

Our family tree

Summer 2007

A newsletter for the Employees and Friends of Wright Tree Service

(from left to right) Trimmer Hubert Harris, Trimmer Freddie Walker, and Foreman John Blanton



Safety Note

Notify your supervisor if you hear gunfire in the area you are working in. This is vital information for us to pass along and may ultimately save the life of another utility worker. As with any incident, do not become an additional casualty. Be sure the situation allows you to intervene without becoming a victim. Our thanks go out to Hubert Harris, Freddie Walker, and Foreman John Blanton for safely providing first aid to save the life of another. Wright Tree Service is very proud of these young men.

LIFE SAVING CREW

While eating lunch in their truck one afternoon, a Wright Tree Service crew heard gunshots and tires squealing. Foreman John Blanton, Trimmers Hubert Harris and Freddie Walker ducked behind the dashboard of their truck. Once everything calmed down, they saw a teenage boy lying in the street. People living in the neighborhood came outside and said they had called 911. The WTS crew began to administer first aid to the victim, nursing a gun shot wound in his left thigh by wrapping the bleeding wound in one crew member's t-shirts and using the belt of another crew member to secure the wound. They elevated his leg and applied pressure to his femoral artery, stopping the bleeding. This crew is under General Foreman Dan Williams.



News from the Branches

CENTRAL DIVISION

Above and Beyond

A customer in Windsor Heights, Iowa wrote in to say the crew who cut her tree did an "excellent job". According to the customer, the job Foreman Paul Forck and Trimmer Brian Wrich did "was above and beyond what I expected, for which I am very grateful." The customer went on to say, "You are very fortunate to have such great workers. I know they are hard to find these days!" This crew is under General Foreman Will Porter.

Pat on the Back

Another thanks to that crew from a Des Moines customer who took a minute to give Foreman Paul Forck and Trimmer Brian Wrich "a well deserved pat on the back". The customer took the time to write a handwritten note, saying "They were very friendly and always explained everything to us very thoroughly. The work they did was awesome and so was the wonderful clean up they did on our property. We will definitely recommend them to anyone who needs help with trees. Kudos to both of them and the great job they did for us."

WHAT A HOOT!

A special thanks to **Foreman Jason Akins** who helped rescue and release two Great Horned owlets after his crew discovered the pair on a job. Akins and Foremen Brannon Hall and Brent Hall spotted the young owls and reported it to the proper folks at OPPD. OPPD Forester, Chris Vrtiska writes, "I just wanted to thank Wright Tree's Crew as they have followed all of OPPD's guidelines and procedures for dealing with MTBA. Greg Gives, the Transmission Line Inspector, and Larry Hagan, of Land Rights/ROW, with OPPD, both have given Jason's crew accolades for their work. Both have expressed that they have never worked with a better crew. Especially on a job of this size....The crew you have working on the NC 2 line is top notch. They are professional, cooperative, and very conscientious." This crew is under Division Supervisor Tony Gadola.



Foreman Jason Akins stands by as OPPD's Contract Avian Biologist prepares to release one of the young owls back into the wild.



Tenacious Attack

General Foreman Shawn Huff says two of his crews attacked this tree with tenacity. Foremen Ricardo Carmona and Alfred Sedillo and Trimmers Jesus Vetencourt, Hector Armendariz, Juan Valdovinos and Steven Melecio "did an outstanding job and OPPD was extremely pleased with the outcome," Huff says.

Quality Work

A Sherrard, Ill. customer wanted to make sure General Foreman Scott Dundee's crew working in his area were recognized for their "quality work". Foreman Gary Randolph, Apprentice Trimmer Dustin Cohn, Foreman Tom Snyder, and Apprentice Trimmer Lonnie Lear were commended for their "outstanding job". The customer "really appreciates" it.

Excellent Job

Foreman Dan Roberson, Apprentice Trimmers Dan Hoenig and Jesse Roberson were praised by a customer for the "excellent job" they did. The Bettendorf, Iowa customer says the crew was "quick, efficient, and very pleasant." This crew is under General Foreman Chad Behnke.

Very Thankful

"They were efficient and polite and overall, they did an excellent job for which I am very thankful," a Davenport, Iowa customer says. Foremen Rick Gaunt and

Doug Vondal and trimmers Mike Foulks and Vern Wright were called out to the home after a storm left a tree hanging over a line in the backyard. This crew is under General Foreman Doug Hansen.

Thank You

An Earlham, Iowa customer wanted to thank Foremen Dallas Dix and Troy Phillips and Trimmers Rick Bates and Louis Linxwiler for their work at her home. The customer says, "I want to thank the Wright Tree Service crew that trimmed trees off the high lines. They were very courteous and respectful on my property." This crew is under General Foreman Wayne Fancher.

Safety Improvement

"The trimming service they have performed is wonderful," writes a Topeka, Kan. customer. She wrote in to thank Foremen Javier Vidales, Scott Green, Bill Haggard, J. Reyes Alanis and Jason Dale and Trimmers Rafael Ortega, Matt Claggett, Pedro Delatore, Francisco

Moreno, Dustin Crotinger, Yaimar Oro and Chris Shulz. "Not only have they protected the power lines, but the trimming is opening up and allowing more light. It is my belief that lighted alleys are safer and wanted to thank your company for helping to improve the safety of my living environment. Thank you once again for providing this service to us." This crew is under General Foreman Brandon Magee.

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Got 'Em Going

A Dallas customer called in to thank WTS General Foreman Doyle Lee for his

work directing crews. The customer called in to say, "(he) has been trimming trees around my place and I really appreciate it. They're doing a great job. I'm just glad they're around. They're doing such a great job and he's really got 'em going. Thank you much!"

Texas-Sized Thank You's

Vegetation Management Program Manager with OnCor wanted to thank the WTS crews trimming trees in the Dallas area. Ken Kinsey writes to Division Supervisor Tim Bingaman, "Thanks! You guys are great. Wright has done a wonderful job in East Dallas. Even those not thrilled with having their trees trimmed have praised their work and clean-up."

Kudos for Mitch Frye

"Allow me to both thank and compliment your company on the hard work, dedication, and community spirit of your KCPL Project Manager Mitch Frye. He stays atop of problems, exhibits sincere customer concern and looks for ways to add value. Mitch is a can do guy and continually asks 'how can I be of assistance?'" writes Gary O'Neil, a consultant with ECI.

O'Neil referred Project Manager Mitch Frye's involvement in a project for KCPL's "Right Tree Right Place" message. O'Neil goes on to say, "I heard Mitch comment when we installed the sign If this project helps just one person in deciding which tree to purchase or where to plant, well it was all worth it'. Having known Wright Tree and their employees for 27 years it comes as little surprise you have developed someone like Mitch Frye. Rarely do we recognize or compliment such individuals. Many thanks to Mitch."



Project Manager Mitch Frye stands by the "Right Tree Right Place" sign in the utility arboretum at the Shawnee Mission Park in Shawnee, Kansas.

ARBOR DAY PROJECT

General Foreman Bill Wood, Foreman Tim Aker, Groundman Grover Hoyle, and General Foreman Mitch Frye helped in Kansas City Power and Light's annual Arbor Day special projects.

The crew helped trimmed trees at the Newhouse Shelter, a home in Kansas City that helps victims of domestic violence. The crew also planted new trees on the grounds.

(back row, left to right) Duane Anstadt, KCP&L; Foreman Tim Aker; Groundman Grover Hoyle (front row, left to right) Sue Hancock, KCP&L; President and CEO of Newhouse Shelter Leslie Caplan; General Foreman Mitch Frye (in the bucket) Foreman Roosevelt Carbajal.



Foreman Roosevelt Carbajal works from the bucket to remove the more than 50 year old elm.



The WTS crew prepares for the tree removal.

More thanks from the same area say, "I believe Wright has done an exception job given the circumstances, the overgrowth in our easements, and the challenges in getting to the lines and trees. Thank you for an exceptional job. There are not enough words to express the thanks.

A neighborhood association even wrote in a special thank you. "Wright Tree Service really is doing a fantastic job in a difficult part of Dallas-with all us lunatic tree huggers in East Dallas. Most of their work is being done by hand-

since there are no alley-just a fence to navigate. And their cleanup is impeccable."

MOUNTAIN STATES

Perfect Job

A Montpelier, Idaho customer called in to thank General Foreman Justin Cherry, Foreman Dayne Corbridge and Groundman Christopher Gonzales. The customer says, "They were extremely polite, courteous and kind to me.

They did a perfect job and I am very happy with their service and how they treated me."

Big Thank You

A Richmond, Utah customer wrote in to thank Foreman Shelby Muir for his help.

The customer writes,"I just wanted to send a really big THANK YOU for taking care of the blown-down tree menacing the wires next to my home. I called him to report it on Tuesday morning. Less than 24 hours later, he and his crew had it out. What great service!" This crew is under General Foreman Justin Cherry.

to the city dump site when a crew from your company spotted us, and offered their assistance. These three kind gentlemen started up their chipper, and transferred the entire load through the chipper, into their truck, from our can. These people are a credit to your organization. They went out of their way to help a couple 'old timers' in need. Based on our experience with them, I would recommend and call your company first for any major tree work. Thanks again to your fine organization, and to these exceptional employees." This crew is under General Foreman Ken Venzke.

Cooperative Crew

The Woodlawn Cemetery staff and board of directors in Sioux Falls, S.D. wrote in to thank Foreman Gaylen Ackerman and his crew for their work on the cemetery

Congratulations to this Mountain States crew who passed an OSHA inspection with no citations in Huntsville, Utah last May. Pictured from left to right: Trimmer Matt Nestico, Foreman Clint Walker, and General Foreman Steve Russell.

HIGH STAKES

A special thanks to the men who volunteered to clear the right-of-way on a power line that went up the side of Francis Peak in Utah. Because of access problems, the crew was taken up and picked up by helicopter. A job well done at 8,500 feet!

(Back row, left to right) General Foreman Jon Brown, Trimmer Jason Ermer, Foreman Brett Rollins, Trimmer Dallas Cackler, Groundman Derrick Hendricks, Trimmer Lazaro Catano, Rocky Mountain Power Forester Tim Reinke (Front row, left to right) Groundman Tyson Farr, Foreman Cody Yates, Foreman Marc Raleigh, General Foreman Steve Russell, Groundman Chad Morgan

MINNKOTA

Helpful Hand

A Duluth, Minn. couple wrote in to thank Foreman Bob Gray, Trimmer Mark Mercer and Groundman Tony Sorenson for their assistance. The couple writes, "We were trimming trees and bushes at our house this afternoon. We were loading the trimmings into our minivan to haul



grounds. "What a pleasure it was to work with the crew," the manager at the cemetery writes about Ackerman and Trimmers Adam Long, Bob Reemts, and Jon Hornback. The letter went on to say, "We appreciate the exceptional job this crew did. They worked around our schedules and were very respectful to all our needs. Also, the trees that had to be trimmed were trimmed in the manner requested. This was very important to the privacy of the cemetery. The board is also pleased with the cooperation of Gaylen and his crews." This crew is under General Foreman Dale Venzke.

Good Samaritans

A North Dakota woman wrote in to commend three WTS employees for their assistance one evening. The water pump on the woman's car quit in the middle of a very busy intersection in the rush hour traffic. While she was waiting for her husband and a tow truck, Foreman Ira Signalness, Trimmers Rafael Perez and Mike Anderson came to her rescue. The woman writes, "They pushed my car out of the intersection and on to the next street so that I was out of the stream of traffic. I was and am still impressed by their thoughtfulness and their courtesy. Even more impressive to me is the fact that they are not even from this area and would take the time to help a stranger. I believe this speaks very highly not only of them, but of your company as well." This crew is under General Foreman Mike Harris.

NORTH DIVISION

Spotless Yard

"I would like to compliment the crew that trimmed my trees around our power lines. They did an excellent job and left my yard spotless after removing many large branches. They were hard working and very courteous to me," writes a customer from Washington, Ill. Compliments to Foreman Jason Scott, and Trimmers Mike Rice and Beau Grant for their work! This crew is under General Foreman Dale Stout.

Regaining Safety

A Missouri family took the time to call in and share "what a professional job" General Foreman Scot Lay and then Foreman (now General Foreman) Romeo Carbajal did in their yard. The family says, "From minute one I knew that Scot Lay of Wright Tree Service was professional. He was very prompt in returning my phone calls and answering all the questions. He and his crew appeared the day he said they would and exceeded my expectations. Clean up was first class and assured me that their concerns were on customer satisfaction. Highly recommended, excellent service, and professional. Thank you for the service and safety Wright Tree Service has regained into my backyard."

Wright Tree Care News



Linda Wright, President
Wright Tree Care

WTC has completed the TCIA Electrical Hazard Awareness Program (EHAP) in DM, OK and KC where 12 City of Kansas City employees also joined us.

Dr. John Ball from SD State University with an unending list of credentials, conducted the training and the follow-up aerial rescues with his usual combination of education and entertainment. The sessions were very lively, informative and all participants enjoyed the day.

Congratulations are in order! Chad Sutherland, Land Clearing Foreman in DM, and Michelle Jones were married July 7th in a beautiful outdoor ceremony; Caleb Adams-Brown, Loader Operator DM, and Sara Lenze tied the knot on July 21st; Dale and Lailani Hughes (Operations Supv, OK) are the proud parents of a new baby girl, Kaila Grace, born August 15th.

WTC was awarded the City of Kansas City Street Maintenance Contract for the third year. We also were the low bidder on their Street Light Contract which we're subbing to WTS. Under both these contracts we have 3-year options. Mike McFarland and Mike Overcash are the General Foremen responsible for our Kansas City operation.

The storm that hit Central Iowa Friday, June 23rd brought in over 700 storm-related calls. It hit us at a bad time as we were already scheduled 8 to 10 weeks out. But as usual, by early Saturday morning, all hands were on deck and ready to go. Trees on homes received first priority and were removed within 12 hours of calling in. It was a great teamwork operation and greatly appreciated by our clients as indicated by all their calls and letters.

Kudos from our clients: "My hat's off to you again Linda for employing such good people. I thoroughly enjoyed working with Wade and Will"... "the young gentleman and lady couldn't have been more courteous, thorough and considerate. Willie and Mindy are an asset to your company"... "special kudos to Jeremy and his crew in taking down the tree. Not only was it a huge elm, but was located over our house, deck, two garages and wires with fencing all around. Jeremy is a wizard in use of ropes"... "Bruce and Dorian did an excellent job. We were very happy with everything"... "Aaron and Gerald did a great job! I recommend you to everyone."

And a good time was had by all! WTC and Heard Gardens held a joint get-together and picnic at the Iowa Cubs game on August 31st. We had an opportunity to get to know each other, had plenty to eat, and to top it off the Iowa Cubs won the game.

Does Your Physician Know How Much You're Paying at the Pharmacy?

When your doctor is writing your prescription, you probably assume he or she knows how much that drug will cost you at the pharmacy. However, according to an Archives of Internal Medicine study, while nearly 90 percent of physicians responding said that the cost of medicine is an important consideration when prescribing, only 20 percent of physicians were actually aware of the cost of the drugs they were prescribing.*

What does this mean to you? It probably means you're paying more at the pharmacy than you should be. By asking your doctor one simple question—"Is there a generic available?"—you can prevent this from happening. While generic drugs are held to the same strict standards as brand name drugs, they cost an average of 30 - 50 percent less. Some people think that

because their health plan offers prescription drug coverage, they're covered for all medications, regardless of whether they're brand or generic. While it's true your health plan covers most medications, it's important to know that if you do have drug coverage, you'll save money when you buy generic.

The scoop on generics

Generic drugs serve as alternatives to name brand drugs. They are not new or uncommon in the marketplace, and surprisingly, they're not much different from their brand name competitors. In most cases, the only difference between generic drugs and name brand drugs is that generic drugs are usually less expensive and may vary in shape or texture. Most states require that generic drugs be made with the same active ingredients as brand name drugs, so you are essentially getting the same drug formula.

Generic drugs are considered "generic" because they are copies of the original brand name drug. When a brand name drug is developed, the creator has a 17-year patent on the drug. Once the patent expires, and FDA approval is granted, any company can market the exact same drug. This is when consumers reap the benefits of less expensive generics.

Drug companies' influence

Advertisements for prescription drugs are everywhere—the television, in the newspaper and magazines, and sometimes in the mail. In many cases, drug manufacturers simply give the physician samples of the drugs to provide to you at no charge. What you may not realize

is these ads and marketing strategies do cost money, and as a consumer you end up paying for them.

The rising cost of prescription drugs is a national phenomenon that isn't going away, and advertising is only one factor in the increasing cost of medication.

When you see an ad for a brand name prescription drug, keep in mind that drug companies not only want you to be informed, but want you to ask your physician specifically for that drug. And when you ask your physician about that drug, it's likely he or she will feel a certain obligation to prescribe it, even when you could save money with a less expensive brand name or generic that offers the same results.

Your physician's role

Doctors receive much of their information about medications from pharmaceutical companies' salespeople, resulting in physicians who prescribe treatments based on the brands with which they are most familiar. Though it is estimated that more than 70 percent of all brand name drugs on the market have generics available, according to the Generic Pharmaceutical Association, only 43 percent of all drugs prescribed are generics.

Always remember to ask your physician if there is a generic available for the treatment you were prescribed. Also, remember that though a generic may be available, it may not be the best choice. Only your physician can make this decision for you.

*Source: Physician's Attitudes About Prescribing and Knowledge costs of Common Medication, Archives of Internal Medicine, October 9, 2000.



Are generic drugs as effective as brand-name drugs?

Generics are as effective as their brand name counter parts. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates all generics just as it does the branded items. Their safety, effectiveness, and equivalency is ensured by the FDA.

If a doctor prescribes a brand name drug, can a pharmacist dispense a generic if one is available?

Your drug therapy should always be discussed with your physician. Your physician may specify a desire to have the brand name medication dispensed, and the pharmacist is obligated to dispense accordingly. However, your pharmacist is your best source for drug information and is often the first to know when generic products hit the market. You can ask your pharmacist if the medication you are taking has a suitable generic.

What can consumers do to save money at the pharmacy?

Generic drugs are just one way to save money at the pharmacy. Regardless of whether a drug is brand or generic, the most important thing you can do is adhere to the directions for the prescribed medication and the information that is offered by your physician and pharmacist. Lack of compliance is a big reason for the increase in health care costs as seen from the pharmacy side. Although it may be tempting to consider taking less of a medication to cut costs, or not have a prescription filled altogether, in the long run, your health care costs will increase if you do not take your prescribed medication, or if you don't take it as instructed.

Do doctors understand the costs of the medications they prescribe? Physicians are aware of medication costs and the savings that generics can offer patients. However, the specific costs of each of the medications they prescribe, either brand or generic, is not necessarily what they are looking at when prescribing. They are looking for the most effective, appropriate medication for your diagnosed disease or ailment. It would be impossible for physicians to know all the drug costs. This is the pharmacist's responsibility. The pharmacist can assist the physician in cost-effective prescribing.

Why do drug companies advertise to consumers?

Manufacturers advertise to consumers to build their brand's loyalty. They do so as patients using those medications mature, or as the time nears when a generic will be introduced into the market for a branded item.

The information presented in this article is not intended to provide a specific treatment regimen or to substitute for the care of your health care provider. For individual health care needs, consult with your personal physician.

© Wellmark, Inc. 2003

From the Treetop



Kendra Julie Chapman
Human Resources Director

The first few times that I heard the moniker "back office" in reference to the Wright Tree Service administrative team, my feelings were a bit wounded. With a combined 222 years of experience, I was sure the Wright Tree Service administrative team feels quite "up front". After all, this administrative team has kept our hard working employees with paychecks and in smart Wright Tree Service clothing for many years.

Shortly after being introduced to the term back office, I heard our customers' reference our back office in their accolades of Wright Tree Service. In addition to showing their appreciation for field operations, our customers have singled out our office in very respectable, grateful and impressive ways. This puts a huge smile on my face. I take great joy in passing on the expressions of approval and praise to our administrative teams.

Looking back I realize that I have always been very greedy for positive feedback and comments regarding our office's efforts.

It has always been easy for me to recognize the contribution our administrative team has made to our company over the years. As I have the opportunity to get into the field it has become just as easy to see the incredible contribution field individuals have made to our success. Foreman Jesus Vetencourt in Omaha has contributed incredibly with his vision relating to communication with our Hispanic workforce. It is obvious to me that General Foreman Cory Kobernick in Lexington takes pride in his work. In Des Moines, I have witnessed one of our Foreman, Chad Luckow go out of his way to take care of a grateful property owner. I see the respect General Foreman Shawn Huff in Nebraska has earned from his crew members.

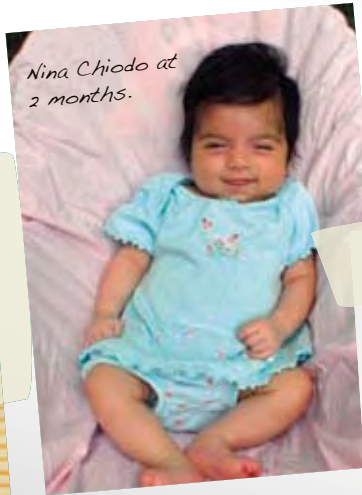
The term back office doesn't bother me so much anymore, nor does the definition. I believe that our field employees respect our contribution as we respect theirs. They know that our efforts to take care of and support them are true. So I have checked my pride and can readily admit that the combined 5,672 years of experience from all Wright Tree Service employees lends to our success.

Family Clippings

Brannon weighed 8lbs and was 20 1/2 inches when he was born.



(from left to right) Samantha, Johnny, Joe, Tyler and Adam Partridge.



Nina Chiodo at 2 months.



Rick Cravens pictured with his first grandchild, Charli.

Clothing Manager Rebecca Chiodo, Home Office, and her husband Ralph welcomed their first child on April 22, 2007. Nina Rose Chiodo was born April 22 at 6lbs, 4oz and 18 inches long. Rebecca says, "She's our beautiful gift from God. We waited a long time for her and are so blessed by her smiles and funny faces. And yes, she was born with all that dark hair!"

Foreman John Ruppert, Minnkota Division, and his wife Anita are the proud grandparents of Tyler.

Manager of Technical Services-Operations Kevin Patton, Home Office, is the proud dad of a new son. Kevin and his wife, Stephanie, along with their daughter Reagan welcomed Brannon MacKinley Patton on August 6.

Trimmer Cassidy Arnold, Minnkota Division, and his wife Amanda Ruppert welcomed Tyler Cassidy Arnold on July 24.

Congratulations to **Payroll & Billing Manager Kristy Reynolds, Home Office,** on the birth of her new baby girl, Hailey Kay. Kristy and her husband Todd welcomed Hailey into the world on June 1. She weighed 8lbs, 1 oz. and was 21 inches long.

General Foreman Joe Partridge, Mountain States, and his wife Raegan welcomed their fourth child last March.

Foreman Rick Cravens, North Division, welcomed his first grandchild-a baby girl named Charli-born on May 4. Ben Barnett, Ameren Supervisor and his wife Brandy are Charli's parents.

Trimmer Wayne Keirse, Southwest Division, has plenty of good news to share. Last December Wayne welcomed his first grandson, Kamon Almas Tylor. His second grandson is due this winter. In August, Wayne's 18 year old son Pvt. David Taylor graduated from Army boot camp in Fort Know, Ky.



Big brother Jordan, age 7, holds his new brother Tanner.

Payroll Specialist Karen Widen, Home Office, has a new grandson. Karen's son Jamie Widen and wife Rebecca are the proud parents of Tanner Daniel Widen who was born on July 28, weighing 8lbs, 11 oz. and 20 1/2 inches long.

We want to hear from you!

If you have news to share, please include your name, division, story and digital photo in an email to:

Jodi King at
jking@wrighttree.com
or mail to:
WTS Newsletter
PO Box 1718
Des Moines IA 50306-1718

Wayne sits with his grandson Kamon and niece Maddy.



Kristy and Todd Reynolds make a Hailey sandwich.



Trimmer Brad Klaas, North Division, will celebrate his son Ian's golden birthday in October. Ian, who loves riding his four-wheeler, plans to have a huge birthday party for his fourth birthday.

Foreman Tracy Yahnke, Minnkota Division, and his wife Kristen both had feature wins at the Scott County, Minn. Fair Demolition Derby in the Old Iron Stock Class. Their pit crew included **Trimmer Carl Braatz, Minnkota Division.**

General Foreman Jeff Harris, Minnkota Division, got out-fished again. Jeff's wife, Sylvia Harris, caught this 18½ pound king salmon on a recent fishing trip to Lake Michigan out of Two Rivers, Wis. Jeff regrets to tell us there were no photos taken of his fish.

General Foreman Shawn Huff, Central Division, was contacted by the Nebraska Arborist Association to help a soldier's wife who needed some tree trimming work done in her yard. The project is part of a local radio station's effort to help military families without their loved ones at home. Huff says, "After reading about her dilemma and wondering what my family would do in that situation I knew we had to help her out." **General Foreman Cesar Santos and Trimmer Juan Valdovinos** joined a crew from Lincoln Tree Service to get the job done.

A special thanks to **Trimmer Kyle Risdall, Minnkota Division,** for his service in Iraq. He was deployed with his the Minnesota Air National Guard for active duty back in February and returned safely in June. Kyle returned to work in the Duluth, Minn. area on the Minnesota Power contract under **General Foreman Ken Venzke.** He's going to college this fall, but plans to return to WTS during school breaks.

Receptionist Donna White and her husband Jim just returned from a two week vacation abroad. They cruised to Denmark, Estonia, St. Petersburg, Russia, Helsinki, Stockholm, and Oslo. Donna says the highlight of her trip was seeing the opera in St. Petersburg and touring St. Katherine's palace.



Tracy and Kristen Yahnke proudly stand by their winning derby car with trophies in hand.



Jeff Harris stands by as his wife Sylvia shows off her king salmon.



Cesar Santos works on the tree from a bucket truck in the soldier's front yard in Bellevue, Neb.



After finishing the work, Juan Valdovinos reties a yellow ribbon on the tree to support our troops as the soldier's wife and son watch.



Brad and Ian Klaas are ready for Ian's golden birthday this year.

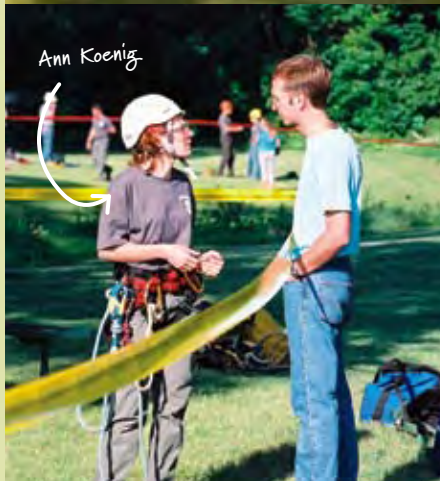


Kyle Risdall was deployed to Iraq for 4 months with the Minnesota Air National Guard.

Tree Climbers Competition

This year's Tree Climber Competition for the Midwestern Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture was in Sioux Falls, S.D. Twenty one people competed in the competition, including WTS Trimmer **Ryan Lewis, Central Division**.

Ann Koenig from the Missouri Department of Conservation was the first female from the Midwestern Chapter to go to the International Competition. She sent a very nice note to WTS thanking us for our sponsorship of the International Tree Climbing Championship in Hawaii. "I would like to personally thank Wright Tree for your sponsorship at the ITCC," Ann writes. "The ITCC is such an awesome opportunity for arborists to learn from one another. Thank you."



S.E.T. News

CREWS OF THE QUARTER AWARDS

Congratulations to the following crews who received the Crew of the Quarter award.

PACIFICORP: Foreman Kelly Biorn & Trimmer Ben Cottle, under General Foreman Justin Cherry

MIDAMERICAN: Foreman Cory Edwards & Trimmer Merlin Kass, under General Foreman Cory Edwards; Foreman Jim Black & Trimmer Jeff Prucha, under General Foreman Ray Flick; Foreman Paul Forck & Trimmer Brian Wrich, under General Foreman Will Porter; Foreman Gary Randolph & Trimmer Richey Wright, under General Foreman Scott Dundee; Foreman Kevin Becker, Trimmer Dustin Luck, & Trimmer Jeremia Cook, under General Foreman Jason Davis; Foreman Rick Gaunt & Trimmer Mike Foulks, under General Foreman Doug Hanson; Foreman Mitch Salek, Trimmer Brandon Reeves, & Trimmer Lawrence Kaska, under General Foreman Chad Behnke

CONGRATULATIONS to the following employees on becoming ISA Certified Arborists

CENTRAL

Wayne Fancher, General Foreman

Chad Behnke, General Foreman

Scott Dundee, General Foreman

Christopher Olson, Foreman

Shawn Huff, General Foreman

DIVISION 45

Jim Clark, General Foreman

MINNKOTA

John Brezinsky, Foreman

Mike Harris, General Foreman

Bob Lien, Project Manager

Ron Garner, Foreman

Gene Weiss, General Foreman

Steve Janousek, General Foreman

MOUNTAIN STATES

Kelly Biorn, Foreman

Doug Beane, General Foreman

Kyle Williamson, Foreman

Mark Alton, Foreman

Terry Thomas, Foreman

Tim Hanson, General Foreman

NORTH DIVISION

Dale Stout, General Foreman

Don Parrish, General Foreman

Robert Nelson, Foreman

Marty Pingel, Safety Supervisor

HOME OFFICE

Kevin Patton, Manager of
Technical Services-Operations

CONGRATULATIONS to the following employees who were promoted to General Foreman in the last 4 months

Rowdy Baxter, Southwest Division

Romeo Carbaja, North Division

Greg DeJager, Southwest Division

Chad Luckow, Central Division

Edgar Luna, North Division

Cesar Santos, Division 45

Peter Schmitt, Division 45

All ISA Certification Credentials Available to Veterans

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has added Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist and Board-Certified Master Arborist to its previous list of ISA certifications. Now all five ISA credentials have been approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA has agreed to cover the cost for qualified US military veterans and eligible person. The ISA exams have been proven to be valid and reliable in determining knowledge, and along with education and experience requirements, ISA has certified 20,000 arborists all around the world.

Interested veterans can use these certifications to expand their job opportunities and join the thousands of arborists that have benefited from obtaining the credential. Higher income and stability are two of the leading reasons to take the exam.

If you are US veteran, or are interested in ISA Certification, please contact ISA at 888.472.8733, visit www.isa-arbor.com or e-mail the ISA at cert@isa-arbor.com.

This information was reprinted with the permission of the ISA, from the April 2007 edition of *ISA Today*.

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN

We are excited to introduce to you **Heard Gardens, Ltd.**, one of the newest members of the Wright family. Heard Gardens, Ltd. was started by Clyde Heard in 1928 as a small nursery. Years later, Clyde's son Bill took over the business and in 1991, Bob and Mary Anne Rennebohm purchased the nursery from Bill. Their intent was to expand the plant material offerings as well as the design services. Since then, the business has evolved into a thriving design/build landscaping firm that is well known throughout Iowa. Throughout the years Heard Gardens, Ltd. has always maintained a distinctive reputation for providing quality services and products.

In January of 2007 Wright Service Corp. acquired Heard Gardens, Ltd. with the vision of combining its operations with those of Wright Tree Care. By doing this, we can now offer our customers a complete line of services to enhance their outdoor environment.



GRADUATES OF THE APRIL, 2007 GENERAL FOREMAN SCHOOL

Congratulations!

(FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) Mike Cook, Wright Tree Care; Richard Rodriguez, Southwest Division; Daniel Nave, Division 45; Bob Kirby, Division 45

(MIDDLE ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) Chad Fox, Division 45; Rafael Garcia, Southwest Division; Joe Smith, North Division; Safety Supervisor Chad Berlin, Southwest Division

(BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) Wayne Pinkly, Southwest Division; Mike McFarland, Wright Tree Care; Joe Partridge, Mountain States; Rick Bonifas, Mountain States; Ryan Butler, Southwest Division; David Parker, Division 45; Bryan Kelsey, Southwest Division



Independence Day Parade

It was another successful parade for the WTS group. Parade participants needed to improvise this year after the Old Number 10 had a little trouble getting out of the garage. It was certainly a team effort to get everything off the old truck and onto the new in order to get to the parade on time.

General Foreman Will Porter tried to keep the candy flowing into the chipper. The candy throwing chipper was once again a crowd favorite.

Once the parade got going, the crowd couldn't get enough of the candy-throwing wood chipper. It was hard to tell who liked it more, the kids or the adults! **General Foreman Will Porter, Central Division**, graciously volunteered for the second year in a row to run the chipper. The picnic and parade was a family affair. **President Scott Packard** was joined by his wife Amy and daughter Colleen; both **Network Administrator Jeff Kirby and Benefits Administrator Michelle Eggleston's** entire families participated. Other parade walkers and riders included **Senior Accountant Wendy Eckhart, Assistant Network Administrator Gavin Campbell** and from the Heard Gardens crew: **Landscape Designer Tammy Champlan and Inventory Manager Cindy Dengle and Garden Center worker Emily Dengle.**

The shop truck from the home office substituted for the Old Number 10 this year. Participants exhibited the WTS teamwork by getting all of the decorations off the old truck and onto the new truck in a matter of minutes.

