

From the Chairman

I would like to send a New Year greeting to all our European colleagues with partners and fellow associations. If one added up the amount of voluntary time spent by persons involved in tree care, who share the same vision to improve tree care standards, either through research, educational or practical means, it would amount to many years of work time.

Why do they do it? - because all these individuals have understood how important trees are to our existence. The different ways in which trees create a better environment are well known. Areas in cities where trees have a tough time are generally not nice for us either. The problems associated with improving conditions for trees in cities are more or less the same throughout Europe. We arborists and other professionals involved in tree care are responsible for maintaining one of the most valuable natural resources to mankind. To be able to manage this responsibility we need to raise the understanding of how trees contribute to our environment and how we can best care and protect them for future generations.

EAC's role as I see it, is to be the voice, the link to both European and national politicians and their advisers. We need to establish links with the decision and budget makers, get them to understand the importance of trees and of our profession. AWEB I and II are just

the first but a very important step to get funding for the necessary work that volunteers do today. I hope that there will be more projects in the AWEB form. We need more contact with the decision makers in Brussels. Establish contact with your national EU parliamentary representative, inform him / her on what your national association is doing and how important trees are for us all. If funding is available for AWEB III and other necessary European tree care projects, we will be more able to maintain and improve the environment for the urban tree and raise the status of arboriculture.

We need to encourage the European tree care associations to wherever possible work together, to speak as a united body with a common goal. This does not mean the downfall of national identity. EAC has not reduced the pride or national characteristics of the individual representatives. The sharing of views and experiences has increased the understanding of our different cultures, and gives us a better working relationship. I hope to increase the number of member countries in my period as Chairman.

I wish you all the very best for the coming year.

Glen J Read
Chairman

ADVANCE NOTICE EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM

THE IMPORTANCE OF TREE CARE AND THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN TREE WORKER

Thursday 28th June – Sunday 1st July 2001

Pruhonice, near Prague, Czech Republic

lectures • practical workshops • excursions • excellent networking opportunities

All aimed at the European arborist

programme available from EAC Secretariat or your national representative

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News from Member Countries

News from the Netherlands

November 2nd, last year, the first European Tree Worker exam was held at the Centre for Innovation and Practice “De Groene Ruimte” in Arnhem, the Netherlands. Out of twelve candidates, 7 succeeded and obtained the European Tree Worker certificate.

The examination was judged by representatives from the branch organisation NVB (Dutch Council for Arborists), the Trade organisation KPB-ISA (Organisation of Practising Arborists), Research Institute Alterra (Wageningen University and Research) and the Centre for Innovation and Practice. Also four foreign representatives were present, on behalf of the European Arboricultural Council.

The next European Tree Worker certification exam is planned to take place in April 2001, again at the Centre for Innovation and Practice “De Groene Ruimte”. All organisations involved consulted together to optimise the certification process, based on both organisations- and candidates experiences from the first exam.

One of the points learned is that a modular training system, as final preparation for the exam, would be very valuable for the Arborists who want to “dot their I’s and cross their t’s”, before participating in the examination. In close collaboration with the NVB, the Centre for Innovation and Practice are developing an ‘in-company’ training for Arborists, who are aiming at obtaining European Tree Worker levels and skills. A second issue that arose during the first exam will be discussed at European level. This concerns working with chainsaws while in tree canopies, and working with hydraulic hoists and cranes in relation to tree climbing.

In short, the European Certification Program for Arborists is in full swing. The entire Dutch Tree Care branch supports this certificate as a measurable level of quality for the execution of tree related work in the near future. Together, all companies in this branch will collaborate to maintain and further develop the quality level of the European Tree Worker certification program.

The Trade organisation KPB-ISA has organised several meetings for its members in the last period, discussing arboriculture related topics such as monumental trees, soil as a living organism, the role of hormones in plant growth, safety practices and certification (Safety Certificate for Contractors, VCA), root barrier systems and a visit to a large tree nursery in Germany. This year again these knowledge-exchange meetings will be organised again, with new topics, together with the Dutch Tree Climbing Championships in Vucht, on May 12th.

The NVB (Dutch Council for Arborists) has made a start assessing the status of safety in arboriculture in the Netherlands. In October last year a mini-symposium was organised on this topic, from which a working group has been formed to assess the validity of the currently used Safety Certificate for Contractors (VCA) for Arboricultural practices. Also this assessment will be further discussed within the European Arboricultural Council as well.

In November 2000 a symposium was organised around the theme “peek into the future by looking back”. Together with speakers Jorn Copijn and Pius Floris, pioneers in the field of tree care in the Netherlands, all developments from the past were reviewed and a glance at future developments was cast. The symposium was the initiative of Thale Roosien, to celebrate his 25th anniversary in Tree Care. At the end of the day the definite first steps were made to realise a tree research fund, in cooperation with all companies, organisations and businesses related to Tree Care, aimed at providing better chances for focused research and future development and renewal of arboriculture.

In a previous report we already mentioned the coordinated action at national level to prevent and restrain Dutch elm disease. Using a European subsidy program (EOGFL) a part of the province of Friesland was inventoried for elms. Over ten thousand diseased trees have been located and removed. The program will continue this year with the provinces of Groningen, Noord- and Zuid Holland.

An important happening this year was the release of the CD-Rom Dutch Elm Disease, An Interactive Approach by Drs Annemarie Buchel at the University of Amsterdam. This CD-Rom explains the disease, the cycle, symptoms as well as methods of prevention and control. An abstract of known science on Dutch elm disease, and references can be found on the CD-Rom. You can order your copy at www.dutchelmdisease.org

Thale Roosien
Dutch Representative

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

information now available in
English, French and German at...
www.eac-arboriculture.com

News from Member Countries

News from United Kingdom

The Arboricultural Association (www.trees.org.uk) conference took place at Exeter University on 18th-20th September. This was the 34th National Arboriculture Conference, Technical Seminar and Trade Exhibition and the combination of papers, workshops, seminars and demonstrations that were delivered on a range of current issues was well received. The conference also included a chance to visit the Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan.

Also the Association of Professional Foresters exhibition took place on 27th-29th September at Telford. This takes place every other year and is the largest exhibition of Forestry and Arboricultural machinery, equipment and relevant organisations in the UK. This year's show had a larger than ever arboricultural input from representative industry organisations and equipment suppliers and manufacturers.

The UK is generally quite fortunate in having fewer tree pest problems than elsewhere in Europe. The Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle (*Tetropium fuscum*) that is causing some damage in other areas of Europe is not known to be present in the UK as far as information that is available. However a lookout needs to be kept for a similar species on Larch in the UK, *Tetropium gabrieli*. A further specimen of the Asian Longhorn beetle has been found near Wrexham, thought to have been introduced on imported pallets. Also in the UK a close eye is being kept on the movements of the Aesculus leaf miner that has been moving across mainland Europe.

Arborist skills competitions are now a permanent fixture on the industry calendar and the UK circuit alone has six events consisting of the English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish open competitions and a student competition. All these feed in to the UK/Ireland chapter finals. Greater recognition and interest in the competitions has led to an increased need for more structured co-ordination. To this effect a committee is being set up to co-ordinate events, secure appropriate funding and maximise the promotion and publicity of the competitions. Congratulations go to Sam Robinson, the UK/Ireland chapter representative in the World Championships held at Baltimore in August. Sam won a place in the masters final of the competition and ended up placed 4th overall, the best ever result for a UK climber.

Further afield across Europe a European Tree Climbing Committee has been set up, its remit is to oversee the organisation of the European Championships and supply feedback to the International Competition Committee. Also a European Tree Climbers Advisory Group has been set up to provide comment and consultation on international safety

matters and Relevant European Union Directives. Both groups are made up of members from a number of European countries and representative organisations including the EAC.

A number of developments affecting practical arboricultural work have taken place. The National Proficiency Tests Council have added a new competence certificate for Stump treatments to the widely known chainsaw and related operations suite of practical competence awards. Also the Forestry and Arboriculture Safety and Training Council (FASTCo: www.fastco.gb.com) are running training courses for the inspection and examination of climbing and rigging equipment to satisfy the requirements of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998. New requirements have also been introduced for safety features on mobile wood chippers. Further details of these can be gained from a Health and Safety Executive information sheet on this titled 'Power-fed mobile wood chippers – operator protection at infeed chutes' (Agriculture information sheet No. 38) or from the Health and Safety Executive website (www.hse.gov.uk). The UK will also be running a European Treeworker certification over the next few months. Further details of this are available elsewhere in this newsletter or from the EAC website.

Forthcoming Events:

- **Arboricultural Association Risk Assessment workshops**
23rd Feb, 22nd March, 25th May
- **Arboricultural Association Amenity Valuation workshop**
29th March (Cheltenham)
- **3rd Arborists Trade Fair**
1st – 2nd June (Highclere Castle)
- **ISA Certified Arborist Examinations**
10th March and 23rd June (www.isa-uki.org)
- **Arborist Skills Competitions:**
Wales 5th – 6th May (Beddgelert)
Scotland 26th – 27th May (Scottish Agricultural Centre)
England 9th – 10th June (Southampton)
European Championships 23rd – 24th June (Essen, Germany)
Ireland 7th - 8th July (Dublin)
UK/Ireland Chapter finals 28th – 29th July (Leeds)

Mick Cottam
UK representative

News from Member Countries

News from Germany

In Germany the revision of the Tree care Standard ZTV-Baumpflege is nearly complete. One of the main points of discussion was the cabling of trees and the different systems used. We are expecting the new version in Summer 2001.

The whole arboricultural and landscaping industry is worried about a new technical standard RSB drafted by the federal ministry of traffic. This standard abolishes tree establishment from newly constructed roads out of safety reasons. Every organisation involved in the treecare industry voted against this draft.

About 60 new arborists have been certified in Heidelberg and Grossbeeren. In December in Berlin an AWEB certification took place, but due to very bad weather conditions the practical test could not be taken. It is planned to re-stage this test early in 2001.

In Germany we now have problems with the moth *Cameraria ohridella*, which causes leaf diseases on *Aesculus*. The beetle *Scolytus intricatus* is now a heavy problem on new planted oaks.

There will be an SSA Students Conference from the 19th of April to 22nd April in Hannover. This conference is organised by the ISA European office together with a college in Hannover.

AWEB III, the next Leonardo project, establishing the European tree technician is on its way.

Carsten Venzke
Germany

News from France

Year 2000 was especially busy for the world of arboriculture, because of the hard rebuilding after the storm we had at the end of 1999. That means that all the companies had much work in the cities for private people, to help to cut, to prune, to keep trees out etc. But it also gave work for experts in diagnosis: it is in fact the beginning because everybody is now afraid of the possible effects of another strong wind...so that more and more the municipalities are now starting to be aware of the quality and future of their trees...

In that situation, our national association Société française d'arboriculture, choose of course the topic of the yearly national meeting around the consequences of the storm and the

solutions to find. It is time to think about the replantation. that is why, we are deciding to follow the topic of 2000 with something around tree management, replanting and landscape for our national meeting of 2001. This meeting will be in Lille (north of France) from 29/09 until 2/10/2001.

La Société française d'arboriculture, as French partner of AWEB II, organised a session for Tree Worker certification, on the 19/01/01. 8 candidates came and 5 passed through. Everything will be done during 2001 to propose another session – probably during the national meeting in Lille – and to valorize the certification in the professional network. The candidates suggest to build in the future a sort of regular meeting between the Tree Worker of the different European countries...

As usual now, our national publication *Lettre d'arboriculture* will have 4 issues during 2001, and many days around arboriculture will take place in different regions.

Corinne Bourgerie
France

News from Denmark

In the August 2000 Newsletter, issue no. 5, I estimated that DTF (Danish Tree Federation) would sell 500 copies of the Danish version of the **European Tree Pruning Guide** within the first year after its presentation. I am very pleased to inform you that within the first 3 months we have sold 700 copies. As royalty EAC will receive 1 Euro per copy. We thus estimate that Denmark will contribute more than 1000 Euros to our council in 2001.

The layout for the guide is professional, and it has been printed (not photocopied). It was very well received by reviewers for its short and precise text and the good layout. You are welcome to buy a copy via e-mail: dtf@image.dk.

At the annual EAC meeting in Valencia I was appointed to co-ordinate the writing of a new European guide: **European Guide to Urban Tree Planting** together with Marek Zdarsky (Czech Republic), Marek Ziewniak (Poland) with assistance from Spain and Holland. I have contacted the Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute, and they are interested in having the secretarial function as they did with the pruning guide. However the financing has not yet been discussed.

In order to write the best guide it is necessary to work closely together with COST Action E 12 "Urban Forest and Trees" (European researchers). This group is right now preparing a

News from Member Countries

book called "Urban Forest and Trees in Europe". This book will include a chapter on tree planting. It will be a good idea to study this chapter especially. There are several attitudes to good tree planting among practitioners, and there are some points of conflict which researchers may be able to solve. For example, in Germany it is still a custom to stake trees solidly 20 cm under crown start which means in 2-3 meters height. In Scandinavia we stake as short as possible (100-150 cm) and for as short a time as possible. The reason is that the tree must be able to move in the wind in order to form a strong stem. Both systems cannot be correct providing wind conditions are the same.

Niel Hvass
Danish Representative

News from Norway

Norsk Trepleieforum membership remains steady at around 290 members. Of these there are approximately 95 with ISA international membership. Our national tree climbing champion for 2000 Sigurd Huvestad from Bergen represented us well in Baltimore, USA in August. Valuable competition and climbing techniques exchange and new friendships were established.

Our first European Tree Worker certification was held in Oslo on November 3. This was preceded by 4 days of courses / workshops covering both theoretical and practical sections of the exam. Our official observer was Carsten Venzke from Germany, with other observers / censors from Sweden and Denmark. 12 candidates took the exam, with 8 persons passing, 3 failing the practical and 1 failing the theoretical. These will have the possibility of taking the relevant section at the next exam date, autumn 2001.

Throughout the spring and summer there will be courses and workshops covering theory and practice for those interested in taking European Tree Worker certification in the autumn.

The translation of the European Tree Worker handbook has been completed and will be ready for publishing early in the New Year (2001). This will be a version produced in Norwegian, Swedish and English. Denmark has decided to use the Norwegian / Swedish version for the time being.

Our annual conference will be held in Oslo on 15 – 16 of March. Our theme evenings, 3 in the autumn and 3 in the winter, are very popular and are a good way to attract new members. Our web site shared with Swedish and Danish chapters of ISA should be in action before the end of March. This web site will contain

all necessary news and information concerning the 5th ISA European Conference to be held in Oslo between the dates of 19 – 22 June 2002. Preparations for the European Conference are already under way with venue, conference organiser and hotel reservations already booked.

We are still looking for a theme and ideas for presentations are being evaluated. Please send actual papers / ideas to glen@ab-trepleie.no or vidlund@c2i.net

Glen Read
Norwegian Representative

News from Switzerland

BSB

In September 2000 our national arboriculture association had an unusual general meeting, because four of the seven board members resigned. To replace these members has not been very easy. After the business meeting, some of the leading swiss climbers organized a climbing forum, focused on rigging.

Activities of BSB

• **Climbing course**

During the last week in February there will be a new course of tree climbing. This course of instruction contains a part for beginners and a follow on part. The course is already fully booked.

• A new arboriculture course of instruction will start in April this year

• Climbing championship

AWEB

On the occasion of a symposium at the university of Bern (there will be another one in April 01) and at a seminar, organized by the Swiss Federal Office for education and science, I had the opportunity to introduce and to talk about the AWEB-Project as an example of the "Leonardo"-programme. The participants have been very interested to hear about a practical example of a European project.

The pilot test for a treeworker, organized by BSB, is now in preparation. The first test will take place in May 2001.

Fredy Signer
Swiss Representative

News from Member Countries

News from Italy

The last six months of the year 2000 were not particularly busy in Italy. Our Association is trying to establish deep and solid roots all over Italy.

Despite the horrible weather, our II Arbor Day, which took place in Genoa on 29th-30th September, registered a great affluence of arborists, sponsors and mass-media. The National Television came over to film the event; as a pride for the volunteers (more than 100 people) who gave their time for free to prune and clean historical trees. Ken Palmer gave a good talk on our profession because it was impossible to give a live demonstration of Arbor Master training program outside because of heavy rain.

In October 2000 eight Italian arborists attended the II Session of the AWEB Certification; seven passed the examination: congratulations!

On December 1st 2000 we held an extra business meeting of the Association in order to raise the fee of the annual subscription. We were obliged by our bylaws to call the meeting in order to debate on the national and international financial crisis of the Association and how to face it. A great debate and discussion took place and finally we approved a rise in fees for the coming year. Now all the Italian arborists are waiting for an increase in the international and national services offered too! We have to work hard!

Cameraria ohridella, the horsechestnut leafminer seems to be the principle pest of our urban trees: In August all the horsechestnuts had no leaves at all. Many conferences on the subject took place and many articles were written. If any European arborist has any information on the biology of the insect and how to fight it we would appreciate hearing from them.

For the coming year we are organizing our technical days which will take place probably in spring in combination with our national tree climbing championship.

Daniele Zanzi
Italian Representative

News from Poland

The annual general meeting of the International Society of Tree Cultivation and Protection (MTUiOD) took place from 29th September to 1st October 2000 in Turawa near Opole. A traditional two-day seminar for members and numerous guests was organized. There were five lectures concerning "Trees for the cities" - "Morphological anomalies on the trees and shrubs"; "The role of Acer-trees in the gardens and urban green areas"; "A preliminary inventory of *Sophora japonica* in Wrockaw"; "Principles of pruning shrubs", and "Legal problems and how to handle them with the existing plants in investment areas". All lectures are published in our series "Uprawa i Ochrona Drzew" Nr. 6. On Sunday 1st October we organized a very interesting event in Opole, the capital town of the district. The crown cabling system named COBRA was demonstrated by the most experienced tree workers among us. The tree climbing demonstration was given by Mr. Bodo Sieger and his 4 man-crew of the Nürnberger Schule from Germany. Besides our own tree workers a lot of people from Opole as well as from the whole country observed the demonstrations. The whole event was intensively covered by the press and television.

The number of members of MTUiOD extends slowly but continuously, at present about 110 persons, mostly from Poland but also from Bulgaria, Germany, Lithuania, Luxemburg and Ukraine. We have already translated into Polish the Handbook for the European Treeworker. We are going to receive a licence to translate and promote the FLL German Treeworker Standards called "ZTV".

Activities of MTUiOD in 2001:

- **2nd – 10th February** - preparation course for 16 tree workers in Kujawy & Pomerania Ecological Education Centre in Bydgoszcz-Myslecinek
- **30th – 31st March** - the Second Polish Certification Session for European Tree Worker
- **Spring 2001** - dendrological excursion to parks and botanical gardens of the Crimea

The new contact is: e-mail: biuro@siewniak.pkt.pl

Marek Siewniak
Polish Representative

OVERVIEW OF THE EAC

Members:

UK	<i>William Matthews, Mick Cottam</i>
D	<i>Dietrich Kusche, Wolfgang Gross</i>
F	<i>Frederic Mathias</i>
S	<i>de Gouret Litchfield</i>
N	<i>Glen Read</i>
B	<i>Arthur de Haeck</i>
I	<i>Daniele Zanzi</i>
CH	<i>Fredy Signer</i>
DK	<i>Niels Hvass</i>
SP	<i>Bernabe Moya</i>
CZ	<i>Marek Zdarsky</i>
PO	<i>Marek Ziewniak, Mrs Margarita Ziewniak</i>
NL	<i>Thale Roosien</i>

The Executive Committee:

Glen Read	<i>Chairman</i>
Dietrich Kusche	<i>1st Vice Chairman</i>
Fredy Signer	<i>2nd Vice Chairman</i>
Daniel Zanzi	<i>Immediate Past Chairman</i>
William Matthews	<i>First Chairman</i>

Secretary and Treasurer:

Jean Leslie

THE EAC NEWSLETTER

Is published twice a year in February and August

Final copydates: **7th January and 7th July**

EUROPEAN TREEWORKER

The EAC Council through their Education Working Group (AWEB I) have devised and are now instigating the above new qualification throughout Europe. This project has been funded through the Leonardo da Vinci Programme of the European Commission.

The objective was and is to harmonize the field of treecare in the unified Europe, to assure high quality tree care operations and a high level of training and to facilitate the international exchange of treeworkers.

A new handbook "**European Treeworker**" is a practical guide which is designed to help the treeworker prepare for the European treeworker examination. Each handbook will be printed in 3 languages so that it can also be used as a reference book. Details of the syllabus and examination can be found on the EAC's website www.eac-arboriculture.com

The English/French/German version of the above handbook is now available and can be ordered from our website for 49 Euro plus bank transfer costs (approx 8 Euro) or from our Secretariat for £32.50 plus £5.00 special delivery postage.

Other languages may now be available – please check with your national representative!

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