AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL EMPLOYEES

It is the policy of our Company and all of its subsidiaries and management to work continually toward improving recruitment, employment, development and promotional opportunities for minority group members and women.

It is the Company’s intent to provide equal opportunity in all areas of its employment practices and to ensure that there be no discrimination against any applicant or employee on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin, veteran status, marital status, or sexual orientation.

This policy extends to recruiting and hiring, to working conditions, training programs, use of company facilities, and all other terms, conditions and privileges of employment. As a field employee, complaints may be made to your immediate supervisor (foreperson, general foreperson, supervisor) or Division manager. As a Corporate Home Office employee, complaints may be made to your immediate supervisor, department manager or the Office Personnel manager.

If you cannot report to your supervisor or manager, or if a complaint you have made has not been promptly addressed, you should call the Corporate EEO Officer at (215) 784-4200.

Management will continue to be guided and motivated by this policy, and with the cooperation of all employees, will actively pursue the related goals of equal opportunity and affirmative action throughout the Company and all of its subsidiaries.

Scott M. Asplundh, Chief Executive Officer
As the holiday season approaches, we pause to reflect on 2012 and the many exciting events that occurred this year at the Asplundh Tree Expert Co.

SafeProduction® continues to be the objective of all operations. Safety and productivity go hand-in-hand. We have seen the practice of this concept grow during the year, providing results that indicate our most productive operations are the safest. I commend all of you who embrace SafeProduction®. It is what the industries we serve demand, but more importantly, we can feel proud about performing work in a manner that takes us all home safely every night. Remember our vision “Safety First … No One Gets Hurt!”

This year we saw the continued implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. This program will have a significant positive impact on how we perform work at the Home Office in Willow Grove while providing more accurate and timely information to our field operations. Although integrating so many functions and learning new systems can be difficult, we all must continue to work through the issues.

We also saw the development and launch of the E-Hire program during the year. All new employees now go through the hiring process in a paperless mode, significantly reducing the time it takes for documentation to flow from the field, to the regional office, and then to Willow Grove. There may have been doubts about how the E-Hire program would be accepted by the various user groups, but its implementation has been a big success to the corporation. Thanks to all who made this happen during the year!

The company continued to expand during the year, employing just over 31,000 men and women throughout the enterprise. With this continued growth brought the need for a few changes within our executive structure. Steven Asplundh was named president of UtiliCon Solutions, Ltd. after many years on the vegetation side of the business. He will bring sound leadership and a renewed focus on the vision of our utility infrastructure group. In addition, we created the Executive Management Development Program to help selected individuals learn to execute business strategy at the executive level through assisting the sponsor team. This move will bring long-term benefits to the corporation.

This was an unusual year for storms in the Eastern United States. First, a Super Derecho (wind storm) hit just before the Fourth of July, wreaking havoc from Chicago to the Jersey shore. The second was Hurricane Isaac which pummeled and drenched Louisiana and Mississippi during the last days of August. The third was Superstorm Sandy, nicknamed “FrankenStorm,” which knocked out power to 8.7 million people from North Carolina to Massachusetts in late October. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who continue to repair and rebuild after the passing of these storms.

Of course, we reacted immediately with safe, professional, experienced and productive crews. Restoring power depends heavily upon the thousands of Asplundh and UtiliCon employees who responded tirelessly to these storms. Our people were challenged by difficult working conditions, unusual accommodations, irregular meals, and being away from their homes and families. Many thanks to the spouses and family members who remained at home during these restoration efforts! Your support of our storm responders, often from afar, is greatly appreciated by all.

Understandably, storm work creates an upheaval in our planned work schedules. Completing the annual work plan for vegetation programs on-time, on-budget, and by the specifications is a must. We remain committed to solving scheduling conflicts by working closely with our customers.

As we look forward to 2013, we seek to excel through our core values of: safe operations; professional and productive crews; listening to the industry; continuing to improve operating efficiencies; and responsible and accountable management teams.

Thanks to all of our customers and employees for helping to make 2012 a successful year. Best wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season and all the best in 2013.

Christopher B. Asplundh
Chairman of the Board
Asplundh Tree Expert Co.

George E. Graham, Jr.
President
Asplundh Tree Expert Co.

Scott M. Asplundh
Chief Executive Officer
Asplundh Tree Expert Co.

Steven G. Asplundh
President
UtiliCon Solutions, Ltd.
As I write this, the company is winding down on the Superstorm Sandy restoration. We had a large portion of the company involved with the process and we saw some great things in terms of SafeProduction®. But one thing struck me during my observations in the field: when we take care of the little things, the big things tend to take care of themselves.

Some would say that whether we have the right number of cones down or put both wheel chocks down — properly — doesn’t really affect our safety as tree trimmers. I disagree, and what I see in the field has proven it over the years. If a crew can pay attention to the details, they usually put the same effort into doing the things that we normally consider to be more important for safety.

When you look closer at the crews that do a good job on these issues, you often see other good things as well: clean trucks, sharp chain saws with ropes and other gear in good shape. I also believe that the morale is better on these crews. When people take pride in what they do, they tend to want to do a better and safer job.

The opposite of this holds true as well. If a crew doesn’t bother to do the simple, easy things for safety, they are probably taking risks in other areas, too. When I drive up on a crew and see just one sign, only half of the crew with hi-vis apparel on, and other, simple issues to fix, I am pretty sure that if I watch for long enough, there will be other, more serious issues. If people don’t really care, it will show. When they take shortcuts in one area, they tend to take them in other areas as well.

There is also an effect on compliance officers who evaluate our work practices and it showed during the storm restoration. OSHA tends to notice the “little things.” We had many stops by compliance officers during the storm and they liked what they saw. They would often comment on how our job site set-ups looked good, how all the crews had their PPE on and how well the job briefings were done. They would shake the hand of the general foreperson and move on. However, if they didn’t like what they saw, I am sure that they would have looked much, much closer at what the crew was doing on the job site.

So, start looking at the “little things” on your job sites and make sure that they are right. Also, please remember our Human Performance Error Prevention Tools, especially Job Briefing, Procedures and the Questioning Attitude. By using these tools in every aspect of the job and really paying attention to the “little things,” we will surely reduce risk on our job sites.

Have a safe day,

Tim Walsh
timwalsh@asplundh.com

SafeProduction®
An important part of the SafeProduction® concept is employing improved climbing and rigging gear. However, new tools are only effective if you know how to use them properly. To make sure that our crews and supervision understand how to safely use and maintain the new rigging kit tools, the Safety Operations Group has developed a special training packet and qualification that must be completed by employees before use.

The Mel Riley Region in Kansas invested in the new rigging kit and training effort right away. Earlier this year, Vegetation Training Manager Tracy Hawks and Lead Vegetation Trainer Ray Apking (at right, in the Westar Energy Log Cabin Training Center in Wichita) were brought in to orient all of the region’s 35 general forepersons over a one-week period. Then Regional Safety Supervisor Paul Snethen, who had received comprehensive rigging kit training from Vegetation Trainer Sean Graziano, followed up with each general foreperson to provide on-the-job experience with rigging kit items. Paul (L) is shown here with General Foreperson Josh McGrath (R), making sure he understands how to set up the 5-to-1 mechanical advantage system, along with other items like a port-a-wrap and whoopie sling.

Paul says the new rigging equipment and training was put to good use several times by Riley Region crews who were recently sent to the Northeast during the Superstorm Sandy response. Large storm-damaged trees and limbs, such as this one on Long Island in New York, were often dangerously close to houses as well as power lines. Every rope, pulley, block and rope-saving device found in the kit was used to complete these complex rigging jobs safely and efficiently. That’s what SafeProduction® is all about!

It’s always important to take individual responsibility for working incident-free, but it’s not always easy. Maintaining an incident-free record as a group can be even more difficult. Earlier this year, this group of 12 employees from the Dave Puckett Region in western Pennsylvania reached the goal of two years incident-free set by Supervisor Bill Crouse and General Foreperson Ron McGinnis. As a reward and token of appreciation, the employees were presented with hi-vis hooded Asplundh jackets to keep them warm and dry while they focus on working safely and productively. Our congratulations go to (back row, L to R): Bob Runyan, Mel Anthony, Tony Mercatell, Bob Floyd, Richard Stitt, John Hulsey and Justin Wilson. In the front row (L to R): Dawn McGinnis, Don McGinnis, Bobby Gibson, Barry Page and Tonya Erb. They work out of the Butler Service Center of West Penn Power. Keep up the good work — and keep it safe!
The second half of the 2012 hurricane season is one that will long be remembered for thousands of Asplundh and UtiliCon employees who were mobilized to assist utilities in restoring power. And the utilities affected will certainly never forget the challenges they faced in responding to Hurricane Isaac in late August and especially Superstorm Sandy in late October. Let’s summarize each separately, starting with Isaac.

Isaac made landfall as a Category I hurricane at the mouth of the Mississippi River on the evening of August 28, the seventh anniversary of the infamous Hurricane Katrina. Having skirted Florida a couple days earlier, the storm slowly moved through Louisiana, causing tremendous flooding and knocking out power to over 700,000 homes and businesses in the state. Parts of Mississippi were also seriously affected.

The Asplundh Storm Center had initially mobilized over 1,000 tree workers to go to Florida and UtiliCon had sent over 400 additional line workers, but all of those resources were soon redirected toward Louisiana. At the peak of Asplundh’s mobilization, just over 3,000 employees from 21 different states had been sent in to assist primarily Entergy, but also Central Louisiana Electric Co., Mississippi Power and Magnolia Electric Power Association in Mississippi. Line workers from UtiliCon subsidiaries, Asplundh Construction Corp. (ACC) and Utility Lines Construction Services (ULCS), traveled from as far away as Massachusetts to help rebuild lines for Entergy. A few crews were released to go home by Labor Day, but the last of the mobilized tree and line crews were sent home by September 10.

There was a month or so for the Storm Coordination Team and our Customer & Field Liaison Department to regroup before weather forecasters warned that Hurricane Sandy in the Caribbean could combine with a low to become a “Frankenstorm” for the Middle Atlantic and Northeastern states.
On the evening of October 29 near Atlantic City, New Jersey, Category I Hurricane Sandy made landfall. The windspeed dropped slightly, but the high tide made for record-breaking storm surge in New York and New Jersey. Now dubbed a “Superstorm,” the size of the system broke records at 1,100 miles wide and wind gusts were still clocked at 90 mph in many places. Sandy caused damage all the way into eastern Canada, accompanied by heavy snows recorded in the Appalachian Mountain Range.

Ahead of Sandy’s landfall, Asplundh and UtiliCon had helped utilities to mobilize an extra 2,500 tree workers and over 400 additional line workers, but it was quickly apparent that many more crews would be needed to help clear trees and restore power. This massive storm had left more than eight million utility customers without power in the densely populated Northeast and Middle Atlantic states.

At the peak of Asplundh’s response, over 4,900 tree workers had been sent in from 23 different states, the farthest being Arizona, as well as three Canadian provinces. They assisted 22 different utilities from Virginia to Massachusetts who requested extra help. As the crews finished restoration on utilities less affected by Sandy’s wrath, many of them migrated to hard-hit utilities in northern New Jersey and Long Island, New York.

UtiliCon’s storm resources peaked at over 700 additional employees who were provided to assist 16 utilities that requested help. Beyond the expert line repair personnel from ACC and ULCS, other subsidiaries of UtiliCon were involved in the storm response. Utility Pole Technologies and Grid One Solutions provided storm damage assessors and patrollers, American Lighting and Signalization performed secondary repairs, and American Electrical Testing handled numerous substation restorations for various utility, transportation and industrial clients.

Asplundh One Call’s Disaster Recovery Center in Kentucky also successfully took over the Connecticut center’s operations during the storm.

Despite long hours, strange food and accommodations, missing out on Election Day and working in a snowy Nor'Easter on November 7, thousands of Asplundh and UtiliCon employees safely completed their work and traveled home in time for Thanksgiving with their loved ones. Many thanks to the families of our storm workers and the dozens of utilities and municipalities who released them to help others in need.

This brief overview can’t possibly cover all of the amazing stories and photos that came out of these two storm responses. For a glimpse at more photos and anecdotes, please visit our Storm page in the Services section of www.asplundh.com and the home page of www.utiliconltd.com.

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In 1952, a five-year herbicide research project on a utility right-of-way was initiated to answer important environmental and operational questions. Despite the many changes in technology and regulations surrounding utilities and the environment, this research continues and has managed to maintain its relevance for six decades!

Several partners embarked on this journey, including Pennsylvania Electric Company (now FirstEnergy Corp.), the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Penn State University’s School of Forestry and Conservation, Amchem, DuPont (no longer involved), and Asplundh Tree Expert Co. In 1953, the first research and demonstration plots were set up on a two-mile section of newly-built 230kV right-of-way which crossed Pennsylvania State Game Lands 33 — hence the nickname “Game Lands 33.”

According to Vice President Jim Orr of Asplundh Technical Services, who has been involved with Game Lands 33 research for 35 years, “They didn’t know it then, but they were proving that integrated vegetation management (IVM) works for both wildlife and electric reliability.”

Looking back to the late 1940s, traditional vegetation management methods were extremely labor intensive, somewhat dangerous and relatively expensive. Powerful mowers and side-trimming machines did not exist. Although new herbicides were being developed by the post-war chemical industry, and herbicide use was appealing in terms of labor and cost, there were many people with concerns about its potential impact on the environment. Hunters and sportsmen, bird-watchers and gardeners, farmers and utility personnel would have to be convinced.

The Game Lands 33 research partnership expected that a scientific study by expert academic researchers would provide credible results, which would hopefully make sure that utilities had access to every possible tool to manage their rights-of-way, including herbicides.

Dr. William Bramble, then of Penn State University’s School of Forestry and Conservation, was approached by Ralph Kaufman and Hyland Johns of Asplundh along with Bob Beatty and Bill Allen of Amchem. He agreed to take up the challenge.

Under the guidance of Dr. Bramble and his then graduate student, Dr. Richard Byrnes, multiple methods of vegetation management were evaluated side-by-side. Manual (and later, mechanical) brush cutting was compared to the use of herbicides. Different types of herbicides and various means of application were also evaluated. With the partnership’s support, including Dow AgroSciences who took the place of Amchem and DuPont in the 1980s, the research continued.

Sixty years of this ‘five-year’ project have yielded some fascinating results. The concerns about the harmful impact that herbicides might have proved unfounded. In fact, the data showed a positive impact. The reason for this is that herbicides are applied in a way that targets undesirable vegetation such as trees. The resulting shrubs and grasses supply food and shelter not found in the forest. A wide variety of animals take advantage of this meadow-like habitat. Furthermore, these plant and animal communities help to resist the invasion of unwanted woody plants through plant competition and by animal feeding behaviors.

“The area contains an impressive array of species of plants and relatively unknown wildlife such as about 30 kinds of butterflies, as well as birds, large and small mammals, amphibians and reptiles,” said Dr. Richard Yahner, Professor of Wildlife Conservation at Penn State University, who carries on the research today.

In the early days, before big mowers, side trimmers and herbicides, many workers swinging sharp, heavy brush axes were needed to maintain a right-of-way. It was extremely labor intensive and dangerous.

Game Lands 33 research proved that herbicides could be safely used to control undesirable woody species under power lines, like this oak tree on the research plots being treated with a basal application by Work Planner Les Witmer of the Dave Puckett Region this past summer.

The research also showed that the abundant grasses, shrubs and meadow plants resulting from herbicide treatments made ideal habitat for a variety of wildlife, including the fawn and Monarch butterfly shown here on the Game Lands 33 research plots.
“Although the herbicide products and methods that are studied every five years have evolved over the years, Game Lands 33 research continues to provide valuable data,” says Vice President Joe Lentz of Arborchem Products Division. “It’s also a great place to show people how integrated vegetation management works with nature.”

Proving that IVM methods benefit both wildlife and electric reliability is as important today as it was 60 years ago — perhaps more so, due to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) regulations regarding vegetation management on transmission lines. Thanks to forward-thinking people and their organizations, the tools of right-of-way management are as diverse as the plant and animal communities living there.

‘Seeing is believing’ as over 200 attendees of the 2012 Mountain Lake Vegetation Management Council Conference learned during a tour of the FirstEnergy right-of-way near State College, Pennsylvania in September. The Game Lands 33 research has been conducted there since 1953.

Representatives of the research partnership, who gathered for a photo at the Cut Stubble research plot, were (L to R) Brandon Dunlap of Dow AgroSciences, Vice President Jim Orr of Asplundh Technical Services, Eric Erdman of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Rebecca Spach, Manager, Vegetation Management at FirstEnergy. Dr. Richard Yahner of Penn State University, who currently conducts the biological research, was not able to attend that day.

Claverack REC’s Director of Operations Doug Nichols (L) and Operations Supervisors Jim Altemus and Dennis States (not shown) work closely with Asplundh General Forepersons John Wheeler (R) and Roy Burrows (not shown) to keep the co-op’s right-of-way maintenance program on cycle and on budget.

The Asplundh crews working on the Claverack REC system, many of whom are members of the co-op, are versatile workers. Skidder buckets, mowers, aerial lifts, climbing gear and spray equipment are all put to good use to safely and efficiently control vegetation on the rights-of-way.

“We expect the cost per mile to go down on the next cycle,” says Claverack REC’s Director of Operations Doug Nichols. “And we have almost zero complaints.”

To help co-op members understand the purpose of herbicide applications, Asplundh displays spray equipment and information at the co-op’s annual meeting. John, Roy and their forepersons also make a point of speaking with every member whose property adjoins a right-of-way to be sprayed, to build confidence in the IVM program.

“I really value Asplundh’s partnership,” says Mr. Nichols. “The crews really know our system. They’re like an extension of our line crews.”
**New President of UtiliCon Solutions, Ltd.**

Steven Asplundh, former executive vice president, was elected president of UtiliCon Solutions, Ltd., Asplundh’s holding company for all of its utility infrastructure subsidiaries, as of September 30. The corporation’s Board of Directors announced the decision back in June in order to allow three months for a smooth transition of responsibilities.

A seasoned executive, Steven has almost 30 years of utility service experience with Asplundh Tree Expert Co. and the past 20 years were at the sponsor level. After graduating from Stetson University in Florida in 1983, he joined the company full-time to gain field experience on a tree crew in North Carolina. The following year, Steven began working on a master’s degree from Georgia State University. Upon completing his MBA in 1986, he returned to the company to work as a general foreperson in Wisconsin, then supervisor in Indiana in 1988 and three years later, manager in Tennessee. In 1992, Steven came into the Home Office as a sponsor and was elected vice president the following year. In addition to his management experience in the company’s vegetation operations, he also oversaw meter reading and One Call center services before they became part of UtiliCon in 2004. Steven is active in various utility industry organizations, as well as civic groups.

**New Executives in the Home Office**

Shawn Shapiro joined the Asplundh organization in August as a Director of Strategic Development under Executive Vice President Brent Asplundh.

Shawn brings over 18 years of experience in operations planning and management, primarily for complex commercial construction projects. For the past seven years, he was vice president of a leading industrial construction services firm based in southeastern Pennsylvania. Originally from New Jersey, Shawn earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey. He is currently responsible for organizational and special projects for both the Asplundh Tree Expert Co. and UtiliCon Solutions, Ltd. field management regions that report to Brent. Shawn is a member of several industry and civic organizations.

Eric Stall, former superintendent in California, was promoted to Director of Strategic Development in September under Executive Vice President Matt Asplundh.

Eric started with the company in 2003 as a groundperson, working on the property of San Diego Gas & Electric during summer breaks from college. After graduation, he returned to a crew to complete his Foreperson Certification and commercial driver’s license. In November 2007, Eric advanced to general foreperson under Account Manager Gary Cooper and in 2009, he was promoted to superintendent of various crews working on the systems of Southern California Edison and the City of Riverside. Eric graduated cum laude from Florida State University with a bachelor’s degree in business management. He is an ISA Certified Arborist and member of the UAA.

**New Managers Announced**

Martin Morfin joined the Asplundh Home Office in August as the corporation’s Compliance Manager. He reports to Controller Brian Bauer in the Corporate Accounting Department, which is sponsored by Secretary-Treasurer Joe Dwyer.

Martin comes to Asplundh with five years of audit and forensic accounting experience with a major public accounting firm in Philadelphia. He earned a bachelor’s degree in accountancy from Villanova University in Pennsylvania and a master’s degree in accountancy from the University of Virginia. Martin is responsible for managing internal and external audit processes for the company and its subsidiaries, with special reporting responsibilities to the corporation’s CEO and presidents of Asplundh and UtiliCon. He is a member of the Latino Professional Network.

Ray Seaman, former supervisor for Asplundh Brush Control Co. (ABC), advanced to manager in July when ABC Manager Mike Gordon retired. The Seaman Region of ABC is sponsored by Vice President Larry Moore.

Ray first came to work on an Asplundh tree crew in his home state of Michigan in 1985. Six years later, he left to work for Consumers Energy in vegetation management and training. In 1995, Ray returned to Asplundh and was promoted to general foreperson. By January 2003, he advanced to supervisor and in May 2011, he transferred into ABC. Ray has participated in various Asplundh management training programs and has earned credits in machine shop skills from Montcalm Community College in Michigan. He has also repeatedly earned corporate recognition for safety performance.
In order for the Asplundh Tree Expert Co. and its subsidiaries to achieve operating and financial goals, it is essential that all company directors, officers and employees conduct business within the framework of the law and in accordance with good business ethics. Asplundh is committed to compliance with all federal, state and local laws and regulations. To address certain business ethics issues, our General Business Policies were updated in 1993 and each year, we like to highlight some specific points that may not be clear in other company manuals.

- All employees should avoid any activity, investment or interest that might reflect unfavorably upon the integrity of themselves or Asplundh. While on the job, employees have the duty to act in the best interest of the company.

- Customer entertainment and gifts should be reasonable and kept within the customers’ codes of conduct. Asplundh employees and immediate family may not accept gifts or favors of any significant value from any supplier or customer.

- Employees may not financially influence anyone in either the private or government sector. Personal contributions by employees to political parties or candidates are permitted, however corporate funds or resources may not be given to any political party or candidate for political office.

- Each employee has an individual responsibility to safeguard confidential information that has been obtained on the job. Confidential information includes: proposed or advance plans, service contracts, construction of facilities, earnings, dividends, personal information on other employees, managerial or organizational changes, and customer information.

- All internal reports, statements, records and business transactions handled by Asplundh employees should be prepared honestly and with care, and should present an accurate and complete picture of the facts.

The spirit and intent of these policies are fully supported by Asplundh’s Board of Directors and corporate management. Any violation of these policies will lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination. If any employee is unsure whether certain conduct is illegal, unethical or a violation of these policies, he or she should seek guidance from a supervisor. If the question cannot be adequately answered, it should be referred to the Personnel Department or Legal Department. These departments are also responsible for investigating suspected violations of these policies.

Asplundh’s Board of Directors, officers, corporate management and all employees are bound by these policies for the greater good of the company. Please respect these policies and let them guide you in your day-to-day activities.

NEW SUPERVISORS IN THE FIELD

Bob Kubacki, former regional safety supervisor, advanced to supervisor in Wisconsin under Vice President Joe Schneider in August. The Schneider Region is sponsored by Executive Vice President Matt Asplundh.

A 32-year Asplundh veteran, Bob joined a tree crew in 1980, working in his home state of Wisconsin and the upper peninsula of Michigan. By 1997, he had advanced to general foreperson overseeing crews working on the We Energies system. Thirteen years later, Bob was promoted to regional safety supervisor, working throughout Wisconsin and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. His current supervisory responsibilities include overseeing Asplundh operations on the property of American Transmission Company. Bob has participated in various professional development training programs with Asplundh and is a certified First Aid instructor.

William Carl Smith, former general foreperson, was promoted in June to supervisor under Manager Scott Bailey in Oklahoma. Executive Vice President Matt Asplundh sponsors the Bailey Region.

Carl came to work for Asplundh in December 2007 with nine years of prior experience in utility arboriculture. With his range of experience, he soon took on the role of permissions person and job planner on the property of Public Service Co. of Oklahoma (PSO) and was promoted to general foreperson in March 2010. As a supervisor, Carl is responsible for overseeing all Asplundh crews working on the PSO system in Oklahoma. A May 2011 graduate of the Asplundh General Foreperson Training Program, he is an ISA Certified Arborist, a certified herbicide applicator and has specialized equipment training.

AN EVERYDAY GUIDE TO BUSINESS ETHICS
Asplundh is proud to recognize eleven employees whose selfless, observant, skillful and brave actions recently earned them Silver Merit Awards.

**Car Shears Off Utility Pole**

It was a sunny winter morning on February 2, when Asplundh Foreperson Josh Murphy and Trimmer Simon Chavers of the Mike Zehler Region were driving to a trouble call site for National Grid in far western New York state. Suddenly, up ahead, the crew saw a broken utility pole with the wire barely suspended above the ground. The car that had been ahead of them had run off the road, sheared off the pole and then barreled into the woods for another 200 yards or so.

Reacting quickly, Simon was able to safely stop the bucket truck just short of the guy span. Putting on his strobe lights to warn other drivers, he immediately called 911 and radioed National Grid to let the utility know what had happened. While Simon was giving first responders critical information, Josh ran to the vehicle in the woods to assist the victim, an older woman who was barely conscious. Not knowing the severity of her internal injuries, he didn’t feel he could move her so he just kept talking to her to keep her conscious and calm. Fortunately, emergency responders arrived on the scene within minutes. Josh and Simon assisted in stopping traffic on the roadway to allow a helicopter to land and transport the woman to the hospital. Thankfully, she survived the crash.

Senior Forestry Supervisor Jack Feltz of National Grid, Genesee Region, reported the crew’s action in an e-mail to Asplundh Corporate Communications. He wrote, “By maintaining a cool demeanor and willingness to assist others in need, [Simon and Josh] embody the qualities of not only good men, but great employees. I believe these are the selfless acts that deserve recognition.” We agree! Well done, Josh and Simon!

**First Aid Rendered**

Sometimes a long commute home from work can be boring, but not for Asplundh Australia’s Mark Vickers on July 27 as he was travelling toward Queanbeyan, New South Wales (NSW), Australia.

Mark, a leading hand and high voltage cutter, had spent the day helping to train new employees working on a freshly awarded contract with Essential Energy in Goulburn, a town northeast of the nation’s capital, Canberra. It was late in the afternoon when he witnessed a car miss a corner and go off the road.

Pulling off the road carefully, Mark immediately asked another driver who stopped to call an ambulance and then went to go see if he could assist the crash victim. The driver, a young woman, was conscious, but had a cut on her head. Concerned that she was badly shaken up by the accident and might slip into shock, Mark did not hesitate to climb into the car to render first aid. He put pressure on the head wound and kept her calm until the ambulance arrived. Once Mark knew she was being looked after, he left and thought nothing more of it.

An e-mail to Asplundh Australia came a few days later from the accident victim’s father, John Roberson, and Mark’s good deed came to light. Mr. Roberson was looking for an employee named Mark so he could say thanks to him for going out of his way to help his injured daughter. Managing Director Greg Fitzgerald said it took a little while to find out which Mark it was because he hadn’t told anyone about...
fallen in her driveway. She said she had been there for three days, hoping for someone to help her get up. Despite her initial resistance, they were eventually able to convince her to get checked out by emergency medical personnel who took her to the hospital in Hagerstown, Maryland.

In September, Vice President Tom Leverentz (far L) joined with El Paso Electric Operations Supervisor David Rios (far R) to present specially-engraved plaques from the utility and $200 Cabela’s gift cards as Asplundh Merit Awards for the five employees above who rescued a little girl from a deranged man as he attempted to kidnap her. The man also threatened the crew with a knife before they were able to subdue him. These heroic employees are (L to R): Acting Foreperson Hector Rodriguez, Crew Leader Hugo Uribe, and trimmers Jose Luis Luna and Mario Banuelos. The El Paso, Texas Police Department also presented plaques to the crew to thank them for their bravery and heroism.

Elderly Woman Found

It was a routine Wednesday of spray work on August 8 when Foreperson Charles Smith, Jr. and Trimmer Jose Melvin Lemus of the Darhl Trail Region pulled into a driveway in Myersville, Maryland to reach the end of a Potomac Edison right-of-way that they were spraying. Although you couldn’t see her from the road, the men soon noticed a woman lying in the driveway and then heard her call out for help.

The men immediately went to her side and she told them that she had been there since after church on Sunday — three days and nights! She wasn’t sure, but thought she had fallen by missing a step on her porch and then she rolled about 50 feet down the driveway. Despite some bruises and scrapes, she asked Charles and Jose to help her get up. They were able to make her comfortable on the porch and gave her a bottle of water since she was dehydrated and hadn’t taken her medications for days.

When asked if they could call an ambulance for her, she resisted and asked them to help her call her niece. Since she had been without a bathroom, she wanted to get cleaned up before going anywhere. After finding out that she was 77 years old and living alone, Charles then called General Foreperson Ben McFadden to let him know the situation. Ben happened to know the president of the local fire department and asked him to come out to talk her into getting medical help. Eventually, they were able to get her into an ambulance and taken to a hospital in Hagerstown for care and observation.

Mrs. Margaret Swope, after two days in the hospital, was able to personally express her appreciation to Ben and Charles who returned to check on her a few days later. The entire crew’s compassion and persistence are well deserving of Silver Merit Awards.

Toddler Kidnapping Averted

After a lunch break on August 16, Crew Leader Hugo Uribe and Acting Foreperson Hector Rodriguez, along with trimmers Mario Banuelos, Jose Luis Luna and Irving Martinez were driving slowly through an El Paso, Texas neighborhood to get back to their work site for El Paso Electric. They stopped when a ball rolled into the street. A child came out to retrieve the ball and soon after, a man who was walking his dog began talking to the crew. He was not making sense and as he grew more agitated, he jumped up on the truck’s step and threatened the crew with a knife. They pulled away and he fell off.

Looking in the side mirror, Mario saw the man grab a little 18-month-old girl from the yard where the ball had come from and start carrying her off down the street. The crew immediately turned around, hopped out and started chasing the man, along with the toddler’s siblings.

Holding the little girl in his arms, the deranged man jumped into a nearby irrigation ditch and as he attempted to climb up the other side, he dropped the child into the water. One of the crew members quickly jumped in and was able to rescue her. Seeing this, the man returned to the water, took off all his clothes and came at the crew again. Significantly outnumbered, the crew was able to subdue him until police arrived on the scene. The little girl was safely returned to her family, much to their relief.

The El Paso police credited the crew with the arrest and publicly thanked them for their bravery. El Paso Electric also presented the men with plaques for their heroism and now we can join in honoring them, too. Bravo!
Congratulations and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement to all the Asplundh retirees listed here!

**RETIREEs HONORED**

Ralph Bennett  
Foreperson, Virginia  
First employed January 2000  
Retired July 2012

Steven Bruffy  
ArborMetrics Solutions, Inc.  
Work Planner, Washington  
First employed March 2000  
Retired September 2012

Dennis Clark  
Trimmer, Wisconsin  
First employed November 1989  
Retired July 2012

Daniel Craig  
Trimmer, Pennsylvania  
First employed October 1971  
Retired July 2012

Jerry Curtis  
Apprentice, Tennessee  
First employed May 2007  
Retired September 2012

William Daclan  
Foreperson, California  
First employed September 1980  
Retired July 2012

William Dailey  
Crew Leader, Pennsylvania  
First employed March 1996  
Retired October 2012

James Davis  
Blume Tree Services, Inc.  
Trimmer, Tennessee  
First employed November 2004  
Retired August 2012

John Deslich  
Groundperson, Pennsylvania  
First employed October 2001  
Retired November 2012

Richard Gleason  
Foreperson, Massachusetts  
First employed October 1972  
Retired June 2012

Robert Jeffries  
Journeyman, West Virginia  
First employed August 1991  
Retired July 2012

Jaime Juarez  
Apprentice, California  
First employed May 2002  
Retired October 2012

Manuel Mutia  
Groundperson, Florida  
First employed September 1997  
Retired October 2012

Rupert Pearson, Jr.  
General Foreperson, Virginia  
First employed August 1985  
Retired October 2012

Asplundh Brush Control Co.  
Trimmer, New York  
First employed April 2007  
Retired October 2012

Mike Gordon, Asplundh Brush Control Co. (ABC) manager and 35-year company veteran, entered the venerable ranks of the retired in July. To recognize his contributions to ABC, he was presented with a sporting goods gift card from his co-workers and a celebration with Sponsor/Vice President Larry Moore and the other ABC managers will take place in the near future.

Mike joined Asplundh in 1977 as a sprayman in his home state of Michigan after serving three years in the U.S. Navy and working for five years as a service manager at a car dealership. He soon became a Hydro-Ax operator and then foreperson. By 1979, Mike had advanced to general foreperson and seven years later, he was promoted to supervisor under the late Vice President Dave Fritsch. When Dave passed away in 1992, Mike was named manager of Asplundh operations on the properties of several utility, pipeline and telecommunications companies in Michigan. In 1998, he moved over to Asplundh Brush Control Co. as a manager overseeing right-of-way clearing and maintenance projects in the Midwest. Mike has received company recognition for excellent safety performance and storm response. His retirement plans include a little fishing and hunting, along with some travel to the Florida Keys and to visit his three grown children living in Chicago, Denver and Las Vegas. Happy trails, Mike!

**IN MEMORIAM**

Fernand “Frenchie” Perras, retired vice president of Asplundh Brush Control Co. (ABC) and 39-year veteran of the company, passed away on November 25 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the age of 81.

Born in the province of Quebec, Canada, Frenchie came to the U.S. in 1948 and served in the U.S. Army in Korea for two years before joining ABC as an equipment operator in 1957. Within two years, he had advanced to general foreperson and after working in 26 states over a 13-year period, Frenchie set up his base of operations in Indiana in 1972. In 1985, he advanced to district manager and six years later, he was named regional manager of ABC operations in parts of the Midwest. Frenchie was elected vice president of the subsidiary in 1992 and retired four years later. He is survived by two daughters, Rita and Michelle; two sons, Dave and Lucien; six grandchildren and one great granddaughter. We extend sincere condolences to Frenchie’s family and many friends.
Orchids

Letters and telephone calls were received complimenting the following forepersons 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 Department between July 10 and November 9, 2012. For their outstanding job performance or special volunteer efforts, we say ...

Thank you and congratulations!

**ALASKA**

Dan Downing and Crews, Chugach Electric Association

Gustavo Rodriguez, Foreperson

Adam John Hildebrand, Lead General Foreperson

Essential Energy

South Wales, arrived on the scene in New until emergency responders victim and keeping her calm aid to an automobile accident Vickers, Voltage Cutter Mark Leading Hand and High Oliva and Groundperson Diaz, Trimmer Raul Beltran and Antonio Garcia, Forepersons Abel Sarria, and Groundperson Hector Rodriguez, Salt River Project General Foreperson Hector

**ARIZONA**

Benitez and Eudes Valdez

General Foreperson Hector

Garcia, Forepersons Abel

Beltran and Antonio

Diaz, Trimmer Raul Oliva and Groundperson Gustavo Rodriguez, Salt River Project

**AUSTRALIA**

Leading Hand and High Voltage Cutter Mark

Vickers, for administering first aid to an automobile accident victim and keeping her calm until emergency responders arrived on the scene in New South Wales, Essential Energy

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

General Foreperson

John Hildebrand, Lead Foreperson Adam

Hildebrand, Forepersons

Stan Chaloner, Michael Kalivoda, Reg Martin and Kurt Steininhauer, Saw Operators

Lucas Bradwell, Kevin Purkott and Jacob Wagner, and Apprentices

Theodore Hildebrand and Terry Marshall, BC Hydro

**CALIFORNIA**

Utility Tree Service

Foreperson John Allread and Apprentice David Boylen, Pacific Gas & Electric

Utility Tree Service

General Foreperson

Bernardo Arambula, Foreperson Primitivo Rivera and Trimmer Fernando Rivera, Pacific Gas & Electric

Utility Tree Service

Foreperson A.J. Boylen and Apprentice Marshall Varrone, Pacific Gas & Electric (two letters were received)

Utility Tree Service

General Foreperson James Boylen, Foreperson Jason Martinez, Trimmer Steven Patterson and Apprentice Lee Thompson, Pacific Gas & Electric (five letters were received)

Utility Tree Service

Foreperson Jorge

Gastelum and Trimmer

Javier Arambula, Pacific Gas & Electric

Utility Tree Service

Forepersons Caleb Hogan and Nick Parson, and Crews, Pacific Gas & Electric

Utility Tree Service

Foreperson Jared Kirchner and Apprentice Billy Senner, Pacific Gas & Electric

Utility Tree Service

Foreperson David Madsen and Kevin George, Pacific Gas & Electric (two letters were received)

Utility Tree Service

Forepersons Jason Martinez and Mell Null, and Crews, Pacific Gas & Electric

Utility Tree Service

Foreperson Mell Null and Apprentice Bill Senner, Pacific Gas & Electric (two letters were received)

Utility Tree Service

Foreperson Kyle Ray and Apprentice David Boylen, Pacific Gas & Electric

Utility Tree Service

Trimmer Aaron Reyna and Apprentice Kevin Kaundart, Pacific Gas & Electric

Utility Tree Service

Foreperson Jose

Santana and Trimmer

Fernando Arambula, Pacific Gas & Electric

**COLORADO**

General Foreperson Francisco

Santiago, Forepersons

Jose Luis Garcia, Cuitalhua Prado and Carlos Toledo, Climber Jaime Juarez, Patrolman Christopher Pinedo and Groundperson Norberto Anguiano, Southern California Edison

Utility Tree Service

Foreperson Justin Steiner and Crew, Pacific Gas & Electric

General Foreperson Howard Vaena, Foreperson Marc Lozano and Trimmer Rene Espinoza, San Diego Gas & Electric

From an e-mail sent to Chugach Electric Association in Alaska about Foreperson Dan Downing from the Mick Kavran Region:

“... We were without power for two days. ... I know we are one of thousands who found out how important electricity is to our daily lives. Through this trying experience, there was one bright spot — ‘Dan’. ... Whether the news was good or bad, he always returned our calls, making us feel connected. You have a great employee there and certainly the right one to be handling calls from your customers. We thanked Dan, but please extend our thanks again.”

Larry and Suzanne Imhof

From an e-mail to Dave Stall Region General Foreperson Howard Vaena regarding the work of Foreperson Marc Lozano and Trimmer Rene Espinoza for San Diego Gas & Electric in California:

“... Let’s start by complimenting Asplundh on fielding some of the top people in the industry. I have the utmost respect for the assignment they take on for their company and the hurdles they typically confront when it comes down to ‘moving the job’ into a property owner’s coveted space. ... Your hands-on visit at the front end, availability via phone during the job and the overall coordination was outstanding!”

Dick Frost

The Asplundh TREE

Holiday 2012

13
Journeyman Michael Powell and Groundpersons Matt Kershaw and Korie Klewier, Colorado Springs Utilities

General Foreperson Steve Kershman, Foreperson Joe McLean, Trimmer Eli Algien and Groundpersons Davin Mills and Jeff Trent, Intermountain REA

General Foreperson Chad Rucker, Job Planner Robert Alexander and Crew, City of Loveland

General Foreperson Chad Rucker, Foreperson Alex Arevalo and Groundperson Jose Cruz, United Power

General Foreperson Chad Rucker, Foreperson Lynn Bunker and Job Planner Adam Paulson, Mountain Parks Electric

Levi Shown and Jerrad Ridge, Xcel Energy

**FLORIDA**

General Foreperson Dan Cannon, Foreperson Mike Pomatto and Journeymen Juan Mendoza, Jr. and Steve Stinton, Florida Power & Light

Supervisor David Hawley, for assisting local law enforcement with an investigation, City of Homestead Police Dept.

General Foreperson Robert Oen and Crews, for their cooperation with the Clinic for Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) by placing active bird nests in trees slated to be pruned into protective boxes and delivering them to CROW for temporary rehabilitation and release, Lee County Electric Coop.

**GEORGIA**

Utility Lines Construction Services Foreperson James Gaskin and Equipment Operator Jeremy Bishop, Georgia Power

**ILLINOIS**

General Forepersons Freddy Bracero and Carl Winton, and Crews, ComEd

Dusty Crabtree and Trimmer Jason McEntee, MidAmerican Energy

Crew Leader Nate Heller and Trimmer Dan Vannatta, City of Byron

General Foreperson Dan Roberson, Foreperson Tim Kiner, Gary Randolph and Melvin Raygor, and trimmers Zach Sloan and Billy Smith, MidAmerican Energy

General Foreperson Dan Roberson, Foreperson Jesse Roberson and Trimmer Leonel Marquez, MidAmerican Energy

General Foreperson Dan Roberson, Foreperson Nic Stanton and trimmers Jason McEntee and Brandon Stanton, MidAmerican Energy

General Foreperson Dan Roberson, Foreperson Nic Stanton and Trimmers Brandon Stanton and Caleb Trier, MidAmerican Energy

Nic Stanton and Trimmer Brandon Stanton, MidAmerican Energy

**IOWA**

General Foreperson Jason Davis, Forepersons Kelvin Cooper and William Thompson, and trimmers Quentin Bell and Blake Meister, MidAmerican Energy

General Foreperson Jason Davis, Work Planner Jason Waugh and Crew, MidAmerican Energy

General Foreperson Jason Davis, Forepersons Kelvin Cooper and William Thompson, and trimmers Quentin Bell and Blake Meister, MidAmerican Energy

General Foreperson Dan Roberson, Foreperson Nic Stanton and Trimmers Brandon Stanton and Caleb Trier, MidAmerican Energy

Nic Stanton and Trimmer Brandon Stanton, MidAmerican Energy

**KANSAS**

General Foreperson Kyle Baur and Crew, Kansas City BPU

General Foreperson Ron Hatter, Foreperson Nathan McMurray and Crew, Westar Energy

General Foreperson Chris Newport, Foreperson Mike Ford and Trimmers Zach Engel and Jonathan Schussler, Kansas City Power & Light

General Foreperson Ty Rich, Foreperson Caleb Anderson and Crew, Westar Energy

Russell Schade, MidAmerican Energy

General Foreperson Jerry Mausich, Forepersons Korey Einfelt and Mike Schilling, and Crews, MidAmerican Energy

Supervisor Scott Richter, General Foreperson Eduardo Nunez, Foreperson Victor Gonzalez and Trimmer Antonio Carrera, Alliant Energy

General Foreperson Mitch Salek, Foreperson Popiel Battin and Trimmer Daniel Crabtree, MidAmerican Energy

General Foreperson Mitch Salek, Foreperson Wayne Johnson and Trimmer Derek McNicol, MidAmerican Energy

Jason Waugh and Crew, MidAmerican Energy

**OHIO**

From an e-mail to Alliant Energy in Ohio, concerning a crew under Supervisor Scott Richter and General Foreperson Eduardo Nunez of the Adam Larson Region:

“... I wanted to compliment both Alliant as well as the tree-trimming crew on their professionalism and the fine work they did. First, I received a phone call over a week before the crew arrived. Then the crew chief ... knocked at my door and told me they would be there sometime that day. The crew ... made the trimming look natural and not “chopped out” while still protecting the wires.”

Gail A. Rinderknecht

**ORCHIDS — July 10 through November 9, 2012**

From an e-mail to the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania regarding the crew of Forepersons Landon Enyeart and Ronnie Smith of the Wesley Washington region working in Fort Wayne, Indiana:

“... We were so impressed with the crew working this truck as they took extra effort to bring a big limb forward that our elderly neighbor had finally gotten down from his tree. ... This neighbor will be so happy when he gets home and sees this gone. I just wanted to say how nice it was of this wonderful crew of workers to take the extra effort, since the limb was not to the street edge.”

Nadine Strebig
General Foreperson Tracy Schmidt, Foreperson Cody Robb and Trimmer Trent McGee, Westar Energy (two letters were received)
General Foreperson Sean Snethen and Crew, Kansas City Power & Light
General Foreperson Mark Thompson, for coming to the aid of two different motorists experiencing vehicular trouble, Westar Energy
General Foreperson John Wright and Trimmers Andrew Sanford, Austin Spencer and Colby Witten, Westar Energy
Kentucky
General Foreperson Lenville Everidge, Trimmer Pearl Banks and Crew, Kentucky Power
Louisiana
General Foreperson Ray Felt and Crew, Entergy
Maryland
General Foreperson Ben McFadden, Foreperson Charles Smith, Jr. and Trimmer Jose Melvin Lemus, for assisting an elderly woman lying in her driveway, unable to get up for three days, FirstEnergy/Potomac Edison
Michigan
General Foreperson Dave Ouzts, Forepersons Tony Heffington, Luis Leal and Byron Sowers, Permisons Person Weston Ball and Crews, Indiana Michigan Power
MINNESOTA
Supervisor Wayne Bailey, General Foreperson Bob Turner, Forepersons Nick Czech, Chris Galvin and Paul Santana, and Trimmers Mikes Lother and Chris Snyder, Xcel Energy
Al Ferrell and Trimmers Dave Larsen and Greg Schiller, Xcel Energy
Al Ferrell and Nick Hemsworth, and Trimmers David Larson, Chad Pasch and Robert Pavel, Xcel Energy
General Foreperson Tim Flansburg, Forepersons Jeff Cozzi and Stuart Vangon, and Apprentice Joseph Puckett, Koch Pipeline
Miguel Gomez-Munoz and Trimmers Karen Davtyan, Nicholas Hunt and Matt Kivari, Xcel Energy
John Holmes and Trimmers Nate Edwards and Tim Kalik, Xcel Energy
General Foreperson Larry Mensing, Forepersons John Shillingfod and Scott Urbanek, and Trimmers Bryce Dankers and Mike Schedivy, Xcel Energy
William Robison and Trimmer Kevin Jendro, Xcel Energy
John Shillingford and Scott Urbanek, and Trimmer Mike Schedivy, Xcel Energy
MISSOURI
Trimmer Joshua Blanton, for his courteous driving through a subdivision in Kansas City while towing a chipper, Kansas City Power & Light
Joe Merrill, for driving in a professional manner and allowing other drivers to safely merge into traffic, Kansas City Power & Light
General Foreperson Troy Smith, Forepersons Johnny Helm and Mike Hernandez, and Trimmer Jim Powell, Kansas City Power & Light
General Foreperson Mike Williams, Foreperson Dean Wilmes and Trimmer Travis Lager, Kansas City Power & Light
General Foreperson Heath York, Foreperson Steve Bruce and Crew, Crawford Electric Cooperative
General Foreperson Heath York, Journeyman Scott Henke and Crew, Crawford Electric Coop.
NEBRASKA
Eric Hartman and Trimmers Sam Decker, Korbin Stewart and Jake Walter, Lincoln Electric System
General Foreperson David Sweeney, Foreperson Jon Simpson and Trimmers Jorge Cordenas, Shawn
Strahan and Mason Wigle, Lincoln Electric System
NEW HAMPSHIRE
General Foreperson Ed Cote, Foreperson Shaun Messier, Trimmer Josh Randall and Groundperson Travis Calloway, Liberty Utilities
Tim Cutter, Bruce Doliver and Nelson Moffett, and Permissions Person James DeGroat, Public Service Co. of NH
Keith Duncan and Groundperson Jon Towle, Public Service Co. of NH
Gary Villineau and Groundperson Marty Chase, Public Service Co. of NH
NEW YORK
General Foreperson Mike Greene, Crew Leaders Marshall Frazier and Jim Moynihan, and Trimmers Chris Hayes and Nick Sherer, Con Edison
General Foreperson Mike Greene, Crew Leader Marshall Frazier and Trimmer Nick Sherer, Con Edison
Work Planner John Chillson and Crews, Duke Energy
Forester Doug Cook, for stopping to change a flat tire for an elderly woman, Duke Energy
North Carolina
From an e-mail to Vice President Keith Erickson and Supervisor Tim Washek in Minnesota about a crew under General Foreperson Tim Flansburg that was working for KOCH Pipeline:

“Just thought I would let you know that in the last week, I’ve had three calls and a personal conversation with land owners thanking me for the job we did on their property. ... Specifically to the work that your guys did. We have actually been getting a surprising amount of positive feedback about the project in general, but to get it pertaining to the ‘guys with the saws’ is really saying something.”

Jared Baratona, Project Foreman, Minnesota Limited, LLC

From an e-mail to Manager Jim Winemiller in Missouri concerning the work of the crew under General Foreperson Heath York and Foreperson Steve Bruce in Missouri:

“... I am encouraged by the number of members this year that not only thank us for what we do but specifically mention the demeanor and knowledge of the tree trimmers. ... While we are not a perfect work force, I am very pleased with all involved and have considerable confidence in what our current work force does day in and day out for our cooperative.”

Terry Gordon, ROW Superintendent, Crawford Electric Cooperative
From a letter to General Foreperson Shannon Moore of the Scott Bailey Region in Oklahoma regarding work his crew performed for the Public Service Company of Oklahoma:

“We cannot possibly thank you enough for your help with our cleanup of the Lake Station neighborhood. Because of your support, we were able to remove tons and tons of trash, debris and brush from this historic area. This cleanup effort has impacted hundreds of properties and residents of West Tulsa County. Again, we cannot thank you enough!”

Karen Keith, Commissioner, and Don Comstock, Cleanup Volunteer Organizer, Tulsa County Board of Commissioners

From a letter to the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania regarding Foreperson Nick Stine and crew from the Darhl Trail Region in Pennsylvania:

“I recently had the pleasure of dealing with one of your employees, Nick Stine. ... West Penn Power wanted a tree on my property trimmed back and Nick Stine was the person who came to do the work. ... He was very professional from beginning to end. The job looked great when he finished and there wasn’t even a leaf left on the ground. ... This person, in my opinion, is an asset to your company.”

Richard L. Hovis

**OKLAHOMA**

- General Foreperson Shannon Moore, Forepersons Adolfo Alonso and Iris Anderson, and Crews, for their help removing trash, debris and brush as part of the historic Lake Station neighborhood clean-up, Public Service Co. of Oklahoma.

**OREGON**

- General Foreperson Zach Bertalot, Foreperson Angel Garcia, Trimmer Adan Soto and Apprentice David Willett, Portland General Electric.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

- General Foreperson Jamie Culp, Foreperson John Flood and Crew, Columbia River PUD.
- General Foreperson Nick Hansen, Foreperson Hannible Childress and Crew, Portland General Electric.

**TEXAS**

- General Foreperson Mike Delafuente, Foreperson David Garcia, Trimmer Antonio Palomo and Groundperson Antony Ortiz, CPS Energy.

**VERMONT**

- William Simonds and Groundperson Josh Simonds, FairPoint Communication.
VIRGINIA

General Foreperson Cletus Hottle, Foreperson Nelson Castro and Kenneth Kibler, and Trimmers Charles Good and Ruben Hernandez, Town of Herndon


WASHINGTON

Tony LoFranco and Crew, Snohomish PUD

Chris Peppinger and Crew, Snohomish PUD

Poncho Rodriguez and Crew, Snohomish PUD

WEST VIRGINIA

Derrick Brooks, Trimmer Derek Saunders and Apprentice Rodney Pendergras, Appalachian Power Co.

Allen Daniels and Brandon Williams, Trimmer James Williams, Groundpersons David Hansen and Gerald Peters, and Apprentice William Nutter, Appalachian Power Co.

General Foreperson Sammy Roy and Foreperson Jerry Rexrode, for hanging banners for the Mountain State Forest Festival, Town of Herndon

GENERAL FOREPERSON

Below, Marton Brown, Janice Reitz and Mike Suprenand, and Trimmers Pat Koerner and Larry Reitz, for their support of the WEs Energies Menomonee Falls Service Center open house in April, We Energies

General Foreperson Mark Fecteau, Foreperson Jeff Thieme and Trimmers Jeff Klemmer and Jim Stuettgen, We Energies

Patrick Stephens and Trimmer Jeremy Nandory, Wisconsin Public Service

STORM WORK

June – Super Derecho

Assistant General Foreperson George Wendell, Crew Leader Scott Sluhsoksi and Trimmers Uperesa Hanipale and Mark Michalek, for their tireless work in the oppressive heat in the West Chicago area, ComEd (IL)

Asplundh Construction Corp. Foreperson Jeremy Jones, for his friendly and knowledgeable storm site visit with the Mayor of Fort Wayne, Indiana Michigan Power (IN)

Robert King and Journeyman Jeffrey Clark (SC), for their quick response time and hard work during the storm restoration, Montgomery County DOT (MD)

Utility Lines Construction Supervisor Matthew Tatum and Crews (GA), for their excellent storm restoration work in the Baltimore area, Baltimore Gas & Electric (MD)

General Foreperson Dan Yarger, Forepersons Robert Byers, Pedro Espinoza, Michael Haney and James Woodham, Trimmers Matthew Claxton, Dewayne Fuller, Kevin Hayes and Chris Wilson, and Groundpersons Calvin Claxton, Victor Sanchez and Adam Young (GA), for going above and beyond the call of duty to quickly and safely complete their line clearance work so power could be restored, Montgomery County (MD)

General Foreperson Joe Donlon and Crews (PA), for their outstanding efforts to remove debris from power lines so power could be restored quickly in the Atlantic City area, PHI/Atlantic City Electric (NJ)

General Forepersons Mario Garcia Gonzalez and Crews (MD), for their strong work ethic and commitment to safety while on storm duty in Ohio, Buckeye REC (OH)

General Foreperson Thomas Gray and Crews, for working safely and doing whatever it took to support the storm restoration efforts, Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Coop. (OH)

David Griffith, Mike Hempfield and Tyson Sayers, Trimmer Malcolm McGaire, Journeyman Brad Scoles and Groundperson Colt Armstrong, for working hard despite terrible heat, AEP Ohio (OH)

Chris Hunt and Crew, for the great work they did stabilizing a storm damaged high-risk tree with proper rigging before piecing it down, AEP Ohio (OH)

General Foreperson Tony Garst, Crew Chief Brandon Campbell, Trimmers Benjamin Allen and Michael Goodchild, and Journeyman David McFall, for their polite, respectful and careful work on the storm restoration in the Roanoke area, Appalachian Power (VV)

WEST VIRGINIA

Permissons Person Brian Woodruff and Crews, for working to smoothly coordinate their efforts during the storm restoration, Appalachian Power (VV)

JULY – Summer Storms

General Forepersons Randy Brabham, Ray Felt, Carolyn McNabb and Johnny Marquard, Permissons Person Kathie Felt and Crews, for working quickly and safely to help the storm restoration efforts in the

From an e-mail to the Home Office in the Willow Grove, Pennsylvania about General Foreperson Jody Messick and his crew from the Larry Kirk Region working on Dominion Virginia Power property:

”... The crew ... including Jody, just removed an 80’ dead oak on the back of our property along the power lines. ... The crew was professional and kept safety first. They were polite and aware of my concern of the leyland cypress trees planted so closely to the dead tree. The clean up was professional ... and the communication was great. An outstanding job by an outstanding crew and leader.”

John Maloy

From an e-mail to Vice President Dave Puckett regarding General Foreperson Mario Garcia Gonzalez and crews from Maryland on storm work for Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative (BREC) in Ohio:

”I just wanted to pass on to you what a professional and safe job Mario and his crews did last week on storm work. All of the linemen and supervisors here at BREC want you and the crews to know how much they are appreciated... They have been one of the best crews I have had ... at BREC. Mario is as professional as they come, and his crews are very talented in their profession. Their work ethic is unsurpassed.”

Cindy Jenkins, ROW Mgr./Forester, BREC
Lake Charles area, Entergy (LA)

General Foreperson Nate Baker and Crews, for their exceptional work which helped to reduce the overall time of the storm restoration in the Lyme area, Northeast Utilities (NH)

August – Summer Storms

Nick Miller and Trimmer Rick Bates, for quickly and cleanly removing a tree that had fallen on to power lines after a summer storm ripped through Polk County, MidAmerican Energy (IA)

Gordon Duffield and Robert Neal, and Crews, for working quickly and safely to remove a storm-downed tree, all while being careful not damage a home owner’s yard, FirstEnergy/Mon Power (WV)

August – Hurricane Isaac

Permissions Person Shaun Rapp and Crews (IN), for their superior performance despite long hours during the storm restoration in the North Miami-Dade County area, Florida Power & Light (FL)

General Forepersons Jaime Garcia, Rick Hilliard, James Mager and Eli Rivera, and Crews (FL), for their organized, productive and safe work during the Hurricane Isaac storm restoration Entergy (LA)

General Forepersons Gabriel Alderdice, Wilfredo Bracero, Edwin Duran, Bartolome Garcia, Efrain Hernandez, Alberto Ocampo, Kurt Pilz, Castulo Urquizo and Carl Winton, and Crews (IL), for working hard during the Hurricane Isaac storm restoration, all while keeping safety front of mind, Cleco (LA)

Joe Miller, James Stonebaugh and Lewis Williams, and Crews (KS), for their hard work clearing debris from utility lines so power could be restored in the Ponchatoula area, Entergy (LA)

General Forepersons Jason Bauguess and Donnie Shockley, Permissions Person David Brown and Crews (NC), for performing well during the Hurricane Isaac restoration despite the tough conditions, Cleco (LA)

September – Sub Tropical Storm

Supervisor David Craddock, General Foreperson Noah Barker and Crews, for working quickly so power could be restored in the Melbourne area in time for the Sunday afternoon football games, Florida Power & Light (FL)

October – Superstorm Sandy

American Electric Testing Co. Test Technician Phil Lucas, for eagerly providing reliable, expert assistance in troubleshooting and repairing electrical infrastructure equipment during the Superstorm Sandy restoration, Connecticut Power & Light (CT)

General Foreperson James Boswell and Crews (AL), for removing a tree from power lines, allowing power to be restored after six days without, PSEG (NJ)

General Foreperson Jim Pecoraro, Foreperson James Stufflebean, Journeymen Billy Colbert and Groundperson Justin Perhigo (MO), for appropriately and safely removing an owl from a tree that had fallen onto power lines in Bloomfield, PSEG (NJ)

General Foreperson Darrin Wilson, Foreperson John Cerna, Jr., and Crew (IN), for traveling to help with the storm restoration in Passaic, PSEG (NJ)

General Foreperson Tim Woltering, Forepersons Bill Moffit, Kevin Shultz, Kip Spier and Brycen Woltering and Crews (IA and NE), for the great job they did in the Huntington area, LIPA/National Grid (NY)

General Forepersons Ed Daniels and Ernie DiBacco, and Crews (OH), for their professional planning and work execution of storm restoration, Con Edison (NY)

General Foreperson Dave Wheeler, Jr., Crew Leaders Michael Jones and Wayne VanAken, and Crews, for being the first trucks into the Mohagen Lakes area to lead the power restoration efforts after the residents had been without power for eight days, Con Edison (NY)

Chris Argilan, Mike Hilliard, Steve Hosaflook, Brandon Moomaw, William Sandy and Chris Taylor, and Crews (VA), for their hard work in the Huntington area, LIPA/National Grid (NY)

From an e-mail to the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania regarding a Mel Riley Region crew from Kansas working on the Hurricane Isaac restoration for Entergy in Louisiana:

"... We just wanted to recognize the hard work that the crew has done here at our home, along the road and in our area. ... These men were nice, polite, energetic and just down right helpful and good. ... We greatly appreciate their time and effort. We could only hope to get another crew or the same one for the next hurricane. Thank you and your men from the bottoms of our hearts!"

The Venable and Brooks Families

From an e-mail to American Electrical Testing Co. President Charlie Blizard, Jr., concerning Test Technician Phil Lucas’ work for Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) during Superstorm Sandy:

"... I am writing to express my sincere appreciation and praise for Phil Lucas. He has provided extensive support, as well as his highly skilled insight to the issues we are facing in our restoration efforts throughout this difficult time. ... He remains calm and focused in stressful situations and eagerly assists in various ways to get the job done. He ... always provides a high level of professionalism in all he encounters."

John Guaglione, Supervisor Substation Maintenance, CL&P
**SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES**

**50 YEARS**
- Ruth Gable
  Administrative Assistant
  Fleet Services
  Willow Grove

**45 YEARS**
- Roy Morris
  Mechanic
  Georgia

- Walter Wyckoff
  Foreperson
  New Jersey

- Lester Wood
  Foreperson
  North Carolina

**40 YEARS**
- John Mack Jones
  General Foreperson
  North Carolina

- Freddie Narramore
  Foreperson
  Alabama

- Tim Gardner
  Supervisor
  Utility Lines Construction Services
  Alabama

- Curtis Suthard, Jr.
  General Foreperson
  Florida

**35 YEARS**
- Johnny Arbaugh
  Foreperson
  Ohio

- Jerry Campbell
  Foreperson
  Georgia

- Reggie Charlesworth
  Supervisor
  Washington

- Steve Deacon
  Supervisor
  Georgia

- Dom DeRosa
  Supervisor
  Maryland

- Mark DeVoe
  Foreperson
  Pennsylvania

- Richard Gilbert
  Legal Support Investigator
  Legal
  Lynchburg

- Dave Krause
  Vegetation Mgmt. Spec.
  Arborchem Products
  Pennsylvania

- James Lee
  Foreperson
  North Carolina

- Gary Martz
  General Foreperson
  Pennsylvania

- Bob Neal
  Foreperson
  West Virginia

- Brian Nelson
  Supervisor
  Minnesota

- Steven Hovland
  Foreperson
  Minnesota

- Christopher Jordan
  Crew Leader
  Pennsylvania


*The Asplundh TREE*

*Holiday 2012*
APPRECIATION FOR STORM RESPONSE

continued from page 5

From President and CEO Haley Fisackerly of Entergy Mississippi to Executive Vice President Brent Asplundh:

“A safe, efficient restoration after a major storm is always a challenge. The efforts of your company helped make that challenge a little more manageable and I wanted to write and thank you for your help during the restoration after Hurricane Isaac. Your support allowed us to restore all of our customers in a few short days.

As I’ve watched the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, I’m reminded yet again of the spirit of cooperation our business requires. Without all of us working together to restore power after major events, customers would still be in the dark months after storms have come and gone.”

From President and CEO Vernon Brinkley of A&N Electric Cooperative in Virginia to Vice President Steve Miller:

“I would like to thank you and the excellent crew you sent to our aid following Hurricane Sandy. They went right to work and were instrumental in our ability to restore service to our entire membership by late Wednesday evening.”

From Karen White of Basking Ridge, New Jersey to the Asplundh Construction Corp. Team from Connecticut:

“... I knew that eventually some help would come and I can’t tell you how wonderful it was to see all of your white trucks on my street yesterday afternoon, after 14 days without power thanks to Hurricane Sandy. ... Thank you for helping us here in NJ!”

From Joe Williams, Manager of Forestry Equipment Maintenance & Repair LLC, who worked for the former Asplundh dealership and lost everything in the storm:

“The ‘tree’ people are, without exception, the front line in disaster response and never acknowledged by the media, but please pass along to all of them that there are so many people in New Jersey who have seen their sacrifice and dedication in helping us to get through the tragedy. Many thanks to all of them from the folks in Jersey!”

The Asplundh TREE
Spring 2012 21
**ISA CERTIFICATIONS**

Congratulations to the following Asplundh employees who studied hard to earn their ISA certifications:

- **ISA Certified Arborist®**
  - Zach Bertalot
  - Sean Graziano
  - Troy Phillips
  - Rob Philipsen
  - Nick Thompson

- **ISA Certified Arborist Utility Specialist™**
  - Jason Hasse

**AWARDS & REWARDS**

- **Forty-eight Years And Counting!**—Foreperson Vernon Robinson of the Doug Smith Region in North Carolina was recently presented with a model Asplundh lift truck and chipper as a thank you for his 48 years of dedicated service to the company. Vernon began his arboricultural career with Wilson Tree Company in 1964. He advanced to foreperson and held this position for many years before Wilson Tree was acquired by Asplundh in 1993. Currently, Vernon works as a foreperson under General Foreperson Ty Ledford in Progress Energy’s Western Region and he shows no signs of slowing down any time soon!

- **Chesapeake, Virginia**—Equipment Training and Inspection Supervisor Greg “Dirt Buzzard” Homiller began the first of two aerial lift and equipment inspection training programs for employees of the Steve Lowe Region of American Lighting and Signalization (ALS). On June 13, Greg met with the employees in Chesapeake to teach proper lift and equipment inspection techniques. These folks work on Dominion Virginia Power property.

- **Beltsville, Maryland**—On June 14, Greg brought the aerial lift and equipment inspection course to ALS employees in Beltsville, Maryland. These Steve Lowe Region crews work on the municipal systems of the City of Bowie and City of Gaithersburg, as well as on the investor-owned utility properties of PEPCO and Baltimore Gas and Electric.

- **South Bend, Indiana**—Greg “Dirt Buzzard” Homiller also hosted a two-for-one deal of equipment and aerial lift inspection training in the Wesley Washington Region in Indiana. The first session was held on September 19 in South Bend, Indiana. Wes was in attendance, along with RSS David Gamble. These dedicated crews work for Indiana Michigan Power under General Forepersons John Ortiz, David Ouzts and Mark Williams.

- **Marion, Indiana**—The “Dirt Buzzard” concluded his aerial lift and equipment inspection sessions in the Wesley Washington Region on September 20 in Marion, Indiana. These hard-working crews honed their equipment and lift inspection knowledge at the training session. They work under Supervisor Carl Marcum and General Forepersons Floyd Marcum, Joe Sutton, Luis Trejo and Darrin Wilson on Indiana Michigan Power property.

**LIFT SCHOOLS & AWARDS**

- **Marion, Indiana**—The “Dirt Buzzard” concluded his aerial lift and equipment inspection sessions in the Wesley Washington Region on September 20 in Marion, Indiana. These hard-working crews honed their equipment and lift inspection knowledge at the training session. They work under Supervisor Carl Marcum and General Forepersons Floyd Marcum, Joe Sutton, Luis Trejo and Darrin Wilson on Indiana Michigan Power property.
COMMUNITY SERVICE

A Tale Of Two Removals In Portland—Crews from the Kevin Dove Region in Portland, Oregon recently handled two very different — but challenging — tree removals with professionalism and skill.

The first removal (top left) involved an 80-foot elm tree that was marked as a high-risk tree by foresters from Portland General Electric and the City of Portland. The tree was leaning precariously over a home and power lines were in danger if the tree fell. Foreperson Chris Joyner and Trimmer Epi Bautista arrived on the scene to perform the removal. The tree was so tall that Chris had to climb out of the bucket to limb the upper portion of the elm. All the limbs and trunk pieces had to be carefully rigged and lowered to the ground to avoid striking the power lines. Despite the challenges, the work was completed safely and without incident.

The second job (top right) required the removal of a hazardous tree limb that was overhanging the northbound lane of Route 43 in Birdhill, Oregon, just south of Portland. Oregon DOT (ODOT) coordinated the work and assembled the removal team of General Foreperson Jon Geyer, Foreperson Chris Brockway and Trimmer Evan Aaltonen, who work for Portland General Electric. ODOT used short-term closures to give the crew time to use their aerial lift to reach the limb and safely remove it. The work was completed quickly and with minimal disruption to the motoring public.

Oldest Home In Hadley Avoids Disaster—When a 5.5’ DBH sugar maple tree threatened to fall on the oldest home in Hadley, Massachusetts, town officials turned to the Dan Duncan Region for expert help. General Foreperson Kevin Parent, Foreperson Josh Colby (above) and Groundperson Kyle Fredette assessed the situation and carefully began removing the sugar maple. Despite having serious decay and fractures, the tree was brought down without even a twig touching the house, which dates back to 1713. This job was completed by carefully following company safety policies and procedures.

Lynch Region On Display At Touch-A-Truck Day—General Foreperson Jason Collins from the Jeff Lynch Region in Ohio volunteered his time on June 22 to display an Asplundh aerial lift at the 4th Annual West Chester Touch-A-Truck Day. A variety of vehicles and equipment were shown, ranging from law enforcement vehicles, fire trucks, water craft and even a helicopter. Adults and children alike lined up to ask questions and get a closer look at our platform aerial lift, which is used on Duke Energy property. Jason graciously answered all the questions and is looking forward to next year’s event.

Missouri Crew Rescues Owl In New Jersey—Despite the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy, residents in the town of Bloomfield, New Jersey had a reason to cheer. It involved a little screech owl rescued by a crew from the Jim Winemiller Region of Missouri. General Foreperson Jim Pecoraro and his crew, Foreperson James Stufflebean, Journeyman Billy Colbert and Groundperson Justin Pherigo, arrived on Sylvan Road in Bloomfield on November 3 to remove a tree that had split in half and fell on PSE&G lines. The crew got to work removing branches. Shortly thereafter, James noticed two eyes staring at him from down in a hollow where the tree had split. Realizing that it was an owl and it could be endangered, the crew stopped working and contacted the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Division, which gave them permission and instructions on how to safely remove the owl from the tree. Several townsfolk took photos of the owl before it was released and applauded as it took flight and perched in a nearby tree.

Safely Completing Priority Work—This 90’ sycamore tree was endangering an Appalachian Power Co. three-phase line and a house in Milton, West Virginia. Asplundh crews from the Larry Kirk Region were called in to perform the removal. General Foreperson Chuck Blosser, Forepersons Richard Holland and Robert Clay, Trimmer Greg McComas and Journeymen Scotty Sias and Donald Snyder set up their work zone and spent two days carefully removing and lowering sections of the tree. The work was completed safely and without any damage to utility assets, the home or passing motorists.
30-YEAR WATCHES

△ General Foreperson Tom Chouinard (second from L) was presented with a specially-engraved watch to mark his 30 years with Asplundh by Vice President Gary Shelto (center), Public Service Co. of New Hampshire (PSNH) Vice President Bob Allen (second from R), Supervisor Paul Arno (far L) and RSS Romeo Bilodeau (far R). The group got together to recognize Tom and his contributions to the company in July at the region’s monthly Safety Management Training meeting. Tom had two years of prior tree work experience before he joined Asplundh in July 1982 as a bucket operator on Central Maine Power in the Brunswick area. He was promoted to foreperson six months later and advanced to general foreperson in 1994. He remained there until he accepted a transfer to the Gary Shelto Region in New Hampshire in August 2003. He has worked on PSNH property ever since, focusing on crews in the coastal and southern parts of the state. Tom helped to coordinate the airlift of Asplundh lift trucks to Maine during the massive ice storm that struck New York, New England and parts of Canada in 1998 and has worked incident-free his entire career.

△ Manager Mike Wolford (far L) and Mon Power Forester Danny Bostic (far R) had the pleasure of presenting 30-year watches to not one, but THREE deserving Asplundh veterans who currently work in the Parkersburg service territory of FirstEnergy/Mon Power in West Virginia. General Foreperson Larry Higgins (second from L), Notification Person Darrel Rowley (center) and Foreperson James Thomas (second from R) were treated to lunch and presented with specially-engraved watches and ballcaps as a token of appreciation for their years of dedicated service. Larry Higgins began his Asplundh career in July 1982 as an apprentice climber in West Virginia. He advanced to foreperson in December 1989 and was promoted to general foreperson in 1991. Over the years, Larry has also worked on the properties of South Central Power in Ohio, Kentucky Power and Appalachian Power Co. in West Virginia, all incident-free. Darrel Rowley joined the company in June 1982 as an apprentice in West Virginia. He advanced to climber shortly after joining the company and in 1987 was promoted to foreperson. Darrel worked for about six months on the property of South Central Power in Ohio, but the rest of his time has been spent working incident-free on Mon Power property. James Thomas was originally hired by Asplundh in July 1979. He left the company briefly, but came back permanently in July 1982 as an apprentice. In 1992, he accepted a summertime position as a spray crew foreperson before becoming a foreperson full time in 1994. With the exception of a few months on South Central Power property in Ohio, James has spent his entire career working on the Mon Power system.

△ Operational Support Manager Victor Sirvydas (second from L) was presented with a specially-engraved watch for 30 years of loyal service by CEO Scott Asplundh (far L), President George Graham, Jr. (center), Vice President Jim Orr (second from L) and Director of Corporate Strategy John McNamee (far R). The entire Technical Services Department was treated to lunch and cake to celebrate his longevity with the company. Victor was first hired by Asplundh in 1976 as a groundperson, but left shortly after to start his own business. He came back in August 1982 to work as a top climber on Philadelphia Electric Co. (now PECO) property in southeastern Pennsylvania. In 1988, Victor accepted a foreperson’s position on Orange and Rockland property in New York and soon advanced to general foreperson. The following year, he returned to Philadelphia and was promoted to supervisor in April 1993. He advanced to region manager in southeastern Pennsylvania in August 2004 before moving into the Safety Department as a safety engineer in February 2005. In October 2011, Victor joined the Technical Services Department in his current capacity, and has served as a member of the Corporate Storm Team for almost eight years.

△ Both Vice President Dave Stall (R) and Field Superintendent Isidro Castaneda (L) were on hand to present Foreperson Danny Gutierrez (center) with a specially-engraved watch to commemorate his 30 years of service to Asplundh. Danny got his start as a climber in September 1982 on Southern California Edison property, where he’s worked his entire career. It wasn’t too long before his safe, dependable work was noticed and he was promoted to foreperson. Danny continues to excel at this position, and has been recognized for safety performance, leadership and just being an all-around great employee who is a pleasure to work with.
Home Office Honors

Employees of the Month—Three Home Office employees from the Customer & Field Liaison Department were recently presented with the Employee of the Month Award for outstanding performance and service to the field. The winners were Frencine Strother (L) who received the award in August; Mark Bologna (center), who won in September; and Rena Parente (R), who was honored in October. Congratulations to all the winners and keep up the good work!

Home Office Honors

Moose Gets Up Close In Maine—Crews from the Ralph Guadagno Region had an unexpected visitor in their parking area in September. A young curious moose strolled right into the Bristol, Maine parking area, much to the surprise of the crews who were getting ready for a day of work on the property of Central Maine Power. The moose leisurely walked around the trucks and graciously “posed” for a few photos before heading out for the day, too.

SPORTSMEN’S CORNER

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30-YEAR WATCHES

Branch Manager Utah Villines (L) received a specially-engraved watch and a handshake of appreciation for 30 years of dedicated work from Executive Vice President Matt Asplundh (R) at a safety meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. Born and raised in Arkansas, Asplundh is a family affair for Utah

Her grandfather, father, uncle, brothers and sons have all worked for the company. He was hired in August 1982 as a groundperson on the Arkansas Power and Light (now Entergy) crew run by his great uncle, Lee Goodall. He rose up the ladder and advanced to general foreperson in 1991. Utah was promoted to supervisor in 2005 after spending a year as a superintendent of Arkansas crews. By 2009, he advanced again to branch manager, where he currently oversees 50 crews working on the properties of Entergy and various cooperative and municipal accounts throughout Arkansas.

George Licci (L), Corporate Administration Manager, had the pleasure of presenting Payroll Manager JoAnne Howell (R) with a specially-engraved watch in appreciation of her 30 years of dedicated service. JoAnne first joined Asplundh in June 1966 as a clerk in Customer & Field Liaison (CFL). She left in 1969 to get married, but returned in September 1982 as a lead typist in CFL. In 1983, she was promoted to a CFL production assistant and advanced again a year later to an account coordinator. By 1994, JoAnne was named the CFL training and support coordinator, and three years later, she moved into Input Operations (now Payroll), as its manager. JoAnne currently oversees the Payroll, Direct Deposit and Mailing Departments, where her experience and leadership helps her departments to successfully adapt to the company’s ever-changing and growing needs.

Hershel Cullen (L), a permissions person for the Bobby King Region in Kentucky, received a congratulatory handshake and a specially-engraved watch from Supervisor Jeff Holder to mark his 30th anniversary with Asplundh. Hershel originally joined the company in October 1980, but left a few months later. He quickly realized that he liked line clearance work and returned in August 1982 as a groundperson on Kentucky Utilities (KU) property in central Kentucky. Hershel advanced to foreperson on the Henderson Municipal Light & Power account, but soon returned to KU, where he remained for 15 years. In 1996, Hershel was promoted to general foreperson, overseeing crews for KU and West Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corp. (WKRECC). Hershel currently works on WKRECC property and has been recognized numerous times for safe crew operations and controlling costs. He hopes to be at it for another 30 years!

A “Bear” Of A Crew Visit—Asplundh crews face a variety of unique and challenging situations every day while on the job. General Foreperson Jon-Paul Paulsen, Foreperson Jeff Knight and Trimmer Jared Johnson of the Kevin Dove Region in Montana faced a particularly furry one in August. This photo of a black bear was safely snapped from inside the cab of a lift truck while the crew was working on a NorthWestern Energy right-of-way near Alberton, Montana. It was one of several curious black bears that visited their work sites this past summer.

Home Office Honors

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May MLA—On March 13-16, the Management Leadership Academy (MLA) was held in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania for supervisors and managers from across the United States. Led by Field Personnel Manager Joe Lee, with assistance from Chuck Hitzemann and Denny Leach of Positive Growth International, the attendees were (back row, L to R): Mike Wolford, West Virginia; Scott Bailey, Oklahoma; Pat Pinelli, Pennsylvania; Bobby King, Kentucky; Wesley Washington, Ohio; Robbie Adkins, Virginia; Don Redden, Missouri; John Terault, Massachusetts; Jerry Kensinger, Texas; and Tim Jessup, Florida.

June UGFTP—Field Personnel Manager Joe Lee hosted a special General Foreperson Training Program (GFTP) for the employees of UtiliCon Solutions, Ltd. (an Asplundh company) on June 4-8 at the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. The attendees were (back row, L to R): Rusty Jeffrey, Highlines, Arkansas; Jonathan Mize, UCLS, Georgia; Jeremy Jones, ACC, Indiana; Dennis Perno, UPT, Florida; Josh Patterson, ALS, South Carolina; and Chris Lichty, UCLS, Iowa. Seated in the front row were (L to R): John Morris, UCLS, Maryland; Alan Hoffman, ALS of NC, South Carolina; Joe Ross, UCLS, South Carolina; Mike Forrest, ACC, New York; Ethan Rasmussen, UPT, California; Lynda Nemeth, UCLS, Michigan; and Shawn Parish, ACC, Michigan.

July GFTP—Another installment of the General Foreperson Training Program (GFTP) was held at the Home Office on July 9-13. Led by Field Personnel Manager Joe Lee, the graduates were (front row, L to R): Eli Rivera, Florida; Abraham Martinez, Illinois; Josh Emory, North Carolina; Jenn Cristea, Pennsylvania; Matt Smith, Indiana; Jason McManan, Ohio; and Shawn Clapperton, Maine. Standing in the back row were (L to R): Shane Vasberg, Colorado; Zach Bertalot, Oregon; Jody Messick, Virginia; Chris Hollister, Tennessee; Bob Saunders, Ohio; Doug Capute, New Hampshire; and Shannon Moore, Oklahoma.

August GFTP—On August 6-10, the General Foreperson Training Program (GFTP) was conducted by Field Personnel Manager Joe Lee. Held at the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, the participants were (back row, L to R): Gary Shearer, Sr., Kentucky; Thomas Horner, North Carolina; Chris Culbertson, South Carolina; Matt Hopper, Oklahoma; Charles Gill, Minnesota; and Rich Ishmael, Texas. Seated in the front row were (L to R): Tony Servin, Louisiana; Doug Rakes, Jr., Pennsylvania; Leo Carmen Baltasar, Illinois; Luis Bonilla, Maryland; John Cottrell, Jr., West Virginia; and Arturo Soto, Oklahoma.

September GFTP—Field Personnel Manager Joe Lee hosted another General Foreperson Training Program (GFTP) group on September 10-14 at the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. The attendees were (front row, L to R): Jose Hernandez, Illinois; Hugo Garcia, Washington D.C.; Mark Stasiowski, Massachusetts; Dwayne Pope, Oregon; and Scott Savage, Ohio. Standing in the back row were (L to R): Joe Schultz, West Virginia; Chad Lewis, Kentucky; Eric Orender, Ohio; Caryl Schwaller, ArborMetrics Solutions, Inc., Indiana; and Juan Sampedro, Pennsylvania.

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October GFTP—On October 1-5, the General Foreperson Training Program was once again led by Field Personnel Manager Joe Lee. Held at the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, the graduates were (back row, L to R): Jake Taylor, Ontario, Canada; Donovan Sias, Florida; Rob Vorous, Virginia; Dave Townsend, IL, Kentucky; Sal Cortes, Illinois; Larry Houglan, Mississippi; and Enrique Torres, California. Seated in the front row were (L to R): Sean Clancy, Ontario, Canada; Michael Rosioli, Pennsylvania; Craig Tuttle, Ohio; Edgar Coreas, Maryland; Michael Simmons, North Carolina; Gary Landry, Louisiana; and Nick Hansen, Oregon.
Luke Lovings, 7, took a break from working hard “on the power lines” to enjoy a slice of watermelon. Mom Samantha sent in this photo of Luke, who was pretending to be a lineman just like his father, Jeff. Dad Jeff is a Class C lineman in the Danny Stanley Region of Utility Lines Construction Services, working on Duke Energy property in North Carolina.

Autumn Nutter, 11, won two gold medals in the Olympic Freestyle archery events at the 2012 Cornhusker State Games. Held on July 21-22 in Lincoln, Nebraska, Autumn’s dad, Supervisor Lon Nutter, couldn’t be prouder of her accomplishments. When not cheering on Autumn, Lon oversees Adam Larson Region crews in Nebraska.

Brothers Jordan (L), 1, and Mason (R), 2, welcomed baby sister, Khloe Gabriella (center), into the Collins family on September 17. She weighed 7 lbs., 8 oz. and measured 19-1/2” at birth. Dad Bradley is a foreperson and Grandpa Kenneth is a general foreperson in the Larry Kirk Region in Kentucky. Both work on Kentucky Power property in the Pikeville area.

Kailyn Taylor, 4, must have had such a hectic day that she fell asleep at the computer while playing a game. Dad Edward, who is a SafeProduction® supervisor in the Larry Kirk Region, was kind enough to share this adorable photo. He oversees safe work practices for Kentucky Power and in Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia for Appalachian Power Co.

ULCS Vice President Danny Stanley’s daughter, Ashley (R) and her husband, Sgt. Nathan Harris (L), attended the 2012 Academy Awards. Both Nathan and Ashley were featured in the movie, Hell and Back Again, a powerful documentary that moves between Nathan’s time in Afghanistan with the U.S. Marines’ Echo Company and his return home to Ashley to recover from a serious injury.

Happy birthday wishes to Brandon Hidalgo, who celebrated his first birthday on September 20. He only weighed 7 lbs., 6 oz. at birth, but look at him now! Brandon is the first child of Victor and Paula Hidalgo. Paula is the Accounts Receivable Administrator for the Frank Giordano Region of Asplundh Construction Corp. in Yaphank, New York.

Just a few months later and the Frank Giordano Region greeted another baby. On February 28, Jennifer and Robert Kelly welcomed their first child, Grace Elizabeth. Weighing 6 lbs., 13 oz. at birth, it looks like Grace got into the swim of things this summer at the pool. Mom Jennifer is the Office Receptionist in the Yaphank, New York office.

Congratulations to newlyweds Samantha and William Merithew (center) who were married on October 26. Both Samantha and William work in the Ray Seaman Region of Asplundh Brush Control, along with Samantha’s step-mom, Joann Cramer (second from L), who is the region’s office manager. As you can see, Asplundh orange was part of the wedding’s theme, which also included a specially-made chain saw and tree cake.
The sunrise paints a glowing tableau of purples, oranges and gold across the morning sky over the Asplundh truck yard in Portland, Connecticut.

A “Work Area Ahead” sign mirrors the triangular shape of the boom of an aerial lift as a trimmer from the Dan Duncan Region performs enhanced tree trimming for Connecticut Light & Power in the Simsbury area.

The bright overcast sky silhouettes the leafy vegetation framing Foreperson Chris Cowan as he works carefully from a tree to remove dead limbs that are in close proximity to Georgia Transmission Corp. lines.

Four employees from the Adam Larson Region coordinate their efforts to safely rig and prune overgrown branches away from a MidAmerican Energy three-phase tap in Port Byron, Illinois.
It’s time once again to unveil the winners of the Corporate Communications Department’s annual photo contest, **Shoot Out 2012**. Over 160 entries were sent in from around the world by 45 camera-toting Asplundh employees, family members and customers.

With even more prize money on the line this year — $1,050 total — our judges had to carefully evaluate each and every photo until they were able to finally select the top four entries in two categories.

Please join us to thank the following judges for taking on this challenging, but rewarding task: Photographer **David Kerper** from Kerper Studios in Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, CEO **Scott Asplundh** and Director, Safety Operations **Tim Walsh**, who along with Vegetation Training Manager **Tracy Hawks** and Vegetation Safety Manager **Mark Foster**, inspected each work-related entry for safety prior to judging.

Keep shooting all those **Work-Related and Nature** subjects you see and be sure to mark your calendar for next year’s Shoot Out and Wall Calendar deadlines.

Entries should be e-mailed to: corpcomm@asplundh.com. Remember, no cell phone photos or negatives, please!

**Wall Calendar Deadline: July 10, 2013**
**Shoot Out Deadline: September 27, 2013**

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**1ST PRIZE — Jess Sibley**
Dubac, Louisiana

*With its brilliant jewel tones and exquisite detail, this hummingbird appears so lifelike that it seems as though it could fly right off the page.*

**2ND PRIZE — Liz Pellicone**
Warrington, Pennsylvania

*The landscape surrounding the West Penobscot Bay slowly takes shape as the first signs of daylight break through the wispy clouds of a cold March morning in Rockland, Maine.*

**3RD PRIZE — Jim Cincotti**
East Bend, North Carolina

*Fishing boats set off across the sunrise-saturated waters of the Apalachicola Bay in Florida to harvest the day’s catch of oysters.*

**HONORABLE MENTION — Preston Harbison**
Nelson, Missouri

*Cradled in the high elevations of the Rocky Mountains near Buena Vista, Colorado, Small Lake seems to be filled with clouds rather than water.*
AMAZING TREES WE SEE EVERY DAY

As a child growing up in Santa Barbara, California, Regional Safety Supervisor Joe Ramirez of the Dave Stall Region regularly saw this massive Moreton Bay Fig (Ficus macrophylla) tree as he and his friends rode their bikes to the beach about half a mile away. Somewhat of a tourist attraction, legend has it that a sailor gave the seedling tree to a local girl who planted it in 1876. Another girl, Adeline Crabb, replanted it in its current location, which is now a small city park next to an Amtrak parking lot and the California 101 freeway.

The plaque states that it is the largest Moreton Bay Fig tree in the world and it certainly looks huge, as its branches reach across to Joe’s truck in the photo. Today, the city prunes and cables the smooth, gray limbs of this famous Ficus which spread out to a diameter of over 175 feet.

For several years, Supervisor Jeff Vining of the Gene Blount Region has spent summer vacations with family and friends in the Texas Hill Country near Rio Frio. Floating down the spring-fed Frio River is a little slice of heaven, especially when temperatures in South Texas exceed 100 degrees for days on end. Although he knew he was just minutes away from the Texas State Champion Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum) shown here at left, it wasn’t until this summer that he made a special trip to see the giant deciduous conifer. Located in an RV park on Buffalo Creek, the tree is the largest of many bald cypresses that line the banks of creeks and rivers in the area. This champion soars to 96 feet high with a 112-foot spread and a nearly 12-foot in diameter trunk. The little bench at the base of the trunk gives you an idea of its size. Bald cypress trees thrive in the wetlands of the South, displaying buttressed trunks and in swamps, upward protrusions from the roots called “knees.” Its leaves turn reddish brown and drop off in the late autumn.