

VOLUME 27  
NUMBER 3  
JUNE 2018

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE  
**ARBORIST NEWS**

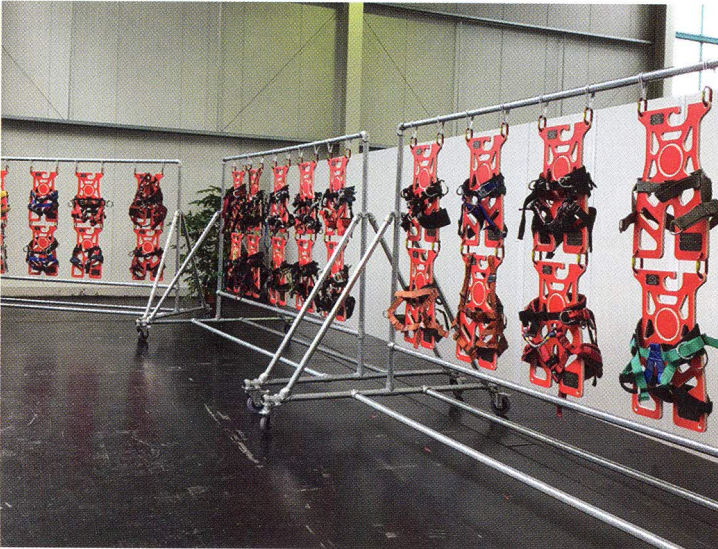


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# German Tree Care Days and Climbers' Forum

By Alex Julius



The beautiful city of Augsburg served as the backdrop for the biggest tree care event in Europe. Hosted at the convention center of Augsburg, the *Deutsche Baumpflegetage* is *Das Forum für die gesamte Branche* (roughly translated as “the forum for the whole industry”), as one might imagine, showcased a broad range of information and services relevant to the profession.

The entrance to the event was filled with research posters, wood artwork, and informational booths on Asian longhorned beetle, as well as other pests. Or perhaps you're interested in something more molecular? Peek behind the black curtain for a close-up look at tree rings. And don't forget the trade show, which featured well over 100 exhibitors filling the halls with inventory software, root barriers, cabling systems, climbing equipment, chippers, lifts, and more (including the occasional dog!).

The conference attracted nearly 2000 attendees over the three days from roughly 16 countries. Two concurrent sessions—the academic conference and the Climbers' Forum—ran with half-day themes with multiple sessions devoted to ecology, talks on bees, habitat trees, and the ecological value of urban trees. On the climbing side of things, four hours were devoted to discussing one-handing chain saws, its physiological effects on the body, and related incident statistics. The stage for the climbing forum was flanked by a tree and an impressive drop tower used to measure forces, as well as offering a range of climbing and rigging options. The forum also featured an astounding display of 40 different climbing harnesses that spanned the past eighty years; truly an impressive sight.

*Deutsche Baumpflegetage* truly embodied what it means to be a conference devoted to disseminating information. All sessions were fully interpreted in English and German, and speakers were able to perform an actual show-and-tell with equipment, using an on-stage camera to project a close-up view for the audience. Further, each attendee was provided with a Yearbook of Arboriculture, which included over 25 research papers, as well as a workbook for each session with extended abstracts for all speakers and full-color pictures. This immersion into specific arboricultural topics, including advanced climbing techniques, is a unique environment for any arborist to experience.

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