



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2014

CONTACT: Kelly Eby, Urban Forester
110 Golf Course Rd.
New Braunfels, TX 78130
830.221.4359
keby@nbtexas.org

New Braunfels Hosting 2014 Texas Tree Climbing Championship

New Braunfels, TX – The City of New Braunfels will host the 2014 Texas Tree Climbing Championship this weekend. Preliminary events are at Cypress Bend Park on Friday, May 16th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., and the Masters' Climb and Tree Fair will be held at Landa Park on Saturday, May 17th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The events are free and open to the public.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Climbing Championship is a unique event that tests the competitors' ability to professionally and safely maneuver in a tree while performing work-related tasks in a timely manner. Events are designed to simulate tasks that would be executed in the field while caring for trees.

"We encourage the public to join us in observing skilled arborists from across the state compete in different events high above the ground in the tree canopy," said Kelly Eby, Urban Forester. "The Tree Fair will feature expert speakers, a children's recreational climb and educational booths that will provide opportunities for everyone to see how professional arborists care for trees."

The competition is made up of five preliminary events:

- Throwline -- tests a climber's ability to install a climbing line high in the tree.
- Belayed speed climb -- hand over hand climbing to the top of a 50 foot tree.
- Footlock -- like climbing the rope in gym class, only the rope is 1/2" thick and there are no knots to grab.
- Aerial rescue -- a 150 pound sand-filled dummy is set in a tree in a simulated injury/ rescue scenario. The climber must assess the situation and safely bring the injured climber to the ground.
- Work climb-- Four stations are placed in the tree and climber's time starts when they are in the top of the tree and finishes when they are on the ground and unclipped from their gear.
 - Hand bell station -- climbers ring a bell with a hand saw carried on their harness.
 - Pole saw station -- climbers use a pole saw (already hanging in the tree) to ring a bell.
 - Limb toss -- using a short piece of pvc pipe that simulates a branch, climbers toss the limb into a target painted on the ground (as if to avoid dropping a branch on a customer's prized rose bush!).
 - Limb walk -- a plum-bob is hung from the end of a long low branch. Climbers must climb out to the end of the limb and ring a bell without putting too much weight on the limb. If the climber puts too much weight on the limb, the plum-bob will drop and set off a buzzer.

The top five finishers from the preliminary events qualify to compete in the Master's Challenge and the winner earns the right to compete in the international event in Milwaukee this summer. Saturday's Master's Challenge combines all the skills from the preliminary rounds into one big climb.

“Competitive tree climbing introduces the public to the skills qualified, tree climbing arborists must use for safe, professional tree work”, says ISA’s Executive Director Jim Skiera. “This knowledge can be helpful to them when they are selecting the right person to care for their trees.”

ISA is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research and education world-wide. To promote the importance of arboriculture, ISA manages the consumer education web site, www.treesaregood.org to help inform the public about the importance and value of proper tree care. 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.

To learn more about the 2014 Tree Climbing Competition in New Braunfels visit http://isatexas.com/Members/TTCC/2014_TTCC.htm or call 830-221-4359.

###