EMPLOYEE DISCOUNTS
FROM OUR VALUED VENDORS

Being an Asplundh employee has its advantages! Your Supply Chain Management Department (SCM) has negotiated great deals with nationwide vendors for your personal purchasing needs. For instructions on how to take advantage of these phenomenal savings, or for any questions about these programs, please contact SCM in the Home Office at:

Telephone: 800-248-TREE  ■  E-mail: supplychain@utilitiesservicesinc.com

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THE ASPLUNDH TREE
Holiday 2015

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ON THE COVER
The winter sun glows through a heavy snow falling on evergreen and deciduous trees, resting in dormancy until spring finally arrives. (Photo by Shutterstock.com)

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The Asplundh TREE is a family magazine, published twice a year for all employees and friends of the Asplundh companies.

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www.asplundh.com

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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 Human Resources 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
The end of another year is rapidly approaching as we all prepare for the holiday season. 2015 was a year which brought many opportunities, as well as some challenges to the company.

The warmer winter in most parts of the country really helped avoid getting behind in the first quarter production schedules and provided better working conditions for our employees. With the recent snow in the Midwest, we will see shortly what Mother Nature has in store for this winter.

We continue our efforts for ongoing improvement in our safety program. During the past year we have maintained our schedule of auditing every operating region within 18 months, finding deficiencies and creating action plans to resolve any issues in a closed-loop process. Additional safety improvements have been implemented with the creation of safety training videos, a new employee orientation program, and an update of the Line Clearance Qualification Standard, our training manual. A new computer database we call SafetySuite was rolled out in early November and will be our safety information management system. This will permit better analysis and tracking of safety audit action plans and incidents to reduce and eliminate future events. We continue to pilot the DriveCam® driver monitoring tool, as well as the Mobileye® collision avoidance system. Both of these products provide valuable feedback to the driver and passengers regarding inappropriate vehicle operations and provide stimulus for immediate corrective action.

This year we were able to reduce overall incidents due to our relentless pursuit of safe operations. We are proud of our improvement, but not satisfied. We can still do better. Thanks to all employees who work every day in a safe and productive manner so they can go home to their families every night.

The expanding use of technology throughout the corporation continued with the conversion from 2G to 4G communication devices in our vehicles. This conversion will enable a Wi-Fi hotspot in our trucks. Several regions have already put rugged computers or tablets in vehicles to permit two-way communications with crew personnel. We see many opportunities to send and receive timely information from crew personnel on a daily basis. We are excited to see what data the pilot programs provide in 2016.

As many of you have heard and seen, the use of drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) is growing in the U.S., Canada and abroad. We are in the infancy of using this tool for inspection of both vegetation and construction facilities, but it will have a place in our business in the future.

As the company has continued to grow, several changes were necessary at the corporate office for oversight. A new position of Chief Administrative Officer was created and filled by George Licci. In his new role, he oversees information technology, risk management and corporate administration to manage these vital functions in an efficient and cost-effective manner. On the administrative front, a major project of implementing PeopleSoft in our Australia and New Zealand companies has been completed. Many thanks for the tireless efforts of our employees who made this happen. Another Director of Operations, Ed House, was added in Willow Grove to assist field managers in achieving operational excellence within their regions. This position was created several years ago and continues to have a positive impact. We have also added a compliance department with several staff positions to assist field operations in complying with company policies and the ever-evolving government regulations. The vice president of compliance reports directly to the general counsel.

This year marked the entrance into a new industry as two commercial landscaping companies were acquired. Reliable Property Services of Minneapolis, Minnesota and T.R. Gear Landscaping of Cincinnati, Ohio both perform mowing and landscape services, as well as snow removal in the winter for commercial properties. We are excited to bring these companies on board and look forward to the “blooming” of this new business line.

With the many challenges and opportunities we have faced this year we are fortunate to have employees who are safe, dependable and productive through all seasons, hot or cold, wet or dry. Your efforts and results are appreciated every day by the customers you serve and the corporation you represent. Thank you for making 2015 a successful year.

Best wishes to all of you for a safe, happy, holiday season and all the best in 2016.

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

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

Steven G. Asplundh
President
UtiliCon Solutions, Ltd.

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

The Asplundh TREE
Holiday 2015
I am the type of person who learned a long time ago that it is important to stop every so often to reflect on where you are, as well as where you have been. The end of the year always seems to be when I do this. As 2015 draws to a close, I would like to take some time to reflect on what we have accomplished together in the area of safety this past year.

Over the past 12 months, 54 fewer employees were injured than the year before and we reduced our OSHA incidence rate by 12 percent. We reduced our Lost Time rate by 34 percent and our DART (Days Away, Restricted Time) rate by 18 percent. Our Severity rate—the number of days someone is out of work due to an injury—shrunk 54 percent and we had 61 fewer motor vehicle crashes. We rolled out the New Employee Orientation book, started a new auditing process and reached our Lost Cost Per Hour goal for only the second time in 20 years. No matter how you slice it, 2015 was a great year!

As I reflect on some of the accomplishments, it occurred to me that some of you may not have been able to keep up with all of the staffing changes we also made this year.

Tracy Hawks serves as the Training and Safety Team Storm Manager. He has been in various roles with Asplundh for over 17 years, in both the field and office setting. Tracy oversees a team of highly-trained instructors who travel to our vegetation operations to train region-level trainers in a broad area of topics from Tree Felling to the Driver Management Program. They also work to keep our training programs up to date. For 2016, his team has developed a revised Line Clearance Qualification Standard, which was piloted this fall and will be rolled out after the first of the year.

Shane Vosberg is currently the Corporate Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Project Manager. Shane has roughly 11 years of experience as an arborist, supervisor and safety trainer in the private/residential sector and has been with Asplundh for over five years. Shane and his team oversee corporate safety audits, support training and manage numerous other miscellaneous projects.

Mark Foster is the Safety Manager for Asplundh Tree Expert Co. and has been with the company since 2007. He has over 30 years of line clearance, forest industry and arboriculture experience. Mark represents Asplundh on the ANSI Z133 Committee, is an active member of the Utility Line Clearance Coalition and speaks at numerous ISA- and UAA-sponsored meetings. He oversees the corporate safety consultants (CSCs) whose main task is to provide each management region with compliance guidance on OSHA, ANSI and corporate safety standards. This group uses their knowledge and experience to help each region observe, analyze and create solutions to their compliance gaps, and ultimately reduce the frequency of injuries and illnesses.

Chris Genell is the Corporate EHS Manager. He is relatively new to Asplundh, but brings over 27 years of experience in environmental, health and safety management experience. Chris’s team is responsible for sustainability programs and corporate safety, health and environmental policies, as well as the maintenance and integrity of the company’s safety data. They help us stay on top of the ever-changing compliance landscape and are currently involved in the roll-out of the new Safety Management Information System we call SafetySuite.

Maryann Buelow is the Corporate EHS Data Analyst and Chrissy Bowers is the department’s Administrative Assistant. Maryann is no stranger to many of you. She has been with Asplundh for the last 16 years and is integral to the maintenance and integrity of our company safety data. Maryann is leading the ongoing SafetySuite training sessions and roll-out communication with the regions. She is the person to call for help with bid support, safety data reporting and OSHA recordability determination.

Chrissy joined our team in September of this year, bringing 27 years of administrative support experience with her. She is now supporting me and overseeing all of the administrative functions of running our department. Chrissy’s is the voice you hear when you call the Willow Grove office and she helps to make sense of our ever-changing schedules.

The Safety Operations Group is a dedicated team of individuals who work for you in helping to make Asplundh a safer place to work. Thank you for allowing us this awesome opportunity. From our family to yours, have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Bruce Mellott
bmellott@asplundh.com

The Safety Operations Group

SAFETY SUCCESS IS NO ACCIDENT

by Bruce Mellott
Director of Vegetation Safety

CHRIS GENELL

MARYANN BUELOW

CHRISSEY BOWERS

SafeProduction
RECOGNIZING SAFETY SUCCESSES

While working along a PECO power line in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania in April, Trimmer Trainee Erik Caudillo (R) received a $20 cash ‘On the Spot’ award and a hearty handshake from Vice President Larry Gauger (L) for stopping him prior to entering the work site to give him the safety briefing. Larry and his supervisors randomly give all kinds of ‘On the Spot’ awards to reinforce their employees’ safe work behaviors.

In the midst of storm restoration work in July, Manager Joe Sterbenz visited a number of his crews working on Alliant Energy property in Wisconsin. He snapped this photo because he was so impressed with Trimmer Jeffery “Snowball” Snodie who immediately got out the job briefing before he could get near the work site. Joe gave a special thank you to “Snowball” and Foreperson Paul Brownfield for keeping themselves and others safe, especially during emergency storm work.

On April 29, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) in the state of Washington presented a certificate of appreciation to Asplundh for consistently exceeding the utility’s expectations in meeting field and administrative safety regulations. PSE Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Marla Mellies (second from L) is shown here presenting the award to Asplundh Vice President/Regional Advisor Kevin Dove (center). Joining in the occasion were PSE Manager of Contract Management Beth Rogers (second from R), Asplundh Vice President/Sponsor Doug Gober (far R) and PSE Corporate Safety Manager Ryan Blood (far L). Mr. Blood gave an example of the region’s great safety commitment when he told of an Asplundh crew that came upon a small tree trimming company operating a lift dangerously close to PSE lines. They immediately pulled over and intervened to keep the other crew safe.

After the corporate presentation, Kevin shared the award (signed by PSE Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Harris) with his management team who support the PSE contract. Pictured here (L to R) are: General Forepersons Matt Trowbridge, Ken Dillinger, Roger Winans, Steve Blum, Eric Force and Mike Reese, Regional Safety Superintendent Tripp Good, Supervisor Mike Roosendaal and General Foreperson Kris Hanson.

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General Foreperson Greg Jones of the Mike Wolford Region in West Virginia presented a $50 gift card to Foreperson Floyd Dennison (second from R) and $25 gift cards to his crew (no longer with the company) for their successful DOT roadside inspection in March. In the Wolford Region, every employee who is part of making sure their equipment passes a DOT roadside inspection, without a warning or violation, is eligible for a drawing at the end of the year for a pair of boots.

General Foreperson Johnny Singleton (L) of the Mike Wolford Region in West Virginia has managed to lead his operation through more than three full years of incident-free work! In the Wolford Region, a general foreperson’s crews are treated to a lunch for every three months they work incident-free and after an entire year, they get a lunch as well as a hooded sweatshirt or jacket. Shown here displaying their awards are (front row, L to R): Greg Jones, Russell Bolyard, Dave Moats, Carl Vest, Arnold Lipscomb, Chris Ledger, James Jones, Jeremiah Jenkins and Tim Simons. In the back row (L to R) are: David Moats, Jr., Brad Lipscomb, Richard Wilhelm, Daniel Murray, Brandon Knotts and Jerry Turner, Jr. (Red Moats and Robert Poling were not available for the photo). They all work for Mon Power out of the Morgantown service center.
In September, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) held a three-day safety program for its electric and gas department employees at Lake Tapps, south of Seattle, Washington. Included in the sessions were presentations by Corporate EHS Project Manager Shane Vosberg and Regional Safety Superintendent Tripp Good (shown above, L) of the Shawn Shapiro Region in Washington. They covered chainsaw safety, types of cuts for removing a tree, how tension and compression wood work and rigging techniques for various scenarios. Afterwards, PSE Contract Manager Tina Melton commented, “They did a stellar job in covering the topic and representing Asplundh and PSE Vegetation Management.”

A tree felling refresher training and practice session was conducted by Regional Safety Supervisor Jose Irizarry and Supervisor Derik Wolfe for this large group of employees from the Steve Miller Region. Held on May 8 in Prince George’s County, Maryland, the group thoroughly reviewed the five steps of tree felling and then practiced their notches and back cuts. These folks work on the properties of Pepco Holdings, Inc. in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia.

On March 10-11 in Toronto, Ontario, an advanced tree climbing and rigging training was conducted by Corporate Vegetation Trainer Caesar Bustos for employees of the Francois Desjardins Region of Asplundh Canada ULC. Supervisor Jake Taylor provided this photo of the trainees tied into their practice trees with the winter snows melting below them. It was a very successful training session thanks to the experience level of the climbers.

On April 22, Regional Safety Supervisor Jose Irizarry of the Steve Miller Region presented the five steps of tree felling to 14 future tree fellers who work on the Atlantic City Electric system in New Jersey. Training Foreperson Nate Lebron, who normally works on the property of Choptank Electric Cooperative in Maryland, and Supervisor Dom DeRosa also assisted with the training.

For three years now, crews from the Jerry Kensinger Region who work on AEP/SWEP transmission lines have come together twice a year for a day of safety training. This group met in Shreveport, Louisiana in May to get tree felling training from Regional Safety Superintendent Eddie Briscoe and General Foreperson/Trainer Jerry Rushing. Various foresters from AEP/SWEP were also on hand to observe the training.
EAB AND IVM OFFERINGS FROM ARBORCHEM

The Arborchem Products Division is known for offering the most efficient, innovative and environmentally-responsible products, techniques and equipment services. With a staff backed by decades of vegetation management experience and applied research, Arborchem is often called upon for training services by Asplundh field managers, as well as various right-of-way vegetation managers and industry groups throughout the United States. Even individuals can get valuable online training by visiting the web site at www.arborchem.com.

Always looking for well-tested and high-quality items for its customers, Arborchem recently signed a contract with Arborjet, Inc. to be a distributor of their products and equipment line. Arborchem is especially pleased to be able to offer its utility and municipal customers their emerald ash borer (EAB) treatment products.

TREE-äge® insecticide, an Arborjet formulation, is a leading treatment product for EAB due to having the highest success ratio of all insecticide options according to university studies. In addition, its effectiveness lasts for up to two years in ash trees.

“Many utilities and municipalities are dealing with EAB by removing ash trees after they have died, or removing them ahead of their death, but we feel there are clearly times when it makes good sense to invest in saving particular ash trees,” says Vice President Joe Lentz of Arborchem. For instance, where the ash tree canopy provides many energy-saving and aesthetic benefits, injections of TREE-äge® can preserve these benefits for years to come. In addition, there is great value in publicly projecting a more thoughtful, selective approach to dealing with the EAB threat to a community’s ash tree population.

For more information about products and the economics of treatment options, please contact Todd Hagenbuch at thagenbuch@arborchem.com.

TREE-äge® insecticide, an Arborjet formulation, is used to treat ash trees threatened by the emerald ash borer. It is being used in this demonstration of a QUIK-jet Air® injection system from Arborjet. Asplundh now offers both of these products and its services to utilities and municipalities through Arborchem.

General Foreperson Jeff Link (L) and Foreperson Tom Maehl (R) of the Ed Bradshaw Region were part of an Arborchem training session this fall for soil injection of Shortstop® tree growth regulator (TGR). This Paclobutrazol-based TGR formulation is used to slow the growth of selected trees. The training was led by Vice President Joe Lentz of Arborchem for Asplundh crews working on the properties of Westar Energy and the City of Wichita, Kansas.

No, this is not a stick-up! It’s just Vegetation Management Specialist Dave Krause (L) and Vice President Joe Lentz (R) of Arborchem demonstrating low volume and ultra low volume nozzles as part of a joint Arborchem-Asplundh-Dow technical meeting in Kansas City, Missouri on May 6. The meeting covered the latest technology, products and best management practices for Asplundh’s Midwest managers to take back to their operations and customers.

BE SURE TO CHECK IT OUT!

Free online video training is available at www.arborchem.com!

Eleven videos cover topics such as best practices in herbicide application, safety and equipment maintenance. View them at your convenience or use them in your refresher training for herbicide applicators.

Need a Couple Continuing Education Units to Maintain Your License?

There are 30-minute online pesticide training modules available at www.arborchem.com. Completing each training module and quiz is equivalent to one credit and the cost is only $25 per credit. Currently, these CEUs are approved for pesticide license holders in Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. These training modules are ideal for applicators who only need a credit or two and are not intended to replace an all-day, on-site pesticide training course.
Building Asplundh Pride

Here are many ways to build Asplundh pride that keeps employees safe and satisfied with their work. Competing together as a team and getting to know each other better at a social event are two that come to mind.

Lively Competition

Some regions might have their own sports teams, but the Joe Sterbenz Region has a team of four competitive tree climbers! They have brought a tremendous amount of pride to the region (and the company) with their award-winning performances this year.

In particular, Foreperson Josh Hodson was the overall winner at the Midwestern Chapter of the ISA’s competition in June and that led to an invitation to the North American Tree Climbing Championship (NATCC) in Colorado on September 19. There, he was exposed to some of the competitors that he will encounter at the International Tree Climbing Championship in Texas next April. Then, only one week after the NATCC, Josh and his team mates Jake Roberts, Brody Lloyd and John Dixon competed in the Illinois Tree Climbing Championship. Each of them scored well in the events and their combined achievements earned the Sterbenz Region of Asplundh the Corporate Cup.

All four work on the MidAmerican Energy system in the Quad Cities area under General Foreperson Dan Roberson. Best of luck to all of them as they prepare for next year’s championships. Their skills and teamwork make us proud!

Family Fun At Employee Picnics

This past summer, the Mike Wolford Region in West Virginia followed a suggestion from Executive Vice President/Sponsor Chris Asplundh, Jr. and decided to hold picnics to show appreciation to employees and their families. Supervisors John Belton and Melvin Crist asked their general forepersons to find suitable park locations, gave them some guidelines, and with a lot of help from spouses, more than 10 picnics were held. There were games and activities for the children, gift card giveaways, and time for co-workers and their spouses/friends to share stories and get to know each other better.

As you can see from the photos, there was plenty of food, fun and orange pride to go around. In the end, it was the company’s appreciation of a hard job well done and making sure people return home uninjured every day that everyone took home after the picnic was over. That’s something to be proud of!

More photos on page 12
Congratulations and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement to all the retirees listed here!
Tom McDonnell, vice president of Asplundh operations in parts of Virginia and North Carolina, retired on May 30 after 47 years of dedicated service to the company. Originally from the Philadelphia area, Tom worked his way up to general foreman in 1980 over Asplundh crews on what is now the PECO system and then in 1986, he was promoted to supervisor in western Pennsylvania. Three years later, Tom advanced to manager in Virginia and in 1993, he was elected vice president. For 26 years, he oversaw Asplundh operations on the properties of Dominion Virginia Power, various rural electric cooperatives and municipal accounts in Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. Tom has been recognized by the company numerous times for safety performance, storm response, controlling equipment costs and management leadership. Now that he’s retired, Tom and his wife, Rene, are enjoying more time with their children and grandchildren, as well as golfing, fishing and boating. Best wishes for continued health and happiness!

In Memoriam

George Ervin, retired general foreperson and 44-year Asplundh veteran, passed away on October 18 at the age of 68. A lifetime resident of Queen Anne’s County, Maryland, George started as a climber in 1965. As a general foreperson, he supervised mowing and tree crews for the states of Maryland and Delaware, Verizon and various specialty jobs. George retired in 2009. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Susan, two sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren and one great-grandson. In a memorial message, Vice President Steve Miller said, “If you wanted to know the meaning of ‘Orange Blood’ all you had to do was look at George.”

Bill Fritz, retired general foreperson and 43-year Asplundh veteran, passed away suddenly on August 27 at his home in Plymouth, Wisconsin of an apparent heart attack. He was 70 years old. Bill joined Asplundh in his home state of Wisconsin in 1964 and oversaw tree crews working on the property of Wisconsin Electric Power Co. (now We Energies) for more than 20 years. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Ruth Ann, three sons, one daughter and nine grandchildren. We extend our sincere sympathy to Bill’s family and to all those who knew him.

Jon Winans, retired general foreperson, passed away July 19 in Longview, Washington at the age of 82. Jon joined a tree crew in his home state of New Jersey in 1950 and advanced to general foreperson in 1972. He transferred to Washington six years later and retired in 1995. Jon is survived by his wife of 62-plus years, Ginny, five daughters, a son (Roger, who is a general foreperson in Washington) and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is dearly missed.

Dr. Richard H. Yahner, a lead researcher on the Game Lands 33 and Green Lane IVM research and demonstration plots for almost 20 years, died of natural causes at his home on July 8 in San Diego, California at the age of 66. Dr. Yahner retired in 2011 as Professor Emeritus of Wildlife Conservation at Penn State University after 30 years of teaching, advising and research. He is survived by his wife, Darlinda, and two sons, Rich and Tom. Asplundh salutes Dr. Yahner and the legacy of IVM research he left behind.
Scott Bailey, manager of Asplundh operations in parts of Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico, was elected vice president in January. Executive Vice President Matt Asplundh sponsors the Bailey Region.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Scott joined an Asplundh crew there in 1983. He progressed to general foreperson in 1994 and four years later, he was promoted to supervisor. In 2009, Scott transferred to Oklahoma to supervise operations on the property of AEP / PSO and was promoted to manager there the following year. In addition to PSO, he also manages Asplundh operations on various public power accounts in Texas and New Mexico. Scott is an ISA Certified Arborist and has taken advantage of all Asplundh management training programs. He has been recognized by the company several times for his safety performance and outstanding control of equipment costs.

Dan Duncan, manager of Asplundh operations in Connecticut, Rhode Island and parts of Massachusetts, was elected vice president in January. Executive Vice President Gregg Asplundh is his region’s sponsor.

Dan started out on an Asplundh crew in 1985 in his home state of Massachusetts. By 1993, he had advanced to general foreperson and nine years later, he was promoted to supervisor over crews working in western Massachusetts and Vermont. In 2008, Dan advanced to manager in Connecticut, Rhode Island and parts of Massachusetts, overseeing Asplundh operations on the properties of Eversource Energy, National Grid and United Illuminating, as well as numerous municipal accounts. He is an ISA Certified Arborist and has been recognized by the company several times for storm work, sales growth and cost control.

Jerry Kensinger, manager of Asplundh operations in parts of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and New Mexico, was elected vice president in January. Executive Vice President Matt Asplundh sponsors the Kensinger Region.

Jerry first joined an Asplundh crew in 1989 while attending college in New Jersey. He left in 1991 to join the U.S. Marine Corps and returned to tree work in 1994 while still serving in the Reserves. In 1996, Jerry transferred to Texas and advanced to general foreperson two years later. He was promoted to supervisor in 2006 and four years later, he advanced to manager. Jerry currently oversees crews working on the properties of AEP / SWEPCO, Oncor Electric Delivery and various municipal and cooperative accounts in the states listed above. He is an ISA Certified Arborist and Utility Specialist, and has been recognized by the company several times for storm work and safety performance.

Chris Eddy was promoted to regional operations director in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast for Grid One Solutions (GOS) in April. Executive Vice President Brent Asplundh sponsors the Eddy Region of GOS.

With six years of prior experience, Chris first joined the company in 1999 as a general foreperson for our former subsidiary, Utility Pole Technologies, Inc. (UPT). Two years later, he was promoted to regional manager for UPT operations in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast. In 2012, UPT was sold and Chris left for a position in sales management. He returned in late 2013 to assist with a joint GOS and ArborMetrics Solutions, Inc. project for BG&E in Maryland. Chris helped to expand GOS operations and continues to assist ArborMetrics as needed.

Aimee Elizondo advanced to region manager of civil, electrical and lighting operations for Asplundh Construction, Corp. (ACC) in California in April. She reports to Director of ACC West Coast Operations Gregg Kludjian under the sponsorship of UtiliCon Senior Vice President Greg Holman.

Chris Fix was promoted to region manager of Asplundh operations in parts of Virginia and North Carolina in June. Executive Vice President Gregg Asplundh sponsors the Fix Region.

Born in Pennsylvania, Chris started out on an Asplundh tree crew in Virginia in 1987 after serving five years in the U.S. Navy. By 1995, he had advanced to general foreperson and eight years later, he was promoted to supervisor. His responsibilities as a manager now include overseeing Asplundh tree crews on the properties of Dominion Virginia Power and several rural electric cooperatives. A graduate of various management programs, Chris also holds an associate’s degree in applied science and commercial piloting from the Community College of Beaver County in Pennsylvania.
Wayne Gregory joined the company in April as the Manager of Labor Relations. He reports directly to Vice President of Labor Relations John Dettl under Chief Executive Officer Scott Asplundh.

Wayne brings to the corporation over 30 years of experience in the areas of labor relations, human resources and multi-employer association management. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he worked for 17 years in human resource management for a manufacturer of mobile material handling cranes, truck bodies and equipment, which actually used to work with Asplundh’s former manufacturing facility in Chalfont. Wayne has also had a management consulting business since 1998. He earned a bachelor’s degree in management from Philadelphia University and is a graduate of labor relations and negotiations programs through Harvard Law School and Cornell University.

Ed House joined the company in April as a director of operations under Asplundh Tree Expert Co. President George Graham.

A native of New Jersey, Ed came aboard with 22 years of experience in the construction industry with particular expertise in project management and safety training. He has actually used to work with Asplundh’s former manufacturing facility in Chalfont and continues to work with another line clearance contractor. Within seven years he had advanced to general foreperson over tree crews working on the ComEd system in the Chicago area. His responsibilities as a supervisor include overseeing Asplundh tree crews working on the properties of ComEd, several municipalities on the outskirts of Chicago and Nicor Gas in northern Illinois. Freddy is a graduate of various Asplundh management training programs in recent years.

Stephen Baker was promoted to supervisor in August under Manager Dennis Mauk in Eastern Kentucky. Executive Vice President Brent Asplundh sponsors the Mauk Region.

Stephen started out on an Asplundh tree crew in his home state of Kentucky in 1996. He had advanced to general foreperson by 2004 and ten years later, became a production superintendent. Now, as a supervisor, Stephen is responsible for overseeing Asplundh tree crews on the properties of AEP / Kentucky Power and Big Sandy RECC in the southeastern part of the state. He has been an ISA Certified Arborist for 10 years and holds a Kentucky spray license. Steven has participated in various Asplundh management training programs and has studied business and forestry at Hazard Community College in Kentucky.

Freddy Bracero advanced to supervisor in January under Manager Jeff Ness in Illinois. The Jeff Ness Region is sponsored by Chief Executive Officer Scott Asplundh.

Freddy first came to work on an Asplundh tree crew in his native state of Illinois in 1999 after gaining almost a year of experience with another line clearance contractor. Within seven years he had advanced to general foreperson over tree crews working on the ComEd system in the Chicago area. His responsibilities as a supervisor include overseeing Asplundh tree crews working on the properties of ComEd, several municipalities on the outskirts of Chicago and Nicor Gas in northern Illinois. Freddy is a graduate of various Asplundh management training programs in recent years.

George Delgado was promoted to supervisor in January under Vice President Allen LeBlanc in Texas. Executive Vice President Chris Asplundh, Jr. sponsors the LeBlanc Region.

Born in South Texas, George joined an Asplundh tree crew there in 1999. He rose through the ranks to become a general foreperson in 2004, overseeing crews working on the properties of AEP Texas, Magic Valley Electric Cooperative and Brownsville Public Utilities Board. In 2013, he advanced to superintendent there and now, as a supervisor, George has transferred up to the Beaumont area. He is responsible for overseeing Asplundh tree crews working on the properties of Entergy Texas and various rural electric cooperatives. George is a licensed pesticide applicator, first aid instructor and 2007 graduate of the Asplundh Supervisory Training Program.
Henry Galvan advanced to supervisor in May under Vice President Jerry Kensinger in Texas. The Kensinger Region is sponsored by Executive Vice President Matt Asplundh.

A 43-year Asplundh veteran, Henry started out on a tree crew in Florida in 1972. After 12 years there, he returned to his native state of Texas and was promoted to general foreperson under Vice President Tom Leverentz who is now retired. In 1995, Henry advanced to superintendent and now, as a supervisor, he is responsible for overseeing Asplundh tree crews working on the properties of Oncor Electric Delivery, Garland Power & Light, Lubbock Power & Light and the City of Weatherford in northern Texas. He holds a commercial herbicide license and is a 1984 graduate of the Asplundh Supervisory Training Program.

Jody Messick was promoted to supervisor in July under Manager Chris Fix in Virginia. Executive Vice President Gregg Asplundh sponsors the Fix Region.

Jody first came to work on an Asplundh tree crew in his home state of Virginia in September 2000. He left the company the following year, but returned in September 2002 and rose through the ranks to become a regional safety superintendent in 2009. Three years later, he took a position as a general foreperson and now, as a supervisor, he is responsible for overseeing Asplundh tree crews working on the properties of Dominion Virginia Power in parts of Virginia and North Carolina, as well as various rural electric cooperatives in southern and eastern Virginia. An ISA Certified Arborist and Utility Specialist, Jody is also a July 2012 graduate of the General Foreperson Training Program.

David Ouzts advanced to supervisor in southwestern Michigan in June under Manager Stephen Williams. The Williams Region is sponsored by Executive Vice President Gregg Asplundh.

A 40-year veteran of the line clearance industry, David first joined an Asplundh tree crew in 1977 in his home state of Michigan with two years of prior experience. By 1984, he had advanced to general foreperson, but ten years later, the contract changed and he went to work for another line clearance contractor. In 2003, David returned to Asplundh and now his supervisory responsibilities include overseeing distribution tree crews working on the properties of AEP/Indiana Michigan Power and Midwest Energy Cooperative in southwestern Michigan. He is a graduate of the November 2007 Asplundh Supervisory Training Program and participated in the Management Leadership Academy.

Gregory Pearson was promoted to supervisor in March under Manager Tim Jessup in Florida. Executive Vice President Matt Asplundh sponsors the Jessup Region.

Born and raised in Florida, Gregory joined Asplundh in March 2007 as a foreperson with four years of prior line clearance experience. He also came aboard with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Florida A&M University and 17 years of experience in the state’s Department of Corrections. In 2008, Gregory advanced to maintenance planner and three years later, was promoted to coordinator of Asplundh’s trouble work and storm response crews working in the west coast operations of Florida Power & Light (FPL). As a supervisor, Gregory is responsible for overseeing the work of 18 general forepersons working in the east coast operations of FPL.

Jody Messick was promoted to supervisor in July under Manager Chris Fix in Virginia. Executive Vice President Gregg Asplundh sponsors the Fix Region.

Jody first came to work on an Asplundh tree crew in his home state of Virginia in September 2000. He left the company the following year, but returned in September 2002 and rose through the ranks to become a regional safety superintendent in 2009. Three years later, he took a position as a general foreperson and now, as a supervisor, he is responsible for overseeing Asplundh tree crews working on the properties of Dominion Virginia Power in parts of Virginia and North Carolina, as well as various rural electric cooperatives in southern and eastern Virginia. An ISA Certified Arborist and Utility Specialist, Jody is also a July 2012 graduate of the General Foreperson Training Program.

Gregory Pearson was promoted to supervisor in March under Manager Tim Jessup in Florida. Executive Vice President Matt Asplundh sponsors the Jessup Region.

Born and raised in Florida, Gregory joined Asplundh in March 2007 as a foreperson with four years of prior line clearance experience. He also came aboard with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Florida A&M University and 17 years of experience in the state’s Department of Corrections. In 2008, Gregory advanced to maintenance planner and three years later, was promoted to coordinator of Asplundh’s trouble work and storm response crews working in the west coast operations of Florida Power & Light (FPL). As a supervisor, Gregory is responsible for overseeing the work of 18 general forepersons working in the east coast operations of FPL.

Justin Villines advanced to supervisor in February under Manager Utah Villines in Arkansas. The Villines Region is sponsored by Executive Vice President Matt Asplundh.

Coming from a family with deep roots in the tree service and line clearance industry, it’s not surprising that Justin came to work for Asplundh in April 2005 as a general foreperson with six years of prior experience managing his own tree service. Four years later, he was promoted to regional safety superintendent. His current supervisory responsibilities include overseeing Asplundh tree crews working for Entergy of Arkansas, Source Gas and various municipal utility and rural electric cooperative accounts in Arkansas. He is a 2005 graduate of the Asplundh Supervisory Training Program and is a qualified first aid/CPR instructor.

Tom Westfall, Jr. was promoted to supervisor in January under Manager Les Parsons in parts of Ohio and Pennsylvania. Executive Vice President Gregg Asplundh sponsors the Parsons Region.

Tom first came to work on an Asplundh tree crew in his home state of Ohio in 1991, just prior to joining the U.S. Marine Corps. After serving three years of active duty, he returned to work for Asplundh off and on until 2004 and he has worked for the company ever since. In 2008, Tom advanced to general foreperson and five years later, he was promoted to regional safety superintendent. As a supervisor, Tom oversees tree crews that plan and execute integrated vegetation management work on 900 miles of transmission corridor for FirstEnergy in northern Ohio and western Pennsylvania. He is a 2010 graduate of the Asplundh Supervisory Training Program.
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 Human Capital 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.
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 February 1 and August 18, 2015. For their outstanding job performance or special volunteer efforts, we say ...

Thank you and congratulations!

**ALABAMA**
Jerry Aust and Chris Burks, and Trimmer Randy Agee, Decatur Utilities

**ARKANSAS**
General Foreperson Hector Garcia, Trimmer Gilberto Lemus and Journeyman Delfino Velazquez, Salt River Project

**Arizona**
General Foreperson Hector Garcia, Trimmer Gilberto Lemus and Journeyman Delfino Velazquez, Salt River Project

**California**
Asplundh Construction Journeyman Peter Perez and Transportation Technicians Erik Bautista and Ruben Vasquez, City of Anaheim

**COLORADO**
Rhame Adee and Journeyman

**CONNECTICUT**
Work Planner Jill Millington, Forepersons Richard Billett, Zack Jensen and Jeff Lanz, and Groundpersons Seth Kupstas and Luis Pratts, Eversource Energy

**DELAWARE**
Utility Lines Construction Services Jeremy Moore and Equipment Operator Brandon Stump, Delmarva Power & Light

**FLORIDA**
General Foreperson Mike Ambort, Foreperson Juan Ferguson, Trimmer Nick Guiles and Groundperson Robert Favreau, Florida Power & Light

**ILLINOIS**
Popiel Battin and Crew, MidAmerican Energy

**Idaho**
Wayne Brant and Chad O’Riley, and Groundperson Travis Bristow, Avista Utilities

**Iowa**
Chris Morlen and Trimmers Tyler Gordon and Mike Potter, Northern Lights

**MARYLAND**
Nic Myers and Ken Quaschnick, and Crews, Avista Utilities

**ONTARIO**
D.J. Silviculture Foreperson Joel Resch and Applicator Brad Ginther, FortisBC

**OREGON**
From a letter to the Asplundh Construction, Corp. office in Anaheim, California regarding Transportation Journeyman Peter Perez and Transportation Technicians Erik Bautista and Ruben Vasquez:

“... Your company has done several projects in and around our neighborhood. It has always been such a pleasure to see them here. They are working in the area to improve it under contract for the City of Anaheim. In my many years, I have to say they are some of the nicest, professional work force I have ever encountered. They plan well, layout, do the job, and finish very nicely. ... Thank you, again.”

John and Lynne Bradley

From a letter to the Kenmore, Washington office about work performed by Foreperson Chris Morlen and Trimmers Tyler Gordon and Mike Potter for Northern Lights, Inc. in Idaho:

“This letter is to express our appreciation for the care and concern shown by the above referenced crew when they were clearing trees and foliage from the powers lines at our [properties]. ... Although some of our trees did have to be cut down, we were impressed by how many were saved by the professional job that was done, and the pleasant and helpful attitude of the entire crew.”

John Thornton

**Rhode Island**
Jose Roman and Crew, Florida Power & Light

**TENNESSEE**
Tariq Odeh and Crew, Florida Power & Light

**Texas**
Pedro Perez and Crew, Florida Power & Light

**Utah**
General Foreperson John Potter for Northern Lights, Inc.

**Vermont**
Mike Palmerino, Rapp and Foreperson General Foreperson Shaun Rapp and Foreperson Mike Palmerino, Mountain Parks Electric (two letters were received)

**Virginia**
Jeff Reisner and Trimmers Nick Burkhart and John Niemzyk, Mountain Parks Electric

**Washington**
Job Planner Jeff Trent, for his kindness and knowledge, United Power

**Wisconsin**
John Thornton

**Wyoming**
Popiel Battin and Crew, MidAmerican Energy

From a letter to the Asplundh TREE Holiday 2015
wouldn’t start, MidAmerican Energy
Brandon Stanton and Trimmers Justin Ridgway and Josh Wardrip, MidAmerican Energy
Brandon Stanton and Nic Stanton, and Trimmers Enrique Alba, Shane Engels and Justin Ridgway, MidAmerican Energy
Nic Stanton and Trimmer Justin Ridgway, MidAmerican Energy
Nic Stanton and Trimmer Josh Wardrip, MidAmerican Energy

**INDIANA**

General Foreperson Brandon Cornett, Forepersons Cesar Calderson, Cole Cornett, Kevin Sowash and Chris Rettker, and Groundperson Andri Diaz-Carrillo, for re-nesting owls, NIPSCO

General Foreperson James Couch, Forepersons Travis Farling and Shawn McCune, Journeymen Chris Couch and Chris Pryor, and Groundperson Clayton McKinney, for participating in the City of Indianapolis’ Day of Service, helping to remove 29 high-risk trees and prune nine others, making the Eagle Creek Park Swimming Beach safe for the Special Olympics Indiana’s Polar Bear Plunge, Duke Energy

General Foreperson Royce Polar Bear Plunge, the Special Olympics Indiana’s others, making the Eagle Creek high-risk trees and prune nine

Other, MidAmerican Energy

Josh Howard and Crew, MidAmerican Energy

Nate Johnson, for his clear and thoughtful communication about line clearance work, MidAmerican Energy

Ryan Johnson and Crew, MidAmerican Energy

Danny Watson and Groundperson Ron Cole, MidAmerican Energy

General Foreperson Jason Waugh, MidAmerican Energy

**KANSAS**

Chris Henderson and Crew, City of Winfield

Mike McManus, Trimmer Joe Miller and Groundperson Corey Mason, Kansas City BPU

Travis Perryman and Trimmer Kyle Wait, Westar Energy

**KENTUCKY**

General Foreperson George Campbell, Forepersons Nathaniel Everage, Buddy Hall, Jody Mulkey and Corey Tackett, Trimmers Josh Cox, Donald Garrett and Chris Smith, Journeymen Keith Boyd and Cody Patrick, Apprentices Terry Hunter, Nathaniel Tackett and Dan Wideman, for showing proper respect to a funeral procession passing by their work zone, Kentucky Power

Roy Fite and Michael Johnson, and Crews, Owen County Electric Co-op

**LOUISIANA**

General Foreperson Jake Kitzmillier and Crew, SWEPCO

**MAINE**

General Foreperson Robert Boivin, Forepersons Dan Anderson, Nate Jellison and Arthur Tolman, Trimmer Chet Porter and Groundperson Craig Noble, Emera Maine

**MARYLAND**

Jimy Guerra and Journeymen

**From a letter to General Foreperson Kyle Baur regarding Foreperson Mike McManus, Trimmer Joe Miller and Groundperson Corey Mason who work for Kansas City BPU in Kansas:**

“...A tree on my property was hit with a high wind [and] a large main portion of the tree...collapsed onto my carport with my brand new car parked inside...I explained that it was imperative that I keep power as I am a cancer patient and have an oxygen machine that I rely on to breathe...I felt compelled to...let you know that these men who responded and helped me on that day are indeed quality employees and you can be proud.”

Ramon J. Jones

**From a letter to Manager Bobby King in Kentucky concerning work performed for Owen County Electric Co-op by crews under Forepersons Roy Fite and Michael Johnson:**

“We would like take this time to tell you what a great job these two crews did at our residence and the busy road in front. ... We were amazed that they never stopped or took a break. They worked well together, setting up their traffic control and trucks...[They] cleaned up all the debris and were very polite and professional. ... We thought you would like to know how well they did and would like you to please thank them for all of us.”

Charles and Sharon Asher
From a letter to Jeff Custer, Xcel Energy Director, Design and Construction about a Keith Erickson Region crew working in Minnesota:

“I just wanted to take a moment and recognize an Asplundh crew that I've had the opportunity to work with several times. ... On May 12-13, 2015, a priority residential job, almost two years in the making, was scheduled. There was a sense of high customer maintenance to the properties of several yards. Asplundh crew members, [Foreperson] Dennis Campbell and [Trimmer] Chris Plan, demonstrated a great work ethic, a commitment to safety, and a professional attitude. It is a pleasure to work with true professionals.”

Jim Jinnah, Foreperson, Xcel Energy

From a letter to the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania regarding a Rickey Bailey Region crew working for Northcentral Electric Power Association in Mississippi:

“This is a letter of commendation for ... [Coordinator] Jonathan Bentley, [Equipment Operator] Billy Woods and [Trimmer] Calvin Reeder. I just wanted to sincerely acknowledge this hard working team. ... They came to my house with smiles on their faces, ready to get the job done. They expressed the importance of safety first ... It made what was for me a stressful situation, a calm and pleasant experience.”

Patty Johnson

Orchids — February 1 through August 18, 2015

Alex Sanchez-Chavarria, for volunteering their time to participate in the Cheverly Truck Touch event on May 2, Pepco

Andrew Turner and Crew, Potomac Edison

MINNESOTA

Dennis Campbell and Trimmer Chris Plan, Xcel Energy

Mike Click, Matt Condon and Fred Lemkau, and Trimmer Ray Kloncz, Xcel Energy

George Dalglish and Trimmers Jesse Bullis and Jose Reyes, Xcel Energy

Paul Santama and Trimmers Dave Hanson, Jr., Kevin Jendro, Shawn Petsch and Derek Ullman, Xcel Energy

Jason Soukup and Trimmers Dave Larsen and George Stout, Xcel Energy

MISSOURI

Trimmers Jerome Curfman, Troy Heuer, Mike Rau and Bill Vonbargen, Columbia Water and Light

Joe Flake and Crew, Cuivre River Electric Co-op

General Foreperson Randy McClure and Crews, Kansas City Power & Light

Ray Saunders and Crew, Kansas City Power & Light

Charles Smith and Andy Trenco, and Trimmer Dionisia Trenco, Boone Electric Cooperative

NEBRASKA

David Aken and Trimmer Cody Schroeder, Lincoln Electric System

Eric Hartman, Journeyman Stetson Riggs and Groundperson Gabe Haecker, Lincoln Electric System

Angelo Roque and Trimmers Ernesto Castanon, Jesus Castanon and Andres Flores, Lincoln Electric System

MISSISSIPPI

Work Planner Keith Layton, Foreperson Stuart Leikam and Groundperson Austin Walters, Valley Electric Association

General Foreperson Vern Markussen, Forepersoners James Hall, Ryan Omalza and Michael Paige, Trimmers Francisco Arambula and Lindsey Duncan, and Groundperson Meghan Stevens, NV Energy

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Supervisor Paul Arno, RSS

Romeo Bilodeau, General Foreperson Doug Capute, Foreperson Jake Trudelle and Crew, for coming up with a plan to safely remove a 100-foot oak tree without an outage or road closure in the Ashuelot area, Eversource Energy

Supervisor Paul Arno, General Foreperson Joel Cook and Crews, New Hampshire Electric Co-op

General Foreperson Nate Baker and Crews, Eversouce Energy

Work Planner Brandon Clark and Crew, Eversource Energy

General Foreperson Joel Cook, Peter Powers and Jake Treamer, Foreperson Chris Guillou and Crews, Eversource Energy

Brad Demo and Trimmer Ian Duffy, Unitil

Chris Eisold and Crew, Eversource Energy

General Foreperson Jeff Fellows and Crews, Eversource Energy

NEW JERSEY

General Foreperson Roy Hess, Crew Leaders Daniel Lombardo and Pete Lombardo, and Trimmers Leo Hafele and Michael Zundle, Atlantic City Electric

Crew Leader Patrick Brady and Crew, Atlantic City Electric

NEW YORK

Asplundh Construction General Foreperson Tom O'Connell, Foreperson William Horan, Journeyman Lineman Donnie Floyd and John Hartig, PSEG Long Island

Pre-checker Sal Ribaudo, PSEG Long Island

Asplundh Brush Control General Foreperson Michael Parrott and Groundpersons Chadd Pare and Matt Rockwell, Eversource Energy

Brian Perham, Trimmer Edward Solomon, Jr. and Groundperson Brendan Ladd, New Hampshire Electric Co-op

General Forepersons Peter Powers and Jake Treamer, and Crews, for delivering wood chips to the Emerson School in Concord, Unitil

General Foreperson Scott Robitaille, Permissions Specialist Jeremy Bilodeau and Crews, Eversource Energy

Ryan Saunders and Crew, Kansas City Power & Light

Dennis Campbell

February 1 through August 18, 2015
Terry and Trimmer Ken Hall, for volunteering their time to clear a field to be used as a training and recreational area for the Fine community, Fine Fire District

Asplundh Construction Underground Foreperson Nicholas Vetere, for his creative problem solving skills, National Grid

**NORTH CAROLINA**

David Alford and Travis Stallings, and Crews, Duke Energy

General Foreperson Chad Allmond and Crew, Duke Energy

Work Planner Jeremy Banks, Foreperson Gary Boone and Trimmer Ricky Ledford, Duke Energy


General Foreperson Jamie Crane and Crews, Duke Energy

Charles Cummings and Groundperson H. Lee Walker, Pee Dee Electric Co-op

Lee Dew, Darrick Price and Lindell Speller, Trimmers David Davis and Jimmy Jackson, and Groundpersons William Reed and Timothy Satterwhite, Duke Energy

**ONTARIO**

Steven Waters and Apprentice Michael Smith, Oshawa PUC Networks

From an e-mail to the Asplundh Construction, Corp. office in Yaphank, New York about Underground Foreperson Nicholas Vetere’s work for National Grid:

“... Nick walked in with a respectful, can-do attitude and showed himself to be a leader. He thought creatively to solve the issues, and even when significant setbacks arose, he led with authority, giving us his word that everything would be made right. ... His combination of technical competence, integrity, ability to interact with both workers and customers, and dedication to a job done right make him an exceptional employee.”

Jay C. Klear, Esq.

From an e-mail to Supervisor Jake Taylor with Asplundh Canada ULC in Ontario, regarding the work of Foreperson Steven Waters and Apprentice Michael Smith for Oshawa PUC Networks:

“Further to my telephone call this afternoon concerning the excellent job that Steve and Mike did when clearing two mature birch trees from the hydro wires. They were both most pleasant and took great care when trimming the trees so as to inflict minimal damage. ... This care is most appreciated and they are to be commended in the excellent manner in which they approached and executed the work to be done.”

Brian Peak
From a letter to Holston Electric Co-op in Tennessee concerning the work of Gene Hayden Region Foreperson Adam Carpenter and Journeymen Kelvin Gunter and Derrick Lam:

“I just wanted to say thank you for a job well done and to let you know I appreciated you taking care of the tree that had grown around the power pole. ... The very next day after my call, someone came and trimmed the branches that were reachable and assured me a crew would come to complete the work. Thanks [again] for a job well done!”

Faith Foley

From an e-mail to Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) in Virginia regarding the work of a Chris Fix Region crew:

“I am writing to thank you for the excellent service provided by SVEC at our house. ... The work done by the tree trimming crew from Asplundh Tree Expert Co. was superb. The crew of [Forepersons] Garland Good and Randy Shenk, [Trimmer] Randy Blakemore and [Groundperson] Christian Argilan were extremely competent and professional, and are great representatives for the company. ... Though working in the hot muggy weather, they maintained a positive and pleasant attitude.”

Allen L. Louderback
From an e-mail to the Asplundh Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania concerning the work of Joe Schneider Region Foreperson Kenny Gartzke and Trimmer Ryan Lowe:

“I am writing this letter first and foremost to thank you and the crews in Greendale, Wisconsin and the surrounding states for putting their lives on the line [to help] We Energies bring power into my house. They are truly professional from cutting, to climbing, to cleaning up... I know this is a thankless job, but I will tell you one thing – the company should be proud of these guys. Great job!"

Kyle Becker

From an e-mail to Georgia Power DRS Construction Coordinator Mark Cochran regarding the ice storm restoration efforts of Utility Lines Construction Services, Inc. crews from the Jim Marsh Region:

“Just wanted to take some time to tell you it was a pleasure working with your team members [General Foreperson] Jason Hood and crew personnel. They stepped up to the challenges we had and performed safely at its best. Through the cold conditions, they held their heads up high. It really made my job easy.”

Michael S. Johnson, Crew Leader-Macon, Georgia Power Co.
SERVICE
ANNIVERSARIES

July – December

55YEARS

Robert Bruce
Foreperson
Pennsylvania

45YEARS

Ed McCarty
Work Screener
Pennsylvania

40YEARS

Joseph Hamilton, III
Foreperson
Pennsylvania

Jeannette Rawls
Title & Registration Admin.
Fleet Services
Willow Grove

Jay Scherbarth
Trimmer
Wisconsin

Ricky Schuh
Foreperson
Wisconsin

Oscar Ybarra
Foreperson
Texas

35YEARS

Scott Asplundh
CEO
Willow Grove

Larry Attaway
Coordinator
Alabama

Melvin Good
Foreperson
South Carolina

James Bethea
Mechanic
South Carolina

Gerald Erickson
Foreperson
Oregon

Eliezer Ferdinand
Trimmer
Florida
35 YEARS

Bob Kubacki
Supervisor
Wisconsin

Allen LeBlanc
Vice President
Texas

Randy McQueeney
General Foreperson
Pennsylvania

Jim Marsh
Vice President
ULCS
Alabama

David Stone
Equipment Operator
North Carolina

Dale Sudduth
Trimmer
Alabama

Ricky Woods
Foreperson
Virginia

30 YEARS

Stephen Anderson
Foreperson
New York

Dan Duncan
Vice President
Connecticut

Lisa Lamberton
Special Projects Manager
Customer & Field Liaison
Willow Grove

Keith Langdon
Foreperson
New York

Shawn Clapperton
Foreperson
Maine

James Croft
Foreperson
Musgrove Construction
Florida

Barb Geissler
Accounting Clerk
Financial Accounting
Willow Grove

Jeffrey Lee Hause
Foreperson
Indiana

Danny Holman
Foreperson
North Carolina

Kelly Jones
Foreperson
Kentucky

Ed Bradshaw
Manager
Kansas

Joe Lentz
Vice President
Arborchem Products Division
Pennsylvania

Saphete Noel
Trimmer
Florida

Liz Pellicone
Technical Assistant
Information Technology
Willow Grove

Pete Pellicone
Financial Systems Manager
Information Technology
Willow Grove

Angel Reyes
Foreperson
Louisiana

Merle Roof
Foreperson
Kentucky

Debbie Schultz
AP Specialist
Accounts Payable
Willow Grove

Joe Smith
Foreperson
Virginia

Frencine Strother
Sr. Regional Administrator
Customer & Field Liaison
Willow Grove

Paul Thomas
General Foreperson
Indiana

Richard Varner
General Foreperson
West Virginia

Gene Wellman
Foreperson
Maine

Reggie Williams
Lead Parts and Service Rep.
Fleet Services
Virginia

Jim Winemiller
Manager
Missouri

Heath York
General Foreperson
Missouri

Dale Sudduth
Trimmer
Alabama

Ricky Woods
Foreperson
Virginia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Baker</td>
<td>Trimmer</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Baxter</td>
<td>General Foreperson</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
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<td>Chris Burdette</td>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>ULCS</td>
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<td>Emanuel Collins</td>
<td>Trimmer</td>
<td>Washington</td>
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<td>John Cottrell, Jr.</td>
<td>General Foreperson</td>
<td>West Virginia</td>
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<td>Jamie Culp</td>
<td>General Foreperson</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
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<td>Robert DeCampli</td>
<td>Permissions Person</td>
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<td>Michael Freitag</td>
<td>Spray Foreperson</td>
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<td>Jane Henninger</td>
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<td>The Asplundh TREE</td>
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Zachary Pettis, 16, placed second in the Small Engine Repair division at the SkillsUSA district competition last February. His father, RSS Jeff Pettis of the Jerry Kensinger Region in Texas, couldn’t be prouder of his son and is excited to watch the high school junior prepare for next year’s automotive technology competition. When not rooting for his son, Jeff helps to ensure the safety of Asplundh crews working on the properties of Oncor and various municipal utility accounts in northwestern Texas.

It looks like Office Manager Jackie Westfall and her husband, Foreperson Tom Westfall, may have their hands full with these two new “greenhorns.” They are their grandchildren, Laci, 5, and Liam Bailey, 2. The duo paid a visit to the Les Parsons Region office in Hartville, Ohio, and as you can see, they wasted no time finding hard hats to put on and play Asplundh tree trimmer. As office manager, Jackie serves the administrative needs of the Parsons Region crews in parts of Ohio and western Pennsylvania, and Tom oversees a crew on Hudson Municipal Electric Department property.

Drew and Kate Windsor are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Brelyn Jaye. She was born on May 22, weighing 7 lbs., 15 oz. and measuring 19” long. Drew, who is a foreperson on Okanogan PUD property in the Shawn Shapiro Region of Washington, couldn’t wait to show off his pride and joy to his co-workers. He even took the opportunity to get a photo with his baby girl in front of an Asplundh lift truck.

Leah Simpson, 17, passed the U.S. Figure Skating “Senior Moves in the Field” test this year. This is the highest level of testing and earned her the title of “U.S. Figure Skating Gold Medalist.” Leah is currently a member of the Wissahickon Ice Skating Club’s novice synchronized ice skating team and has competed in regional and national competitions across the United States. Her very proud father is Ron Simpson, who is the manager of the Tax Department in the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.
ISA Work Day in New Jersey—
On December 13, 2014, the New Jersey Arborists, Chapter of the ISA coordinated a work day at Ocean County Park in Lakewood. The park was once John D. Rockefeller’s vacation estate and he oversaw the planting of white pine, hemlock and a variety of other tree specimens in the 1920s-30s. Naturally, folks from the Ryan Swier Region stepped up to provide their professional arboricultural services to this worthy cause. Foreperson Michael Ashford (L), Trimmer Aaron Glogower (R) and Supervisor Michael Wohnus (not shown) spent the day removing a dead pine tree, along with pruning dead wood from trees and chipping brush.

Making The Plunge Safe For “Polar Bears”—
In preparation for the Special Olympics Indiana’s annual Polar Bear Plunge at the Eagle Creek Swimming Beach in Indianapolis, the Office of the Mayor reached out to the Robbie Adkins Region to help prune limbs and remove high-risk trees from the area. General Foreperson James Couch, Forepersons Travis Farling and Shawn McCune and their crews spent the day on February 27 with other volunteers removing 29 dead trees (most were ash trees killed by the emerald ash borer) and pruning dead or broken limbs from nine others. The crews work on the Duke Energy system under Forester Tom Ordway who also participated in the event.

Confere Region Extends A Helping Hand After Tragedy—
Journeyman Colton Lemaster (R) of the Keith Confere Region in Ohio was the winner of a Husqvarna chainsaw that was part of a special raffle to support a co-worker from another region after an unthinkable tragedy befell his family. On March 5, fire struck the home of an Larry Kirk Region employee, who works on AEP/Appalachian Power Co. property in Virginia, while he was away on storm duty helping others. His wife and one child were able to escape, but three of his children succumbed to the fire. When this terrible news reached the employees of the Confere Region, who work also work on AEP property, they eagerly reached out to help. General Foreperson Jan Cory Chambers, who has organized many a raffle in his day, put his skills to work and the region raised $3,310 to help support their co-worker and his family in their time of need.

Home Office Employees Of The Month—Meet the latest group of Home Office employees recognized as Employee of the Month for providing superior support to our field and internal operations. Standing in the back row are (L to R): Debbie Schultz of Accounts Payable, who was announced in May; Shelley Merritt of Financial Reporting, who was named in June; Gopal Sanathara of the Tax Department, who was honored in July; and Elise Weisser of Human Resources/Benefits, who received the award in August. Seated in the front row are (L to R): Eric Greco of Accounts Payable, who was recognized in September; Erin Boyer of Customer & Field Liaison, who won in October; and Ivy Buelow of Risk Management, who was presented with the award in November. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Community Service

Patriotic Employer Award—On July 23, Manager Stephen Williams (R) in Indiana was presented with the Patriotic Employer Award by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). The ESGR is a Department of Defense national committee that acknowledges employers for the support they give to their employees who are actively serving in the Armed Forces. Stephen was nominated by Staff Sergeant Heather Fairchild (L) who, along with being a work planner for Asplundh, has been an active member of the Army National Guard for six years. Heather nominated Stephen for all the support and encouragement he has given her, especially when she was deployed to Afghanistan in 2012. When not serving her country, Heather works on NIPSCO property throughout northern Indiana, and also assists with various tasks at Stephen’s regional office in Monterey.
**30-YEAR WATCHES**

![Image](image1)

(L to R) Manager Mike Wolford presented specially-engraved watches to RSS Sammy Roy (April 1984), General Foreperson Rick Cowan (June 1982), and Supervisor Melvin “Jack” Crist (September 1984) to thank them for 30 years of service to Asplundh. All work with crews on the property of Mon Power in West Virginia.

![Image](image2)

Kentucky Power Co. Forester Cory Farmer (far L) and Forestry Supervisor Mark Jackson (second from L) joined Manager Dennis Mauk (far R) in congratulating General Foreperson Kenneth Collins (second from R, September 1984) for 30 years of dedicated service. John works on Cincinnati Bell property in Ohio.

![Image](image3)

Field Accounting Administrative Assistant Colleen Isabella (L, September 1984) was honored for her 30th anniversary at the Asplundh Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania with the presentation of a specially-engraved watch by (then) Manager of Financial Accounting Angelo Mattioli (R).

![Image](image4)

Manager Mike Wolford (center, June 1984) was recognized at his region’s annual meeting in November 2014 for 30 years of dedicated service. On hand to congratulate Mike was (now retired) Vice President Dave Puckett (R) and Executive Vice President Chris Asplundh, Jr. (L), who presented him with a specially-engraved watch.

![Image](image5)

Dave, Chris and Mike then had the honor of recognizing another 30-year veteran at the Wolford Region Annual Meeting. General Foreperson Roger Satterfield (second from R, March 1984), who works on Mon Power property in West Virginia, was presented with a specially-engraved watch by the grateful trio.

![Image](image6)

It was smiles all around as Supervisor Jesse Long (far L), Vice President Joe Schneider (second from R) and General Foreperson David Bohman (far R) held a luncheon to mark Foreperson Jeff Thieme’s (second from L, August 1984) 30 years of excellent service at Asplundh. The group gave Jeff a specially-engraved watch and shared stories of his career working on We Energies property in Wisconsin.
Permissions Person Don Watry (second from R, June 1984), who works in Wisconsin on We Energies property, was presented with a specially-engraved watch for 30 years of loyal service by Vice President Joe Schneider (center). Also on hand for the festivities were Supervisor Jesse Long (second from L), General Foreperson Terry Bunkleman (far R), and his dad, former Asplundh employee Ron Bunkleman (far L), who Don worked under for many years.

Permissions Person Dave Bunkleman (second from L, September 1984) received a handshake of appreciation and a specially-engraved watch from Vice President Joe Schneider (second from R). Supervisor Jesse Long (far L) and General Foreperson Terry Bunkleman (far R) joined in to thank Dave for 30 years of service. He currently works on We Energies property in Wisconsin.

Foreperson Freddie Applegate (R, August 1983) of the Rickey Bailey Region received a hearty handshake and a specially-engraved watch from Superintendent Josh Volf (L) in recognition of his 30th anniversary with Asplundh. Freddie currently oversees a crew on PowerSouth Energy Cooperative property in Alabama.

During a visit to the Home Office in December 2014, Manager Scott Bailey (R, September 1983) was presented with a specially-engraved watch by Executive Vice President Matt Asplundh (L) to mark 30 years of outstanding service to Asplundh. Scott is responsible for operations on AEP property and various pipeline and municipal accounts in parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas.

Executive Vice President Gregg Asplundh (L) had the pleasure of recognizing Manager Wilmer McWhirtter (R, January 1985) for 30 years of dedicated service at his Managers’ Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina last January. Wilmer, who oversees Asplundh crews on Georgia Power and various cooperative utilities in the state, was presented with a specially-engraved watch as a token of appreciation.

Manager Mike Wolford (L) and Supervisor Melvin “Jack” Crist (R) proudly presented Notifier Walter Moats (center, August 1983) with a specially-engraved watch in honor of his 30th anniversary with the company. Walter currently works with Mon Power’s customers in West Virginia to notify them of line clearance work and handle their concerns.

Happily displaying the specially-engraved watch he received from Manager Ed Brodshaw (R) and Supervisor Scott Leonard (L) for 30 years of service is Foreperson Johnny Helm (center, April 1985). Johnny runs a trouble ticket crew for Kansas City Power & Light in western Missouri and eastern Kansas.

Foreperson Russell Smith (center, March 1985) received a specially-engraved watch for 30 years of loyalty to Asplundh along with a handshake of appreciation from Vice President Larry Gauger (L) and congratulations from General Foreperson Bill Curran (R). Russell currently oversees a crew working for PECO in southeastern Pennsylvania.

General Foreperson Roland Bennett (center, May 1985) received a hearty handshake of gratitude from Manager Robbie Adkins (R) along with a specially-engraved watch to mark his 30th anniversary with Asplundh. Supervisor Kevin Booher (L) was also on hand to congratulate his co-worker. Roland currently oversees crews working in southwestern Ohio for Duke Energy.
November 2014 GFTP—On November 3-7, Vice President of Corporate Compliance Joe Lee coordinated a General Foreperson Training Program. Held in Willow Grove Pennsylvania, the graduates were (front row, L to R): Johnny Patterson, Alabama; Brian Olsen, Kansas; Jason Lukefahr, ABC, Missouri; Troy Rentfrow, Iowa; Brian Chester, Maryland; and Russell Heathman, Missouri. Standing in the back row were (L to R): Luis Lopez, Tennessee; Lonny Bridges, Alabama; James Harrison, Illinois; Brian Hart, Tennessee; Brian Reed, Oklahoma; and Steve Deveney, New Hampshire.

November 2014 AATP—The Administrative Assistant Training Program was held on November 11-14 at the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. Led by Director of Human Resources Sallie Theis, the attendees were (back row, L to R): Heidi Draper, Delaware; Patti Jackson, Arkansas; Pam Sapp, Tennessee; Mary Vega, Mississippi; Carol Condra, Tennessee; Angie Gann, Arkansas; Stephanie Bennett, Maryland and Kely Waldrop, North Carolina. Seated in the front row were (L to R): Jennifer Jones-Carter, Florida; Patty Kelly-Williams, New York; Katelyn Benedetto, Louisiana; Amy Myrick, Virginia; Megan Snyder, Virginia; Tina Turley, Tennessee; Tammy McDonald, Mississippi; and Heather Burris, Tennessee.

February 2015 GFTP—On February 9-13, Vice President of Corporate Compliance Joe Lee held a General Foreperson Training Program in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. The participants were (front row, L to R): Paul Coe, North Carolina; Angel Pagan-Coriano, Pennsylvania; Gregory Mehit, New York; Pete Robinson, Mississippi; Brennan Mascaro, Connecticut; Manuel Madera, West Virginia; and Todd Conger, Missouri. In the back row were (L to R): Alex Jasso, Florida; Shaun Rapp, Colorado; Cliff Larson, Minnesota; Scott Rabitaile, New Hampshire; Mark Shrauger, Missouri; Dave Speidel, Virginia; and Gary McFadden, Tennessee.

April 2015 GFTP—On April 13-17, Vice President of Corporate Compliance Joe Lee led a General Foreperson Training Program. Held in Willow Grove Pennsylvania, the attendees were (back row, L to R): Robert Scott, Virginia; Bruce Foote, Massachusetts; Bernie Guzman, Pennsylvania; Larry Orange, Jr., New Jersey; Chris Railey, Alabama; Johnny Crockett, West Virginia; Elvis Peacock, Michigan; and John Stinebaugh, Kansas. Seated in the front row were (L to R): James Clark, New York; Dusten Hall, Missouri; John Adams, ABC, Missouri; Gene Ouellet, Sr., Vermont; Josh Miller, North Carolina; J.D. Kershner, Florida; and Alan Stiles, Jr., Illinois.

May 2015 GFTP—Vice President of Corporate Compliance Joe Lee coordinated a General Foreperson Training Program on May 4-8 at the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. The graduates were (front row, L to R): John Trombley, Indiana; Juan Pantoya, Illinois; Scott Rucker, Ohio; Stephen Sharpe, Virginia; Jason Torlish, Delaware; Mike Ambort, Florida; Jason Little, Tennessee; Chris Highfield, Kentucky; and Daniel Barrow, Alabama. In the back row were (L to R): Adam Stauffer, Kansas; Jose Munguia, Texas; Josh Stanley, North Carolina; Alex Jaya, Maryland; Kris Hanson, Washington; Joel Joseph, Florida; Anthony Cottle, Oklahoma; Glenn Harrington, Louisiana; David Lowe, Texas; Royce Decker, Indiana; and Mitchell Adkins, Pennsylvania.
**ON THE JOB**

**June 2015 GFTP**—On June 15-19, Vice President of Corporate Compliance Joe Lee led a General Foreperson Training Program. Held in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, the participants were (back row, L to R): Derek Sanders, Iowa; Mike Terzyk, Pennsylvania; Mike Edwards, Virginia; Chad Fox, Michigan; Bryan Hamm, West Virginia; Jared Deveines, New York; Justin Miller, Vermont; Kevin Drum, Ohio; and Larry Wisler, Indiana. Seated in the front row were (L to R): Jeremy Cason, Iowa; William Espinal, New Jersey; David Lee, Alabama; Raymond Holliday, Florida; Luke Visser, Kansas; Cory Thomas, Ohio; Edwin Ramos-Acosta, Maryland; Javier Medina, Jr., Texas; and Vinnie Perrone, Michigan.

**July 2015 GFTP**—Vice President of Corporate Compliance Joe Lee coordinated a General Foreperson Training Program on July 20-24 at the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. The graduates were (front row, L to R): Kasey Miller, Ohio; Scott Slicker, Ohio; Mike Payne, Kentucky; Sandra Torres, Willow Grove; Justin Shepherd, Oklahoma; Scottie Stidham, Kentucky; Kenneth McRoy, II, Florida; and Jesse Jasso, Texas. Standing in the back row were (L to R): Ritchey Tillett, Alabama; Matt Claypool, West Virginia; Michael Baugher, West Virginia; Kraig Hansen, Iowa; Mike Swanson, Colorado; Steve Melton, North Carolina; Ryan Self, Missouri; Michael McClure, North Carolina; Keith Jackson, Michigan; Jose Medina, Illinois; and Brian Brockson, Maryland.

**August 2015 GFTP**—The General Foreperson Training Program was held on August 3-7 at the Home Office in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. The attendees were (back row, L to R): Michael Noble, Florida; Ulises Conde-Hernandez, Louisiana; Egypt De La Rosa, Maryland; Justin Gray, Virginia; Earle Hall, Ohio; George Campbell, Kentucky; and Joe Engel, Jr., Connecticut. Seated in the front row were (L to R): Rex Miller, Tennessee; Luis Rolon, Florida; Paul Scarberry, Alabama; Milton Johnson, Georgia; Cory Brown, North Carolina; Joe Ivanowicz, Pennsylvania; and Jeff Ackison, Ohio.

**Storm Wreaks Havoc in Kelowna**—FortisBC Operations Manager, R/W Maintenance Mike MacDonald snapped this dramatic shot of Foreperson Kevin Major pruning storm-damaged limbs out of a massive willow tree. The work was required after a localized thunderstorm with high winds plowed into the Remo Maddalozzo Region in Kelowna, British Columbia on May 23. If you look closely, you can see the front license plate of a car that had the misfortune to be under the limbs of the willow that failed.

**Hazards Neutralized In Nicollet**—In April, Foreperson Rob Curry and Trimmer Sam Deboer of the Keith Erickson Region in Minnesota expertly removed hazard limbs from a 90+ tall cottonwood tree in the Nicollet area. The crew needed to park their lift truck on private property to access the limbs, so it was imperative the work be completed during dry weather, which was a challenge because the area was having above average rainfall. The limb being pruned in the photo was out of the reach of the crew’s “tower” lift, so rigging was required to safely bring the 22-inch diameter, 50-foot-long limb to the ground. The work was completed in a few hours and helped to improve the safety and reliability of Xcel’s Energy’s 8kV line.

**PROCERTIFICATIONS**

Congratulations to the following Asplundh employees who have gone the extra mile to better themselves and earn professional development certifications:

- **ISA Certified Arborist Utility Specialist™**
  - Jeremy Cason

- **ISA Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist®**
  - David W. Jones

- **ISA Certified Arborist®**
  - Michael Terzyk
Early morning sunlight silhouettes Trimmer Brian Gould as he moves through the mist to prune maple trees away from Puget Sound Energy power lines in Issaquah, Washington.

With his camera mounted on a cottonwood tree limb, Journeyman Trimmer Justin Rastovac pauses to take a photo of his work on an overhanging limb above a Puget Sound Energy 115kV transmission line as a BNSF train passes beneath him near Sultan, Washington.

Surrounded by the glowing clouds of passing summer storms, two manual crews wait cautiously for the ‘all clear’ to start storm clean-up work for ComEd near Polo, Illinois.

The warm light of a summer day is pushed away by dark, turbulent clouds as a thunderstorm passes by an Eversource Energy transmission line near Ellington, Connecticut.
Congratulations to the talented winners of the Corporate Communications Department’s annual photo contest, Shoot Out 2015, on display below. This year there were 69 camera-happy Asplundh employees, family members and customers from around the world who sent in over 194 entries.

Please join us to thank the following judges for taking on the daunting, but rewarding task of carefully selecting their top four entries in the Nature and Work-Related categories. Our judges were Chris Hanlon and Brian Loper from Hanlon Creative in Kulpsville, Pennsylvania, President George Graham, Jr. and Director of Vegetation Safety Bruce Mellott. Each work-related entry was inspected for safety prior to judging by Manager of Corporate Training for Vegetation Safety Tracy Hawks and Safety Operations Manager Mark Foster.

Be sure to mark your calendar for next year’s Shoot Out and Wall Calendar deadlines and you could win a share of the $1,050 prize money!

Please e-mail your best Work-Related and Nature photos (up to 10 entries total) to: corpcomm@asplundh.com. Remember, no negatives and make sure you send high resolution images, please!

Wall Calendar Deadline: July 29, 2016
Shoot Out Deadline: October 7, 2016

1ST PRIZE — Ann Dinsmore
Weare, New Hampshire

The dancing green, purple and pink colors of the northern lights (aurora borealis) shimmer amongst the stars above and reflect onto the calm waters of Lovell Lake and its peaceful cottage dwellers in Wakefield, New Hampshire.

2ND PRIZE — Shannon Saunders
Wayne, West Virginia

Lush green trees and a rocky creek bed surround the beautiful weathered wood and red water wheel of the Glade Creek Grist Mill in Babcock State Park near the New River Gorge in West Virginia. Built from the remnants of three grist mills, it is a living monument to the over 500 mills that once dotted the state.

3RD PRIZE — Claire Vining
Peoria, Arizona

This red rock outcropping along the Devil’s Bridge Trail in Sedona, Arizona almost glows against the bright blue desert sky above it. Hikers in this part of Arizona are treated to dramatic rock formations and vegetation around every corner.

HONORABLE MENTION — Jason Woosley
Portland, Oregon

The scenic St. Johns Suspension Bridge appears to be floating in the fog, a fairly common weather condition, over the Willamette River in Portland, Oregon.
At the southernmost tip of Texas, the Magic Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) serves more than 90,000 members who are connected to about 4,800 miles of energized line. The co-op was founded in 1937 to serve the farming communities at the southern end of the Rio Grande Valley. Today, about 40 percent of its service territory is actually urban or suburban, but there’s still plenty of farming and open space in the area. Four offices serve its members—the Eastern Division/Corporate Office located in Mercedes, the Western Division Office in Edinburg and two district offices in Brownsville and Pharr.

“Asplundh has been a partner with MVEC for over 20 years,” says Eastern Division Manager Brian Acosta, who has worked for the co-op since 2001. His utility experience, electric engineering degree and MBA have provided him with a good background for overseeing customer service, engineering, construction and contract coordination, including the Asplundh contract which MVEC recently renewed for two years.

A team of ten aerial lift crews and two manual crews help MVEC manage vegetation on their system. They work throughout the Eastern and Western Divisions under General Forepersons Juan Garza and Raul Rangel, as well as Supervisor Moises Guerrero of the Allen LeBlanc Region.

“We are looking forward to a partnership with Asplundh in 2016 where we will be taking a proactive approach to educate our members about the importance of keeping vegetation clear from our circuits,” explained Mr. Acosta. This is especially important since hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico have been known to cause major damage to trees and poles on the MVEC system.

“Asplundh has a great working relationship with MVEC,” says Mr. Acosta. “When we have any concerns or issues that require attention, Asplundh is quick to respond. We hope to continue this relationship in the upcoming years.”

And so do we! Our team on the MVEC system is ready to continue to provide safe, productive line clearance services.