



# Our Family Tree

FALL 2006  
VOLUME 12  
NUMBER 2



*A Newsletter for the Employees and Friends of Wright Tree Service*

## ST. LOUIS FELT "THE BLUES"



### WTS Comes To The Rescue With 87 Crews

**S**kies darkened, winds blew and then the rain came. Damage and destruction abounded. Century-old trees were uprooted. Shingles were ripped from rooftops. Cars were overturned and buildings collapsed. Homes and businesses were left without power. The summer temperatures soared.

Such was the scene after storms ripped through the St. Louis MO area July 19th and again on the 21st. The

National Weather Service estimated that seven tornados touched down during the storms. The July 19th storms, which formed across Northern Illinois, gathered momentum as they spread into West Central Illinois and Eastern Missouri. The damage in the St. Louis area was consistent with wind speeds of up to 90 miles per hour.

Of those affected by the storms, St. Louis was hit the hardest. At one of the city's three drop-off points, debris

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# News from the Branches

## CENTRAL DIVISION

### Worth More Than 2¢ To Us!

The Des Moines Register newspaper runs a feature article daily called "Your 2¢ Worth" in which comments are phoned in by readers anonymously on every type of subject. A Des Moines customer of MidAmerican Energy phoned in this comment: "A great big thank you to Wright Tree Service for picking up my branch that had broken out of my tree in the high wind while they were working in the area." Our thanks to this thoughtful crew for again going above and beyond.

### An "Awesome" Crew!

Sandy Mewes, Quality Coordinator for MidAmerican Energy, passed on a compliment received by one of the utility's customers in Mills County IA. "The tree trimming crew was awesome," the customer reported. "They went out of their way to explain why they were trimming and cleaned up every twig." Take a bow, **Foremen Matt Grell, Ryan Miller and Matt Stephens;** and **Trimmer Derek Durant. Ray Flick** is their **General Foreman.**

### We Also Plant Trees!

Lacinda Kramer of Kansas City Power & Light (KCPL) was high

in praise of WTS in a letter she wrote to **President/CEO Scott Packard.** In celebration of Missouri Arbor Day 2006, **Division Manager Jerry Black** and **Project Manager Mitch Frye** donated time, equipment and crews to assist in the planting of 99 trees at a local Kansas City park. Jerry also donated the use of a 350-gallon water truck to insure all of the trees were adequately watered; and Mitch followed up by sending the truck back a week later to give the trees another drink.

Another project sponsored by KCPL also involved WTS crews and the Boys and Girls Club of greater Kansas City. The volunteer crews acted as mentors as they planted, mulched and watered an additional 21 trees. "Thank you for taking the time to make a difference in our community," Lacinda's letter concluded. Hats off to Jerry, Mitch and all the WTS crews who took part in these two most worthwhile projects. Jerry also received a note from Suzy Latare, Program Coordinator for the Heartland Tree Alliance, echoing the thanks of Lacinda.

### Just Doing Our Job

Sandy Mewes of MidAmerican Energy sent us a report from a Des Moines IA customer who "was very pleased with the

service that Wright Tree Service provided her." **Foreman Shawn Blanchard** and **Groundman Brandon Madren** are on the receiving end of this commendation. Their **General Foreman** is **Wayne Fancher.**

### You Can Trust Us!

"I want to be present before any tree is trimmed on my property" – that was the demand of a MidAmerican Energy customer in Grimes IA. **Foreman Troy Phillips** met with the customer and put her mind at ease. In a follow up message to the utility, the customer was very impressed with the crew and complimented their tree trimming job. In addition to Troy, **Foreman Dallas Dix** and **Trimmers Rick Bates and Louis Linxwiler** were the customer-pleasers. **Wayne Fancher** is their **General Foreman.**

### We're Happy It Concerned Us

MidAmerican Energy received a "to whom it may concern" note from one of its Des Moines IA customers who expressed his satisfaction with the crew that trimmed his trees. "They cleaned up everything real good and did a fine job," the letter concluded. High fives to **Foremen Kevin Kasal and Kelly Thompson, Trimmer Jose Andrade and Groundman Misael Alvarenga** for generating this praise. Their **General Foreman** is **Wayne Fancher.**

### We Passed The Word On!

"These three men need to be recognized for the quality of work they

produced. I hope my gratitude is communicated to the appropriate people." That's how a Westar Energy customer in Topeka KS ended his note to the utility. He singled out **Foreman Travis Platt** and **Trimmer Chad Coffman** for the excellent trimming job on several trees on his property. Needless to say, we're only too happy to acknowledge good work and we thank Westar for forwarding this note to us. Travis' and Chad's **General Foreman** is **Tim Leiser.** *Editor's Note: We will be sure to send a copy of this issue to the customer so he'll know we followed through on his request.*

### Short And Sweet!

"Excellent job" and "polite" – those were the two cryptic comments from a satisfied MidAmerican Energy customer in Des Moines IA. Her comments were directed to **Foreman Robert Allen, Trimmers Andre White and Brian Urich, and Groundman Bo Boddicker.** Long and lengthy, short and sweet, we appreciate all compliments for WTS crews. This crew's **General Foreman** is **Will Porter.**

Another crew of **General Foreman Will Porter** received a "short and sweet" compliment, also from a Des Moines MidAmerican Energy customer. The customer called the home office to say "the two men crew did a great job this morning." **Foreman Rob Philipsen** and **Trimmer Jeremy Smith** made up this customer-pleasing crew.

# From the Treetop



By Keith Sheriff  
S.E.T. Director

## Proud To Participate!

"Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines," an organization located in cities throughout the United States, assists low income homeowners with remodeling and updating their homes at no cost. One of the participating sponsors, Meredith Corporation, publishers of Better Homes and Gardens, asked WTS to trim some trees on one homeowner's property and clear out some so the remaining trees would have room to grow. Meredith's Michelle Veach emailed **President/CEO Scott Packard**, thanking WTS for "your generous donation of time, equipment and, most of all, your expertise. Your crew's knowledge and hard work will allow those big, beautiful trees to be healthy and attractive for years to come." Thank you, Michelle – we are proud to help out with this most worthwhile cause.

## Applause! Applause!

"I applaud your efforts" read the email from a Kansas City Power & Light customer. The applause belongs to **General Foreman Bill Wood** and **Trimmer Robert Jupina** who were managing the tree trimming around the utility poles surrounding the customer's property. "Always professional," the email read, "they listened attentively to my needs and concerns. Please know that my impression of your company is quite strong since my encounter with these two men." Bill and Robert, we applaud you, too!

## She Said Enough To Please Us!

A MidAmerican Energy customer in Des Moines IA took time to phone the home office with a rave review for **Foreman Shawn Blanchard** and **Groundman Brandon Madren**. "They were wonderful," she said, "they took the time to trim some extra limbs and were very polite. I can't say enough about them." Thanks, Shawn and Brandon, for generating this praise. Their **General Foreman** is **Wayne Fancher**.

## Not A Leaf Left

James Puentes of MidAmerican Energy shared the contents of an email with us which he received from a very satisfied customer in Des Moines IA. The customer complimented WTS on the professional work they did on her property. She stated they were all courteous, came at a decent hour and cleaned up every little branch and leaf before they left. Congratulations to this very tidy crew which was made up of **Trimmers Andre White** and **Brian Wrich**, and **Groundman Bo Boddicker**. **Will Porter** is their **General Foreman**.

## Angel Has An Angel

**Trimmer Angel Acevedo** and his wife Anna had a baby girl, Michelle Denise, born way back in March. Our belated congratulations to the Acevedo family.

## NORTH DIVISION

### WTS To The Rescue!

Ben Barnett, Vegetation Management Supervisor for

(continued on page 5)

ANSI Z133.1-2006 has just been published. During the last six years more than 60 representatives from more than 30 companies revised and improved the ANSI Z133.1-2000 Standard, Safety Requirements for Arboricultural Operations. The representation included manufacturers, insurance companies, professional organizations, line clearance arboriculture companies, residential/commercial arboriculture companies, electric utilities, IBEW, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of Labor.

With all of these different interests, it could be difficult to agree on best practices for the industry. I'm amazed by the procedure for selecting areas of improvement, the discussions about accidents and how injuries could have been avoided, and the consensus among the group on how to best write the Standard to achieve a safer work

*"Those who do not participate, but continue to use outdated methods expose themselves and their coworkers to situations, which result in accidents that need not happen"*

environment. I wish you all could participate in the process to better understand why these regulations are written as they are.

Revision of Z133.1 is a procedure for making the workplace safer. It is a continual process that finds its way into WTS Foreman's Manuals and our Approved Work Methods. Our Safety Supervisors use and support these new standards because the changes offer the opportunity to reduce injuries and save lives, but they can only be one place at a time. The only way to really utilize the knowledge and time that went into the production of Z133.1 is for every person to read, understand and follow the AWM's and Standards that are posted in the Manual. Those who do not participate, but continue to use outdated methods expose themselves and their coworkers to situations, which result in accidents that need not happen. Don't be the employee that didn't know how best to do the job. Learn best practices from the Foreman's Manual and professionals at Wright Tree Service and pass it on.

## **St. Louis Felt "The Blues"**

(continued from front cover)

towered more than 25-feet high. In parts of South St. Louis trees and limbs covered the roads for blocks. All across the city, trees toppled cars and homes. Over half a million people were left without power with a heat index reaching 115 degrees. Hospital emergency rooms were crowded with patients who depend on power for medical purposes. It was the worst power failure in the city's history. Many were still without power five days after the storms. The area was declared a state of emergency.

In the midst of all the darkness and despair, many came to offer aid and support. Among those offering their assistance was Wright Tree Service. After being contacted by the area

utility company, Ameren, WTS sent 87 crews from locations across Iowa, Kansas, Illinois and Missouri to help clear fallen trees from streets, homes and power lines. The crews labored feverishly for nine days. In a "thank you" note from Ameren, one of the supervisors wrote, "I want to reiterate what a pleasure it was to work with your out-of-town crews over the last couple of weeks. I appreciate their ability to work extremely efficiently and productively while maintaining a safe working environment." Obviously, the restoration efforts by the WTS crews were invaluable – definitely a job extremely well done!

## **A Huge "Thank You" To These WTS Employees Who Came To St. Louis' Rescue!**

Marco Antonio Abad	Geoff R. Durso	Michael E. Ijams	Lance A. Milligan	Roy Thomas Sandgren
Modesto Abad	Ronald J. Ehrsam	Darryl W. James	James D. Mondy	Devin M. Satterlee
Shawn J. Adcox	Roger L. Farley	Kyle T. Jensen	Timothy E. Monn	Christopher J. Schulz
Zachary L. Alberts	Daniel L. Farris	Daniel L. Johnson	Herberth R. Morales	Jason M. Scott
Nicholas G. Antonini	Matthew A. Feeler	Ernest L. Johnson	Bradley E. Moreland	Timothy W Secrease
Floyd L. Ash	Michael R. Finch	Mark D. Johnson	Francisco R. Moreno	Jacob L. Sender
Carlos A. Baca	Nathan E. Finley	Ryan R. Johnson	Alex Morrison	Chris L. Short
Zachary K. Bailey	Hector J. Florido	David J. Jolliff	Craig A. Neblett	Jeremy Joe Short
James R. Bare	Michel E. Foulks	Randall D. Jones Jr.	Jeffery V. Neis	Kevin L. Simmering
Jesse B. Barnett	Mark N. Fox	Ronald D. Jones	Kyle E. Nelson	Tyler J. Simmering
Joseph A. Barnhart	Jeremy L. Frye	Stan H. Jones	Rodney L. Nichols	Bobby Ray Simmons Jr.
Chad A. Behnke	Bruce A. Fuchs	Robert J. Jupina	Francisco Javier Nunez	Daniel K. Slover
Robert P. Bellew	Michael J. Fuchs	Donald L. Kane	Justin M. Oczkus	Douglas S. Smith
William Shane Bellew	Walter M. Gansz	Terry L. Kane	Scott W. Oermann	Joseph L. Smith
Brian R. Bennett	Timothy A. Gardner	Mark S. Karnes	Mark I. Owens	Russell E. Smith Jr
John C. Bigham	Rick Gaunt	Kevin R. Ketchmark	Gordon L. Palmer	Tom L. Snyder Jr.
Joshua Bryan Breault	Randy E. Gayer	Ken D. Kirk	Donald R. Parrish	David L. Stegens
Jon Robert Brehmer	Russell A. Gayer	Lance N. Kneese	Ryan A. Peterson	Chuck A. Stoll
Steven E. Brennecke	Jeffrey A. Gilmore	Richard W. Kowalski	Vaughn Pierson	Dale A. Stout
Matthew C. Brown	George A. Gorton	Robert W. Kresse	Travis Dale Platt	David E. Stricklan Jr.
Robert R. Brozovich	Timothy L. Graham	Arron L. Kroner	Jesse Charles Pollard	Andrew E. Stueven
Larry D. Bryant	Bruce E. Gratzer	Jeff S. Lauridsen	Todd D. Preator	Chad A. Sutton
Ernest W. Byrne	Windell D. Griffin Jr.	Michael S. Lay	Kipton L. Prell Jr	Terry W. Tock
Noel Caceres	Eric S. Gustafson	Christopher Lenhardt	Joshua W. Prochnow	Sean P. Tracy
Thomas F. Cady	Steven R. Hale	Mitchell A. Lillie	Michael A. Prothro	Levi J. Trenary
Michael G. Cain	Taylor Mark Handley	Juan R. Linares	William J. Reilley	Rodolof Trujillo
Michael D. Calhoun	Douglas R. Hansen	Raymond P. MacDermott	Oran Rempe	Frank J. Vaccaro
Roosevelt D. Carbajal	Brian S. Harbison	Kenneth J. Mackey	Keith E. Resch	James J. Vaneske
Tim L. Cart	Brandon L. Harford	Justin E. Maloney	Paul R. Reynolds	Alfonso Vargas
Daniel J. Carver	Hubert J. Harris	Leonel C. Marquez	Randy L. Reynolds	Douglas W. Vondal
John M. Chesher	Mike R. Hasse	Luis A. Marquez	Rex H. Reynolds	Rusty K. Walker
Wade L. Clark	James W. Heckrodt	Joseph H. Marshall	Tim R. Reynolds	William O. Wallen
Donald E. Clubb	Jason Eugene Heffren	Jason L. Martin	Kevin Eugene Rhoads	Steven M. Waxmonski
Chad William Coffman	David J. Hegwood	Wallace A. McCleenny	Michael H. Rice Jr.	Charles R. Weaver
Brent Harold Coker	Greg E. Heine	Ervin D. McCone	Ricky D. Richardson Jr.	Brian A. Webb
Ricky E. Cravens	Phil Heinz	Jefferey Eugene McCool	James W. Rightnower	Duane E. Westhafer
Joshua R. Crawford	Robert L. Hemmen	Jerry A. McCool	Juan M. Rios	Loubie A. Wilks Jr.
Jason R. Dale	Jared R. Hennessey	Dustin McCullough	Daniel L. Roberson	Billy J. Williams
Jason R. Dana	Hernan Hernandez	Brett G. McCully	Robert G. Roberts	Daniel Brian Williams
Dean Davolt	Billy J. Higgins	Danny McMillen	David S. Rodman	Gregory Williams
Brandon L. Deatherage	Daniel R. Hoenig	German Mendoza	Michael L. Roll	Lorne W. Williams
Pedro C. Delatorre	John M. Houston	Terry L. Meredith	Dennis F. Rubitsky	Teddy T. Wilson
Matthew A. Dillon	Rodney R. Howard	Ryan W. Mickan	Santos E. Ruiz	Ray L. Wolken
Anthony D. Dishong	Corey L. Hower	Harold E. Miller	Johnny Salcido	William A. Wood Jr
Jack L. Doyle Jr.	Aldeny L. Hurst Jr.	Lee E. Miller	Christopher D. Saling	
Russell L. Doyle	Gary G. Hylton	Marvin L. Miller	Larry L. Saling	

# News from the Branches

(continued from page 3)

Ameren, St. Louis MO emailed **Division Supervisor Phil Heinz** following a violent storm in the St. Louis area (see front cover story). Ben wanted to express his complete satisfaction with the North and Central Division crews who were called in to help with the power restoration. "They were all very professional and courteous to me during a time when it was so easy to lose your cool," the email read. "I appreciate their ability to work extremely efficiently and productively while maintaining a safe working environment." Ben pointed out that **General Foreman Danny McMillen** from **North Division** and **General Foremen Danny Williams** and **Bill Wood, Central Division** and their crews worked over 1,000 jobs! Ben also singled out Phil for his help in coordinating the effort and keeping him informed. Ben concluded: "This was a storm like I've never seen, and I hope to never go through one like this again. But if we do, I would be glad to work with your crews from Kansas City Power & Light and Peoria (CILCO). Our deepest thanks to these three General Foremen and their crews for representing WTS so admirably in an extremely difficult situation".

## Hit The Mark!

An Ameren customer in Springfield IL emailed the utility to praise **Foreman Mark Fox** and his crew "for doing an excellent job trimming her trees." The email concluded: Please let them know they have a very satisfied customer." Mark's **General Foreman** is **Don Parrish**.



## SOUTHWEST DIVISION

### NOTE-worthy!

A Claremont OK couple, customers of PSO/AEP, wrote a note to our Tulsa office to let them know "what a nice job your men did on tree trimming in our backyard. They also left our yard in a very neat condition." We regret we do not know the General Foreman or the crews involved.

### More Work Ahead?

Gary White of TXU emailed **Division Supervisor Tim Bingaman**, expressing his appreciation for the effort WTS put forth during some late spring storms. This was the first storm where TXU had utilized WTS since we came on its system, according to Gary. He also wrote: "As we move through this storm season, we plan on increasing the use of your workforce in our restoration efforts."

Gary concluded, "You are representing your company well." Thanks for an outstanding performance by Tim, **General Foremen Santos Aguilera, Wayne Lee, Ross Self and Milton Ventura** and their twenty-two crews who worked this restoration.

### None Comes Close To WTS

A TXU customer in Mansfield TX emails us that "TXU has used other tree trimming

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*In celebration of Arbor Day last spring, WTS and MidAmerican Energy planted a Sugar Maple at an elementary school in Ankeny IA. MidAmerican's Jim Young oversees a group of second graders filling the planting hole. Assisting Jim from WTS were General Foreman Will Porter and Trimmer Jeremy Smith.*



*A huge, dead cottonwood tree along a transmission line was removed by two Mountain States crews for PNM which supplied a crane to lower the pieces to the ground. The job was completed safely by Foremen Miguel Aguilar and Alex Garcia; and Trimmers Rigo Alderete and David Luna. Their General Foreman is Bob Mongielo.*



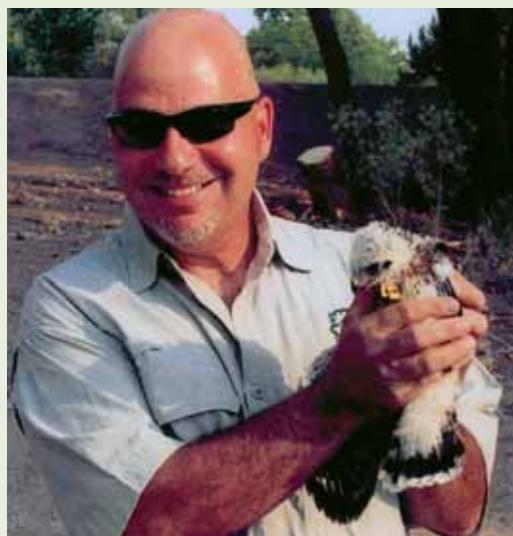
*Last year at the request of Administrative Assistant Cyndi Pannkuk, several WTS crew members did volunteer work at Wildwood Hills Camp in St. Charles IA, a camp for underprivileged children. Two of the volunteers and their families returned for an outing at the camp this year. Top photo, left to right, Foreman Chad Luckow, son Jason, daughter Susie and Cyndi Pannkuk. Bottom photo, Trimmer Andre White and daughter Amia. Cyndi is a longtime volunteer at the camp.*



Getting ready to remove some large pine trees in Conifer CO are, left to right, Foreman Bill Rigsby, Job Planner Dennis Green, Foreman Mitch Elwood, Trimmers Larry Lloyd, Dan Starr and Dan Williams, Mountain States Division. O.J. Feay is their General Foreman.



General Foreman Daniel Nave, Division 45, admires his new baby boy, Dan, Jr. Dan's wife Dawn gave birth at home.



General Foreman Bob Mongiello, Mountain States Division, helped relocate orphaned hawks into active nests, along with Foreman Frankie Acevedo and Trimmer Daniel Sanchez, for Hawks Aloft NM.



Foreman Jeremiah Conklin, Division 45, plays with his son Jeremy who was born last January to Jeremiah and his wife Hollie.



Foreman Randy Lamb, North Division, holds his new baby son Devon just thirty minutes after birth. Devon was born last July to Randy and his wife Teka.



Foreman Tracey Yahnke thinks this little guy has all the makings for becoming a tree trimmer. Tracey and his wife Kristen are the proud parents of Blake Thomas who was born last April.



Meet Trimmer Daniel Thorgerson, North Division, when he was seven months old. His wife Tanya sent this in, along with happy birthday wishes from her, Jack and Cheyenne.

# News from the Branches

(continued from page 5)

companies before and after storms but none of them had come close to the service WTS provided." The email continues: "I feel so good about the job you did. I doubt we will have another power loss problem due to trees falling into the distribution lines." **General Foreman Ross Self** had a large crew trimming trees around the power lines in the customer's yard. Thanks to Ross and his crews for representing WTS so superbly.

## MINNKOTA DIVISION

### We're A+ With AAA

**Foremen Gaylen Acekerman and Glen Crabtree**, take a bow! Erica Oreskovich of Xcel Energy passed on a letter to us from the AAA Director of Travel & Branch Operations. The utility customer was high in praise for the "outstanding tree removal" you did for AAA South Dakota. The letter stated that you communicated effectively with the staff prior to starting the job and made good suggestions, that you worked hard to complete the job in a timely manner and that you did an excellent cleanup job once the trimming and removal were completed. "Thank you for the outstanding work," the letter concluded – to which we would also like to add our thanks for this stellar commendation. **Mike Harris** is Glen's and Gaylen's **General Foreman**. Erica passed along two other praiseworthy comments from Xcel Energy customers. One of the customers in St. Croix MN



wrote highly of the professionalism of the crew that was working at his home. "They did a fantastic job," the customer wrote. The other customer in St. Paul MN expressed her appreciation for the work performed in her neighborhood "during the last maintenance trim." We regret the names of the crew members were not available.

### WTS Is On Track!

An Xcel Energy customer in St. Louis Park MN typed (do you remember what a typewriter is?) a short note to the home office "for the terrific job **Foreman John Nyberg's** crew is doing along the railroad tracks here in St. Louis Park." Nice work, John, and thanks also to your excellent crew, **Trimmers Chad Brinkman, Gaylan Mattila and Robert Tyson**. Their **General Foreman** is Dale Venzke.

### Boy Oh Boy!

**Trimmer Adam Velishek** and Molly Mackay are celebrating the arrival of their baby boy, Riley Michael, in June.

### The Bells Are Ringing!

Congratulations to **Foreman Jake Schweisthal** and his new bride, Nicole Snyder. The couple tied the knot in July and resides in Faribault MN.



# Wright Tree Care News

By Linda Wright, President  
Wright Tree Care

Thanks to all the hard work from the Tulsa crew, we've done it again! Tulsa has just received TCIA accreditation – so far the only company in OK. Des Moines was accredited in March.

We have a new "voice of Wright Tree Care" – **Lindsay Johnson** has joined us as our receptionist/clerical support. The long wait was worth it. **Mark Anderson** has filled our accountant position. Our auditors will be ecstatic. Welcome to both. **Laura Wright** is with us temporarily to use her expertise in collections. Our reluctant clients are finding her to be a "real bulldog."

After Elena (**Rick Hanson's** better half) heard of a kitten that had been in a tree for a week, there was no stopping her. Our resident kitty rescue team (**Foreman Jeremy Kernes** and **Willie Velasquez**) was sent to its aid. They got the kitten down without any mishaps and we got lots of publicity. A nice letter and family picture (see page 11) followed.

**DM Crew Member Michael Cray** is a new father. His wife had a baby girl (Kimberly Nicole) on August 14th. **Gerald Noguera**, an Oklahoma, crew member, is the proud father of a new baby girl (Mikayla Nicole) born August 28th. **KC Foreman Robert Tolly** and Janis had a baby girl (Kaitlynn Nicole) born May 12th. Congratulations! The name "Nicole" has now been taken out of circulation.

**DM Crew Member Shawn Warren**, and Steffany Miller tied the knot on Sept 2nd and took off for a few days to parts unknown.

**John Griffiths, PHC Mgr.**, visited the 2nd grade class at Karen Acres to "talk trees." John had a great time, and received wonderful cards and letters.



It's been a quiet year except for one brief, but severe, Tulsa storm. Straight line winds blew down trees and power lines in midtown causing outages and street closings. Tulsa crews were there for several days.

**Pete Burkett, Sales Manager**, was there with his camera and got some good pictures of the damage (see above photo).

# SAFETY FIRST: KCPL Crews Are Required To Wear PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Reflective Vests and T-Shirts



*Left to right, Josh Crawford, Geoff Durso, Corey Hower, Ernie Bone, Jesse Barnett, Shawn Adcox, Jarod Rues, Levi Trenary, Ty Wilson, Kevin Hough.*



*Left to right, Nate Heslip, George Gorton, Mack Johnson, Todd Predator, David Stevens, Kenny Mackey, Paul Reynolds, Darrick Shipley, Dan Carver, Charles Ferraro.*



*Left to right, Mitch Frye, Tim Aker, Jimmy Nichols, Arron Kroner, Mark Johnson, German Mendoza, Roy Sandgren, Dave Carbajal, Jeff Clark, Chris Clark, Freddie Walker, Brandon Bell, Juan Rios, Robby Jupina, Nick Wood, John Blanton, Hubert Harris, Jose Martinez.*



*Left to right, Danny Williams, Jared Hennessey, Wesley Gadelman, Mike Finch.*



*The International Society of Arboriculture Conference and International Climbing Championship were recently held in Minneapolis MN. Many WTS employees attended both events. Safety Supervisors Chad Berlin, Nick Fox, Josh Johnson, Marty Pingel and Randy Rempe and Safety Manager Jim Lorrigan all participated as judges or scorekeepers at the*

*climbing competition. Left photo, left to right, Foreman Tim Hanson, Minnkota Division, and General Foreman Will Porter, Central Division. Right photo, left to right, Project Manager Bob Lien, Minnkota Division, and Safety Supervisor Marty Pingel.*

# S.E.T. News

## Mountain States, North And Central Divisions Win Spring Challenge

Every employee knew the dates of the 12-week challenge period – but no employee knew which two weeks would be selected to qualify for winning a prize by remaining accident-free. As it turned out, there were no qualifying accidents in the Mountain States, North and Central Divisions during the secret challenge weeks (April 24-29 and May 22-27) and each employee in those divisions received a \$25.00 gift card.

There were 53 accidents reported during the 12-week challenge period, a slight improvement over the average of five accidents each week but not as impressive as last year's challenge period when there were only 37 accidents reported.

During the 12-week challenge period, Mountain States had six accidents this year, two last year; North, five this year, four last year; Central, eight this year, eleven last year; Division 45, fourteen this year, eleven last year; Southwest, ten this year, two last year; and Minnkota, ten this year, seven last year.

### New Year! New Challenge! New Commitments!

October 1st marks the beginning of the new Wright Tree Service fiscal year and there is no better time than the "New Year" to make that vital resolution to working safely. This year the annual "Thanksgiving Safety Challenge" will coincide with the beginning of the WTS "New Year." The two week challenge will begin on October 2 and end on October 14. Everyone in each division is challenged to work accident-free during this designated two week period. If this is accomplished in your division, you will receive a \$15.00 gift card for the purchase of your Thanksgiving turkey. Working safely is a year round commitment, not just a two week period of time. Making safety on the job a top priority is a gift not only for yourself, but for your family as well. Remember, there are no shortcuts to safety!

### Three More ISA Certified Arborists

Congratulations to Safety Supervisor Marty Pingel, Foreman Ricky Clendenny, North Division, and Bob Lien, Minnkota Project Manager, on being named ISA Certified Arborists.

### Six Complete Safety Workshop

Keith Sheriff, S.E.T. Director, Safety Manager Jim Lorrigan and Safety Supervisors Chad Berlin, Nick Fox, Josh Johnson, Marty Pingel and Randy Rempe completed the Tree Care Industry Association's CTSP Advanced Safety Workshop in July.



*Top photo, graduates of the General Foreman School, May 1-5, 2006, were: Front row: Steve Russell, GF/Mountain States; Rob Bellew, Foreman/Central; and Bruce Fuchs, Foreman/Central; middle row: Marty Campbell, GF/Minnkota; Dan Hawker, GF/Minnkota; Max Stevanov, Foreman/Central; and Dale Pewitt, GF/North; back Row: Ed Ritter, GF/Southwest; Michael Blain, Foreman/Southwest; Josh Johnson, Safety Supervisor; Dale Stout, GF/North; Bill Schumal, GF/Minnkota. Bottom photo, graduates of the General Foreman School, May 8-12, 2006: Front row: Roy Bowen, Foreman/North; Tim Hanson, Foreman/Minnkota; Paul Mitchell, General Foreman/Southwest; and Tony Soto, Foreman/Minnkota; back Row: Scott Lay, GF/North; Scott Page, Foreman/North; Scott Dundee, GF/Central; Robert Cummins, Foreman/Minnkota; Jon Brown, GF/Mountain States; and Danny Williams, GF/Central.*



*Left to right, General Foremen Gene Weiss and Marty Campbell, Work Planner Bob Femling and General Foreman Ken Venzke recently attended a Minnesota Power recognition meeting in which Gene, Marty and Bob were honored for being named Certified Arborists.*

# Benefits

*More than 25 million Americans battle the burning pain and pressure of heartburn daily. What is it and how do you know if you are experiencing it?*

# Heartburn

## What is heartburn?

Heartburn is a burning discomfort in the chest or throat that results when harsh stomach acid comes into contact with, and irritates, the delicate lining of the esophagus – the tube-like structure that connects the mouth to the stomach. The exact symptoms and sensations of heartburn vary from person to person, but its most common symptom is often described as a burning or vague feeling of discomfort in the chest just behind the breastbone.

## What does heartburn feel like?

The symptoms of heartburn vary widely and can be difficult to describe. People with heartburn generally describe one or more of the following symptoms:

- a burning chest pain that begins at the breastbone and moves up toward the throat
- a feeling that food is coming back into the mouth
- an acidic or bitter taste at the back of the throat
- an increase in severity of pain when lying down or bending over

## Why do I get heartburn?

You can get heartburn from a number of things. These include an overly acidic stomach, eating a large meal, H. pylori bacterium, digestive problems, or a damaged lower

esophageal sphincter, to name a few, possible causes.

## Heartburn Drugs Aren't a Permanent Solution

Although prescription drugs are very good at masking symptoms and reducing the side effects of heartburn-related problems, they are only meant to be used for a short period of time because they do not address the underlying problem.

Simple heartburn, if left untreated, can lead to "esophagitis," in which the stomach acid "fumes" and sometimes the actual liquid acid will reflux into the esophagus and cause the esophagus to become inflamed and ulcerated. This can eventually lead to esophageal ulcers or stricture (scarring). Scarring can make the esophagus narrower, making it difficult to swallow food and liquids.

Take steps today to reduce your frequency of painful heartburn and the need for expensive medications.

## What can I do to stop suffering from heartburn?

Heartburn is more than a nuisance. In some cases, the underlying cause can develop into a more serious condition. But simple lifestyle changes can reduce or eliminate heartburn symptoms – and the need for expensive medications. When it comes to heartburn, the best solution

– for your health and for your wallet – is prevention.

## Watch Your Weight

Weight reduction is one of the most important remedies for most heartburn sufferers. Improve your diet by including more fruit, vegetables and high-fiber foods. Daily exercise can help you shed extra pounds.

## Change Your Diet

Reduce your portion sizes at meal times. Try eating five to six small meals throughout the day. Eat slowly and chew your food well. Remember that certain foods can worsen heartburn symptoms. Watch out for:

- High-fat foods (bake, steam or grill food instead of frying)
- Spicy foods (avoid oversalting your food)
- Drinks containing acids (e.g., fruit drinks)
- Drinks which are too hot (e.g., coffee, strong black tea), or too cold (iced drinks)
- Spirits (such as whiskey and brandy)

## Learn to Relax

Tackle the stress-related causes of stomach problems and heartburn by talking about your problems, seeking consultation or psychotherapy. Often, certain kinds of relaxation exercises like deep breathing, medication, self-visualization, or yoga can help.



## Stop Smoking

Smoking after a meal (when the stomach is full) increases the chances that you will suffer from heartburn.

## Sleeping

Before you go to bed, let your evening meal digest. Nighttime symptoms of heartburn can be reduced by elevating the head of your bed. Gravity helps to keep the acid in its proper place – in the stomach. Sleeping on your left side may also help sufferers.

## Posture

Avoid bending from the waist or stooping just after meals. Bend from the knees instead, keeping the back straight. Eat meals in an upright chair rather than slumped in front of the television.

## Clothing

Avoid clothing such as tight belts and underclothes as they increase pressure on the stomach.

## Pregnancy

It is very common for pregnant women to suffer from heartburn. By eating sensibly and keeping your weight increase within the recommended limits, you can lessen the severity of heartburn.

# From the Kitchen



*A violent storm in Council Bluffs IA caused this limb to fall, cutting off power to homes and businesses in the downtown area. This picture, which appeared on the front page of the Council Bluffs newspaper, The Daily Nonpareil, credits a WTS Central Division crew with removing the limb.*



*This photo of Trimmer Dan Griswold, Central Division, appeared in The Mirror, a weekly newspaper published in Tonganoxie KS. The photo was taken while Dan was clearing lines for Westar.*

*(Photo by Lisa Scheller, News Editor, The Mirror.)*



*A crane starts to lower a limb, cut and strapped by a crew member from Wright Tree Care, our residential tree service in Des Moines IA. The tree was a huge cottonwood, estimated to be 100 years old, which had rotted inside the trunk.*



*Silverback is back in the hands of her loving owners after being rescued from a tree by Foreman Jeremy Kernes and Willie Valesquez, Wright Tree Care. The cat had been in the tree for a week.*

*We thank two of our home office personnel for submitting these recipes for this issue of Our Family Tree. If you have a favorite recipe, please don't hesitate to send it in so we can all enjoy your dish or dessert.*

## CORNBREAD CORN CASSEROLE

*If you like cornbread, imagine how delicious it will taste when blended with creamed corn to make a casserole. Payroll Manager Kristy Reynolds shared this recipe with our office employees and everyone gave it "Two Thumbs Up."*

8-1/2 oz. pkg. corn muffin mix  
2 15-oz. cans creamed corn  
1 egg  
1/3 c. butter, melted  
3/4 c. sour cream

Combine ingredients together; pour into a greased 13" x 9" baking pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 35 to 45 minutes. Makes 15 to 18 servings.

## BONNIE'S CALICO BEANS

*A great dish for a large group! Bonnie Sue Strom, Payroll/Billing-Division 45, brought this dish to the office for our July 4th holiday lunch and got rave reviews. Once you assemble all the ingredients, the preparation goes rather quickly – and the end result is truly delicious!*

2 lbs. sweet smoked bacon  
2 lbs. hamburger  
1 medium white onion  
1 c. brown sugar  
3 T. Vinegar  
3 T. Salt  
1 c. catsup  
2 T. mustard  
2 15.8 oz. Bush's Best Great Northern Beans (white lima)  
2 15.8 oz. Bush's Best Pinto Beans  
1 28 oz. Bush's Best Country Style Baked Beans  
1 28 oz. Bush's Best Onion Style Baked Beans

Brown the bacon and crumble, brown the hamburger and onion mixture together. Mix all ingredients together. Bake 1 1/2 hours at 350° or heat in crockpot for several hours. Makes 25 generous servings.

# Family Clippings

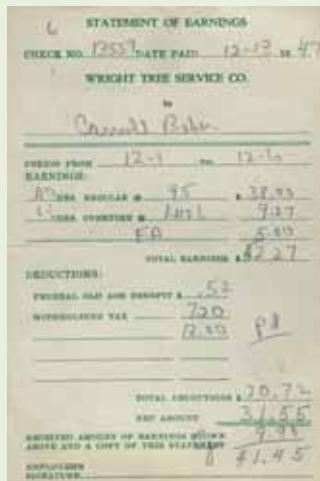


## Meet Lois Ward...

S.E.T. Executive Assistant and a WTS veteran of nearly 23 years. She works for Keith Sheriff, S.E.T. Director, and says she

"couldn't ask for a better boss."

Mother of three grown children and grandmother to six, Lois' two sons live in Houston and her daughter Sarah lives in Connecticut. Until her second son moved to Houston from Des Moines recently, Lois had two lively grandchildren who kept her very busy! One of Lois' proudest accomplishments is as a founder of the Bernie Lorenz Recovery Center For Women. She has been a board member and has served in many volunteer capacities there over the years. Thank you, Lois, for your many years of loyal service to WTS!



## Pay Day – 1947

Carroll Baber worked for WTS following World War II. His nephew, James Westbrook of Indianola IA, ran across his weekly earnings card and truck photo and sent them into the home office. No, your eyesight is not playing tricks on you. Carroll worked for 95 cents per hour, \$1.425 overtime.

*Top photo: "Old No. 10," driven by President/CEO Scott Packard, rolls out of the home office garage on its way to the annual July 4th parade in West Des Moines, IA; second photo, with Lois Ward, S.E.T. Department, "riding shotgun," the WTS truck joins the parade with a chipper that was rigged up to shoot out candy to the parade watchers. Riding in the bed of the truck are Lois' son David, his wife Diane and their two children, Samantha and Jonathon. Other participants included Karen Widen, Will Porter, Michelle Eggleston, Bonnie Strom and Terri Smart who spearheaded the WTS parade entry.*

## Cindi Is Back...

Cindi Cummings has re-joined the WTS payroll/billing and will be responsible for Ameren-Cilco, PSNM and IPL. Welcome back, Cindi!

## Donna Is Gone...

Receptionist Donna White and her husband Jim are taking a Mediterranean vacation – first to Rome, then cruising to Croatia, Turkey and the Greek Islands.

## Web Site Re-Designed...

Log on to [www.wrighttree.com](http://www.wrighttree.com) and check out our updated Web site. You'll find many new features, including a link for ordering WTS clothing.

If you have access to the Internet, you can visit us at: <http://www.wrighttree.com>

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