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## **North Carolina Forest Contractor and Performer is Named “True Professional” by International Society of Arboriculture**

**CHAMPAIGN, III (July 2011)** – Tim Womick, a state forest contractor and self-employed performance artist from Asheboro, North Carolina, has been recognized as a “True Professional of Arboriculture” by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

The True Professional recognition program honors arborists and tree care professionals for their positive impact on the industry in and around their communities. ISA President Tim Gamma paid tribute to Womick at a ceremony on Monday, July 25 in Sydney, Australia as part of the ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show, held July 23—27, 2011.

“Tim’s unique approach to teaching tree care captivates people,” says Gamma. “He uses his skills as a former actor to spread the arborist message around the world—especially among children. His public outreach is effective. He even co-founded a nonprofit to promote trees.”

Womick helped launch Trees, NC, an organization designed to educate, plant trees, and promote community volunteerism in North Carolina. A former actor, Womick now takes his “Trail of Trees” show internationally to schools, teaching children about the benefits of trees in a program based on science. He partners with other programs like “Making the Shade” in Georgia offering energy solutions for schools and playgrounds. “Acorns of Hope” is another Womick project restoring live oaks along the Southern Louisiana coastline.

“It doesn’t matter whether I am talking to preschoolers or Ph.D.’s,” says Womick. “The message is the same. Wherever there are trees, the science of arboriculture is needed. I love stimulating someone’s thought process to get them to think, ‘what about this?’”

Womick is one of seven individuals selected in the 2011 Class of True Professionals. ISA launched the recognition program in 2009 to increase public understanding of arboriculture and the professional skills of today’s arborists. Nominees selected for recognition represent various backgrounds as ISA Certified Arborists, urban foresters and performance artists—all advancing the cause of the industry.

This year’s ISA “True Professionals” judges included Greg Frank (chair, ISA Public Relations Committee), Tim Gamma (president, ISA), Justin Hancock (senior online garden editor, *Better Home & Gardens*), Jill Johnson (coordinator, Federal Urban & Community Forestry), Dan Lambe (vice president of programs, the Arbor Day Foundation), Ian Scott (chair, ISA Membership Committee and project developer, Davey Resource Group), and Philip van Wassenaer (president, Urban Forest Innovations, Inc. and 2009 ISA “True Professional of Arboriculture”).

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Profiles and case studies of the “True Professionals” will be featured on the ISA website at [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com) and highlighted in future ISA publications such as *Arborist News*.

## **ABOUT ISA**

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), headquartered in Champaign, Ill., U.S., is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research and education around the world. To promote the importance of arboriculture, ISA manages the consumer education web site, [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org), which fulfills the association’s mission to help educate the public about the importance and value of proper tree care. Also, as part of ISA’s dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry. For more information on ISA and Certified Arborists, visit [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com)

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**Editor’s Note: Photos are available upon request. To arrange an interview with Tim Womick, contact Julie Gaier at 262-786-5970 or [julie@trg-marketing.com](mailto:julie@trg-marketing.com).**