

## For More Information

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*For Immediate Release*

## Go out on a Limb for Arborday February 21st!

### Columbus Celebration Features Georgia Tree Climbing Championship

The best professional tree climbers in the Southeast will be in Columbus on Saturday, **February 21st** for The 17th Annual Georgia Tree Climbing Championships (GTCC) at Cooper Creek Park. The competition is part of a weekend of activities celebrating Arbor Day in Columbus. Trees Columbus will be on site with children's crafts and tree seedlings from 11-2pm. The event will also feature locally grown food from White Oak Pastures out of Bluffton, Georgia. White Oak Pastures uses a sustainable model of farming, employing over 100 people and produces grass fed beef and lamb, pastured poultry, pastured eggs and Certified Organic vegetables.

The event is hosted by the Georgia Arborist Association and is open and free to the public. The platinum sponsor for the event is Metroquip and gold sponsors are Davey Tree and Downey Trees, Inc.

The GTCC gives public exposure to the professional arborist as climbers showcase their skill and agility in the treetops, competing for a spot at the International Tree Climbing Competition held by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) in March.

The competition follows rules established by the ISA, and includes events that test a competitor's ability to professionally and safely maneuver in a tree while performing work-related tree-care tasks in a timely manner. The event also provides an opportunity for working arborists to share new climbing techniques, equipment, and safe work practices.

#### Schedule of Events:

7am- Preliminary Climbs begin. Male and Female competitors compete separately in five different, timed events. Those with the highest scores from the preliminary events will compete in the Master's Challenge.

3pm- Masters Challenge (final rounds)

11am-2pm Trees Columbus volunteers on hand with crafts, educational materials, and tree seedlings

#### *About GAA*

*The Georgia Arborist Association (GAA) was established as an organization to bring together tree care professionals and enthusiasts for the betterment and protection of Georgia's trees. The GAA promotes fellowship, education, training and networking among Georgia arborists, while acting as an advocate for issues facing our trees and the arboriculture industry. Safe and proper tree care practices are the cornerstones of the GAA and its activities. For more information on ISA and Certified Arborists, visit [georgiaarborist.org](http://georgiaarborist.org).*



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