Focused on Safety

Last year, Wright Tree Service (WTS) released the video “Safety: Our Highest Priority,” which identifies the three major risks that field employees are exposed to on a regular basis. These include falling trees and branches, falling while climbing or working on the ground, and direct or indirect contact with a power line or other energized conductor.

Kudos to the employees working on the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) contract who worked hard as “actors” to make the video happen! The video is available in English and Spanish on the homepage of www.wrighttree.com. Check out the safety video credits to see a list of employees who were involved!

This past summer, employees working on the Xcel Energy contract in the Minneapolis, Minnesota, area tried their hand at acting, with great results! A second video titled “Drop Zone Safety Awareness: Pruning and Felling” will soon be available on the WTS website. This video focuses on proper procedures for pruning limbs and felling trees, two tasks that require constant awareness in the Drop Zone.

WTS plans to introduce at least two more safety videos, each concentrating on one of the major risks introduced in the first video.

The group from safety video #1
The group from safety video #2
The video crew captures pruning from a bucket.
The crew prepares to fell a tree for the second safety video.
Congratulations to the following employees who were recently appointed, promoted and certified!

NEW
- Stephanie Brotz, Payroll and Billing Specialist, Corporate Office
- Katie Brown, Payroll and Billing Specialist, Corporate Office
- Lindsay Cox, Payroll and Billing Specialist, Corporate Office
- Adrian De La Rosa, General Foreman (GF), Southwest Division
- Wendy Hansen, Staff Accountant
- Alyssa Miller, Payroll and Billing Specialist, Corporate Office
- Jeremy Prieuter, Payroll and Billing Specialist, Corporate Office

ON THE MOVE
- Tarry Barkley, GF, Southeast Division
- Brian Crowe, GF, Lone Star Division
- Cecilio Dominguez, GF, Lone Star Division
- Joseph Easton, GF, Southwest Division
- Steven Gilliam, GF, Southwest Division
- Juan (John) Gonzales, GF, Southwest Division
- Mark Gunter, GF, Southeast Division
- Jennifer Hallman, Payroll and Billing Supervisor, Corporate Office
- Noel Killion, GF, Central Division
- James Lesley, GF, Southeast Division
- Lucas Lofrin, Project Manager, Corporate Office
- Marvin Miller, GF, North Division

CERTIFIED
- Donald Ortega, GF, Lone Star Division
- John Druce, Foreman, Central Division
- Lance Edwards, Foreman, Minnkota Division
- Alejandro Reyes, GF, Southwest Division
- Brian Smith, Trimmer, Minnkota Division
- Jeremy Shrum, GF, Southwest Division
- Francis Cheek, Foreman, Minnkota Division
- Aaron Good, Foreman, Central Division
- Josh Mangan, GF, Southeast Division
- Tommy Pearson, GF, Central Division
- Travis Platt, Division Manager, Minnkota Division
- Jeff Rhodes, GF, Southwest Division
- Domingo Robledo, Safety Supervisor, Lone Star Division
- Diego Saucedo, GF, Division 45
- John Tracy, GF, Central Division
- Brad Shearer, Project Manager, Division 25
- Melissa Swanson, Payroll and Billing Supervisor, Corporate Office
- Jeffrey Wallace, GF, Southeast Division

New International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists®
- Robert Steadman, Trimmer, Minnkota Division
- Matt Groves, Foreman, Minnkota Division

New ISA Certified Utility Specialist
- Jeff Gilmore, Safety Supervisor, North Division
- Erik Sweum, Safety Supervisor, Southeast Division and Division 45

New Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) Certified Tree Care Safety Professionals
- Jeff Gilmore, Safety Supervisor, North Division
- Erik Sweum, Safety Supervisor, Southeast Division and Division 45
- Domingo Robledo, Safety Supervisor, Lone Star Division

From the Treetop
By Steve Pietzyk, Vice President of Operations

As the WTS division map proves, the company continues to expand. In the past two years, WTS has moved east and south, from Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee to Louisiana and south Texas. Expansion isn’t a quick process, however. Before we move into these regions, many things must be evaluated.

How does the new work fit in with our current contracts?
How are we going to staff the operation? What equipment is available in the area?

Before bidding on a new contract, we carefully assess our company internally to make sure we have the resources to take on a new area and still focus on our highest priority: safety.

Hiring knowledgeable safety supervisors, project managers and GFs is crucial, but each and every employee plays a key role. Building a sense of camaraderie and strong relationships within each crew creates a safe and comfortable work environment for everyone to grow and thrive in.

Proper equipment also needs to be provided. WTS employees must be assigned the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and be accountable for operating all equipment safely. Providing in-depth training is also very important. From new hire safety orientations and safety training days to weekly tailgate meetings and safety challenges, we pride ourselves on our employees working safely and taking safety practices home after work.

As WTS continues to expand our operations, we continue to focus on employee retention and giving all employees the opportunity to advance within our organization. In 1982, I started with WTS as a groundman. I was later promoted to GF, division supervisor, division manager and operations manager, and am now one of two vice presidents of operations. WTS counts on each and every employee to help the company succeed, just as each employee counts on the WTS team. Together we lead a safe and thriving workplace.
Tips for the Industrial Athlete

By Ben Isbell, Safety Supervisor, Minnkota Division

Professional and competitive athletes’ careers often last as long as their bodies can handle the sport. Whether it’s football, triathlons or mixed martial arts, an athlete’s body endures a lot of physical strain. They often follow strict stretching and body care regimens to stay in the best possible physical condition. WTS employees are no different than these athletes; the amount of physical activity applied on a daily basis while performing line clearance is easily comparable. As an “industrial athlete” you need to take care of yourself just as much as LeBron James or (as a Vikings fan, dare I say it) Aaron Rodgers.

Here are four simple steps to take in order to stay in top physical shape:

1) **Stay hydrated, even in the winter months.** Water acts as a building material, a solvent, a carrier for nutrients and waste products, a thermo regulator, and as a lubricant and shock absorber. Those last two benefits are imperative for the spine, tendons, joints and muscles. Hydration is good for stress recovery and helps relieve inflammation.

2) **Maintain vertical efficiency whenever possible.** As someone who started as a groundman, I realize that you can’t always maintain an ergonomically friendly position when climbing or working from a bucket. Try to keep your back straight when lifting, carrying or pruning with a stick saw or ground saw, as it is essential in preventing back injuries and strains. Carry items as close to your body as you can. I’m sure you’ve heard the phrases “turn, don’t twist” and “move, don’t reach.”

When pruning with a chain or hydraulic saw, rather than reach, move your body into a strong position before making the cut.

3) **Stretch, stretch, stretch!** Before work, stretch the areas of your body that are going to be used that day. Also, stretch after particularly strenuous activities or at lunch. If you’re an equipment operator, be sure to stretch after sitting for a long period of time. After work, make sure to stretch as well. Stretching increases flexibility, which benefits tendons, muscles and joints. Combined with a good diet and good hydration, stretching will help to prevent strains and sprains from occurring.

4) **Sleep.** Getting good sleep at night (and in a dark room) helps the body recover thoroughly from the day’s activities. Your body has a much more difficult time regaining energy and flexibility with little to no sleep. Also, recent studies show that limiting exposure to LED or LCD screens at least 30 minutes before you go to sleep can help you fall asleep easier and help you achieve better rest.

These four steps are just some of the things we can do to stay in peak physical condition. Seeing a physical therapist or chiropractor on an annual or otherwise regular basis can also be beneficial, as well as going to the doctor for an annual exam. Just like we inspect our climbing gear, we must have the most important machine on our jobsite regularly examined – the industrial athlete!

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**Climber’s Corner:**

**How to use a pile hitch to attach a throw line to a rope**

Submitted by Nathan Carlisle, Safety Supervisor, Division 45

**Step 1:** Pass bight of throw line around the rope and under the standing end of the throw line.

**Step 2:** Drop the bight over the rope end.

**Step 3:** Tighten the hitch so the standing end of the throw line can handle the weight.

The pile hitch is used in place of the clove hitch or girth hitch when attaching a throw line onto a rope that will be installed in the tree, either for climbing or rigging. This hitch is quicker to tie and will not bind under great pressure, making it easy to untie.

Another advantage of the pile hitch is that the use of additional half hitches is eliminated. Bight of cordage is defined as “the loop or bent part of a rope, as distinguished from the ends.” The standing end is the part that is inactive in tying the knot, which is the opposite of the working end.

**Submit a Tip!**

If you would like to submit a tip to the Climber’s Corner, please email news@wrighttree.com.
GENERAL FOREMAN SCHOOL

GF School was held at the corporate office in West Des Moines, Iowa, in May and October this year. Congratulations to all participants!

MAY PARTICIPANTS

(Left to right) Back: Adrian Oliver (Central), Danny Williams (Central), Joe Taylor (Minnkota), Mike Fisher (25), Michael Blain (Southwest) and Dave Horn (Minnkota). Front: David Trevino (Southwest), Paul Mitchell (Safety Supervisor, Central), Dale Pewitt (North), Andy Brown (Southeast), Shawn Woody (Pacific), David Aguilar (Southwest), Pedro Hernandez (.45), Rafael Garcia (Southwest) and Erik Sveum (Safety Supervisor, Southeast).

OCTOBER PARTICIPANTS

(Left to right) Back: Justin Lawhorn (25), Nathan Carlisle (Safety Supervisor, .45), Matt Lair (Asset Project Manager, Corporate Office), Lance Even (Central), Scott Dundee (North), Middle: Roy Arredondo (Southwest), Brandon Gray (Mountain States), Cesar Garcia (.45), Jason Smock (North), Taylor Osborne (.45). Front: Chad Chuney (25), Chad Sutherland (Arbor and Land Clearing Operations Manager, Wright Outdoor Solutions), Chris Wilson (Southwest), John Gonzales (Southwest), Ryan Manson (Southeast).

SAFETY TROPHY DESIGN WINNERS

This spring, a Safety Trophy Design Contest was held for all WTS employees. “We are pleased to announce the winners of the Safety Trophy Design Contest,” said Risk Manager Rocky Palmer. “There were several entries, all with creative designs and concepts. Ultimately, we incorporated three employees’ ideas to develop the final trophy designs.”

THE WINNERS INCLUDE:

- John Gonzales, GF, Southwest Division
- Sarah Kern, Payroll and Billing Specialist, Corporate Office
- Jesse Leamon, former Trimmer, Division 45

A new plaque showing all the division winners throughout history will also be hung at the corporate office in December.

CHALLENGE COINS

Through the Challenge Coin program, WTS CEO, president, vice presidents of operations and safety and risk managers recognize employees with special coins when they go above and beyond in exhibiting our company’s values. Those deserving of the recognition since May include:

SAFETY COINS

- Foreman Erik Herberg and Jess Poulson, and trimmers John Fiek and Adam Lobitz, Minnkota Division, for helping an elderly man who fell, until emergency services arrived.
- Foreman Andy Burns and Trimmer Raul Serrano, Mountain States Division, for reporting a stolen vehicle and helping a police officer put out a fire that started in his car.
- System Integration/Project Manager Jeff Kirby, Corporate Office, for quickly using a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire in the IT department.

SUBMIT A SAFETY SUGGESTION!

Safety is our number one priority. If you have a suggestion, compliment, concern or general comment, please submit it at www.wrighttree.com. You can also use your smartphone to open the QR code on the left. The code will direct you to the safety suggestion form, allowing you to submit your suggestion easily from your mobile device.
News from the Branches

CORPORATE OFFICE

Bacon for Trees

WTS donated a unique package to the TREE Fund live auction at the ISA International Conference and Tradeshow. The package included four tickets to the 2015 Blue Ribbon Bacon Festival (also known as “Baconfest”) in Des Moines; a gift certificate for private transportation; a two-room, two-night stay at the Embassy Suites downtown; a restaurant gift card; and other Iowa-themed items from local store Raygun. It was a hot item!

“I don’t know how you do it! You do a great job!”
AEP Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) complimenting the payroll and billing department

CENTRAL DIVISION

Storm Work

Crews volunteered to help clean up after a tornado hit Lake Panorama, Iowa, in May. Volunteers included Foremen Nathan Pexa, Matt Brown and Mike Parker. The efforts were led by GF Bill McDowall and then-GF Lucas Loftin.

On June 30, severe weather made its way through western Missouri, bringing tornadoes, heavy flooding and high winds. About 1,500 residents of Liberty, Missouri, were without power until crews arrived to help clear downed trees and debris.

In a KCTV5 Kansas City news report, Groundman Rick Snow stated, “It’s nice helping out the city and getting the power back. We feel like we’re doing a good thing.”

Safety First!

On March 25, Safety Supervisor Paul Mitchell conducted a chainsaw safety class for the Westar Energy apprentice linemen program in Topeka, Kansas. Paul’s presentation included saw safety, operating knowledge and maintenance.

In the News

President and COO Will Nutter wrote a Utility Arborist Association (UAA) “Safety Committee Update” that was published in the June/July issue of the Utility Arborist Newsline. Will, who serves as chair of the UAA committee, explained the progress it has made in the past two years and shared the objectives and tasks moving forward.

Will also authored an article in the September/October issue of the Utility Arborist Newsline. His article, “Oklahoma Safety Summit,” described the success of the summit, takeaways and the results of a survey completed by participants.

Finally, congratulations to Will on receiving the UAA President’s Award at the ISA Annual International Conference and Tradeshow in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 5. The President’s Award was given to Will for his contributions to UAA, including his overall commitment to safety, chairing the Safety Committee, and his involvement with Safety Summits.

CORPORATE OFFICE

In the News

CENTRAL DIVISION

CORPORATE OFFICE

The original 1940s WTS number 10 truck was the main feature of a fall display at the Hy-Vee grocery store in Waukee, Iowa.
**In the News**

On June 13, a West Virginia news website, williamsondailynews.com, stated that “Appalachian Power Company has brought in crews from outside the state to help with clearing trees and repairing downed power lines. Thousands of residents in southern West Virginia, as well as eastern Kentucky, were without electricity earlier this week after severe thunderstorms hit the region.” The picture to the right shows WTS crews planning the storm work in East Williamson, West Virginia.

“Thank you for the quick response and the delivery of wood chips for our community garden. Kindness and prompt response to this situation is very much appreciated by all of us.”

A community garden leader in Maryland Heights, Missouri, thanking Foremen Joel Rivera and Groundman Juan Maldonado (GF Cesar Bustos)

“The crew did a marvelous job with work near my home. The yard was cleaned up well, and everything was spotless.”

An Ameren customer complimenting Foremen Jared Teegarden and Brandon Irons, and Trimmers Ryan Buley and William Milligan (GF Dale Stout)

“I’d like to acknowledge Steven Hale on a job well done!”

An Ameren customer complimenting Foreman Steven Hale

“The crew did an excellent job and was courteous, friendly and always smiling. They were very accommodating in moving their trucks on a narrow road and did a superior job, despite the heat.”

An Ameren customer complimenting Foreman Garry Rodgers and Trimmer Ian Koenig (GF Chris Lorenz)

“They made a great impression!”

An Ameren customer thanking Foremen Joel Rivera and Ken Mange, and Trimmer Juan Maldonado (GF Cesar Bustos)

“Everyone did wonderful work! They explained the work they were going to perform, and they were very careful about working around my plants. I can’t say enough good things about them!”

An Ameren customer in Peoria, Illinois, thanking Trimmer Andrew Siemsen (Acting GF Aaron Hallead)

“I was very happy with the crews who came through Peoria Heights, Illinois. They were all informative and very professional. We were very happy with the finished product.”

An Ameren customer complimenting several crews

On July 21, Job Planner Nathan Jones was working along a transmission line near Conifer, Colorado, when a woman riding her bike down a trail passed him. As Nathan continued down the path, he came across the woman sitting on the ground holding her wrist and nursing a scraped leg. She was disoriented and appeared to have fallen off of her bike.

Nathan talked to her, calmed her down, and helped her to her feet. He then helped her walk and guided her bike down the path back to her car, which was about two miles away. Nathan offered to help her to seek medical care, but the woman insisted on being fine to drive on her own.

“Larry and Todd pruned our tree away from the power lines and did a fabulous job shaping it. It looks better than ever. They put in extra effort, trimmed out some of the dead branches I couldn’t reach, and cleaned up. I could not have asked for a nicer crew. Thank you!”

An AEP customer impressed by Foreman Larry Drum and Trimmer Joseph (Todd) Cunningham (GF Mark Pitt and Acting GF Kevin Gilliam)

“Mey with Ron, and he helped clean up my yard. Wright Tree Service is an excellent company to work with, and we are very happy with the work they did on our properties. I’m so glad I met the crew including Ron; they are very professional. Thanks for doing a fantastic job!”

A Duke Energy customer thanking GF Ron Gibson, Groundman Jesse Schwartz, and Foremen Troy Sanders, Larry Eggleston Jr., Steve Eggleston and William Ford

“My neighbor and I are extremely pleased with the pruning that was done today. Thank you for doing a wonderful job – you were courteous and friendly. It was a pleasure to have met the crew!”

A FirstEnergy customer complimenting Foreman Joe Dean and Groundman Kurt Hersberger (GF Justin Lawhorn)
Good Instincts

During a bi-weekly maintenance inspection of Xcel Energy's substations, Foreman Andy Burns and Trimmer Raul Serrano noticed a small vehicle in the weeds behind a vacant house. They both walked toward the vehicle, which wasn’t there at the time of their most recent inspection. Andy contacted the police department to report a possible stolen vehicle, but they didn’t go too close.

After the police arrived and began to inspect the vehicle, Andy and Raul noticed heavy smoke coming from one of the officer’s vehicles. Andy, Raul, Foreman Paul Dill and Groundman Preston Scott (who had just arrived) notified the officers and assisted them in using a fire extinguisher to put out the flames.

On the Edge

Foreman Nathan Erickson pruned a pine tree in late spring on the edge of Dark Canyon in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Photo credit goes to Trimmer Chad Schwenn.

Crane Construction

Foremen Jose Ponce, Armando Gracia, Joe Valdez and Justin Siruta, and Trimmers Jesus Flores and Gil Meza Rodriguez did some interesting work for an Xcel Energy construction project in August. They used bucket trucks to secure cables from a crane to a tree, cut sections off of the trees and lowered them safely to the ground with the crane.
DIVISION 45

Congratulations!

Safety Supervisor Nathan Carlisle
completed a Dale Carnegie course
in Indiana and earned praise from
the instructor! The course included
training that focused on effective
communication, leadership and
organizational skills.

DIVISION 45

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

“Thank you for sponsoring us
last season! Also, a special
thank you to Foreman Earl
Day for helping. The team had a lot
of fun. Thanks again for helping make this
a great year for the team.”

The Dawson Springs Bass Fishing Team thanking WTS for sponsoring their jerseys for a tournament

DIVISION 45

Hail Storm

“Thank you for
sponsoring us
last season!
Also, a special
thank you to
Foreman Earl
Day for helping. The team had a lot
of fun. Thanks again for helping make this
a great year for the team.”

The Dawson Springs Bass Fishing Team thanking WTS for sponsoring their jerseys for a tournament

DIVISION 45

Risk Business

“Wright Tree Service removed
three trees from our property,
and I was very impressed with
the employees and professional
work done.”

A Kentucky Utilities Company customer

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Risky Business

Trimmers Januel Ruiz and Edgar Trejo Hernandez canoed through
an alligator- and water moccasin-infested river to access a location
needing manual tree work in Fort McCoy, Florida, in August.

DIVISION 45

“Thanks you for the great job
that was done pruning the trees!”

A Bluegrass Energy customer praising Foreman
Ed Abbott and Groundman Brandon Moore (GF
Joey Williams)

“Thank you for the great job
that was done pruning the trees!”

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Ed Abbott and Groundman Brandon Moore (GF
Joey Williams)

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“Thank you for the great job
that was done pruning the trees!”

A Bluegrass Energy customer praising Foreman
Ed Abbott and Groundman Brandon Moore (GF
Joey Williams)
SOUTHWEST DIVISION

“The crew was done with the work very quickly, was an expert in their work and was practicing safe procedures. Their skill and knowledge was evident and remarkable. We appreciate the attention and good work of everyone.”
An Austin Energy customer commending Foreman Tirso Sanchez and Trimmers Erasmo Garcia Sanchez and Pedro Diaz (GF Eloy Zapata)

“Rick was so kind to have helped me out and did a great job!”
A customer complimenting Foreman Rick Richardson (GF Jason Brown)

LONE STAR DIVISION

“Your crews are awesome! They were so friendly and professional, and they made quick time removing the tree branches so our power could be restored. Everyone was GREAT!”
An Oncor customer complimenting Foremen Robert Ellis and Jered Ramirez, Trimmers Frank Austin and Justin Jackson, and Groundman Bobby Tubbs (Acting GF Victor Larson)

“Crews did an excellent job and treated my property with respect. I appreciated the way the trees were pruned. Great job!”
An Oncor customer complimenting Foremen Juan Hercules and Jesus Orellana, Trimmers Alonso Salmeron and Carlos Salmeron, and Groundmen Jose Portillo and Nazario Briggs

“Thank you so much for being so helpful in removing tree limbs near power lines. Those men worked hard! That was a professional show! You would have never known they were on our property because they cleaned up nicely – there wasn’t a loose leaf in sight!”
An Oncor customer praising Foreman Jesus Orellana and Trimmers Juan Mercado, and Groundman Jose Portillo (GF Donaldo Ortega)

“Thanks for the excellent service pruning the trees. They look very nice, and everything is cleaned up. The crew even raked the yard. Wright Tree Service is awesome!”
An Oncor customer thanking Foreman Jose Alvarez and Trimmer Raul Rivas (GF Donaldo Ortega)

MINNKOTA DIVISION

“I was very happy with the crew. They did a beautiful job. They worked well with me, and you have very satisfied people in our neighborhood!”
An Xcel Energy customer complimenting Foremen Art Gilliland and Erik Terwey and Trimmers Chris LeClaire, Joe Wappell and Jacob Volkman (GF Ira Signaless)

“The crew did a great job. Thank you for the safe removal of the trees!”
A customer complimenting Foreman Keith Christianson and Trimmer Joey Sanwold (GF Wayne Fancher)

“The kids love watching Wright Tree Service work in the yard. They cheered for the crew and snapped a picture. They were very nice!”
A customer in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, complimenting Foremen Dan Mellgren, Peter Fredrickson, Dave Mahlberg, Doug Seaman and Roy Manson, and Trimmers Scott Wilson, Emmett Trudeau, Jim Staubs and Paul Hillebrandt (GF Jim Engelke)

DIVISION 45 AND SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Climbing Competition

On June 14, Safety Supervisor Erik Sveum (Division 45 and Southwest Division) and Southwest Division Foreman Edgar Garcia competed in the ISA Midwestern Chapter Tree Climbing Competition at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. Their scores are yet to be released, but they enjoyed meeting new people and learning new techniques!

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

An Incident-Free Year

Congratulations to GF Roy Arredondo and his crews listed below on an incident-free year!

FOREMEN:
- Horacio Rubio
- Hermenegildo Palacios
- Douglas Umana
- Jose Lazo
- Luis Cerna
- Rogelio Cantu
- Ever Munoz Quintanilla
- Jose Esperanza
- Armando Camacho

TRIMMERS:
- Julio Perez
- Imer Canton
- Walter Quintanilla
- Rigoberto Rivas
- Jimmy Gonzalez
- Gabriel Herrera
- Andres Mercado Santa
- Jose Flores
- Noe Lopez

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

In the News

San Angelo, Texas, was hit by severe storms on June 12. In a Standard-Times photo gallery, a WTS employee was featured helping repair storm damage.

DIVISION 45 AND SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Climbing Competition

On June 14, Safety Supervisor Erik Sveum (Division 45 and Southwest Division) and Southwest Division Foreman Edgar Garcia competed in the ISA Midwestern Chapter Tree Climbing Competition at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. Their scores are yet to be released, but they enjoyed meeting new people and learning new techniques!
“I am extremely pleased with your employees who removed and pruned the trees along the power lines in the back of my lot in July. Jeff Harris was easy to talk to, and Lance Edwards and Larry Wilson, who removed and pruned all the trees, were nice gentlemen with pleasant personalities. Lance and Larry worked hard, and when they left at night, they still had smiles on their faces. They did a beautiful job of pruning and cleaning up afterwards.”

An Xcel Energy customer complimenting GF Jeff Harris, Foreman Lance Edwards and Trimmer Larry Wilson

Steady Support

On April 30, when Foremen Erik Herberg and Jess Paulson were heading back to their trucks, they noticed an elderly man lying on the ground by his house. The man had fallen while getting his mail. Erik and Jess called 911 while keeping the man comfortable and talking to him, until emergency services arrived.

MINNKOTA DIVISION

Chainsaw Safety

On April 29, Safety Supervisor Ben Isbell conducted a chainsaw safety class for Des Moines Water Works in Iowa. After his presentation, he led the group through the five-step felling plan, guiding a student to fell a large ash tree using an open-faced notch. This was Ben’s second year presenting.

Ask an Arborist!

Employees from WTS, CN Utility Consulting (CNUC), Terra Spectrum Technologies, and Wright Outdoor Solutions attended the ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in August, where four WTS employees and one CNUC employee volunteered in the “Ask an Arborist” booth. They shared their expert knowledge of the industry and answered questions that conference attendees and the general public had. WTS booth participants included Safety Supervisors Domingo Robledo, Randy Rempe and Paul Mitchell and Safety Manager Jim Lorrigan.

MINNKOTA DIVISION

In Memory

Wright Tree Service sends our condolences to the family of the late Herb Coy, who passed away on September 28. Herb was a GF in the Minnkota Division and worked for WTS for more than 35 years. He was also an avid bowler, an Oakland Raiders fan, and a race car enthusiast. Herb loved life, his sports teams, his job and his weekends camping with friends, but most of all he loved his family. “Herb was a whole-hearted friend, general foreman, and overall great person. He was very competitive and loved his job at Wright Tree Service. Because of Herb’s dedication, he made me a better general foreman as well. He will be greatly missed by all,” said Minnkota Division GF Wayne Fancher.

To honor Herb, Project Manager Boyd Rasmussen and several GFs Herb worked with set up a tribute across from the funeral home. The flags represent two things Herb enjoyed: NASCAR and the Oakland Raiders.