

2012 ISA True Professionals of Arboriculture Recipients

The True Professionals of Arboriculture recognition program honors arborists and tree care professionals for their positive impact on the industry in and around their communities. Visit isa-arbor.com and the *Arborist News* for future case studies from each of the winners.



First, Do No Harm

Bill Logan

—True Professional of Arboriculture

ISA Certified Arborist, Teacher,
New York Botanical Garden
President, Urban Arborists, Inc.,
Writer, W.W. Norton
Brooklyn, N.Y.

“One of the things that attracted me to the arboriculture profession is that people who do it well, do it really well,” says Bill Logan. “They are always learning, and they act from a global understanding of how trees live in their environment.”

Bill Logan is the founder and president of Urban Arborists, Inc., a leading tree care firm in the New York City area. For the past decade, Logan has been on the faculty at the New York Botanical Garden, where he teaches such diverse topics as tree physiology, pruning and soil and roots. Here, he makes a point to share his adopted motto with future arborists in his classroom.

“First, do no harm’ struck me once during a personal experience,” recalls Logan. “I tell my students this is the first thing you are taught in medical school and it’s the first thing we do in tree care. We pause. We look around and ask what our aims are with the minimum intrusion on the tree. Once we take the branch off, we cannot put it back.”

Some of the trees on Logan’s resume include the largest and oldest in New York. When noted American author E.B. White’s Second Tree from the Corner could no longer be preserved, Logan’s tree firm saved cuttings and two of the willow trees from those transplanted cuttings are now more than 30 feet tall. Plans are to reintroduce the historic tree around the city.

A former magazine editor, Logan is an award-winning journalist and author of three books, *Oak: The Frame of Civilization*, *Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth*, which became *Dirt, The Movie*, and premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2009. *Air: The Restless Shaper of the World*, is scheduled for publication in August, 2012.



From the Oil Fields to the Tree Tops

Bruce Kreidler

—True Professional of Arboriculture

ISA Board Certified Master Arborist,
Writer, Radio Show Host
Owner, Broken Willow Tree Service
Abilene, Texas

After 25 years working in oil fields, Bruce Kreidler fulfilled his life-long interest in trees and established Broken Willow Tree Service of Abilene, Texas. His platforms for public outreach include free workshops, writing articles for newspapers and online publications. He also hosts a weekly radio show, “West Texas Trees and Landscapes,” to educate people about proper tree care.

An ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, Kreidler is guiding a special project initiative as a member of the Buffalo Gap Tree Board. Buffalo Gap is an area in Texas known for a unique live oak forest that was left in place by the original settlers.

“This area of historic trees is a shady forest spot in the middle of the sun-blasted plain,” Kreidler explains. “The tree population is in decline, so I encourage them to plant more burr oaks among other species to diversify the forest. The people that settled there gave us a present by not cutting down those trees. If we go in there and plant other trees, it will be a gift for future generations.”

On the streets of Abilene or in the grocery store, Kreidler is available to anyone who stops him and is easily recognizable in the public eye. With a flag, ISA certifications, his name, phone number, and website clearly displayed all on his uniform shirt, Kreidler is the face of Broken Willow Tree Service.

Bringing Modern Tree Practices to Asia

Donald Lee Picker

—True Professional of Arboriculture

ISA Certified Arborist/Utility Specialist, Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist

CEO, Asia Tree Preservation, Ltd., Chairperson; Institute of Arboriculture Studies (Hong Kong)
Fanling, New Territories, Hong Kong



"My whole life I wanted to work outdoors," says Donald Lee Picker. "I was satisfied doing what I've always wanted to do, but there was an interest to add language and culture."

Donald Lee Picker's natural curiosity of how people live and work led him to think globally instead of centering on what was happening in his own backyard.

In 1989, Picker made plans to sell his tree care business in northern Illinois and move to South China. His family spent the next nine years involved in relief and development work while studying the culture and languages there.

A brief return stay in the U.S. from 2000 to 2004 allowed Picker to brush up on additional training and skills, become an ISA Certified Arborist, and re-establish Picker Tree Experts. It also gave him the idea to take modern practices of arboriculture to areas of China that could benefit from education.

In 2004, Don and his wife went back to Hong Kong. He joined his friend, Dr. Bill Fountain, a 2010 ISA True Professional of Arboriculture, who was acting as a visiting scholar on tree care in Malaysia.

"When Dr. Fountain trains here, he gives me all of his information," shares Picker. "He does it just for the joy of educating others. I am running a business and have to make a living, but I want to be generous. I value the education of anyone—a customer or my own company. My primary goal is regarding trees and the environment."

Picker has been instrumental in promoting arboriculture abroad for the past decade. He is currently the CEO of Asia Tree Preservation, Ltd, his tree care company founded in China in 2007. He also helped establish the Institute of Arboriculture Studies-Hong Kong. In addition, Picker coordinated the translation and publishing of the first-ever Tree Climbers' Guide; Chinese 1st Edition, and has long been a lobbyist through his work with the ISA International Safety Committee for improved safety among tree workers.

Gentleman Arborist from Yesteryear

Rob Springer

—True Professional of Arboriculture



ISA Certified Arborist, TCIA Certified Tree Care Safety Professional and Training Coordinator

Piedmont Division — Bartlett Tree Experts
Charlottesville, Va.

When the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Administration (VOSHA) adopted a tree trimming standard to address the number of fatalities and accidents among tree workers, Rob Springer, a leading safety expert on arboriculture, volunteered to help.

"It's one of the most comprehensive standards in the country," explains Springer. "In the past if there was a fatality, the only recourse was a logging standard or construction standard, which doesn't deal specifically with our work in arboriculture."

An arborist for more than 30 years, Springer supports any effort to protect people and keep them working safely. He is even known to incorporate the use of melons into his talks with arborists, something he borrowed from Don Blair, a respected ISA member and safety expert.

"I was trying to make the point that hard hats really work," says Springer. "I used an axe handle and hit the cantaloupe. It went flying over everyone in the front row. Then I placed a hard hat on the second cantaloupe and struck it hard with the axe handle, not even a bruise on the cantaloupe."

Springer, a safety and training coordinator with Bartlett Tree Experts, consults on historic properties with very old trees. He's been instrumental in the preservation and removal of species at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello estate and at Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. Springer is the first arborist to assist the U.S. Forest Service in the removal of a U.S. Capitol Holiday Tree.

Inspiration and Ideas in Community Outreach

Tim Kastning

—True Professional of Arboriculture



ISA Board Certified Master Arborist/Municipal Specialist, Certified Tree Risk Assessor, Certified Tree Care Safety Professional

Owner, Grace Tree Service, Inc. Hayden, Idaho

From his days in the U.S. Air Force, to his studying Theology at Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Mo., Tim Kastning believes the choices he made as a young man helped shape who he is today. Kastning is now owner of Grace Tree Service, Inc., in Hayden, Idaho.

With no real formal education in arboriculture, Kastning took advantage of various industry programs. He became an ISA Certified Arborist, an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and maintains ISA certifications as a Municipal Arborist Specialist. With the distance too far at times to attend ISA industry events, Kastning looked to his community to give back.

He is still involved with ministering in his community, but this True Professional likes to say he's fulfilling his ministry through trees.

"As a tree care company, we don't sell firewood so I try to dispose of it however I can," admits Kastning. "Between the United Way and ElderHelp, we formed a partnership to provide firewood to those who cannot afford to buy it."

Kastning says all of the wood-waste generated by Grace Tree Service is used in some fashion. In addition, his business contributes to biomass as a natural resource by sending 500 tons of excess wood each year to a plant that produces electricity.

Each week, you'll find Kastning in the local edition of the Coeur D'Alene Press newspaper with a column about some aspect of tree care. It gives him the chance to offer advice and personal observations as a professional arborist.