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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

November 2019

Now that the temperature is cooling down outside it is a perfect time to warm up writing about hot days and the even hotter International Climb Competition. I had the opportunity to go and attend to the Competition this year in Knoxville, TN.. The attitude and professionalism of all the competitors and Judges was amazing. I very much enjoyed watching our two competitors, Ashley Whittlesey and Josh Hodson, as they both gave an outstanding performance.

The competition was very intense. However talk about cool under pressure, in the Ariel Rescue, Josh got set to go and forgot a piece of equipment and had to disconnect to retrieve it from his bag. Then he got reset and time started. He struggled with his foot ascender not catching as he started climbing. He stayed focused and completed the climb in time. This was very exciting to watch.

If you haven't read Scott Carlson's interview with Ashley and Josh, take a chance to read the article.

Our Treasurer, Todd Reese compiled articles written by Josh and Ashley describing their experience at the competition along with a couple photos from each of them taken at the competition. I also included several photos I was able to get of these two outstanding athletes in action. I am sure you will enjoy the photos and reading about their personal experience in Knoxville.

I would also like to mention that we had two other IAA members on site working as judges. Alex Ploehn from Eastern Iowa and Mike Christensen one of the Mid American Energy District Foresters.

Mike and I were sent to Milwaukee by Davey Tree with a couple of other employees to help at the 2000 Climb Competition. Mike missed the 2001 competition but has taken vacation to attend and help judge at all others ever since. That is quite a record in itself.

If you ever have the opportunity to work at one of these events you will find it very rewarding. If you are interested in doing so, we can get you the information on who to contact.

Please enjoy the articles and pictures about this year's International Climb Competition.

Bill Reese,
IAA President