New Holding Company Established For Ancillary Businesses

We have been fortunate to have a company as successful as Asplundh. Over the years, Asplundh has changed from its earliest beginnings as a local tree trimming company to the diverse international corporation it is today, a provider of many services to the utility industry.

In addition to vegetation management, Asplundh has offered a variety of services through its ancillary businesses or subsidiaries. For instance, we have been manufacturers of bucket trucks and chippers, consultants, landscapers and equipment rental providers. However, all of these businesses have been sold to companies that specialize in those particular services so that we could focus on our core business of vegetation management.

Having this focus has been critical to our success, but now it is time for a change that will benefit both the core business and our ancillary service companies. The industry that we are both serving has gone through radical and rapid changes of its own, and for us to service them at the high level and rapid pace of business today, it is essential for us to change as well.

Growth in the following ancillary services has been dramatic:

- Locating (Central Locating Service, Ltd.)
- Construction (Asplundh Construction Corp., Utility Lines Construction Service, Inc. and American Lighting & Signalization, Inc.)
- Meter reading and installation (Utility Meter Services, Inc. and VSI Meter Services, Inc.)
- Pole maintenance (Utility Pole Technologies, Inc.)
- One call center management (Asplundh One Call, Inc.)
- Disaster relief (Asplundh Environmental Services, Inc.)
- Truck and car dealership (Asplundh Buick/Pontiac/GMC, Inc.)

As of October 2004, these growing and vibrant businesses will now be grouped under a new holding company, UtiliCon Solutions, Ltd., with George Graham as its president. Brent Asplundh will work with George, serving as the company’s vice president.

Our core business of vegetation management will remain under President Scott Asplundh. Our vegetation management sponsors will continue to be Christopher B. Asplundh, Jr., Gregg Asplundh, Keith Asplundh, Matthew Asplundh and Steven Asplundh. We have promoted three additional sponsors—Steve Bostock, Doug Gober and Larry Moore—all of whom you will read more about in this issue.

I feel this change will again focus our expertise on the core business while allowing our ancillary businesses to emphasize their expertise. The experience and commitment of each group will afford the necessary thrust in these different, but related fields.

Christopher B. Asplundh, CEO
Historic Hurricane Season
Generates Record-Breaking Storm Response

There simply aren’t enough pages in this magazine to cover all the stories and photos that came out of this historic hurricane season. It’s also difficult to put into words the amount of tragedy caused by four major hurricanes in the span of seven weeks, especially for the state of Florida.

However, we certainly can focus on the heroic dedication of our record-breaking 4,000-plus tree and line construction workers who left homes all across the country (even Canada) to assist our fellow employees in Florida and parts of Alabama. Together, they helped to restore power to millions of utility customers and remove debris so that rebuilding could begin.

The Beginning

On August 11, two days before Hurricane Charley hit, the Storm Center in Willow Grove officially went into full-time operations and Asplundh crews in the Pat White Region in Florida had already geared up for storm work in response to Tropical Storm Bonnie. By August 12, over 850 tree crews (about 2,550 employees) were heading to Florida. By August 14, that total rose to more than 1,200 tree crews (about 3,400 employees) from 24 states and 30 management regions. Add to that over 200 line construction employees from our subsidiaries, ACC and Utility Lines Construction Services (ULCS), and you have quite a mobilization!

The Eugene Wyatt and Pat White Regions hosted this great influx of crews to work on the properties of Florida Power & Light (FPL), Progress Energy and several municipal and cooperative accounts. While most of the crews were released to go home by August 27, more than 300 crews stayed on for Hurricane Frances which plowed into Port St. Lucie on Labor Day weekend and moved slowly up the state.

By September 6, more than 3.5 million Floridians were out of power and Asplundh’s storm troops had returned. Our tree workers totaled over 4,000, including crews from as far away as New England and Arizona. Once again, FPL and Progress Energy were

“Work Area Ahead” says it all, as an Asplundh crew removes a tangle of limbs from a FPL power line near Punta Gorda, Florida where Hurricane Charley made landfall on August 13. For the next seven weeks, there seemed to be an unending supply of work after three more hurricanes hit.

Loss Prevention Supervisor Chuck Combs sent in this shot of a FPL staging area in Ft. Myers, Florida as more than 100 Asplundh crews prepared to go out on storm restoration work after Charley hit.

Charley’s 145 mph winds broke trees and poles alike around Punta Gorda, Florida (at L and R) on the Gulf Coast and proceeded to wreak havoc inland all the way up above Daytona Beach when it headed into the Atlantic Ocean. At right, a crew from the Dave Puckett Region in West Virginia worked its way through a neighborhood street clogged with tree debris and downed lines.

Regional Safety Supervisor Juan Echazabal sent in this photo of Foreman Carlos Morales of the Eugene Wyatt Region working down a large pine tree that was blown into FPL power lines by Hurricane Charley.

Groundman Kevin Fagg from West Virginia used an insulated pruning pole to move debris out of the road where a power line had fallen so his crew’s lift truck could get set up safely and start to work.
badly hit, but Asplundh crews were also assigned to 12 other municipal and cooperative accounts throughout the state. Our construction subsidiary crews rolled in from Georgia, Maryland and Delaware to help our ACC crews with FPL restoration.

Just as the east coast and central Florida were getting back on their feet, Hurricane Ivan skimmed the Florida Keys and headed straight into the Gulf coast of Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. By September 17, more than 1.3 million people had lost power and at least 23 people were dead. Dozens of tornadoes and tremendous flooding continued up through the Middle Atlantic states.

While some crews were still cleaning up after Frances, Asplundh mustered its troops once again, this time to assist the Mike Smith and Steve Bostock (now Wendell Smitherman) Regions. More than 600 tree crews (about 1,700 employees, including some from California) were mobilized to help Gulf Power and Alabama Power, as well as seven cooperatives, clear away trees and limbs.

As if three hurricanes were not enough, along came Jeanne on September 26. Following a similar path as Frances, the outages totaled more than 2.2 million in Florida. With over 400 employees that had been away from home on storm duty since Charley, it became necessary to pull in crews from as far away as Quebec, Canada. Again, they helped FPL, Progress Energy and eight municipal and cooperative utilities restore power.

**The End?**

This historic hurricane season truly tested Asplundh’s emergency capabilities, but our people rose to the challenge.

Many of the homes belonging to our employees in Florida suffered from wind or water damage, but they continued to report for work. Thousands of mobilized employees worked in very hot, humid weather—with too many fire ants and mosquitoes, and not always enough beds in motels or shelters. Our team of Storm Coordinators in Willow Grove had to stay on top of the storm work, as well as their regular jobs. Six people from Customer & Field Liaison traveled to the storm area twice to help with massive amounts of paper work. Suppliers worked overtime to properly equip our people.

Everyone hung in there, knowing that thousands of people had lost everything they owned. Asplundh can be proud of whatever part we played, large or small, in helping our customers (and theirs) get back on their feet. Great work!
More than 60 e-mails and letters have arrived here in Corporate Communications, thanking the company and its employees for coming to the aid of hurricane-stricken Florida, Alabama and other states affected by Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne. Compliments with specific names of employees are listed in the ‘Orchids’ on pgs. 10-12.

“Just a short, but warm note to thank you and all your employees for the assistance you gave Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc. [Florida] and its employees during Hurricane Charley. The help you gave us by supplying tree trimmer crews was immeasurable.”

—Pamela May, Executive Vice President and CEO

“Please extend our sincere appreciation to your employees who partnered with Progress Energy in our restoration effort. The collaborative, professional coordination helped make short work of hurricane [Charley] damage in our Carolinas service area. That enabled us to focus on our hardest hit locations in Florida.”

—Fred Day IV, President and CEO Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc.

“With our recent storm [Charley], I have had the pleasure of working with one of your teams for two days. I must commend your employees for their concern for safety, courtesy and hard work.”

—Ray Graf, Stormwater Supervisor, City of Daytona Beach, Florida

“I would like to extend a personal thank you for your valuable assistance during our restoration effort following Hurricane Frances. ... The safety and efficiency your team demonstrated while working on our system is a testament to their professionalism.”

—James P. Duncan, CEO and General Manager of Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc., Florida

“Due to Hurricane Frances, traffic was heavy (people returning home and from vacation) and Frances was still pounding the general area. ... But there was one bright light in it. I saw numerous Asplundh trucks headed south to help with the destruction caused by Frances (and earlier storms). That was inspiring enough, but then I noticed that they were the most courteous drivers on the road. They weren’t speeding, weren’t going too fast for the conditions, kept a safe distance and quite simply, conducted themselves like utter professionals on a mission—and they were!”

—an e-mail from Aaron Scott

“I’d like to thank all of your employees that responded in Florida for each of our hurricanes this year. I’d also like to thank all of your family members that you left at home to help us out in our time of need. My husband and sons are active duty military, so I realize the sacrifices they demonstrated while working on our system is a testament to their professionalism.”

—Debbie Price, Crestview, Florida

“Among the many thousands of recovery personnel that assisted us after Hurricane Ivan batted the Florida Panhandle were hundreds of workers from the Asplundh tree trimming company, including several crews from Harrison, Arkansas. ... They demonstrated the highest level of professionalism and friendliness. I never heard them swear, speak disrespectfully or even show any sign of disgruntlement. They seemed to love their work and exhibited a high degree of satisfaction at the thought of being able to lend a hand to our community on the heels of such a devastating storm. They are a credit to the Asplundh company and more importantly, to the people of Harrison, Arkansas.”

—Dr. Chuck Baldwin, Pensacola, Florida.

“To all the hardworking employees at Asplundh that are helping the state of Florida after Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne. I just wanted you all to know that I truly appreciate all that you have done to help bring our lives back to normal during this tragic time for our state.”

—Lorrie, West Melbourne, Florida
As you may have read in the last issue of The Asplundh TREE, Asplundh has contracted DuPont Safety Resources (DSR) to assist us with redesigning our safety program and to help change our safety culture. Asplundh will become a safer place to work for our employees. Our industry leading safety program will be even better!

Before we go too far, DSR does not have a silver bullet that will solve all safety issues overnight. However, a systematic approach has guided their activities and will continue to guide our efforts.

DSR completed their assessments during the months of May and June this year. They visited 15 regions, Home Office personnel, 62 field crews and approximately 250 employees as part of this process. DSR identified five key areas where they feel that we can improve our safety program and change our culture: Auditing, Incident Investigation, Program Management & Communications, Performance Management, and Training.

After the assessments were completed, the Joint Oversight Team (JOT) formed five Key Process Improvement Teams and they have been working on changes in the areas that were identified by DSR. The Process Improvement Teams include members from the JOT, as well as sponsors and additional region managers/vice presidents, supervisors, general forepersons and forepersons.

The Process Improvement Teams have completed their initial redesign work and the new/changed programs will be piloted and validated in selected regions between now and the end of the year. Regions that have been selected for a pilot process will help to fine tune the programs as needed.

After they have been validated, the plan is to start rolling out the new/changed programs to the entire organization in 2005. To assure that everyone understands the changes and how they are to be implemented, the JOT will review the new programs with all managers/vice presidents and supervisors at upcoming meetings.

All of our managers/vice presidents will meet DSR’s Tom Cavanaugh and the rest of the DSR team at the Managers’ Meeting in Philadelphia Oct. 27-30. At that time, they will get an overview of DSR’s assessments, as well as participate in initial training sessions.

“We will be successful in making Asplundh a safer place to work,” said President Scott Asplundh, “and your personal commitment is required. Remember SAFETY FIRST—NO ONE GETS HURT.”

Recognizing Safety Success

Since 1986, the Asplundh Board of Directors has been honoring the manager/vice president whose operation achieved the lowest loss cost each year. Their names are inscribed on a silver trophy, the Board of Directors Award for Safety Excellence, which remains on display in the Board Room. Unfortunately, the tradition of being honored in front of the Board members had fallen by the wayside in the past few years. However, the situation was rectified this past summer with special presentations for the vice presidents below. Congratulations!

On August 17th, President Scott Asplundh (left) presented the Board of Directors Award for Safety Excellence to Vice President Pat O’Connor (right) of Utility Pole Technologies, Inc. (UPT). Pat received the recognition on behalf of all the UPT employees who worked safely in 2002, keeping the operation’s loss cost per-hour at the lowest level of that year.

Vice Presidents Steve Miller (left) and Tom Mayer of the Railroad Division (right) display the large silver Safety Excellence trophy presented to them by Chief Executive Officer Chris Asplundh on July 13th. The Miller Region earned the honor for its safety record in 2003 while the Asplundh Railroad Division received the award for its safety performance in 2001.
Recognition for Safety Success continued

On July 12th, the Doug Gober (now Larry Gauger) Region in Illinois held its quarterly General Foremen’s meeting. Various safety topics were discussed and the region’s year-to-date safety performance was reviewed. Plaques were presented to general foremen whose operations earned one, two or an outstanding three consecutive perfect corporate safety audits this year. Special thanks go to Data Specialist Tim Frank for his expertise in building the IPAQ auditing program. In addition, Larry Gauger presented Loss Prevention Services Manager Pat Jacobs with a special award for his exceptional help in raising safety awareness throughout the region.

Shown above (L to R) are General Foremen Rob Schnelle, Saul Mancera, Mark Lohse, Terry Rosenberg, and Herb Zinzer who were recognized for earning at least one perfect safety audit this year. Not available for the photo was Roberto Garcia.

Above (L to R) are General Foremen Don Miller, Ken Meudt, Ray Apking, Brian Huffhines, Jim Hudgin, and Al Malec who were honored for having two consecutive perfect safety audits. Not available for the photo were Ricardo Perez and Bob Livingston.

The positive results of safety audits, training and the daily commitment of individual employees did not go unnoticed by Exelon management (parent company of ComEd and PECO Energy) who recently presented Asplundh with a Supplier Safety Award for maintaining exceptionally safe work practices. Above (L to R) are Exelon Chief Supply Officer Craig Adams, Asplundh Loss Prevention Services Manager Pat Jacobs, Exelon Director of Vegetation Management Doreen Masalta, Asplundh Manager Larry Gauger and Exelon Vice President of Strategic Supply Krista Robinson.

Pictured above (L to R) are General Foremen Jude Solis, Rick Nordyke, Abe Hopkins, Joe Ronsman, Greg Great, and Kurt Pilz who received special plaques for achieving three consecutive perfect safety audits of their crews and operations.

Safety recognition awards were recently presented to UPT Foreman Robert Pakacki (center) and Crew Member Petie Wheeler (far R) for finding a live conductor on the ground where they were working in Berryville, Virginia. Following the proper safety procedures, they made sure the public did not get near the line and they immediately notified the utility, Allegheny Power. UPT Supervisor Chris Eddy (far L) and Greg Wolfe of Allegheny Power Line Services (2nd from L) joined with Vice President Pat O’Connor (2nd from R) in congratulating the crew. General Foreman Michael Boone was also there, taking the photo!

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Using Down Time for Safety Training

Foreman Wayne Krehbiel of the Mel Riley Region in Missouri sent in this photo of his co-workers practicing their roping and rescue skills as they were waiting to be officially released from storm emergency work in Florida after Hurricane Charley hit in mid-August. They were wrapping up almost two weeks of tree work to help Florida Power & Light restore power, first in the Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda area and then around Arcadia. General Foreman Rick McBee organized the impromptu training session where Climber Mike Disselhoff (above) demonstrated how to safely lower to the ground ‘the injured employee’ (played by Climber Daniel ‘Boone’ Robinson). Hats off to them for making effective use of down time!
Great observation skills, a strong compassion for others and quick thinking are all exemplified in two Asplundh crews who recently received Silver Merit awards. Their decisive actions to help members of the public stuck in emergency situations deserve our congratulations and thanks.

Failed Oxygen System

On Friday, May 21, 2004, Asplundh crews from the Doug Gober (now Larry Gauger) Region were working late to clear trees and limbs from ComEd lines. A strong storm had knocked out power in parts of the ComEd system in northern Illinois. Around 8 p.m., General Foreman Greg Great dispatched Foreman Shawn Carmody and Trimmer Art Anderson to the Crystal Lake area to remove a large limb from a huge Burr Oak that was hanging over a single phase primary and transformer on a rear lot line.

After reviewing the job site hazards, Shawn determined that his crew would need a line kill in order to do the job safely. He contacted Greg who arranged for a ComEd line crew to shut off the power. Just as the crew was preparing to remove the limb, Shawn heard a knocking on the door of the house next to the job site. He went to the house and found a frantic 92-year-old woman who was somewhat disoriented because the power was off and her back-up oxygen system was not working. Shawn immediately asked the ComEd crew to restore the power.

While Shawn stayed with the woman, Greg tried to locate and contact her family members. Unfortunately, no one could be reached. In the meantime, Art went to the local fire department and returned with a paramedic who was able to repair the back-up system for her oxygen tank.

In September, Supervisors Larry Gauger (far L, now manager) and Jeff Ness (second from R) made a special trip to the field to present Silver Merit Awards to (L to R) Foreman Shawn Carmody, Trimmer Art Anderson and General Foreman Greg Great for their outstanding assistance to an elderly woman whose back-up oxygen system failed during a storm-related outage in the Crystal Lake, Illinois area. Also on hand to offer his appreciation was ComEd Project Lead Merle Turner (far R).

On October 4, 2004, while still on hurricane clean-up duty in Florida, General Foreman Eddie Smitherman (left) made a special effort to catch up with Foreman Jason Mims (center) and Crew Member Elvin Hardy (right) to present Silver Merit Awards on behalf of their new manager Wendell Smitherman in Alabama. He congratulated them for their fire-fighting actions that probably saved the lives of two young women trapped in their burning car after they were involved in a head-on collision last July.

We congratulate this team for their great assistance to a senior citizen in need!

Head-on Collision Causes Fire

It was a rainy July afternoon and Foreman Jason Mims with Crew Member Elvin Hardy of the Steve Bostock (now Wendell Smitherman) Region had just filled up the 500-gallon water tank on their spray truck in preparation for the next day’s work for Alabama Power. Jason and Elvin were travelling on Highway 22 north of Orville, Alabama when they were passed by a speeding car. A few moments later, they came upon the scene of a head-on collision involving the car that had passed them earlier. Two other cars had already pulled over to help and the Asplundh crew did the same.

It appeared that two young women from one of the crashed vehicles had been able to get out despite an injured leg and cuts. However, the two girls in the other wrecked car were pinned inside. Smoke and flames were billowing out of the two vehicles.

Someone had already called 911, but there was no time to waste in putting out the fire which now had flames over six feet high. Knowing that the truck’s fire extinguisher would not be adequate for a fire of this magnitude, Jason and Elvin immediately pulled their hoses off of their spray truck and used the fresh tank of water to control and eventually put out the fire.

Fortunately, all four young women survived the collision and fire with minor injuries, thanks to the quick thinking and decisive action of Jason and Elvin.

These Asplundh employees clearly deserve the company’s Silver Merit Award recognition and our thanks!
Congratulations to this winning foursome—(L to R) Larry Gattis of Trees, Inc., Ed Dodak and Jerry Brown of Bandit Industries and David Fleischner of Trees, Inc.—who came in first place in the 10th Annual Asplundh sponsored Golf Outing to benefit the TREE Fund. There was plenty of sunshine and camaraderie as the 88 golfers played Quicksilver’s 18-hole course just outside of Pittsburgh where the 80th annual ISA Conference and Trade Show was taking place. More than $20,000 was raised!

This lively group of Tour des Trees riders made a special detour from their 425-mile ride from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh to visit the Asplundh/Arborchem office in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. They stopped by to say ‘Thank you!’ to Manager Dom DeRosa and his staff for a very hospitable break the afternoon before at Conoy Creek Park. They also thanked Arborchem for providing Jim Wilfong and Jack Lauver to spraypaint the route markings that day.

During the ISA conference, the Utility Arborist Association (UAA) elected Asplundh’s General Manager of Technical Services Jim Orr as one of its newest officers. With 34 years of service in the utility vegetation management industry, he has served the UAA as editor, executive secretary and secretary-treasurer, and now takes on the position of vice president. Jim pledges to focus on increasing utility-oriented research, both through UAA directed grants and through the TREE Fund.

An extra special afternoon break on the longest day of the Tour was sponsored by Asplundh Manager Dom DeRosa and his staff from the Mechanicsburg office. Riders couldn’t miss the big orange truck on display and thoroughly enjoyed the watermelon, snacks, bottled water and sports drinks—as well as a sprinkler for overheated cyclists to ride through!

The ISA convention and trade show in Pittsburgh was not only a great place to meet with customers, it was also the site of important meetings and voting sessions for the ISA’s affiliated associations. In fact, the Utility Arborist Association elected Asplundh’s General Manager of Technical Services Jim Orr to vice president and Kristin Wild was elected to serve on the TREE Fund Board. Both Jim and Kristin look forward to helping these organizations as they support the arboricultural industry.
Three Sponsors Added to the ATE Executive Team

To assist the Asplundh Tree Expert Co.‘s executive team in providing world class service and field management support, three of our most experienced and successful vice presidents have been appointed as sponsors, effective September 26, 2004. As a result of these changes, several new regional managers are being named to take on their former responsibilities. They will be formally introduced in the Holiday issue of The TREE magazine.

Steve Bostock, former manager of Asplundh operations in Alabama, is now sponsor of seven Tree Co. management regions in the Southeast and Indiana. A 27-year Asplundh veteran and son of retired Vice President Connie Bostock, Steve has been recognized numerous times by the company and other organizations for his outstanding performance in expanding sales and services. He started out as a groundman and foreman in Georgia during summer breaks from college and joined Asplundh full-time in 1977. Steve advanced through general foreman, safety supervisor, and field supervisor in Georgia and the Florida Panhandle until 1989 when he was promoted to manager of Asplundh operations in Alabama. Elected vice president in 1991, Steve was instrumental in the expansion of our meter reading and line construction services in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle, in addition to remarkable growth in our core vegetation management services. He holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from Georgia Southern College and is an ISA Certified Arborist, as well as a member of the ISA and UAA.

Doug Gober, former manager of two Asplundh regions in parts of Pennsylvania, New York and Illinois, has been promoted to sponsor of five management regions in the Northeast, Midwest and Pacific Northwest. Born in Missouri, Doug is a 33-year Asplundh veteran who has received several corporate merit awards for his skill in developing alliances, sales growth, innovative operations and storm response. His career with Asplundh has taken him from his first position as a brush cutter in Missouri in 1971 to general foreman in 1982, to supervisor three years later in Southern California, to manager in 1987 in parts of Pennsylvania and New York. Responsible for Asplundh operations in the vicinity of the Home Office, Doug was elected vice president in 1991 and was given added management duties in New Jersey from 1996 to 2001. In June 2003, he took on responsibility for Asplundh operations on the property of ComEd in Illinois, a sister company of PECO Energy. Doug has studied business administration and management at Florissant Valley College and is a member of the ISA and UAA.

Larry Moore, former manager of Asplundh operations in upstate New York and Maine, plus one of our Asplundh Brush Control Co. regions, is now sponsor of ten management regions including several vegetation management subsidiaries.

It was 33 years ago that Larry got his start with Asplundh as a groundman in Virginia. He began his climb up the management ladder in 1980 with a promotion to general foreman. Three years later, Larry became a safety supervisor and in 1985 advanced to field supervisor in Maryland. He served off and on as a special assistant to current Chief Executive Officer Chris Asplundh, overseeing our first overseas operations in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Hawaii until his promotion to manager in upstate New York in 1989. Larry was elected vice president in 1991 and has been recognized by the company eight times for his accomplishments in safety performance, storm coordination and start-up operations. He has taken college courses in business management and landscaping, and is a member of the ISA and UAA.

New Managers in the Field and Home Office

Gerry Kosyla joined Asplundh’s Corporate Accounting Dept. in Willow Grove in July as our corporate tax manager. He reports to Controller George Licci. Gerry brings to Asplundh more than ten years of experience as a tax manager for two large corporations in the Philadelphia area. As Asplundh’s corporate tax manager, he is responsible for federal and state income tax compliance and planning. Gerry also oversees sales and use tax and payroll tax reporting. He has earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting, a master’s degree in taxation and a juris doctorate, all from Temple University in Pennsylvania. A Certified Public Accountant, Gerry is also an attorney.

Harold Scott joined the Information Technology (IT) Dept. in Willow Grove as its manager of application development in June. He reports to Chief Information Officer Eric Reibsane. With over 30 years of computer systems development and project management experience, Harold is well equipped to oversee the numerous requests for new or updated programs from the field, Home Office or our various subsidiaries. In his most recent position prior to joining Asplundh, Harold was the manager of customer information systems for the nation’s largest trade magazine publisher. He studied engineering at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania and is a member of the Society of Information Managers.
Tom Kostenbader, former general foreman in Maine, was promoted in July to supervisor working under Manager Ralph Guadagno. Vice President Larry Moore sponsors the Guadagno Region.

Tom first joined the company in 1982 as a climber in his home state of Pennsylvania. In 1983, he transferred to Maine and two years later, he left the company to start his own tree service. In 1990, Tom returned to Asplundh and rose through the ranks to general foreman in 1998. He is a June 2001 graduate of ASTP and as a supervisor, he is responsible for overseeing Asplundh crews on the properties of Bangor Hydro, Maine Public Service, various municipalities and residential customers, as well as outsourcing crews throughout New England. Tom is an ISA Certified Arborist and serves on the board of the Maine Arborist Association.

Matthew Pence, former general foreman in North Carolina under Manager Barry Suddreth, advanced to supervisor in August. Vice President Gregg Asplundh sponsors the Suddreth Region.

Matthew got his start on an Asplundh tree crew in 1995 after completing a bachelor’s degree in environmental science and health safety from Western Carolina University. He had also worked for a chemical environmental company. After working on lift, climbing, spray and underground telephone installation crews Matthew was promoted to general foreman in 1997. His supervisory duties include overseeing Asplundh crews working on the property of Duke Energy. An ISA Certified Arborist/Utility Specialist, Matthew is also a certified CPR trainer, pesticide applicator and third party CDL instructor.

Doug Smith, former supervisor in North Carolina under Manager Barry Suddreth, was promoted to manager of Asplundh operations in parts of North and South Carolina in August. Vice President Steve Bostock sponsors the Smith Region.

Doug got his start with an Asplundh climbing crew in 1976 in his home state of North Carolina. By 1986 he had advanced to general foreman and in 1994, he was promoted to supervisor. Doug is responsible for overseeing vegetation management operations on the properties of Progress Energy and South Carolina Electric & Gas, as well as various municipal and cooperative accounts. He is a graduate of the Dale Carnegie Course and ASTP, and is also an ISA Certified Arborist/Utility Specialist and a member of the ISA.

Darhl Trail, Jr. joined Asplundh in July as a new supervisor in parts of Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania under Vice President Dave Puckett. Vice President Chris Asplundh, Jr. now sponsors the Puckett Region.

Darhl brings to Asplundh 20 years of experience in the line clearance industry. In fact, he started out on an Asplundh crew in his home state of Maryland in 1984. For the past 18 years he has worked for various line clearance contractors in field and management positions, most recently as a regional manager. As an Asplundh supervisor, Darhl is responsible for overseeing crews working in Allegheny Power’s Area 3. An ISA Certified Arborist/Utility Specialist and Maryland Tree Expert, he also holds herbicide licenses for all three states in which his crews work.

Retirees Honored

Congratulations and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement to all the Asplundh retirees listed here!

Jerry Barr
Foreman, Ohio
First employed January 1981
Retired May 2004

Mark Beard
Journeyman, Washington
First employed July 1985
Retired May 2004

Robert Bohm
Foreman, Illinois
First employed November 1999
Retired August 2004

Patrick Cronin
Permission Person, Illinois
First employed January 2000
Retired August 2004

Lowell Davis
Flagger, Oregon
First employed July 2002
Retired August 2004

Michael Earl
Utility Meter Services, Inc.
Meter Reader, North Carolina
First employed May 2001
Retired August 2004

Marvin Ezell
Central Locating Service, Ltd.
Locator, Alabama
First employed June 2001
Retired June 2004

Joe Francis
Asplundh Buick/Pontiac/GMC
Fleet Manager, New Jersey
First employed January 1985
Retired June 2004

Margaret Gray
Billing Input Operator
Willow Grove, Pennsylvania
First employed January 2001
Retired June 2004

James Jones
Foreman, Texas
First employed October 1993
Retired June 2004

Wilson Martin
Foreman, New York
First employed June 1999
Retired September 2004

Robert Phillips
Journeyman, New Jersey
First employed August 1958
Retired May 2004

Jerry Privette
Foreman, Ohio
First employed August 1999
Retired August 2004

Charles Stevens
Equipment Operator, Virginia
First employed October 1999
Retired June 2004

Angelo Tumbarello
Flagger, New York
First employed March 1993
Retired June 2004
Letters and telephone calls were received complimenting the following foremen and their crews working on the property of the utility or organization listed below the employees’ names. This listing covers all “Orchids” that were received in the Corporate Communications Dept. between June 29, 2004 and September 20, 2004. For their outstanding job performance or special volunteer efforts, we say . . .

Thank you and congratulations!

ALABAMA

General Foreman Don Hogan, Foremen Donnie Carter, Patrick McCrackin, Harold McKee and Larry Smitherman and Trimmer/Climbers Demetrius Marsh and Joshua Smith, City of Tuskegee

Randy Hutchinson and Trimmer/Climbers Sam Hogue, Billy Latham, Gary Thrasher, J.D. Williams and Shawn Williams, Alabama Power Co.

General Foreman Maxie McCoy, Permissions Person Larry Attaway and Trimmer/Climbers Donnie Beachboard and Scott Hunderman, Alabama Power Co.

General Foreman Kyle Sellers and Permissions Person Waldo Hill, Alabama Power Co.

General Foreman David Traweek and Crews, for helping to remove dead limbs from trees around the T.R. Simmons Elementary School in Jasper, Alabama Power Co.

ALASKA

Dan Downing and Journeyman Gene Conner, Chugach Electric

ARIZONA

Randy Cauley and Crew, Arizona Public Service Co.

Lazaro Hernandez and Trimmer/Climbers Mike Bravo and Julian Valdez, Salt River Project

General Foreman Vern Renninger, Foremen Travis Beiriger, Aaron Levario and Dustin Martin and Trimmer/Climbers Jared Hooper, Joe Simpson and Ken Wood, Arizona Public Service Co.

CALIFORNIA

General Foreman Brian Bigley and Crews, San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

John Davis and Apprentice Marcus Robinson, San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

Permissions Person Javier Hernandez, Southern California Edison Co.

General Foreman Howard Vaeena, Foreman Salvador Escobedo and Crews, San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

From a letter to Supervisor Bill Ross and General Foreman Terry Dollar of the Dave Stall Region in California, about Permissions Person Javier Hernandez’s work for Southern California Edison Co.:

I would like to commend the efforts of Javier Hernandez in the patrol and I.D. operations performed in the Big Creek District. As of this date, the trimming efforts are 90% complete. ... I would also like to say that Javier was an exceptional member of my patrol team. He never hesitated to hike and climb the treacherous valleys and hills to accomplish our goal. He was quick to open gates for truck access, his communications and guidance navigated me through areas of rock and creek beds in my 4x4, without which, I would have surely gotten stuck. He even took the lead and changed three flat tires during our adventures. His persistence, judgment calls, listening ability, and overall performance and intelligence made him the strongest link on our crew. Javier is a very smart and capable asset to your company.

Michael Jones, Line Clearing Specialist

From a letter to Vice President Gary Shelto, regarding Foreman Tim Gregson and crew’s work for Public Service Co. of New Hampshire:

I hope you received my phone message last week thanking you for removing the trees in the playground area — during Memorial Day weekend no less! ... The kids are now believers that they are getting a new playground soon. ... We sincerely appreciate the work you and your employees did.

Karen Van Der Beken, Easter Seals

CONNECTICUT

Jon Ricard and Trimmer/Climber David Theberge, Connecticut Light & Power

HAWAII

Guy Holt and Sam Maehata, and Trimmer/Climber Irv Carvalho, Citizens Utilities Co.

ININDIANA

Damean Bostian and Nate Martin

From a letter to General Foreman Shayne Dion, Foremen Brian Fontaine and Ronald Mackillop, Trimmer/Climbers Justin Bishop and Gregg Erickson and Groundmen Ed Stark and Ian Stenson, Public Service Co. of New Hampshire:

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KENTUCKY

Journeymen James Harris and Michael Moore, Blue Grass Energy

LOUISIANA

Larry Ferguson and Crew, AEP

MASSACHUSETTS

Rob Glading and Apprentice J.J. Phelan, Northeast Utilities

ONTARIO

Eric Cunningham and Journeymen Trimmer Carlos Kerlee, Northwestern Energy

NEW HAMPSHIRE

General Foreman Mario Patino, Foreman Juan Patino and Crews, Sumiter Electric Cooperative, Inc.

General Foreman Ray Felt and Crews, for carefully removing three large maple trees in the Huntingburg City Park without damage, City of Huntingburg

Supervisor Kelly Runkle, General Foremen Jason Armstrong, Luther Armstrong and David Eicle and Trimmer/Climber Jeff Eicle, Cinergy/PSI

The Asplundh TREE 10 Autumn Issue 2004
From a letter to Foreman Joe Brown of the Doug Smith Region, regarding Equipment Operator Wendell Gant and Groundman Lennie Locklear in Lumberton, North Carolina:

Yesterday, July 7, 2004, you and your crew were working on or near Chestnut Street when a funeral procession passed. Individuals who were a part of the procession noticed how your crew lowered your bucket and stopped work, and removed your hats out of respect for the deceased. These individuals wanted us to know just how much they appreciated your act of respect. Joe, the City of Lumberton appreciates you and your crew for the job you do, and the manner in which you represent our City.

Frank Price, Director of Electric Utilities

From an e-mail to Manager Jeff Duncan, about work performed by General Foreman Sean Kaylor, Foreman Adelino Purdin and Crew in Ohio on Dayton Power & Light property:

For the past few days, your work crews have been in our neighborhood clearing tree limbs from the power lines. I was inquisitive, so I approached one of the crew, Foreman Adelino Purdin. I spoke with him, and he was very receptive to my questions. In fact, he pointed out to me the reasons why the work progresses the way it does. I noticed that safety is a big issue with your company and it was very evident that your crew foreman took it seriously. The property owners on both sides of me agreed that their property was taken very good care of and a concerted effort was made to protect the flowers, bushes, trees and landscaping in each of our yards. Please extend to your crews that we appreciate the job they are doing.

Michael E. Rado

News from the Regional Directors:

NEW YORK
Tim Casler and Journeyman Trimmer Todd Pyczikiewicz, City of Jamestown
James Deegan and Stanley Strain and Trimmer/Climber Amador Guerrero, Keyspan Energy
Tom Degolier, Journeyman and Apprentice Harold Miller, Niagara Mohawk
Dick Frank, Journeymen Brian Conley and Mike McLaughlin and Apprentices Fred Lehman, Jesse Uelemy, Chris Voss and Dan Voss, Rochester Gas & Electric
Trimmer/Climber Jamie Koch and Apprentice Gary Czebatul, Rochester Gas & Electric
Paul Sherlock, Trimmer/Climber Jim Holcomb, Rochester Gas & Electric
Manager Mike Zehler, General Foreman Mike Ray, Foreman Richard Haas, Trimmer/Climbers David Hodge and Jamie Koch, Journeymen Christopher Setlock and Brian Vrooman, Groundmen Marshall Bradley and Brandon Chace and Apprentice Patrick Lates, Village of Spencerport Municipal Utilities

OHIO
General Foreman Sean Kaylor, Foreman Adelino Purdin and Crew, Dayton Power & Light Co.
Keith Peck and Crew, South Central Phone Co.
Mike Stewart and Frankie Tinell, Journeyman Brian Stewart and Groundmen Corey Bonavita, Nathaniel Mart and Randy Mills, AEP

OKLAHOMA
General Foreman Robert Coffman, Foreman Hal Lorenz and Apprentice Joshua Arnett, Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co.
Brandon Hunt and Crew, Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co.
Adam Lucko, Equipment Operator Troy Booze and Groundman Clinton Jeffries, City of Tulsa Department of Public Works
General Foreman Ron McCauley, Foreman Eric Miller and Crew Member Albert Metcalfe, South Central Phone Co.

From a letter to Foreman Hal Lorenz of Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co., regarding their time to grind stumps and debris for St. Helens High School, Columbia River PUD:

Dear Hal,

I just wanted you to know how happy we are with your company and its employees. Your crew took it seriously. I noticed that safety is a big issue with your company and it was very evident that your crew foreman took it seriously. The property owners on both sides of me agreed that their property was taken very good care of and a concerted effort was made to protect the flowers, bushes, trees and landscaping in each of our yards. Please extend to your crews that we appreciate the job they are doing.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Rado

OREGON
Angel Arellano, Journeyman Apolinar Arellano and Groundman Al Neece, Emerald Peoples Utility District
General Foreman Jamie Culp, Foremen Adam Baker and John Flood, Trimmer/Climber Tim Brown, Journeymen Greg Bones and Shane Wilbert and Apprentice Edwin Schiffer, IV, for volunteering their time to grind stumps and debris for St. Helens High School, Columbia River PUD:

VERMONT
General Foremen Juan Gonzalez, Foreman Rudy Amaya and Crews, TXU Electric Delivery

WASHINGTON
Larry Annis and Crew, Peninsula Light Co.
Pat Bagshaw, Trimmer/Climber Luke Nordgaard and Journeyman Howard Dyer, Skamania County PUD 1

WISCONSIN
Jamie Pedretti and Journeyman Gene Kopacz, WE Energies

STORM WORK
General Foreman Domingo Bonilla, Permissions Persons Julio Bonilla, William Bonilla, Darwin Calderon and Kelly Carmen, Human Resources Specialist Isolina Baires and Crews, for their dedication and commitment to storm restoration efforts over the July 4 holiday weekend after severe thunderstorms disrupted power to thousands in the Washington DC area, PEPCO (DC)

General Foreman Lynn Armstrong and Crews (AR), for their hard work to clear debris so power could be quickly restored to the residents of Jacksonville after Hurricane Frances struck the town on September 4, Jacksonville Electric Authority (FL)

From a letter to Foreman Jeff Mills and Eddie Sandoval, Foreman Martin Meraz and Crews, TXU Energy:

General Foremen Jeff Mills and Eddie Sandoval, Foreman Martin Meraz and Crews, TXU Energy

TEXAS
General Foremen Juan Gonzalez, Foreman Rudy Amaya and Crews, TXU Electric Delivery

VIRGINIA
Robert Jones and Trimmer/Climbers

Mark Anderson and Brian Lacks, Dominion Virginia Power
Robert Luttrell, Yancey Sine and Groundman Donald Bowen, Jr., Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative
General Foreman Gary Brittingham (DE), for helping to calm a homesick new employee on storm duty by contacting his spouse with an uplifting message about the work her husband was accomplishing for the residents of Florida and our utility customers after trees were downed and power was lost to millions of Floridians in the wake of Hurricanes Charley and Frances, Florida Power & Light (FL)

Jasper Byrd and Crew (AL), who received a Safety First Motorist Observation report on September 11 from a motorist in Tampa, Florida. The motorist was very impressed with the safe and courteous driving habits displayed by the crew, who were on their way to perform storm restoration work after Hurricane Frances, Florida Power & Light (FL)

Supervisor Ronnie Collins, General Foreman Richard Holt and James Rowland, Foreman Kevin Jackson and Crews, for working quickly to remove trees and limbs from power lines downed by Hurricane Charley so line crews could restore power in the Sanford area, Florida Power & Light (FL)

General Foreman Jeff Findley and Crews (AL), for their outstanding work ethic and cooperation with other contractors during the Hurricane Charley storm restoration, Lee County Electric (FL)

John Fountain and Jean Riphin and Crews, for using their line clearance experience to deal with difficult post-Hurricane Frances conditions to safely clear power lines of storm debris in Vero Beach, Florida Power & Light (FL)

Gary Frady, Trimmer/Climber Mark Stanton, Journeyman Brad Guthrie and Groundman Matt Leger (NC), for the wonderful work they did after Hurricane Charley caused widespread damage in the Sanford area, Florida Power & Light (FL)

Supervisor Darryl Lewis (OH), General Foremen Brad Batie (FL), Nate Faith (OH), Mike Helterbride (OH) and Raymond Kelley (KY), Foreman Carlos Gordon (FL), Sprayerperson Lisa Beasley (FL) and Crews, for their outstanding efforts and spirit of cooperation during the Hurricane Frances storm restoration effort, Gainesville Regional Utilities (FL)

General Foreman Terry McFarlan, Foreman Harvey Nicholas and Crews (WV), for their hard work and outstanding work ethic during the Hurricane Frances storm restoration in the Ocala area, Progress Energy (FL)

General Foreman Bill Merithew and Crews (MI), for their positive attitude and friendly demeanor while helping to clear debris throughout the Deltona area after Hurricane Charley knocked out power to the community, Florida Power & Light (FL)

General Foreman Tommie Satterfield and Crews (OK), for their efforts to quickly clear lines downed by Hurricane Frances in the Boynton Beach area, Florida Power & Light (FL)

David “Standing Bear” Shaun and Crew Member Joseph Raby (TN), for going above and beyond their task of clearing debris from power lines in Boynton Beach by checking in on an elderly woman and her 96-year-old father, who had been without power for over nine days after Hurricane Frances, Florida Power & Light (FL)

General Foreman Jerry Slavens, Foremen Geoff Durso, Russell Herrnreck and Jeff Neill and Crews (MO), for working untiringly to remove debris created by Hurricane Charley in the Maitland area, Progress Energy (FL)

General Foreman Bill Merithew and Crews (MI), for their positive attitude and friendly demeanor while helping to clear debris throughout the Deltona area after Hurricane Charley knocked out power to the community, Florida Power & Light (FL)

General Foreman Elvin Talley, Jr. and Crews (NC), for their hard work to clear power lines downed by Hurricane Charley in Altamonte Springs, Progress Energy (FL)

Supervisor Kelly Runkle, General Foreman Martie Larkins and Crews, for their help clearing lines of debris in the Bloomington area after a strong summer storm damaged power lines in early July, Cinergy/PSI (IN)

Bur­dette Burr and Trimmer/Climber Jose F. Garcia, for being professional and courteous to the residents of Columbia while removing tree limbs left hanging in the power lines by heavy thunderstorms in early July, South Carolina Electric & Gas (SC)

Rod Grinaker, Journeyman Bill Daw and Groundman John Lofranco, for their energetic and friendly demeanor after being called to work in the middle of the night to remove a tree knocked into the power lines after a summer storm on August 20, Puget Sound Energy (WA)

From an e-mail to the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania about the work Supervisor Ronnie Collins, General Foreman Richard Holt and James Rowland, Foreman Kevin Jackson and Crews performed for Florida Power & Light (FP&L) in Sanford, Florida:

Please accept our thanks, appreciation and gratitude for what you do! [Hurricane] Charley reached Sanford, full force, at 9:30 p.m., Friday, August 13. ... Within moments, our power was knocked out, and so we managed for the next 41 hours without all the wonderful things power provides us. Trust me, Florida in the summer months is no place to be without A/C. Like everyone else, we waited and watched for whomever would come our way to rescue us in the way of restoring power. On Saturday, just before 8:00 p.m., I saw trucks! Well, you never saw a 65-year old woman move so fast! I ran down the street to see two big FP&L and two big Asplundh trucks drive on by. ... The group stopped to survey what they saw – well, besides a crazy old lady in the road – the huge trees that had been blown over onto the power lines. ... The FP&L and Asplundh guys worked together like a fine-tuned piece of machinery. ... and then there were lights and A/C! ... Our encounter with Asplundh was a positive one because of your professional crew who aided us in our hours/days of need. They are right up there with firefighters and police, etc., because the work they do is to help the public and hopefully, save lives. FP&L could not get to the power lines until Asplundh safely cleared their way. Whatta job! Whatta crew! Thanks, Asplundh!

Janice and Terry Burch

From a letter to Vice President Mick Kavran, regarding one of his Washington state crew’s work on Puget Sound Energy property:

We are writing to send accolades to three of your employees who helped us out on Friday, August 20, shortly after midnight. One of our trees split and fell forward, landing precariously on another tree that could have fallen on a major power line. ... The three gentlemen who came to our rescue were [Journeyman] Bill Daw, [Foreman] Rod Grinaker and [Groundman] John Lofranco. Not only are they real professionals and were able to bring the tree down with little to no additional damage around it, but they were energetic and upbeat despite the very late hours. Furthermore, we felt confident from their actions that what could have been a problem would come to a positive conclusion. ... Our thanks to your company and the three fine employees who took care of our needs.

Lynne Stewart
Foreman Gerald Crozier (not shown) of the Mel Riley Region took his fiancee, Sherry Wilks (L), out for her first turkey hunt this past spring near Augusta, Kansas. Using a 12-gauge shotgun, Sherry proved a natural at hunting when she harvested this 24-lb. tom with a 10-1/2" beard and 1-1/8" spurs from 15 yards. Gerald oversees a crew on Westar Energy property in Wichita, Kansas. Both he and Sherry are eagerly anticipating the upcoming deer season!

**Pat White’s Grilled Marinated Back Strap**

1 Venison back strap cut 1 to 1-1/2" thick or butterflied  
(Tenderize if preferred)
1 pound bacon
1/2 cup Dale’s Steak Seasoning*
1/4 cup Worcestershire Sauce
1/4 cup Tiger Sauce*
Salt (to taste)
McCormick Season-All (to taste)

Place the venison in a large bowl or plastic Ziploc bag. Add the Dale’s, Worcestershire and Tiger Sauce and marinate for 30 minutes. Remove venison from marinade and wrap with bacon strip. Use a skewer or wooden toothpick to secure bacon. Season with salt and Season-All to taste. Place meat on grill and cook until medium rare to medium, about 5-7 minutes per side. Do not overcook or meat will dry out. Remove from grill and let rest 5 minutes before serving.

*Dale’s Steak Seasoning and Tiger Sauce can be purchased online or at specialty food stores throughout the country.

**Sportsmen’s Corner**

**Duncan Region Crew Impresses Home Owners**—In August, Foremen Jerry Ford and Victor Valdez were working in Chesterton, Indiana with Trimmers Ramon Calderon, Brian Rife and Rosendo Valdez, performing a few routine removals around NIPSCO power lines, when they caught the attention of David and Monette Yetsko. Mr. and Mrs. Yetsko were so impressed with the skill and professionalism displayed by the crew that they e-mailed a complimentary letter and photo to Regional Manager Jeff Duncan. Above, with a friendly wave, Jerry (R) and Brian (L) finished cutting up the remnants of the oak trees they downed on the Yetsko’s property. Nice job!

**Georgia Crew Pitches in to Help Hurricane Stricken Residents**—Knox and Pat Miller of Winter Park, Florida sent a letter to the Home Office in Willow Grove to thank Foreman Vince Rogers and Trimmers Jason Pilcher and Jeff Swafford (shown above) for coming to help after Hurricane Charley knocked down power lines throughout their community. The Millers had been without power for a week when the David McLamb Region crew arrived at their property. The Millers were especially pleased with the crew’s cheerful, friendly attitude while working in the sweltering hot and humid weather Florida is known for. Good work!

**More Orchids**

The Asplundh TREE Autumn Issue 2004
New England Training

May 15 Basic Climbing School—Operational Training Supervisor John Terault, Jr. (center), General Foreman Sean MacPhee (not pictured) and Lead Crew Foreman Dave Yarlott (R) helped fellow employees in the George Leszkowicz Region perfect their climbing and aerial rescue skills in Springfield, Vermont. Volunteering their Saturday off to improve some of their basic daily skills were (L to R): David Hodges, Randy St. Peter, Martin Miller, Robert Curtis and Frederick Habich.

July 10 Basic Climbing School—John Terault, Jr. held another basic climbing school in Windsor Locks for George Leszkowicz Region employees in Connecticut. Foreman Pete Wicklund (second from R) and General Foreman David Trudeau (second from L) assisted John (R) in instructing (L to R) Matthew Dupuis, Edward Smith and Joshua Chviek in improving their climbing techniques and aerial rescue.

July 21 Basic Climbing School—John Terault, Jr., Operational Training Supervisor, held a basic climbing school in Keene, New Hampshire for employees in the Gary Shelto Region. The students gave up a Saturday to take part in the classroom and “hands-on” sessions, including an aerial rescue, to receive a certificate of completion. John (center), along with General Foreman Steve Kenyon (not shown) led (L to R) Steve Swain, David Weaver, Michael Warner, David Allain, Richard Milburn, Jr., Jacob Tradelle, Jason Hutchins, Matt Chicker, Nic Campbell and Tom Ward successfully through the training.

July 31 Aerial Lift School—Assisted by General Foreman David Trudeau, John also instructed an aerial lift school this summer in Niantic, Connecticut. Employees from the George Leszkowicz Region eagerly lined up to improve their inspecting and operating skills on the LR-III, LR-V and Terex XT-55 lifts. In attendance were: Marie Benson, Christopher Evans, Ed Strong, Jesse Dessert, Joshua Chviek, Daniel Hazlett, Edward Smith, Mike Caplette, Ken Allard, Paul LaRue, Scott Cornier, Thomas Slater, Carroll Spaulding, III, and Jonathan Salony.

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August 21 Basic Climbing School—John Terault, Jr., standing, second from L) General Foreman Mark Turner (not shown) and Lead Crew Foreman David Yarlott (standing, center) took their training on the road to Manchester, New Hampshire to teach the basic climbing school to employees in the Gary Shelto Region. Hanging above were (L to R): Timothy Gregson, John Halliday, Jr., Jeff Fellows, William Wheeler, Jr. and Kevin Walters. Standing below were (L to R): James Connors, John, Dave, Michael Patrick and Donald Flannery. All who passed the classroom work and aerial rescue are now eligible to attend John’s advanced climbing school.
Manager Barry Suddreth (L) and Supervisor Mann McMillan (R) were proud to present General Foreman Turner Grant (center) with a specially-engraved watch to commemorate his 30 years of service to Asplundh. Turner got his start in May 1973 as a groundman on Duke Energy property in High Point, North Carolina. He quickly proved himself as a “go-to guy” and was promoted in five months to a climber. Within a few years, Turner earned a foreman’s position, and was promoted to general foreman 23 years ago. Throughout his time with the company, Turner has overseen crews for various electric, telephone and investor-owned utilities in the Carolinas, and has traveled throughout the states training employees on specialized equipment. He currently oversees crews for Energy United throughout North Carolina.

Permissions Person Mark Shaw (center) of the Dom DeRosa Region was congratulated by his fiancee Sally (L) and Supervisor Harold Rineheimer (R) for 30 years of service to Asplundh. Mark started with Asplundh in February 1973 as a climber in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. His hard work earned him a promotion to general foreman in the 1980s. In his free time, Mark enjoys providing free carriage transportation (shown above) for local weddings, proms and events. But don’t worry, he has no plans of quitting his day job of obtaining permission for trimming and removals in Harrisburg on Pennsylvania Power & Light property.

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Something must have been going around, because we have lots of first grandchildren to talk about in this issue! Lorry Ryan, a direct deposit technician in the Payroll Input Department of the Home Office, welcomed not one, but two grandchildren a little over a month apart last year. Tristan (R) was born on February 28, 2003, and his cousin, Cole (L) followed on April 18, 2003. It looks like Lorry will have her hands full with these two cuties!

Shytana Lynne Whitfield was born on March 1, 2003, weighing 5 lbs. and measuring 19” long. She is the first grandchild of Safety Supervisor Keith Combs and his wife, Debra. Shytana’s parents, Michelle and Jason, were delighted by her arrival. When not spoiling Shytana, Keith makes sure Asplundh crews are working safely on the properties of various utilities in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia.

Foreman Kenny Helfer is proud to announce the birth of his grandchild, Joshua. Born January 27 to Joshua and April Helfer, little Joshua is Kenny’s first grandchild. Kenny works in the Dave Ellifritz Region in Mayfield, Kentucky on the property of West Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corp.

Olivia Grace Charlesworth, born February 19, snuggled in for a nap in her grandfather Reggie’s arms shortly after meeting him for the first time. Weighing 6 lbs., 13 oz. and measuring 19” at birth, both Reggie and Grandmom Susan couldn’t be happier! Reggie oversees crews in Oregon on the property of Portland General Electric in the George Meyer Region.

Future cowgirls Destiny, 4, and Skylah, 2, wrangled up a good time while trying on their Grandpa Butch Barnett’s cowboy hat. Butch is a general foreman in the Dan Thurston Region and oversees crews on Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co. property in the Oklahoma City metro area.

Laura Rodriguez and Jose Barrera, Sr. are happy to introduce their first child together, Nathaniel Martin. Cheery Nathaniel just celebrated his first birthday on May 12. Both Laura and Jose work in the Allen LeBlanc Region — Laura is Allen’s secretary, and Jose is a crew foreman on American Electric Power property in Texas. Nathaniel’s step-brother, Jose Barrera, Jr., also works in the LeBlanc Region as a trimmer.

Handsome Devin Shawn Taylor was born on October 20, 2003. Weighing 7 lbs., 4 oz. and measuring 20-1/2” long, he is definitely the pride and joy of his parents, Melissa and Jeff. One of Devin’s favorite playthings is a toy chainsaw, which has Melissa wondering if he will follow in his father’s footsteps one day. Dad Jeff works as a general foreman in the Larry Kirk Region, on American Electric Power property in Dickenson County, Virginia.

Brian and Ashley Tosseng welcomed their first child, Allen James, on March 18. Sleepy little Allen was 19-1/2” long and weighed a healthy 7 lbs., 1 oz. Dad Brian is a trimmer on a crew from the Doug Gober (now Larry Gauger) Region of Illinois, working on ComEd property in southwest Chicago.
Jobs Well Done

Teamwork Gets the Job Done in Schneider Region—This year, WE Energies has been making a special effort to remove climbable hazardous trees growing into power lines to prevent children from getting shocked. However, it often takes a little more to convince homeowners that their beloved trees are growing in the wrong place.

Crews from the Joe Schneider Region encountered a homeowner in Thiensville who didn’t want his five Austrian Pines removed, even though they completely engulfed the power lines. Permissions Coordinator Joanna Rogers (not shown) educated the homeowner as to the dangers of leaving the trees where they were, and he finally understood that they needed to be removed. With the homeowner’s blessing, Foremen Scott Blackford and Jim Heilman (center L and R, respectively) and Journeymen Jason Cawley (far L) and Tanner Asplund (far R) removed the pines quickly and safely in two days.

Asplundh Solves Dayton Danger Tree Dilemma—In late May, a Dayton Power & Light (DPL) helicopter patrol discovered a fallen tree dangerously close to one of their 69kV lines (bottom photo). DPL Line Clearance Manager David Pleiman immediately contacted Supervisor Don Redden of the Jeff Duncan Region in Ohio to solve the problem. Don traveled to the remote location with General Foreman Dave Ledington and Trimmer Terry Reynold. The crew took a 70-foot off-road lift with them (top photo) to traverse the swampy terrain and remove the tree, which was downed safely and without damage to DPL lines.

July ASTP Grads—During the week of July 12-16, the Asplundh Supervisory Training Program was held at the Home Office in Willow Grove. Led by Field Personnel Manager of Training and Development Ryan Swier, the graduates were (back row, L to R): Ricardo Perez, Illinois; Tony Santiago, California; Jim Davey, Jr., Michigan; Ed McKinney, Pennsylvania; and Mike Nulty, Virginia. In the middle row were (L to R): Vincente Vazquez, Tennessee; James Smith, Texas; Rick Panetta, Michigan; Jeff Kuhn, New York; Craig Faulk, Georgia; and Jesse Long, Michigan. Standing in the front row were (L to R): Vern Renninger, Arizona; Raymond Sullivan, Alabama; Dave Wilkinson, West Virginia; Davy Lambert, Kentucky; Jim Dunaway, Ohio; and Mike Jessup, Florida.

June ASTP Grads—Employees from 11 states recently traveled to the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania to participate in the Asplundh Supervisory Training Program. Held on June 14-18, the sessions were led by Ryan Swier, Field Personnel Manager of Training and Development. Graduates included (front row, L to R): John Felker, Florida; Paul Workman, West Virginia; James Kalp, Pennsylvania; Albert Malec, Jr., Illinois; Timothy Clark, Florida; Jeff Lough, West Virginia; Juan Fuentes, Texas; and Hector Arambula (Utility Tree Service), California; Chad Daughtry, North Carolina; and Juan Cantu, Texas.

August ASTP Grads—The Asplundh Supervisory Training Program was once again held at the Home Office on August 23-27 under the leadership of Ryan Swier, Field Personnel Manager of Training and Development. Representing nine states across the country, the 10 graduates were (front row, L to R): Jeff Mills, Texas; Richard Taylor, North Carolina; Trish Coulter, New Jersey; Brian Huffhines, Illinois; and Simon Montero, Ohio. Standing in the back row were (L to R): Greg Chapple, Missouri; Greg Grose, Virginia; Kerry Castle, Oregon; Rob Morris, Ohio; and Darlih Trail, Jr., Maryland.

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Training Times

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Community Service

**CLS Employees Hooked on Charity Fishing Tournament**—It was fun for everyone on the high seas at BellSouth’s Second Annual Charity Fishing Tournament. Held on June 26 in Flagler Beach, Florida, Central Locating Services (CLS) employees from the David Blount Region couldn’t wait to participate in this event, which was a benefit for the Blind Children’s Association of Orlando. CLS General Foreman Spencer Fielder (L) won in the dolphin category, reeling in a 13-pound mahi-mahi. He was presented with a check for $250 by BellSouth General Manager for Northeast Florida Billy Greenlief (R) for his winning catch. Good-natured Spencer promptly turned the check over to the Blind Children’s Association. He oversees locating crews on the utility properties of BellSouth and Florida Power & Light in Volusia, Flagler and Putnam Counties.

**Perseverance Proves Key in Cat Rescue**—June 21 was like any other rainy day in Grand Haven, Michigan. Permissions Person Randy Cory of the Jeff Lynch Region was packing up to go home for the day when Grand Haven Board of Light & Power Administrative Services Manager Jon Hofman asked for a volunteer for a special project—a cat rescue. The utility normally doesn’t do cat rescues, but this particular cat had been up in an oak tree for over three days and no one else would help the cat’s owner. Despite the bad weather, Randy eagerly accepted the challenge. He first used a lift to approach the cat, but it spooked and climbed higher into the tree. Randy tried climbing the tree manually, but the cat perched out of his reach. Not one to give up, he decided to climb down and try the lift again. Randy (above right) was able to get the cat this time and brought it down to the ground so it could be checked out by a local vet (L). Thanks to Randy’s patience and dedication, the cat suffered no injuries from its adventure.

**Asplundh Lends a Hand to Canoe Race**—General Foreman George Koberlein (not shown), Foreman Shawn LeFever and Apprentice Ronnie Miller, Jr. (top photo, R to L) of the Larry Moore (now Mike Zehler) Region volunteered their time over the course of two weekends to help prepare General Clinton Park in Bainbridge, New York for the 42nd Annual General Clinton Canoe Regatta. Regatta Chairperson (and Shawn’s Mom) Pam LeFever called upon Asplundh to help trim overgrown shrubs from around the park’s sign, and to scrape and repaint the park’s flag pole. All the work was completed in time to raise the American flag during the regatta’s opening ceremonies on May 28.

**ATE and PEPCo Team Up For National Arboretum Project in DC**—On July 19, 2004, Washington DC’s Mayor Anthony Williams (at the podium) addressed community leaders and local media to kick off “A Great Day in the Neighborhood”. He and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (front row, far left) thanked Potomac Electric Power Co. (PEPCo) for donating 120 man-hours of labor and equipment to rejuvenate certain areas of the National Arboretum that abut neighborhoods in need of help. Asplundh crews under Vice President Dave Morrison were pleased to be a part of the effort and have worked off and on over the past few months with the National Arboretum to clear brush and remove trees that were an eyesore or provided cover for illegal activities.

**Foremen Byron Monroy (now in the Dave Stall Region in California) and Luis Lovo and Apprentice Santos Mercado of the Dave Morrison Region posed for a photo next to one of several dead trees and overgrown areas that they helped to clean up as part of PEPCo’s contribution to the National Arboretum and its surrounding neighborhoods.**
New Product Review

Skidder Bucket Has Lower Profile on Trailer, More Reach

The Altec LRV60-E70 mounted on a rebuilt Timberjack skidder provides the operator with a working height of 75 feet. Stabilized by four radial outriggers with extra large pads, this machine is designed to work the rough terrain of many transmission lines.

Although Altec Industries has been installing aerial devices on large skidders for years, the key to this project is the overall travel height. When loaded on an 18-inch lowboy trailer this 70-foot aerial device, mounted on a 450 class skidder, is still under 13 feet 6 inches. This means that no “over height” permit is required.

This lower profile option provides the operator with more flexibility because it is quicker to move from location to location. It also greatly reduces the risk of damage from low overhangs and bridges.

Low profile means no “over height” permit is required.

Asplundh managers interested in the Altec LRV60-E70 skidder should contact Dan Bramble in the Equipment Dept. in Willow Grove at ext. 4430 (dbram@asplundh.com). All other inquiries may call Altec Industries at:

1-800-331-1038
or e-mail
rick.germain@altec.com

www.altec.com

New Low Pressure Hydraulic Crimpers for Line Crews

In addition to its standard 12-ton low pressure hydraulic crimpers, Reliable Equipment & Service Co. now offers a 6-ton line that is smaller and very versatile. At 19 inches in length, the weight is only 10 lbs.

The crimping head on the 6-ton version can swivel 180 degrees on the handle. A variety of dies, including Kearney, R6 and “W” style dies, are accepted depending on the model you choose.

The 12-ton models feature a crimping head with 360-degree swivel on the handle for easy positioning. In addition, it is possible to exchange the head from a Kearney style die to a Burndy “U” style (and vice versa) by using an optional die holder. No high pressure intensifier is needed with either the 12-ton or 6-ton models.

This new tool is currently in field testing so please contact Phil Felix in the Purchasing Dept. (pfelix@asplundh.com) for more information.

12-TON SPECIFICATIONS

System: Open/Closed Center
Force: 24,000 lb.
Pressure: 1,700 to 2,500 psi
Flow: 4 - 8 gpm
Capacity: 1.5 inch (750 mcm Copper and Aluminum)

6-TON SPECIFICATIONS

System: Open/Closed Center
Force: 12,000 lb.
Pressure: 1,500 to 2,500 psi
Flow: 4 - 8 gpm
Capacity: 4/O Copper and Aluminum

www.Reliable-Equip.com
Shoot Out 2004 generated an eye-popping array of print and digital images from Asplundh employees, family members and customers, far and wide. There was some stiff competition amongst the 51 contestants and our judges had a tough time whittling down the 180 great entries to a total of only eight winners.

We in Corporate Communications thank everyone who entered, as well as our three judges who were so diligent in their duties—Photographer Mark McCaron of Kerper Studio in Philadelphia, Safety Engineer Tracy Hawks of Risk Management, and Executive Vice President George Graham (now president of UtiliCon Solutions, Ltd.) in Willow Grove. We hope you enjoy the results of their careful review!

Congratulations to the following outstanding Shoot Out 2004 contestants:

- **In the Work Related category**, the first place winner out of 65 entries was Associate Utility Arborist Sara Mullen of Orange & Rockland Utilities. Second prize went to Line Construction Operations Manager Joe Guerrero of the Bernie Van Pelt Region in California and our third place winner was General Foreman Dan McGuire of the Mike Smith Region in Florida. Honorable Mention went to General Foreman Bob Baker of the Mick Kavran Region in Washington.

- **In the Nature category**, the first place winner out of 115 entries was Susan Later, wife of retired Vice President Keith Later in British Columbia, Canada. Second place honors went to Laina Tasch, wife of Supervisor Bob Tasch in the Doug Gober (now Victor Sirvydas) Region in Pennsylvania and the third place prize winner was Utility Forester Chuck Abbe, Sr. of the Dave Stall Region in California. Honorable Mention in this category went to General Foreman Greg Cantrell of the Dave Puckett Region in West Virginia.

Most of these talented photographers have been awarded CASH (one size fits all, you know) as their prize. However, due to Asplundh’s and the utility’s business ethics policies, Sara Mullen was not able to accept the $150 prize that first place winners receive. At her suggestion, we divided her cash prize equally amongst the remaining five winners. That means our second and third place contestants each earned $130 and $105, respectively, and this year, Honorable Mention winners received a $40 gift certificate from Cabelas. We send Sara our special thanks and recognition of her achievement and generosity!

Once again, we thank all of our contestants for taking a shot at winning a prize and our judges for taking the time carefully consider and rank the entries. We encourage all of our readers to get those cameras shooting now so you’ll have a nice set of entries for next year’s Shoot Out.

And don’t forget to check out Asplundh’s 2005 wall calendar where more excellent Shoot Out 2004 entries are featured.
Whenever there is an especially difficult project, Bob calls in some of his most talented employees. In this case, it was Foreman Dave Burress in the bucket, Journeyman Garry Isaacs in the 150-foot tree and Shawn Nielson as the groundman. Back in late May, Snohomish County PUD asked the Mick Kavran Region to provide a crew to remove four over-mature Douglas firs near Edmonds, Washington so that a transmission line and three-phase distribution line could be moved for a road widening project. This crew tackled the task in four days, safely and cleanly. Bob not only recorded their good work on film, he gave them a Superior Performance Notice and new Asplundh ball caps.

—Bob Baker, Goldbar, Washington

The Tasch family has a backyard full of plants to attract butterflies and last summer an Eastern Black Swallowtail just couldn’t resist this brilliant pink and white Stargazer lily. Laina quietly picked up her camera and moved in close to get this lovely shot.

—Laina Tasch, Chalfont, Pennsylvania
Shoot Out 2004 Winners continued

3rd Place - Nature

While on his way to work in Ojai this past spring, Chuck recorded this rare moment when the early morning sun glowed through a haze of fog, silhouetting a row of fan palms not far from his home in Bakersfield.

—Chuck Abbe, Sr., Bakersfield, California

Honorable Mention - Nature

Autumn colors provide a bright contrast to the faded gray cabin on an old farm along Lead Mine Mountain Road in Tucker County, West Virginia. This lovely photo was taken last year during a fall foliage excursion that Greg and his fiancee Tara took. They repeated this trip just recently and are about to officially ‘tie the knot’ at the end of October. Best wishes to the happy couple!

—Greg Cantrell, Hambleton, West Virginia