

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The flowers are blooming, the butterflies are back, and the trees are getting their new leaves. Spring has arrived! Although this past winter was not as bad as last year, we did have several consecutive weeks of very cold temperatures and snow that stayed on the ground for quite a while. The weather made working outdoors quite unpleasant, if not entirely impossible. Now that spring is here, summer will be close behind and the prime seasons for arboricultural work are upon us. I hope that all of our members are as busy with spring projects as I am.

The 2015 MAC-ISA Tree Climbing Championship will be history when this column is printed, but we hope that many of you were able to attend. We had a great site for this year's TCC at Ridgeview Park in Waynesboro, Virginia. Thank you to all of our sponsors, exhibitors, judges, climbers, volunteers, and attendees. We could not have put on the display of our members' skills without the help of the TCC committee and all of the

volunteers who prepared the site, helped throughout the competition, and cleaned up afterward. Results from the 2015 MAC-ISA TCC will be found elsewhere in this edition of Canopy Coverage.

Our 2014 MAC-ISA TCC champion, James Earhart, was a great representative for our chapter and won the 2015 International Tree Climbing Championship in Tampa, Florida a few weeks ago. Congratulations to James on winning this prestigious event! Our 2014 female champion, Jocelyn Lohse, was very successful at the ITCC as well, placing seventh. Congratulations Jocelyn, and thank you both for representing MAC-ISA and putting on a great performance, placing third overall in the chapter team award.

Your Board of Directors and Alan Jones, our overall chair for the conference, are busy developing plans for the 2017 ISA Annual International Conference and Trade Show to be held at the National Harbor in Maryland, just south of Washington, D.C. We need lots of volunteers to put together

the program and affiliated activities for this event, so please consider helping MAC-ISA put on a showcase of our region for arborists from around the world. We are currently having a contest to develop the theme for the 2017 conference, so help us to come up with a catchy phrase to publicize the event over the next two years.

MAC-ISA will be holding our annual Day of Safety on June 13th at the Virginia State University campus in Petersburg, Virginia. The committee has put together a great program for the event and we hope to see many of our members in attendance. Our profession is a dangerous business and we can never emphasize safety enough. Enjoy the spring weather while it lasts and stay safe!

*Respectfully,
Keith R. Forry
MAC-ISA President*

