide a constant reminder to keep all of our required and recommended safety practices in place.

Years ago when helping with a workshop in our state, one of the attendees said, “Oh no, not safety again!” Safety permeates every aspect of the tree industry, well beyond some of the more obvious areas such as

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# Message from the President - Pete Rausch

Great ideas are just that. It's not until the idea is implemented that the idea succeeds. Planning is putting that idea down on paper, developing strategies and implementing actions to meet the objectives of that idea.

We've all had those great ideas – a million dollar product, a new business, a great vacation or project. Many times, an idea doesn't get very far without having a plan. Take out a pen and paper – no computers allowed – and in big letters write the idea at the top of the page. Next, start outlining the major actions needed to get that idea moving in no particular order. Now comes the fun part: details. Each action is going to need several steps, supplies or people to complete. In no more than ten minutes, you should have the start of a working plan.

**Tree-care workshop:** Will it be held inside or outside; how many people can you effectively address; who are the presenters, equipment or supplies needed to demonstrate your key points; refreshments; workshop promotion; and cost.

**Arbor Day celebration:** Will you partner with a school, the city, the utility, or a tree-service company; what location; what kind and how many trees are you going to plant; are these donated, are there funds to purchase them; is it a fall or spring event; what educational topics will be covered; how many volunteers will be needed and for what; how do you publicize; and what media can you get to cover the event?

**Storm season is coming:** How are you going to communicate with your employees; do you have updated contact numbers for employees and families; how much lead time do you have/need; what supplies do you need the

most; what personal items should employees be sure to have; how much cash will be needed; are hotel rooms needed; is the first aid kit full; where is the nearest saw shop; how many vehicles do you take; and what equipment can you leave behind?

**Developing a company safety program:** what different work functions do you perform; what equipment is used; are job functions delineated or is everyone expected to “do it all”; what are the hazards of each job function and each piece of equipment; what training is needed; who is going to do the training; what training materials are available; what PPE is needed for each job; and what documentation is required?

Now that you have brainstormed the basic actions needed to meet your idea's objective, you can put it on the computer to help organize the steps and actions. Share the plan outline with others on your team or company to get their input. Start filling in the details on each of the main action points. Can you feel the enthusiasm and energy of your plan coming together?

The ISA Southern Chapter has been busy planning hands-on tree-climbing workshops, “Up by the Roots” presentations by Jim Urban, Certified Arborist and Certified Tree Worker tests, and the 2012 Conference in Birmingham. Do you have great ideas for a workshop that the Chapter can help with? Do you have an idea for a speaker or topic for the conference?

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# The Big Orange 83 Years of Service and Innovation

by Karl Pokorny, Southern Chapter ISA Vice President

On August 28, 1928, Griffith, Lester and Carl Asplundh, the sons of Swedish emigrant Carl Hjalmar Asplundh and Swiss emigrant Emma Steiger, founded the Asplundh Tree Expert Company in Glenside, Pennsylvania. The three brothers, whose last name means “grove of aspen trees” in Swedish, had learned tree work while working their way through college in their older brother Oswald’s tree-trimming business.

Griffith, Lester and Carl earned degrees in arboriculture, electrical engineering, and finance. This combination of educations made for a perfectly logical decision to specialize in tree work around power lines. Some family members believed that this decision would limit the growth of the company, but as history has proven, their education and work ethic paid off more than any of them could have imagined.

The first Asplundh crews were equipped only with second-hand trucks, cross-cut saws, axes, ropes and ladders. As anyone in our business could imagine, the work of early line-clearance tree trimmers was grueling with no bucket trucks, brush grinders or even padded climbing saddles. There were some hand-cranked platforms in 1929, but they were not in wide use. Asplundh made training in proper pruning techniques and safety around electrical conductors a priority from the beginning, which helped them work more efficiently.

During the Depression, many line-clearance companies failed, but Asplundh was expanding and able to hire many of these workers. The brothers’ commitment to their employees was strong and, in order to keep the company open and crews working, they went without salaries in 1932. By 1934, hard work was paying off again and Asplundh was gaining enough new business to justify a move to a larger facility in Jenkintown, PA. This new location had enough room for a repair shop and more office space. In 1936, the company was expanding into the Midwest, so older brother Oswald left his tree-service company to join his brothers’ company.

In the late 1930s, storm-emergency work caused still more growth for the company. Asplundh’s continued commitment to worker training and safety was still paying off, as utility companies preferred to work with tree trimmers who were expert

in working around power lines. The growth of the company (still in the midst of the Depression, I remind you) justified yet another move. The new location was 505 Old York Road, Jenkintown, PA. This would be the home for Asplundh until 1974. Ten years into their business, the crews were now equipped with the modern marvels of the day: the motorized chain saw and pole pruners. The early saws were too bulky to use in trees, so the work aloft remained much the same. The crews still had to load brush on and off of stake body trucks

During World War II, Asplundh lost many workers to the war effort and, like all companies at the time, faced rationing of almost everything they needed for business. Fortunately,

line clearance was considered an essential industry to the war effort and work continued to build. A result of having more work and less workers was the development of chemical control on utility right-of-ways. After the war, many workers returned to the company and Asplundh was adding ever more contracts with new utility customers.

In 1948, Asplundh’s equipment specialists began development of one of the most important innovations in the tree-care industry: the brush chipper. The early prototypes were either truck mounted or the more popular trailer model. They also offered a “basic unit – for those who prefer to do their own mounting ...” The basic trailer-mounted Asplundh brush chipper, which was wildly popular, has changed little over the years and is still a ubiquitous piece of equipment in the tree-care industry. The new chippers were manufactured in Asplundh’s new Philmont shop in Huntingdon Valley, PA, where the company also rebuilt trucks and saws.

From 1948 to 1952, Asplundh had several changes in leadership due to death, illness and new family members joining the company: On Christmas Eve of 1948, company co-founder and President Griffith Asplundh died. In January 1949, Lester Asplundh was elected President, but stepped down in 1952 due to illness. The remaining first generation founder, Carl Asplundh, was elected to fill the vacancy. Meanwhile, the three brothers’ seven sons were learning the ropes by working in the field with crews and in the office.

The 1950s brought more growth with new contracts in New England, Florida, and the Pacific Northwest. With the new growth came the first supervisory training schools in 1953. These schools, now called the Asplundh Supervisory Training Program, are used to train the company’s general foremen. The company was also automating with early IBM computers to make billing and payroll functions more productive. Asplundh, realizing the need for a written emergency procedure in the aftermath of Hurricanes Carol and Hazel, developed and distributed a procedure manual in 1954.

In 1956, Asplundh launched a subsidiary company, Asplundh Brush Control Company, to specialize in right-of-



way clearing and maintenance. This subsidiary company utilized chemical brush-control methods developed during the war. New methods were also being developed from company research in cooperation with universities in central PA.

The company had experimented with hand-cranked platforms in the 1920s and truck-mounted ladders in the early 1950s. In the mid 1950s, Asplundh developed hydraulic lifts which resemble the lifts of today, but were not insulated. Realizing that a non-insulated bucket truck could never be an effective platform for work around power lines, Lester Asplundh developed a new boom made from a combination of spun glass fiber and epoxy resin. The early fiberglass, called "spirallo," became the industry standard for bucket trucks. The first boom trucks were manufactured in 1958 at a new facility in Chalfont, PA, by the new "Asplundh Manufacturing Division."

During the 1960s, Asplundh branched out with new services such as treating and reinforcing wooden utility poles, underground utility construction, and were pioneers in thermographic/infrared inspection services (detection of overheated equipment on circuits).

With the death of Carl Asplundh on July 2, 1967, Lester Asplundh was called on to be the temporary Chairman of the Board while the company transitioned to the second generation of leadership. In 1968, Barr Asplundh, son of the late Griffith Asplundh, was elected as the new president and all of the second generation Asplundhs working for the company were elected to positions on the Board of Directors. Also in 1968, the company formed its own GMC truck dealership

to supply its fleet and manufacturing operations. The move gave Asplundh more supply and cost advantages.

The company diversified again in 1972 with the addition of the Asplundh Street Lighting Division, which provided inspection and repair services to utilities and municipalities operating street-lighting systems. In 1975, the company branched out to railroad maintenance with the creation of the Asplundh Railroad Division, which provided vegetation-management service to the nation's railroad companies. Also in 1975, Asplundh established the One-Call Division. The

## grove OF aspen trees

One-Call centers served as a link between contractors and utilities with buried service lines to protect the

underground lines during excavation.

Barr Asplundh stepped down as president of the company in 1982 and was elected the Chairman of the Board, while Edward Asplundh, son of the late Carl Asplundh, was elected as the new president. On May 3, 1984, Lester Asplundh, who had been serving as an Honorary Company Chairman since 1982, died. Lester had been involved with the company for 56 years and had helped grow it from a handful of crews in 1929 to a multi-million dollar, highly diversified corporation.

The same year that Lester died, Asplundh expanded its Canadian operations by purchasing a partner company in Ontario and acquiring a right-of-way company in Alberta. Two years later, in 1986, they won their first overseas contract in

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# Carpenters Convert Cut Trees

by Ken Miguel, [www.actrees.org](http://www.actrees.org)

There was a time when a tree that had to be taken down in your yard wasn't good for much more than firewood, but now green carpenters are coveting this urban wood and finding more useful purposes for it.

An Oakland, CA, tree had to be cut down because it was undermining a retaining wall. Tree trimmers will take it apart and chip the branches to be used for mulch. However, the biggest parts of the tree will be saved from the firewood pile and will end up at an Oakland lumber yard. "A tree is like opening up a novel, there's stuff inside that you don't expect and that you learn about," said Paul Discoe, a master carpenter from Joinery Structures.

Discoe sees the beauty in the urban wood and he owns Joinery Structures. The company takes trees from urban settings, ages the wood, and then mills it. The resulting timber will be

turned into homes, furniture, and restaurants like Ippuku in Berkeley. "All this wood that grows in the urban forest has a story because it grows up around people, and people do things to it. They climb it, the drive nails into it, they bang their car into it, they hang their hammock on it, they cut off the limbs, and it makes the wood have a lot of character," said Discoe.

It's part of a growing movement in the Bay Area and across the nation. In May, the Friends Of the Urban Forest hosted the first California Urban Wood Conference in the Presidio. It brought together forestry experts, cities, and woodworkers to educate them about the urban forest and alternative uses for wood gathered from city landscaping and local yards. "We see urban wood coming out of our cities in a way that it shouldn't be. It's been chipped right away and turned



right away into mulches and things, which are used, but that value is not as strong as a table," said Doug Wildman from Friends Of the Urban Forest.

Urban forestry allows woodworkers access to timber they usually can't get their hands on. "Sometimes the biggest trees can be found in the urban areas. They are often treated like garden plants and they're well taken care of," said Sam Sherrill from *Harvestingurbantimber.com*.

Sherrill came to the conference from Ohio. He wrote the book on harvesting urban timber. "Things have taken off. I think things are coming together, they are coalescing, we're now moving to a point where we are going to have, I believe, an urban forest products industry," said Sherrill.

Urban Hardwoods on Pacific Street in San Francisco may be one of the beneficiaries of that new industry. It opened its first store in Seattle in 2001 and has now expanded to three stores on the West Coast, specializing in wood from local communities. "People are becoming a little more conscience about the product that they buy and they want something well made, they want something that's handmade, and they also want something that's green," said Nick Christianson from Urban Hardwoods.

Furniture from an urban tree doesn't come cheap; a table can sometimes cost tens of thousands of dollars.



## Georgia Power Helps Nature Heal at Lake Burton

By Meredith Leigh Knight

Each Memorial Day, hundreds of people flock to enjoy the clear waters and picturesque mountain setting of Georgia Power's Lake Burton, located in the northeastern corner of Georgia in Rabun County. The landscape of the lake and the surrounding area looked quite different this holiday, however.

On April 27, an EF-3 tornado with winds up to 165 mph struck the north-

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# Rating System for Tree-Removal Jobs

by Murville Alleman, Mississippi Director

Every tree job is different. This fact is what makes the work we are all doing so interesting and attractive to certain kinds of people. Whenever “treemen” get together, one of the first things they tend to talk about is the last big, nasty, difficult job they just finished. Some of the circumstances surrounding a job may make it take longer, or incur more liability in terms of damage potential, public interaction, or involve any number of factors that turn a simple “tree removal” into a potential nightmare. The preface to any discussion of a given job almost always involves a detailed description of the ground obstacles, the terrain, the weather, the crew strength, or the tools available.

This article will clarify these circumstances and put them into a somewhat more descriptive and understandable format or rating system than the typical, “Man, you should have seen the whopper of a tree we did last week” type of discourse. This article will help salespeople develop a clear and concise language to use when communicating what the crews should expect when they pull up in front of a client’s property.

Rather than attempt to categorize the vast array of tree types and sizes, this system will focus on the difficulty status and obstacles to safe and profitable completion. These obstacles may include pedestrian traffic, vehicular traffic, moveable obstacles and immovable obstacles. The values associated

with each type of obstacle will be included in the overall difficulty rating on a case-by-case basis based on the evaluator’s experience. Personnel safety will remain the primary consideration, as in any discussion of tree work, and at no time shall a compromise of such considerations affect the difficulty rating process. The rating process will not necessarily encompass debris removal or cleanup, except where the actual rating is affected by the potential end use of tree work by products. Pine logs may be kept to certain lengths for merchantable timber use, or certain hardwoods may be used as firewood or furniture stock, etc. At no time shall such considerations be used to rate down a given job; rather, these factors should serve to rate up a job. One should consider the accompanying safety and production cost issues when these factors are present.

The rating system will have its most obvious advantage in the arena of sales; without constant supervision by the sales representative, some crews may be prone to take liberties with the client’s turf or other landscape features in order to finish the job on time or make the job easier. With the rating system in place as a means of communicating the methods to be used on a given job, the crew is fully aware of what is acceptable and what is not. The client wants to know his property will be cared for and that he is getting his money’s worth on the job, and the crew wants to get the job done as quickly as possible with the least amount of labor.

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the importance of their behavior and comportment during their stay on the property cannot be understated. The rating system puts major emphasis on their work procedure, and establishes a procedure for them to follow on any given job. The more familiar a given crew becomes with the system as their salesman or supervisor uses it, the less confusion there will be concerning the client's expectations.

It will become necessary for the client expectations and the salesman's communications to be exactly the same; this seems obvious, but I personally have been involved in more than one miscommunication where this system's use could have saved the company a client or, in an extreme case, a salesman.

Yes, mistakes do happen among people who have been involved in the field for many years, and most of the time this is explained by a simple communication error. Often when more words are used than is necessary, confusion creeps in. This is especially true when a job is explained to a foreman or crew first thing in the morning in an office rather than in the field at the jobsite. This is most likely to occur when a salesman has not properly managed his time so as to allow sufficient crew interaction for the timely and profitable completion of a given job.



**CLASS 1 REMOVAL:** The simplest type of job involves just cutting a felling notch in a standing tree and letting it fall with its natural lean. Most often associated with logging, this technique has many forms depending on the region, type of wood, and available tools. In the deep South, the old pulpwooders I learned to work with would use a bucking bow on their saws instead of a typical bar and chain. This arrangement would allow them to buck a log or tree while it was lying flat on the ground without damaging the chain in the soil beneath. The chain runs on a narrow, perhaps 1" wide, section of bar that forms an ellipse or egg shape opening in the middle. Incorporated in the design of the bow is an aluminum "foot" or "dog" that keeps the wide, forward surface of the cutting chain from kicking back toward the operator. This foot is placed on the underside of a lateral cut, and becomes cumbersome when used for felling.

I have seen one experienced operator use a bucking bow to slowly cut out the wood on the lee side of a lean in stages around the circumference of the tree until the lean is adjusted in the desired direction, effectively twisting the tree around on its stump until it could be felled safely in an open area. The natural lean of this particular tree happened to be towards a power transmission line. I would have never believed that it could have been done. **Also included in this class is the use of a**

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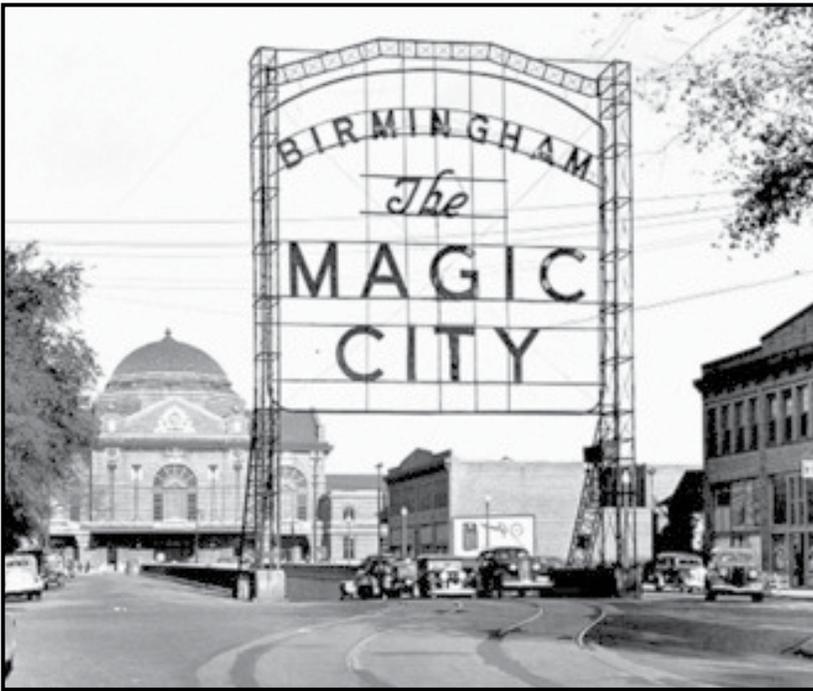


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### Message from the President continued from page 3

Ideas can be successful with good planning and implementation. Feel free to contact me at any time or contact your state director listed on the back page. Thanks to your ideas, your input, your feedback and your participation, the Southern Chapter is one of the best in the ISA.

*PS – Don't forget those that have suffered through the spring storms and tornados that struck throughout the Southern Chapter. There is still too much work to be done. If you can, please donate your time, efforts and supplies wherever and whenever possible. Thank you.*

### Lake Burton continued from page 7

east shore of the 2,775 acre reservoir damaging 150 homes and causing one fatality. Overall, 25 homes were destroyed as well as 38 boathouses. In addition, 700 acres of bulk land owned and managed by Georgia Power in order to provide an aesthetic and watershed buffer was either damaged or destroyed.

“Georgia Power responded immediately to the storm, providing information to concerned homeowners on the extent of the damage,” said Wanda Greene, land compliance forestry manager.

In addition to providing information from emergency agencies to the affected residents, Georgia Power focused its efforts on the removal of debris from the lake.

“We hired a contractor to use barges and cranes to remove debris that was blown into the lake,” Greene said. “We wanted to ensure that the lake was safe for boating and recreation by Memorial Day weekend.”

Georgia Power is also coordinating efforts with Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GEPD), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), Rabun County officials, the Lake Burton Civic Association, Georgia Forestry Commission and other agencies. The company is also working with homeowners on their cleanup efforts, allowing them to clean lots and make minor repairs without a permit, and providing them with the names of contractors who will take the woody debris away.

“We have also provided two laydown areas for homeowners to take their debris,” Greene said.

The damaged and destroyed bulk land was filled with a mature mix of hardwood and pine trees with the total amount of timber lost estimated to be 45,000 tons.

Normally, the company would try to salvage the marketable timber, Greene said, but since the overall timber market has been very soft in the southeast, it decided not to pursue that.

“We have consulted with experts and determined the best thing to do is to let nature take its course. Our job will be to give nature a little help by manually clearing snags and trees that won't grow back in the damaged area and help stabilize the ground by planting grass and preventing erosion where needed,” Greene said. “Beyond that, we have to sit back and let nature start the healing process.”

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# The Big Orange continued from page 5

the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 1987, the company greatly expanded its Canadian operations with the purchase of two tree-service companies in British Columbia and another right-of-way company in Alberta. Asplundh Canada, Inc., was formed in 1988 to service the Atlantic provinces of Canada and Quebec. With the addition of a line clearance contracts in Hawaii in 1988, Asplundh was working in all 50 states and most of Canada.

The first of the “third generation” Asplundh family members completed the eight-year-long Family Management Training Program in 1987. As it was in the beginning, family members all had to work their way into management. The ability to instill the same work ethic from one generation to the next is no doubt part of the reason that in 1988, after 60 years in business, four of the first five Asplundh customers had used their company continuously since 1928. In addition, another 24 utilities had been using Asplundh for 40 years or more.

The company continued to diversify in 1989 with the acquisition of a Florida-based lighting and signalization company, and again in 1990 with the purchase of a utility construction company on Long Island. The name of the company on Long Island was changed to Asplundh Construction Corp and it immediately began expansion into other regions of the US. Continued expansion of the signalization and lighting business was achieved through the purchase of another traffic-signal contractor in North Carolina. The new company operated as a subsidiary of the previously acquired American Lighting and Signalization Company in Florida. In 1994, the company name was changed to ALS of North Carolina.

Crew safety and productivity training was still a primary focus of the company and in 1990 Asplundh created professional line-clearance training crews. This move was also intended to reduce employee turnover. Another step forward in crew productivity came with the development of the LRIII-55 aerial lift by the Asplundh Manufacturing Division in 1991. The new lift was capable of over center movement and had an additional five feet of height.

Asplundh, which had maintained its own GMC dealership since 1968, added a Buick dealership in 1984 and moved both operations to Manahawkin, NJ, the same year. The huge demand for company vehicles also prompted the establishment of a Ford dealership in Ottsville, PA, in 1990. The Asplundh Manufacturing Division was sold to Altec Industries, Inc., in 1992 to ensure a steady supply of aerial lifts to the company.

Utility companies became more interested in outsourcing business functions in the early 1990s. Asplundh quickly capitalized on the opportunity by offering meter-reading services beginning in 1992. The company continued to grow overseas the same year with the additions of operations in Australia and the United Kingdom. More expansion followed in 1993 with

the purchase of certain assets of Southeastern Public Service Company which was a holding company for several successful line-clearance contractors. The four companies, Blume Tree Services, Farrens Tree Surgeons, Tree Preservation Company, and Wilson Tree Company, continued to operate with their original names as part of Asplundh Subsidiary Holdings, Inc.

In 1994, the company expanded its Asplundh Supervisory Training Program to help integrate employees from newly acquired companies. The same year, they developed a Line Clearance Training Certification Program to meet new OSHA requirements. By 1995, a staggering 90% of Asplundh’s employees had completed the new OSHA-mandated certification program. At the same time, Asplundh also worked with representatives from throughout the tree-care industry to develop the ANSI A300 Pruning Standard.

Chairman of the Board Robert Asplundh retired in 1995 after six years in the position, but remained on the Board. Paul Asplundh, son of the late Griffith Asplundh, was elected as the new Chairman. After the transition on the Board, Asplundh acquired manufacturing rights to the “Slashbuster” mower from D&M Contracting in the Pacific



Northwest. This new piece of equipment and other new work platforms increased Asplundh’s productivity even more.

One of Asplundh’s largest projects ever came in 1996, when Pacific Gas & Electric Company decided to accelerate its line-clearance program. Asplundh dispatched more than 200 crews from all over the country to the John Macri Region of Northern California for several months to get the job done. 1996 also brought more expansion with the Asplundh One-Call service opening call centers in Ontario and Sydney, Australia. The Pole Maintenance Division evolved into a new subsidiary, Utility Pole Technologies, Inc. Another new subsidiary, Utility Meter Services, Inc., was established to service the growing demand for outsourcing in this area. The company purchased Underground Utility Locating, Inc., to expand services to utility companies. In 1996, the company deployed more than 1,100 crews to help Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina utility companies recover from Hurricane Fran.

**Read the rest of “The Big Orange”  
at [www.isasouthern.org](http://www.isasouthern.org).**

Based on “The Asplundh Tree, 70th Anniversary Edition, Summer 1998” and information from [http://www.asplundh.com/our\\_history.htm](http://www.asplundh.com/our_history.htm), May 5, 2011.



Many dangerous situations exist while cutting on the ground.

chainsaw safety, climbing, and rigging. Many topics overlap and seem redundant, but bear repeating in a given year or cycle of workshops. Certainly, we will also be hearing and seeing things that we may already be familiar with. Some basic information and methods will remain the same and continue to be used. However, safety techniques and equipment are continually evolving and new ideas and applications are introduced every year. Many “old school” methods are getting improved on. Yes, old dogs can learn new tricks. Also, tree-company owners, consultants, utility companies, manufacturers, and all of their employees are affected by safety. From the time we buckle



The dangers lurking while climbing!

up on our drive to work until we return home safely, our goal should be zero accidents. Certainly, the workers in the field have more exposure, but we truly are all in this together. Let’s all re-evaluate our part in the big picture. Safety is no accident!

The fact that an individual or company has a clean safety record is because of a conscious, ongoing effort involving hours of training, safety meetings, demonstrations, and workshops all with an overall goal of making the workplace as safe as possible. Everyone in an organization must buy into this attitude for it to work. Our own ISA Southern Chapter provides us with a good example of one that believes in safety.

Remember the cobra and use any other mental pictures from your experiences that help us all work safely. Some might think this to be pessimistic, but it is only intended to paint a realistic picture of the dangers lurking on our jobs. Yes, we have water moccasins, rattlers, copperheads, and an occasional coral snake in Louisiana. We have alligators too, but that is for another day. That proverbial snake can only strike when we forget to put safety first.

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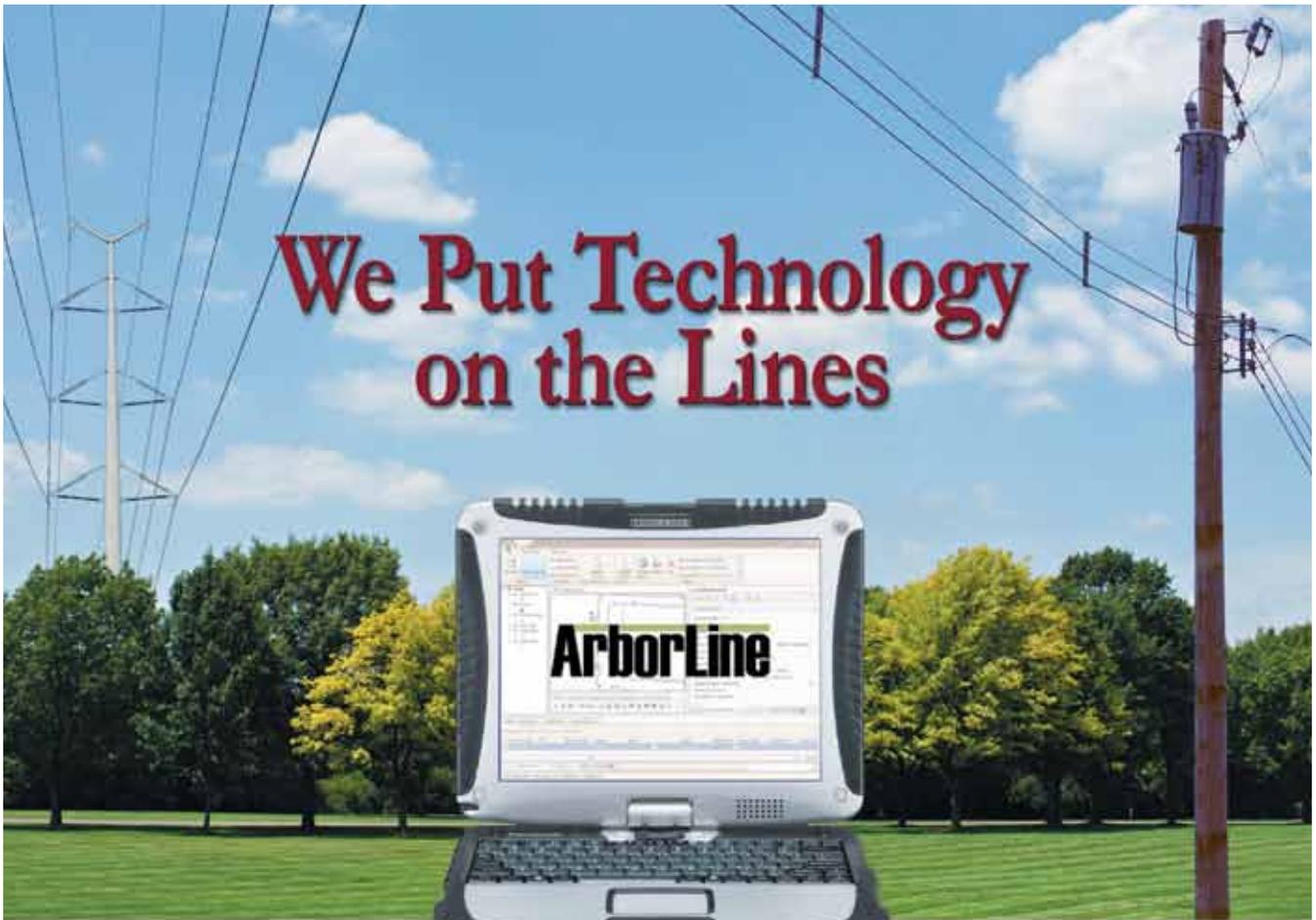
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## Rating System for Tree-Removal Jobs

continued from page 9

**towline installed with either a throwball or a climber to force the tree in the desired direction.**

**CLASS 2 REMOVAL:** The tree must be topped or limbed and topped before the log or trunk can be felled as in Class 1. Unlike in Class 1, a rope is not used to top or fell the trunk. This class of job is most often associated with the use of the log for some purpose, or where the available space prohibits the use of Class 1 because of immovable obstacles or pedestrian or vehicular traffic hazards. Sensitive landscape features may also dictate the use of these techniques. If the operator does not feel competent to “twist” a tree as in the preceding anecdote, I strongly advise using a rope rather than trying it on my explanation.

**CLASS 3 REMOVAL:** The tree must be topped or limbed and topped as in Class 2, but a lowering rope is used to control the descent of tree parts. Sensitive landscape features, immovable objects, water features, or pedestrian and vehicular traffic present sufficient hazard to completion of the job that some form of rigging must be used. Simple natural crotch rigging or modern block and friction device use are classified the same. The log or trunk is usually felled whole, or can be felled in sections with or without rigging.

**CLASS 4 REMOVAL:** The tree must be topped, lowered, and the log sections must be lowered using natural or block and friction-device rigging. Obstacles present absolutely prohibit dropping any part of the tree without some form of rigging control. When it comes down to the lowest part of the trunk, rigging becomes useless as the stretch in the rope and proximity to hazards becomes closer. Whether the last of the trunk is pushed over, or slabs are cut off the trunk until only the stump is left, this classification is considered the most time consuming and costly. It also leaves the most leeway for the skill and experience of the crew to affect the completion time and hence profitability.

**CLASS 5 REMOVAL:** Nothing can be dropped or even lowered from the tree due to ground hazards; most often called a “crane job.” Whether a mechanical crane and bucket truck for the cutter are used, or the cutter climbs and uses a crane to lift parts of the tree up and out of the area, this job type is as costly as a Class 4, but the cost is incurred by machine-rental time rather than payroll. Sometimes a nearby tree can be used as a crane for the tree parts and/or the climber, but this probably should be classified as a Class 4 because the “picks,” or individual cuts that are rigged and lowered, cannot usually be pulled up and away.

Rather than limit the verbiage necessary to communicate the circumstances of a given job, this system will allow managers, salespeople, and crew leaders to expand their communication skills beyond the criteria covered by the rating system; things such as trucks needed, special tools, personnel skill levels, trip routing, etc. all become easier to organize once more important details are covered.

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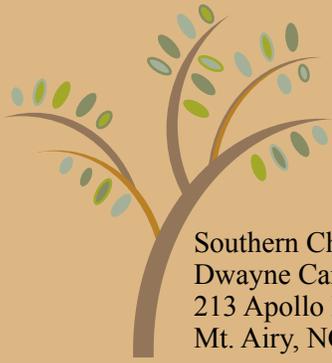
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