

Our family tree

Winter 2008

A newsletter for the Employees and Friends of Wright Tree Service

HURRICANE DOLLY



HURRICANE IKE

MARION COUNTY TORNADO

WTS TO THE RESCUE

STORM WORK IN 2008

Wright Tree Service employees have had a very busy year, especially with all the storms that Mother Nature threw their way.

On May 30, 2008, many of the residents of Marion County, Iowa awoke to the sound of an **EF2 tornado** ripping through their town with winds over 100 mph. A reported fifty homes sustained damage and five were completely destroyed by the storm.

Hurricane Dolly reached U.S. soil on July 23, 2008. The storm reportedly caused 212,000 customers to lose power in Texas and the damage leveled was estimated at \$1.2 billion. WTS spent 10,780 man hours helping to restore power for Hurricane Dolly victims.

On September 13, 2008, heavy rain and wind gusts up to 100 plus mph struck Texas. An estimated three million homes and businesses combined were without power across several states including Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana and damage from

Hurricane Ike has been estimated at \$27 billion.

WTS spent 31,094.50 man hours helping to restore power for Hurricane Ike victims.

Overall, 115,612 hours were spent completing storm work from January to October this year. Thank you to all the crews who sacrificed the comfort of their own bed and spent long hours restoring power to thousands of people all over the country.



From the Treetop



Will Nutter
Senior Vice President
Operations/COO

Today, it seems like every time we pick up a newspaper, turn on the news or listen to the radio, we are reminded of the terrible state that our economy is in. I can't speak for everyone, but I feel very fortunate to be working in an industry that to this point has not experienced as much of a negative impact as many other industries have. Yes, higher fuel prices and the increasing cost of goods for both our company and our employees do have an impact on us. Looking at the big picture, the crunch that we feel is minimal in comparison to the impact of downsizing, layoffs and bankruptcies that many businesses are experiencing.

From where I sit, I can see the fortunate position that Wright Tree Service is in today. When I started with WTS almost 27 years ago, the company was for sale, John L. Wright had recently passed and interest rates were at a record high. At the time, I viewed WTS as a summer job that would allow me to save up money before going on to college.

It didn't take very long for me to fall in love with the industry and with the people I worked with. I came from a large family with a farming background. Right away I felt like I was working for a family company. That same feeling has been further reinforced with the transition into an employee-owned company.

Wright released a newsletter the first summer I worked and I can still remember reading that they had 342 employees working for them at that time. Reflecting on today's milestones, we are employee-owned, we have nearly 2,000 employees, we are expanding with almost all of our existing customers, we are growing our new customer base, we are growing in markets we have never worked in before and we have been recognized as a leader in the industry.

One of the things that encourages me the most about the future of WTS is when I see the development of our future leaders. I get the opportunity to travel to our divisions and attend meetings with our customers and our employees. It is very rewarding to meet and interact with many of our employees. It's an added benefit when I have the opportunity to watch them do their jobs. It is then that I see the future leaders of our company in action. Our crews outperform our competition and our management stands shoulders above the rest as they strive to exceed our customers' expectations. I can sense the feeling of pride in our employees as they continue to go the extra mile by doing the right thing for our company and our customers.

So as we read about and listen to all the talk about the economy, I think we can all feel fortunate to be working in an industry that is doing pretty well in this situation. Let's continue to do the things that exceed our customers' expectations and continue to do the right things for our Wright Tree Service, Inc. family.

Will Nutter has been elected as Vice President to the executive committee board of the Utility Arborist Association (UAA). He will serve a four year term and will be president of the committee in 2010-2011.

CENTRAL DIVISION Rain or Shine

A Sioux City, Iowa resident called to compliment Foreman Tom Bertrand and Trimmer Merlin Kass for a job well done after a branch landed on top of the power lines during a storm. He noted that within 30 minutes WTS was there and the limb was removed in the midst of the rain and lightning. The crew works under General Foreman Cory Edwards.

Good Job

A resident of Camanche, Iowa wrote to thank WTS for the speedy service she received. She truly appreciated the men that came out to remove a tree limb off of a power line. She stated that they were "great, wonderful and helpful." The crew included Foreman Steve Richey and Trimmer Alex Morrison who both report to General Foreman Chad Behnke.

Thumbs Up

A customer from Johnson County, Iowa called in to commend the crew who trimmed a tree at her home did an "excellent job." The crew consisted of Foremen Dean Davolt and Trimmers Ryan Johnson, Paul Orona and Ericardo Ortiz. The crews work under acting General Foreman Randy Jones.

Outstanding Performance

A resident of Clarinda, Iowa wrote in to thank Foreman Bruce Girouex and his crew for going "above and beyond!" With a funeral procession in sight, the crew working on one of the main streets proceeded to shut off all equipment, line up along the curb, remove their

hardhats and then place them across their chests. He wrote, "The sight brought tears to many of my family members." The crew reports to General Foreman Jonathan Cates.

Helping Hand

A couple from Waterloo, Iowa wrote in to the local paper to express their appreciation for WTS and the crew who volunteered to help them cut down a tree free of charge. While cleaning up, the crew found five baby birds and proceeded to gently place them in a neighboring empty nest where the mother soon found them. The couple wrote the world need more men like the ones at WTS. Commendations go to Foreman Nathan Pexa and Trimmer Mike Schilling who report to General Foreman Teddy Wilson.

Total Package

Another couple from Waterloo, Iowa wrote that they were very pleased with the work WTS did on their trees. They noted, "They left our yard cleaned up and our trees in much better shape." The crew included Foreman Robert Thompson, Trimmers Randy Sites, Nate Christie and Ben Burton who report to General Foreman Teddy Wilson.

Fantastic Five

A Bettendorf, Iowa resident wrote in to acknowledge Foremen Mitch Salek, Dan Roberson and Steve Richey and Trimmers Amber Maske and Lawrence Kaska for the "fantastic job" that they did. The crews report to General Foreman Chad Behnke.

To the Rescue

A West Des Moines, Iowa resident called to thank

News from the Branches

Foreman Troy Phillips and Trimmer Jason Thornton for the “wonderful job” they did removing a dead tree dangling over the power lines on his property. This crew reports to General Foreman Wayne Fancher.

Special Recognition

A customer called to compliment Foremen Mitch Salek and Steve Richey and Trimmers Amber Maske and Dan Hoenig on the professional work done at her property. Crew members report to General Foreman Chad Behnke.

High Praise

A West Des Moines, Iowa resident called to compliment Foreman Dallas Dix and Trimmer Misael Alvarenga for their level of professionalism while trimming trees near the power lines. The crew reports to General Foreman Wayne Fancher.

Showing Thanks

A Des Moines, Iowa couple wrote a note of gratitude to WTS for removing a few trees that were blocking parking space at their home. Unfortunately, the couple did not indicate the crew members involved.

Good Impression

A Des Moines, Iowa man wrote that the gentlemen who trimmed back a few trees at his home were “very pleasant and very professional.” He also thanked this crew for doing a good job cleaning up and keeping the tree aesthetically pleasing. Thank you to everyone who was involved, the crew members are unknown.

Act of Kindness

A Knoxville, Iowa resident wrote a letter to WTS, praising

an employee who came to the assistance of a small child that was hit by a vehicle. The crew member preformed an “unselfish act, keeping the child calm and providing medical assistance until the ambulance came.” She highlighted that it was nice to know that there are still caring people in the world. Unfortunately, the name of the helpful employee is unknown.

Kind Words

An Earlham, Iowa resident called to praise Foreman Dallas Dix and Trimmer Misael Alvarenga for being “great” and having a “nice and friendly demeanor.” Both report to General Foreman Wayne Fancher.

Stand Out Guys

A Rapids City, Ill. resident wrote to express his gratitude for the great trimming work done by Foreman Jim Martin and Trimmer Dan Hoenig. He wrote, “They were very efficient, cleaned up after themselves, and did a great job pruning!” General Foreman Chad Behnke oversees this crew.

Good Work

A Hampton, Ill. resident called to compliment Foreman Leonel Marquez and Trimmers Dan Hoenig, Ed Caras and Dylan Gaul for a job well done while performing maintenance trimming at her home. The crew reports to General Foreman Chad Behnke.

Sincere Thanks

A couple from Moline, Ill. sent a letter thanking WTS, specifically Foreman Ed Sickels and Trimmer Nick Peck, for their help during a summer storm. The couple wrote, “We can’t thank them enough for or tell you how

much we appreciate what they did for us. They were kind, helpful, polite and courteous.” This crew works under General Foreman Jon Cates.

Exceeding Expectations

A woman from Moline, Ill. was impressed by how friendly and professional Foremen Sam Russell and Tim Kisner, and Trimmers Alfonso Vargas, Nick Stanton and Nick Ewert were when they arrived at her home. She was especially pleased with how well they cleaned up when they were done, considering that it was a very windy day. This crew reports to General Foreman Scott Dundee.

Helping Thousands

Representatives from MidAmerican Energy wrote to WTS, thanking everyone for their contribution to restoration of power to 170,000 customers after severe weather hit the Quad City area in July. The letter stated, “This clearly demonstrated a level of professionalism, expertise and customer service that exceeded our expectations...Thank you to the 345 employees that came from Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois and Indiana.”

NORTH DIVISION Good Thinking

Ameren Vegetation Management Supervisor Ben Barnett wrote WTS to commend transmission crew Foreman Rick Cravens and his crew for their “persistence and forward thinking” when dealing with an especially difficult property owner. Together, they effectively reduced hazards after a river washout that closed off a major highway. The crew reports to General Foreman Dale Pewitt.

Gracious Consideration

A Prairie du Chien, Wis. woman wrote in to praise a crew who showed great consideration to her and her son while biking up challenging terrain. The truck driver slowed down for them along a hill and drove on the far side of the road when passing. She commented that the actions of the driver “strengthened my already high regard for Wright Tree Service.” Thank you to everyone involved.

SPECIAL THANKS

to the following for taking the time to help the marketing department with production of new photos. Watch for the new photos to be featured in upcoming promotional materials.

Central Division Supervisor Tony Gadola for helping to coordinate the project, General Foremen Wayne Fancher, Doug Hansen, Jason Akins, Scott Dundee, Will Porter and their crews.

NATIONAL CANCER SOCIETY SPONSORSHIP

In August 2008, Wright Tree Service sponsored a team for the National Cancer Society’s Relay for Life event.



BEHIND WRIGHT TREE SERVICE, INC.

There is only one company in the world that can identify itself as Wright Tree Service. Over the years we have received countless letters and phone calls from utility employees and homeowners alike praising our company and our employees for their hard work, dedication, courtesy and commitment to safety. The comments are certainly a testament to Wright Tree Service being in a class of its own. Incorporated within the Wright name are values that not only distinguish us within the industry, they enhance our ability to reach new goals. As we enter our 76th year, I invite you to examine our company's values along with our vision and mission. It is up to all of our employees to uphold our commitment to our customers and continue to offer the exceptional service that Wright Tree Service is known for.

SCOTT PACKARD,
President/CEO



VISION: *The Vegetation Management Market in the U.S. is estimated to be \$3 billion and is expected to exhibit moderate growth. Wright Tree Service will continue to be recognized by The Utilities as providing the highest levels of Quality, Service, Responsiveness, Reliability and Value.*

MISSION: *To enable Gas & Electric Utilities to provide reliable service to their customers by ensuring that transmission and distribution lines are clear from vegetation. To provide attractive value appreciation to its employee owners. To provide Team Members with an environment that enables them to achieve their personal and professional goals. To make a positive difference in the communities we serve.*

VALUES:

INTEGRITY

We abide by the highest ethical standards.

QUALITY

Our service is mission critical to our clients.

FAMILY

It is our foundation; it is who we are.

SAFETY

It is our highest concern.

TEAMWORK

It is how we operate.

INNOVATION

We deliver creative solutions for our clients.

Outstanding Service

A St. Louis, Mo. resident wrote to thank WTS for the quick response to a tree that fell over a one lane road and over the power lines. She stated, "Your employees were pleasant and prompt! I'm very impressed! I've dealt with subcontractors before ... and they were inefficient and slow! Your employees were great!" Compliments to everyone who was involved.

Facing Obstacles

A Berkeley, Mo. resident wrote a letter conveying that WTS was doing a "terrific job" in her area. While expressing her appreciation for the crew working on a very steep hill behind her home, she stated, "The crew did a neat, clean and professional trimming...I know that this could not have been an easy job." Thank you to the crew members involved.

Exceptional Performance

A couple from Maryland Heights, Mo. wrote WTS to express their appreciation for the good job that was done by their home. After experiencing years of power outages, Foremen Kelvin Vega and Ulyses Miranda and their crews finished the work that others seemed to neglect. The couple also highlighted that General Foreman Cesar Bustos was "especially conscientious and pleasant" as the crews finished the job to their total satisfaction.

DIVISION 45

Kudos

A resident of Lexington, Ky. called to compliment the WTS crew that did an excellent job trimming. She stated that they were very professional and did their job in a timely and efficient manner. She wanted the company to know how well they represented

the WTS name. The crews were led by Foreman Jamie Brown and reported to acting General Foreman Mike Kidd.

Storm Relief

On behalf of Indianapolis Power & Light Company, Ken Zagzebski, senior vice president of customer operations wrote to express his appreciation for the injury-free response to the relief efforts following severe storms that occurred in May and June. He stated, "IPL has enjoyed a long-standing relationship... once again, during an emergency situation you provided skilled and professional line crews to help us restore our system." Thank you to everyone involved.

Wright Guys for the Job

One of the Regional Operations Directors for Oncor sent a message full of kind words about the many WTS employees that

were working in Lufkin, Texas during Hurricane Ike. He wrote that he was very impressed by the way they worked and the way General Foreman Justin Snyder conducted himself. He referred to Snyder as "very professional and knowledgeable" and highlighted that it would make his job a lot easier if all VM contractors were like Justin and his crew.

MINNKOTA

Kind & Professional

A resident of Minnesota called to recognize Foreman Ryan Johnson and Trimmer George Hill for a job well done. She commented that they were "very professional, kind and safety conscious." The crew reports to General Foreman Arjan Lighthawk.

Commendations

Manger of Forest Services for East Central Energy, Dave Auchter, wrote WTS to recognize Foremen Ryan Johnson and James Williams for their quick mobilization and steady work after a storm hit the area. He stated, "I'm sure our customers who were out of power appreciated their dedication even more than I did." Both report to General Foreman Arjan Lighthawk.

Kind Words

A customer wrote a note of praise for the trimmers at WTS. He noted that they did a great job at his home. The crew responsible reports to General Foreman Arjan Lighthawk.

MOUNTAIN STATES

Hats off

Director of Vegetation Management & Ancillary Programs for Xcel Energy Jim Downie gives special thanks to General Foremen Kirk Schuster, Tim Hanson, Frank Cordova and Jim Swisher for rising to tremendous challenges this year with an incredible number of tree removals and difficult customers in the Denver metro area. Downie wrote, "Our rights-of-way in the metro area have never looked as good as they do today."

A+ Work

WTS received a letter from Community Forestry Coordinator & Specialist Chris Johnson thanking Foreman Josh White, Trimmers Jason Ayers and Robert Jones, and Groundman Cody Petersen for the help at the South Dakota Veterans' Home. Johnson wrote,

"They exhibited outstanding job performance... They were a first class group of guys to work with." The crew works under General Foreman O.J. Feay.

Champions

Xcel Energy would like to thank all those who were involved in the clearing of the trees on the Arkansas and St. Charles River Crossing on the Daniels Park to Comanche Transmission Line Project. The crew cut down "hundreds of large cottonwoods and acres of Salt Cedar bushes in 100 plus degree weather, humidity, and hungry bugs. They left the ROW cleaned up and all the landowners involved satisfied." Special thanks go to Foremen Tom Adams and Tobin Wood and General Foreman Jim Swisher.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

A Denver, Colo. homeowner wrote WTS to thank Work Planner Kathy Chytka, General Foreman Tim Hanson and the assisting crew for taking the time to listen to her concerns and treating her with "respect and thoughtful consideration".

Change of Heart

A Boulder, Colo. resident wrote that although she does not like her trees trimmed, the crews working on the trees in her yard were "very considerate." She stated, "They have helped me to understand what they are doing so that I don't mind quite so much!" The names of the crew members are unknown.

SOUTHWEST From Wrong to Wright

A homeowner in Forsyth, Mo. wrote to thank Foreman James Mondy and Trimmer David Sanders for their professional work when removing a tree that had caused an outage at his home. He was very grateful and stated that "this kind of service is rare." This crew reports to General Foreman Gregory Dejager.

Job Done Wright

A resident of Salado, Texas was very grateful for the professional and timely work done at her home. She stated that the crew members were "very polite, accommodating and most importantly, they did not mangle my trees." The names of the crew members are unknown.

MAKING ALL THE DIFFERENCE

An ISA Prairie Chapter representative and a ten year veteran from the 2008 ISA International Tree Climbing Competition wrote to WTS to express his appreciation for our contribution to the event. He stated, "Participating at our chapter competitions has made me very aware and appreciative of the importance of our sponsors and volunteers."

MICHIGAN TRAINING CREW

Congratulations to the graduates of the new specialized training program! The specialized training crew program was designed to train all of the new employees that General Foremen hire in Michigan. New employees go through three weeks of intense training where they evolve from having little or no experience to having full knowledge of WTS policies. Both groundsmen and climber trainee tests and evaluations are completed. Special thanks go to Safety Supervisors Joe Partridge and Nick Fox, as well as Foreman Art Gutierrez for their great organization and job training.

Front Row: Terry Andrews, Andrew Castillo, Paul Saja, John Smith, Caleb Jennings; Middle Row: Nick Fox, Darrel Backinger, Justin Nelson, Scott Clark, Ryan Ream, Mike Conrad; Back Row Standing: Training Crew Foremen Art Gutierrez, Andrew Harvey



S.E.T. News

CERTIFICATIONS

Congratulations to the following WTS employees for their hard work and dedication!

ISA CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

- ▶ **Herb Coy**, General Foreman, North Division
- ▶ **Brandon Magee**, General Foreman, Central Division

ISA UTILITY SPECIALIST

- ▶ **Ryan Johnson**, Foreman/Work Planner, Minnkota

OSHA INSPECTION

- ▶ **Marlin King**, Foreman, and **Tyler Spade**, Trimmer, under General Foreman Gene Weiss

INTRODUCING MICHAEL CLARK

Wright Tree Service's New Risk Manager



WTS is excited to announce the addition of Michael Clark to its Home Office team. Clark came to WTS with ten years of safety management experience. As the former Safety Director for the Tire Division at Titan Tires, Clark arrived at WTS looking for a new challenge.

Since joining the team in May, Clark's most memorable moment to date has been preparing for and directing his first General Foreman School. "It was a nice mix of insane preparation, high anxiety and of course enjoyment," Clark said. There is one thing that Clark would like everyone to know about him. He describes himself as a typical small-town Iowa kid who was lucky enough to go to college and get into a profession that he enjoys very much.

MIDAMERICAN CREWS OF THE QUARTER AWARDS

FIRST QUARTER 2008

- ▶ **Jason Waugh** and **Chad Idso** under General Foreman Cory Edwards
- ▶ **Jeff Prucha** and **Brandon Rodasky** under General Foreman Ray Flick
- ▶ **Paul Forck** and **Rusty McCuen** under former General Foreman Will Porter
- ▶ **Lonnie Lear** and **Alfonso Vargas** under General Foreman Scott Dundee
- ▶ **Shon Plate** and **Joe Fee** under General Foreman Chad Luckow
- ▶ **Kevin Becker**, **Ben Jacobs** and **Darrin Steele** under General Foreman Jason Davis
- ▶ **Phil Boesenburg** and **Tom Moore** under General Foreman Doug Hansen
- ▶ **Jim Martin**, **Leopoldo Marquez** and **Ed Caras** under General Foreman Chad Behnke

SECOND QUARTER 2008

- ▶ **Tom Bertrand** and **Merlin Kass** under General Foreman Cory Edwards
- ▶ **Andre White** and **Guillermo Flores** under former General Foreman Will Porter
- ▶ **Dallas Dix** and **Misael Alvarenga** under General Foreman Wayne Fancher
- ▶ **Jesse Roberson** and **Matthew Graves** under General Foreman Scott Dundee
- ▶ **Tom Allen** and **Beige Turner** under General Foreman Chad Luckow
- ▶ **Lance Even** and **Randy Sites** under General Foreman Jason Davis
- ▶ **Dan Roberson** and **Jesse Boulton** under General Foreman Chad Behnke

THIRD QUARTER 2008

- ▶ **Terry Hughes** and **Joe Otten** under General Foreman Jon Cates
- ▶ **Jason Thornton** and **Troy Phillips** under General Foreman Wayne Fancher
- ▶ **Sam Russell** and **Alfonso Vargas** under General Foreman Scott Dundee
- ▶ **Robert Allen** and **Joe Stovall** under General Foreman Jason Davis

NEW GENERAL FOREMEN

CENTRAL DIVISION

- Travis Platt** effective August 25, 2008
- Jon Cates** effective August 25, 2008
- Teddy Wilson** effective September 8, 2008
- Kevin Hough** effective September 15, 2008
- Chris Lenhardt** effective September 15, 2008
- Jesus Vetencourt** effective November 4, 2008

DIVISION 45

- Justin Snyder** effective June 2, 2008
- Ken Carman** effective August 25, 2008
- Bill Fox** effective September 29, 2008
- John Cox** effective October 13, 2008

MOUNTAIN STATES

- Jarrod Johns** effective October 6, 2008

NORTH DIVISION

- Cesar Bustos** effective August 4, 2008

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

- William Cline** effective October 13, 2008

ON THE MOVE

Congratulations to the following WTS employees who were promoted in the last six months!

- ▶ **Tony Gadola**, Division Manager, Southwest Division
- ▶ **Shawn Huff**, Division Supervisor, Central Division
- ▶ **Nick Fox**, Project Manager for Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
- ▶ **Michelle Eggleston**, Human Resources Supervisor, Home Office
- ▶ **Karen Widen**, Payroll Supervisor, Home Office

ARBORMASTER TRAINING

Back in May the Safety Department underwent specific and intense "Train the Trainer" training at the old Wright Tree Care lot. Some of the goals of program are to reinforce annual training, ensure company-wide consistency in training, and to stay current with the latest in arborist techniques. Ken Palmer of ArborMaster conducted a 40 hour course that included both hands-on activities and lessons in the classroom.

Left to Right: Safety Supervisors Ben Isbell, Minnkota; Randy Rempe, Central; Joe Partridge, Division 45; Marty Pingel, North; Ken Palmer of ArborMaster; Chad Berlin, Southwest; Nick Fox, Mountain States; Safety Manager Jim Lorrigan



GENERAL FOREMAN SCHOOL

Held October 6-10, 2008 at the Des Moines Office.
Thank you to all the General Foremen who participated!

Front Row: Garry Jones, Jr., Div 45; Bill Merithew, Division 45; Project Manager Andy Callahan, Division 45; Chad Luckow, Central Middle Row: Travis Platt, Central; Justin Snyder, Division 45; Rocky Soliz, Southwest; Cesar Santos, Division 45 Back Row: Cesar Bustos, North; Pete Schmitt, Division 45; Tim Baker, Division 45; Arjan Lighthawk, Minnkota; Safety Supervisor Ben Isbell, Minnkota



ISA TREE WORKER CERTIFICATION EXAM

CONGRATULATIONS to Angelo Shook, Mike Williamson, Ryan VanDyke, John Dallinga, Brett Rollins, Greg Yinger and Jaak Gilmore, Mountain States, who participated in the ISA Tree Worker Certification Exam on June 16, 2008 in Ogden, Utah. Yinger is still working towards his ISA Tree Worker Certification. The crew members report to General Foremen Jon Brown and Steve Russell.



Former Payroll Supervisor Lori Ordal, Home Office, celebrates her last day at WTS. Ordal spent over 22 years with WTS and retired on September 30, 2008.



Family Clippings

General Foreman Scott Dundee, Central Division, and his crew rented a large crane to tackle a very large and very dead oak tree that was deemed unsafe to climb.



Family Clippings



Austin

Thirteen year old Austin Smith, son of **General Foreman Joseph Smith, North Division**, and Melissa Smith, proudly poses next to his first bow kill. Smith shot a four point buck on October 1, 2008 in St. Louis, Mo.

Lois Ward, S.E.T., Home Office, proudly stands next to her eldest grandson Devon Ward at his high school graduation. Lois traveled all the way to Weatherford, Texas in June to see him cross the stage.



Lois

Devon

Foreman Jeremy Cason, Central Division, his new wife Nichole and their kids would like to announce their wedding on September 6, 2008. Jeremy and Nichole met back in 2001 when Nichole was employed by WTS.

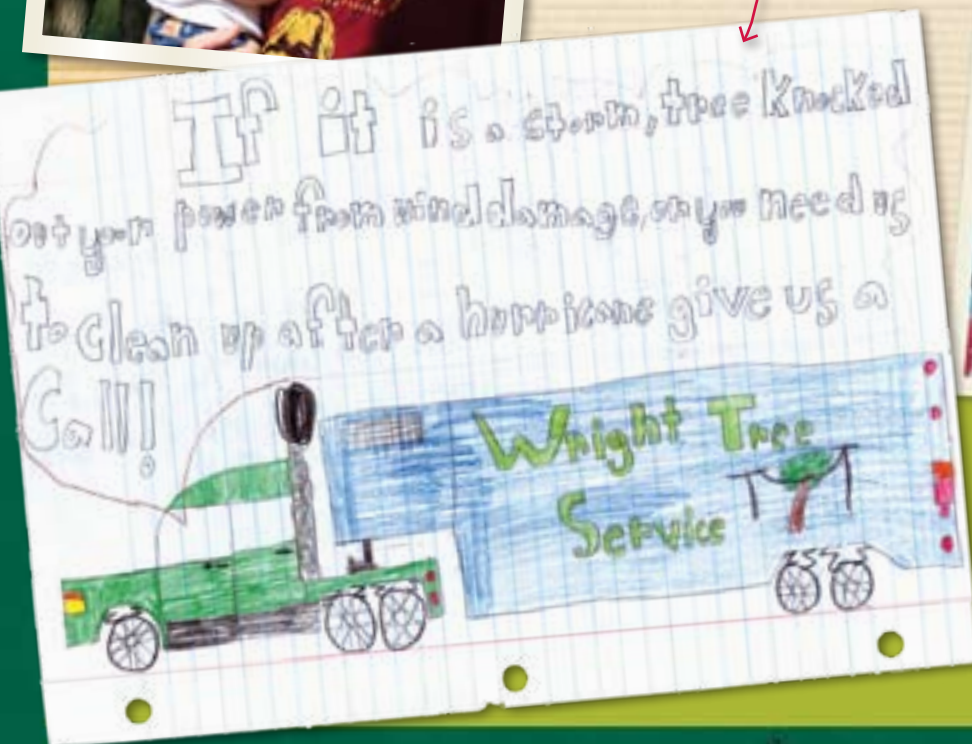
Valentine's Day will forever be a special day for **Foreman Jason Harper, Division 45**, and his wife Krissy. On February 14, 2008 they welcomed their first child, Jackson Harper who is pictured with his dad at nine months old.



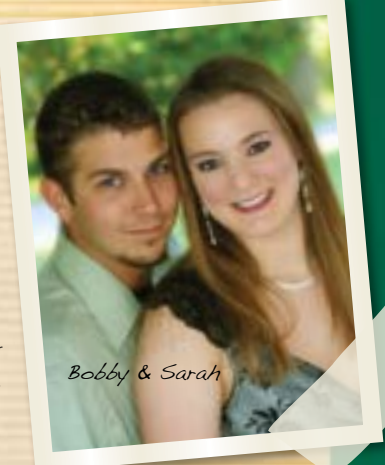
Jackson

Jason

Ten year old Austin Kobernick, son of **Division Manager Cory Kobernick, Division 45**, drew an illustration that sums up what WTS does in times of emergency. He created a motto of his own to describe what storm work is all about.



Trimmer Bobby Applegate, Central Division and Payroll Specialist Sarah Applegate (formerly Shaffer), **Home Office**, would like to announce their marriage on September 19, 2008. The couple first met in mid January when Bobby forgot to do a change of address and General Foreman Wayne Fancher brought him into the office. By the beginning of February they were officially dating.



Bobby & Sarah

Trimmer Nicholas Peck, Central Division, would like to announce the birth of his son Carter Scott. He was born on September 19, 2008 at 8:28 A.M. Carter weighed in at 9 lbs 6 1/2 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Foreman Ryan Lewis, Central Division, finished ninth overall at the Midwest Chapter Climbing Contest which was an improvement over last year's 14th place finish. With less than ten competitors finishing in the allotted time, Lewis placed fourth in the Aerial Rescue.

Home Office Receptionist, Donna White, traveled to New York City with her sister-in-law Marilyn and niece Jackie and ended up as an extra on the sidelines of the "Today Show" this summer. In September, Donna was on the move again and vacationed in Paris with her husband Jim.



Donna

We want to hear from you!

If you have news to share, please include your name, division, story and digital photo in an e-mail to: **Jodi King** at news@wrighttree.com or mail to: WTS Newsletter, PO Box 1718, Des Moines IA 50306-1718