



# ARBORNews Asia

Arboriculture, Vegetation Management & Urban Forestry

Summer I, 2009 Newsletter

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## "Trees Are Good" T-Shirt Asian Language Edition



The [ISA online store](#) includes this great t-shirt that has "Trees Are Good" in many different languages on the back, but no Asian languages! We'd like to suggest that the ISA create an Asian edition of this T-shirt and have "Trees Are Good" in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Tagalog, Hindi, Thai, Laos, Bahasa, etc... **ALL Asian languages are welcome!**

But we need your help, please help us by translating "Trees

## Matheny & Clark, November 2009 in Hong Kong

**Summit on Asia Tree Assessment & Tree Preservation**

**Tentative Dates:** 2 or 3 days between November 19-21, 2009 (TBA)

Nelda Matheny and Jim Clark are authors of such books as:

1. *Evaluation of Hazard Trees in Urban Areas*
2. *Municipal Specialist: Certification Study Guide*
3. *Arboriculture: Integrated Management of Landscape Trees, Shrubs, and Vines- 4th Edition*
4. *Abiotic Disorders of Landscape Plants: A Diagnostic Guide*
5. *Trees and Development: A Technical Guide to Preservation of Trees During Land Development.*

### Other special guests:

**Dr. Bill Fountain** of the University of Kentucky will speak on his observations on trees in the tropics.

**Dr. Francesco Ferrini** of Bagno a Ripoli, Firenze, Italy docente universitario Università di Firenze will speak on Pollarding and the European perspective.

*More guest speakers to be announced.*

**Price:** Anticipating HK\$2900-3500 based on final plan of two or three days

(Keep watching for the dates and register early)

Contact Jon Picker of ATP for Registration: [jonpicker@atptree.com](mailto:jonpicker@atptree.com)

## Matheny & Clark on "Preserving and Maintaining Mature Trees, Part I" excerpts

### Guiding Principles for Tree Preservation

Tree preservation programs require an understanding of tree growth as well as construction techniques and their impact on tree health.

Successful tree preservation efforts must adhere to several important concepts:

- **Preservation requires the commitment of all parties.**

Each participant on a development project, from the owner, engineer, architect and landscape architect to the grading, demolition, construction and landscape contractor and governing agency must be committed to tree preservation.

- **Tree preservation programs must respect patterns of tree growth and development.**

Are Good” into the languages you know. Your help would be greatly appreciated!  
[jonpicker@atptree.com](mailto:jonpicker@atptree.com)

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## NEW TOOLS



**Tree Austria III Saddle**



**New Rope, "BIGFOOT"**

[www.arbortools.hk](http://www.arbortools.hk)

[Catalog available for download here](#)

**ATP is the official distributor of Cobra bracing materials in Hong Kong and China**

All project members and community liaisons must be familiar with the rudimentary aspects of tree growth and development if they are to understand the relationships between survival and construction practices.

- **All trees cannot and should not be preserved.**

Stands, species and individual trees vary in their suitability for preservation, both on the basis of their innate character and potential construction impacts. Trees that are structurally unsound, in poor health or unable to survive construction impacts are a liability to a project rather than an asset. Declining and structurally unstable trees often have habitat value. Those trees should be retained only in areas where their structural failure would not impact people and structures.

There is little quantitative information about factors that may influence the response of tree species to construction impacts. Assigning suitability for preservation therefore is a qualitative process based upon the observations of tree response by consultants. Suitability for preservation is a relative rating, describing the tree potential as poor, moderate, or good (Table 2, following section).

- **Species**

All tree species do not respond to construction injury in a similar manner. For example, holly oak (*Quercus ilex*) and plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*) are relatively tolerant of construction impacts while European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is not. Another species consideration is its potential to become an invasive weed.

- **Tree preservation requires space.**

Trees occupy large volumes of space, above- and below-ground. Their preservation during development must allow for sufficient space to minimize injury. Adequate space must be allowed for tree growth as well.

- **Construction impacts to trees are cumulative.**

The effects of the impacts and injuries that result from construction, grading, etc. are additive. Small, apparently insignificant events, add up over the length of the project...

Tree preservation is a cooperative effort that requires the interaction of many professionals. Talk to them, understand what they need to get their job done, and work out a way to accomplish their goals while protecting the trees as best you can.

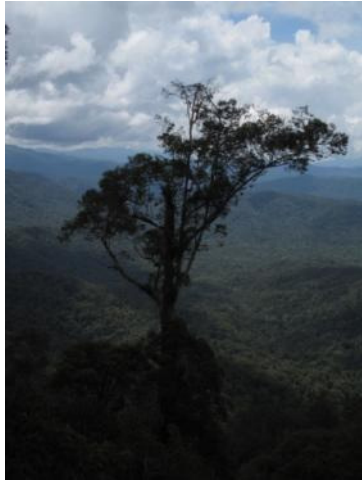
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## ATP Training Modules Scheduled in Hong Kong 2009

- **November Certified Tree Worker Preparation Training;** 2 or 3 Day Module (additional days optional for Cantonese Power Points & lectures)
- **November or December (flexible) BTR: Basic Tree Rigging** training in real tree work removal
- **December (TBA) CFS: Chain Saw Field Safety** training

[contact@atptree.com](mailto:contact@atptree.com)

[Click here to read more about ATP's training options.](#)



## Ascending the Giants of Borneo

By Will Koomjian

After over a year of planning I can't begin to explain the thoughts racing through my head as our 4X4 slowly worked its way up the mountains of the Borneo interior. At some point, the soil changed and what had been a very dense forest of 10-15m trees clogged with ferns and vines opened up into patches with shrubs and small meadows. I started seeing insectivorous pitcher plants the size of Coke bottles, and then before I could prepare myself we turned a corner and the trees finally came into view.

**"There! Look at that!"**

I was doubly startled by the long-awaited sight of the Agathis trees and by the sound of my own voice, realizing that this was the first time I'd spoken English in nearly three weeks.

Amidst the scrubby, rocky landscape of the heath forest were a few towering pillars, looking like giant pinwheels with the wheel turned and facing up. They looked like something out of Dr. Seuss, and I was reminded of the lines from 'The Lorax' where the Once-ler describes his feelings on first moving to the forest:

"But those trees, those trees, those Truffula trees!  
All my life I'd been searching for trees such as these."

Then, at least, it felt like all my life; this was well over a year after I first realized that I simply couldn't get good answers to some questions I had about some obscure trees from the primitive conifer family Araucariaceae in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Namely, how big are the biggest, where are they, and what do they look like. And so, in April of 2008, I decided the thing to do was to go and try to answer these questions myself, using the tree measuring skills I'd been honing on Oregon's huge Douglas Firs, Sitka Spruce and Western Red Cedars. Well aware of the time and patience that any such work would require, upon arriving in country I first settled in central Java and signed up for 150 hours of Indonesian language courses to supplement the independent studying I had been doing at home. From the outset I imagined this as the first in a series of trips spanning many years of visiting different areas, cultivating contacts, and creating an informative and accessible database on these supremely bizarre and interesting trees.

That day, sitting in the passenger seat of the 4X4 crammed against dozens of large boxes of instant noodles on their way to the next village, I was acutely aware of how far I had come to be here and also how far I still had to go to achieve my goals. Still, I was not prepared for the wave of euphoria that followed the first sighting of the trees' distinctive structure. The young Dayak who had been bravely piloting our truck on

"...there must be something wrong with a grown man who could get so excited over a tree."

the absurdly bad roads over the mountains for the last 7 hours couldn't quite understand my excitement. Despite my repeated explanations, in clear Indonesian, of what I was looking for and why, I still got the sense that he thought there must be something wrong with a grown man who could get so excited over a tree. Fair enough.



While most of the natives I spoke with did not understand my interest with the tree they call kayu Agatis, to my friends and colleagues in Portland the appeal was a little more obvious. These trees are direct descendants of trees that dominated the world's forests before the evolution of angiosperms (before the Chicxulub asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs, most of North America was covered with vast Araucaria-dominated tropical rainforests.) Their present range is limited to the Australio-Malay Islands, Australia and New Zealand, plus two species each in the Malay Peninsula and South America. Their complete absence from forests of the Northern Hemisphere explains much of the popularity among gardeners of *Araucaria araucana* (Monkey Puzzle Tree,) one of the few Araucariaceae that will grow in mild temperate regions such as Oregon. This tree (which I have heard described as looking like an upside-down mop or Medusa's head on a pike) is an obvious horticultural anomaly to Northerners, and indeed it was the sight of one growing in a neighbor's yard shortly after moving to Portland in 2000 that began my fascination with the Araucariaceae. How far from Oregon this interest would take me is certainly not something I would have predicted on that sunny July afternoon nearly nine years ago.

By the time we reached our camp on the ridge crest it was evening, and not wanting to waste a moment of daylight I headed off alone to a promising looking tree down ridge from our camp for a quick look before we lost light. In retrospect I'm not quite sure why I chose this tree; from the road one can only see the top third of the crown, and that looks only average. Something in the stoutness of those top branches made me curious, and 30 minutes later when the base of the tree came into view I could see my instinct was correct. Barely out of the gate, I found a big one: measurement showed it to be over 1.5m in diameter, one and a half times the size of an average mature specimen, and over 45m tall. The rest of our searching involved surveying the area within roughly 1 km of the 16km long stretch of road from our initial camp to a next camp to the west, through the heart of the grove.

As we approached the second camp, where we would meet back up with the trucks, we had turned up nothing as spectacular as that first evening's find. After numerous hour-long bushwhacks through the rattan and leech infested underbrush, we'd been rewarded only by a lot of groves of 1m or slightly larger trees. Then, having met back up with the trucks and on our way back, I forced the convoy to stop at something I'd only caught a glimpse of as we drove in. It turned out to be a multi-stemmed, 1.7m-thick giant, very healthy and relatively young. The convoy graciously waited as I made all the necessary measurements and notes, and as we finally started the long slog back to the village I felt a deep sense of contentment that I lacked the energy or skill to explain in Indonesian. Not that it mattered; our young Dayak driver, though he couldn't understand my motivations, seemed to understand well-enough

the satisfaction of seeing a long-held dream realized.

*Will Koomjian, 27, is a Certified Arborist and Certified Tree Worker at Peacock Tree Preservation in Portland, Oregon. He is currently in Java, having just returned from Kalimantan and the expedition described above, and leaving for North Sulawesi in June to measure Agathis dammara (A. celebes). He is planning further trips to Southeast Asia to measure big Araucariaceae, including a 2010 trip to West Papua and Papua New Guinea. Since February of 2007 he has worked with Brian French, another Portland-area Certified Arborist, to measure and document the largest trees of the Pacific Northwest in an ongoing project called Ascending the Giants. In addition, the pair recently took over as the official coordinators of the Oregon Big Tree Registry.*

For more information on Ascending the Giants go to [www.ascendingthegiants.com](http://www.ascendingthegiants.com), and for Will's travel blog go to [www.ascendingthegiants.com/blog.html](http://www.ascendingthegiants.com/blog.html)

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## 園藝花藝業技能提升計劃 Tree Climbing Course

第三期課程大綱 (園藝一般類別課程)

課程名稱: 攀樹及樹上操作技巧

修讀時間: 40小時

課程A班: 5月——19-23日 FULL

課程B班: 6月 (5 or 6,11-13&19or20) FULL

課程C班: 8月: (稍後公佈 OR 9月 (稍後公佈)

每班人數 8人

學費HK\$2200

<http://sus.atptree.com>

[Download the Brochure and Registration Form Here](#)



## Night Climbing at ArborCamp

**We were glad to have all of you who attended the ArborCamp last month. I hope you had as much fun as we did!**

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- We welcome individuals to contribute articles and events pertaining to arboriculture in the Asian region.
- If you received this newsletter by mistake, please contact us, and we will remove you from the mailing list. Thank You. -Tha ATP Team

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