



The Prairie Arborist

The Official Publication of the ISA Prairie Chapter Issue 2 2016



Kali Alcorn and Pepper Sullivan hangin' out in Calgary
Photo by Lisa Sullivan



Well I hope your season and summer are going well.

I'd like to start by thanking the people who contributed to the success of the 2016 Tree Climbing Competition held in Olds on the College

campus in June.

Gerard Fournier has been the TCC Chairman for several years and, with the help of his dedicated volunteers, always manages to pull off a successful event. Thanks to Gerard, Mike Tilford, Matt Vinet, Bonnie Fermanuik, Mimi Cole, Yannick Portauw, Laurie Newsham, Keith Anderson, all the judges, timers and techs and the unprecedented number of climbers.

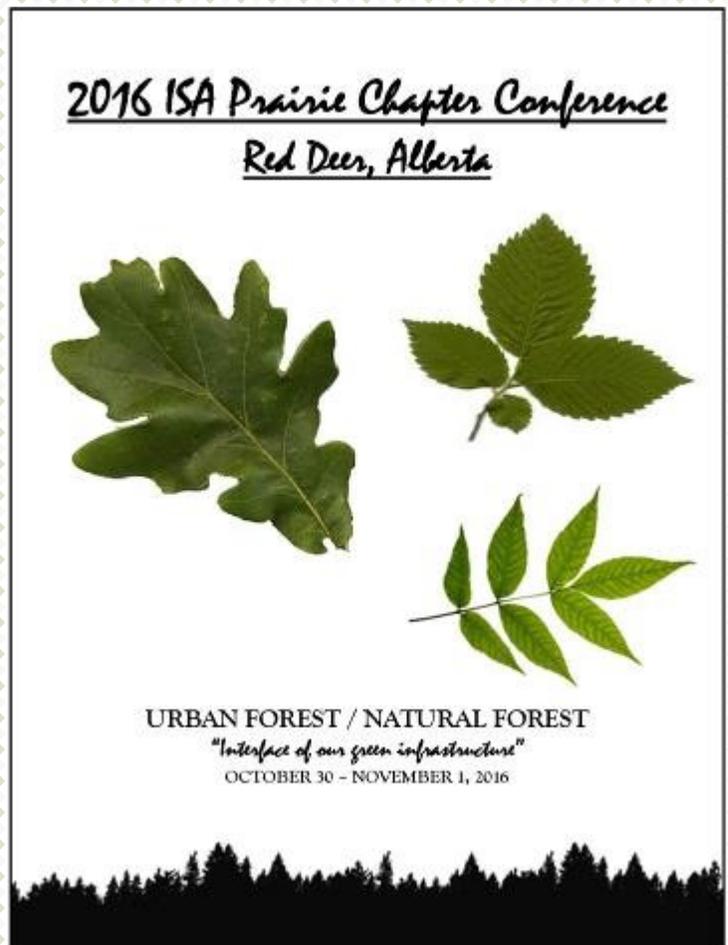
In addition to the people who made it happen were some cash sponsors and prize sponsors that, by their contributions, make the event viable and assist us with getting the Masters Champs to the International Tree Climbing competition. Please see the next page for a complete list of sponsors. I hope that you will consider returning the favour of their generosity by supporting them in their business goals in the future. Keeping this reciprocal type of support going helps to build a strong a strong industry.

Our next big event will be the fall conference in Red Deer Alberta. Another group of volunteers is busy on the hosting committee to bring you an interesting and informative educational program with some fun mixed in. The fall Conference takes place Oct 31 and November 1 at the Sheraton hotel in Red Deer. The registration package will be out this month, please watch your TREEMAIL for this information.

There will be a written Certification exam opportunity offered on October 30 followed by the two day conference that will offer a minimum of 12 CEU's.

Thanks for your support of the organization and our events. See you in October. Until then, take care and work safe.

Kevin



2016 Conference Speaker Preview

Brian French, Ascending the Giants

Rex Bastion, Davey Tree

Dr Ken Fry, Olds College

Jim Hole, Hole's Greenhouse

Dwayne Neustaeter, ACTE

Len Burkart, Davey Tree

Dr. Neil Holliday, and many more.

Coming Soon! BioForest Plant Health Care Workshop

Keep your eye on your Treemail for details on date and location of this workshop.

The City of Calgary in partnership with BioForest and the Prairie Chapter will be hosting a full day workshop with guest speakers on European Elm Scale, Red Elm Bark Weevil and other pests affecting Western Canada.

A demonstration using TreeAzin® Systemic Insecticide and the EcoJect® System will also be provided.

Date, time and location will be finalized soon



Good News for the Climber Specialist Certification

Dear Gerard,

I have attached a copy of your welcome letter and certificate, as well as the Tree Worker/ Climber Specialist Evaluator Manual. I am mailing out hard copies of the attachments. You should receive them in the mail within a few days.

Thank you for your interest in the ISA Certification Program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,
Debbie

Debbie Sexton
Credential Examination Administration Coordinator

Watch your TREEMAIL for the first ever Tree Worker/ Climber Specialist Exam in the Prairie Chapter

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Save the Date

The 2016 Prairie Chapter Conference and Tradeshow

will be in Red Deer, Alberta
At the Sheraton October 31-November 1

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ISA International Society of Arboriculture



Registration

Fort Worth Convention Center

1201 Houston Street
Fort Worth, Texas (US)

The Masters



Lloyd Rumbolt, Emily Michaelson, Charlene Scott, Kali Alcorn, Cody DeViller, Rob Knight, Jesse Antonation

Thank you to the 2016 Sponsors of the
Prairie Chapter Tree Climbing Championships
June 18 & 19 Olds College, Olds Alberta



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Prairie Chapter



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Olds College campus proved to be a great place to hold the 2016 Prairie Chapter Tree Climbing Competition.

Its always a risk when you change the date of the competition and you are never sure what kind of registrations you are going to get until the last minute, no matter what time of year you hold it.

The 2016 competition had a record setting 38 competitors registered with a record setting women's category that was 9 competitors strong. Thanks to all the climbers for supporting this event.

Day 1 for the Preliminary events was sunny and a bit cool, perfect for an athletic event. Day 2 was cooler yet with the threat of rain but only resulted in a 10 minute delay while the storm blew over.

In the end the Dynamic Duo from Winnipeg took home the Gold in the Masters event , with Emily Michael-

son and Jesse Antonation being the victors. Congratulations.

Gerard Fournier once again oversaw the event with the help of Mike Tilford (Head Technician) many Prairie Chapter Board members, and volunteers from all walks of the industry including members, former competitors, Olds college faculty and the Olds college Grounds Crew. Thanks to all.

The event was very well supported and sponsored by our industry as well. Without this kind of support the event would not take place .

Thank you to our new continuous sponsor Rod and Nicole at Precise Pruning (Airdrie), and also to Matt at Greendrop Tree Care (Winnipeg), Ty Kronewitt of Vermeer Canada (Edmonton office), Canopy Tree Care -Ian Jones (Edmonton), The Yardist - Mark Chasse (Calgary), Alberta Forest and Garden (Calgary).

Unfortunately some of the prizes did not arrive until after the was over however all prizes have arrived and will be distributed shortly.

Thanks to TreeStuff, Arboriculture Canada Training and Education, Tree North Industries, Stihl Canada, Petzl, Classic Landscaping/Canadian Tree Care, BC Plant Health Care.

Preliminary Results

Mens 1st place-Jesse Antonation
2nd Rob Knight, 3rd - a blast from the past- Lloyd Rumbolt, 4th Cody DeViller, 5th- Saskatchewan's Kirby Brokofsky

Womens 1st place - Emily Michaelson, 2nd - Charlene Scott, 3rd - Kali Alcorn, 4th - Ruth Maendel, 5th - Amy Provencher

Masters Champs - Jesse Antonation
Emily Michaelson

Complete scores can be found at www.isaprairie.com



Photos of the TCC were submitted by Ruth Maendel

Thank you to our supporters of
Winnipeg's 2016

Arbor Day

Celebration in St. John's Park!

Arbor Day in Winnipeg has always been an event that brings the community together to celebrate the role of trees in our neighbourhoods. Winnipeg's tree care professionals truly came together again in 2016 to make Arbor Day a great success! *Thank you from Trees Winnipeg!*

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A special Thank You to the volunteers from the following organizations who make Arbor Day possible!



Tree work is dangerous work. Add adverse environmental conditions such as thunderstorms, snow and ice storms, high winds can make working in the trees, hazardous.

Thunderstorms and Lightning

Some thunderstorms can be seen approaching and you have time to prepare for them. Others can hit suddenly and without warning. Tree workers need to get in tune with their environment and learn how to recognize and prepare for the weather. A thunderstorm that includes lightning is created by an unstable atmosphere. Rapid cooling of the upper air masses sink to the earth while warm humid air rises and storm clouds or thunderheads develop. Thunderstorms can develop singly or in clusters of many thunderstorms.

Heavy rains, flooding, strong winds, hail, lightning and tornadoes can all develop out of thunderstorms. Weather conditions must be monitored prior to starting a job. If thunderstorms are in the forecast, you must be prepared to shut the job down on short notice. If lightning becomes a threat, indoor shelter provides for some protection.

Lightning results from a discharge of electricity as a consequence of an accumulation of static electricity between the clouds and the ground. If

there is thunder, there will be lightning associated with it. When the build up of electricity is strong enough to overcome the insulating affect of the surrounding air, a bolt of lightning can occur that stays within the cloud, occur between the clouds, or strike toward the ground several kilometers from the cloud that generated it.

Lightning is a huge danger during a thunderstorm. Choose safety over productivity when facing these conditions. If you are caught out in a storm and lightning is around it is important to avoid natural lightning rods such as tall stand-alone trees or metal tools.

Safe shelter can include: your work vehicle with windows rolled up, buildings, low ground, trees of uniform height as in a forest.

Unsafe areas to seek shelter can include: open water, open fields, stand alone trees, high ground and caves, heavy equipment, electrical equipment and light poles, all outdoor metal objects such as fences, gates or bleachers.

Estimating the distance of lightning This determination is approximate but can be used as guideline. When you first hear thunder and there is a lightning flash then it is at most 10-13 km away. As already mentioned, lightning can strike a few kilometers ahead of the cloud so when you hear thunder seek appropriate shelter

right away. If you feel the hair beginning to stand up or hear crackling noises, this means you are within the lightning's electrical field and it is very close. If this happens and shelter is not accessible, remove all metal objects from your hands and your pockets and place them a way from you, put your feet together and crouch as low as you can with your hands placed on your knees. A good rule of thumb is to wait at least half an hour after the last lightning or sound of thunder before going back to the work.

Hail is produced by many strong thunderstorms

Before a storm have a look at the clouds, if they are tall and dark, then the potential for severe weather is possible, especially if there is distant thunder and lightning. Become aware of potential hazards around you such as dead branches and or rotting trees that could come down in the storm winds.

After the storm check to see if there are any injuries to anyone. If someone was hit by lightning know that they do not carry an electrical charge. They are safe to touch. Provide first aid if qualified and contact emergency medical services. Look for burns where the lightning went into the body and exited the body. If the vic-

(Continued on page 10)



*Thank you
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...has a Crack in their Ash

Submitted by Keith Anderson part of a homeowner education series written for the Battlefords News Optimist.

So, you've got a crack in your ash? Well who doesn't? Walking would be difficult without one don't you think? Get it? Haha. I couldn't write like this when I worked for the City for fear of offending someone that contributed to my salary. There is a certain freedom that comes with not being in a public position.

But seriously, have you ever noticed and wondered about the cause of long vertical cracks in the trunks of some trees. Particularly green ash trees. A very high percentage of green ash trees on the prairies have these cracks. Are these cracks something to be concerned with? These cracks do not seem to harm the tree directly when they occur, however, in the long term there can become the cause of structural problems or provide an opportunity for the invasion of decay. Something to keep an eye on.

The cracks, sometimes called frost cracks, are caused by our prairie winters when there are sudden changes in temperature. A live tree is 50% - 60% water with the remaining part being largely carbon (wood). What happens when you drop an ice cube into your favourite summer beverage, pop and crack. I would guess that trees that have a higher moisture content in winter are more likely to have frost cracking.

It is also thought that the ash trees that crack usually crack at a point where the tree was previously injured. The wound wood that develops when a tree is injured is not as flexible as the uninjured parts of the tree and does not expand and contract as easily.

These cracks usually occur on the south or west side (sunny side) of the tree and usually occur when the

night time temperatures drop in winter.

The cracks tend to close in the summer and appear to *heal* only to open up again in the frozen days of a prairie winter. If this opening and closing occurs several years in a row, the tree will develop response growth or wound wood sometimes known as ribs on either side of the crack. These ribs actually improve the cracked tree's structure and are a sign of a healthy tree trying to repair itself.

To help reduce the occurrence of cracks in your ash, (because one is all you really need, get it? Haha.) some sources say to avoid late season fertilizing, other good house keeping practices include: not damaging the bark of trees when they are young by bumping into them with gardening equipment or tools. It can really help to put mulch around the tree so that maintenance equipment doesn't have to get as close to the trunk, and lastly water your trees when the growing season is droughty. Like now.

Parting comments. Planted trees do not die from drought. They are killed from the lack of adequate provision of supplemental water. If you don't have time to provide the care they need after planting, then maybe plant something that requires less care, like the glow in the dark coconut palms on 16th Ave. I love those things.

Don't forget to always watch your ash eh.




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(Continued from page 7)

tim has stopped breathing or their heart has stopped, begin CPR until the emergency medical personnel arrive and takeover.

Downed wires should always be reported.

Tornadoes

A **tornado** is defined as a violent windstorm that has a twisting funnel shaped cloud. They are born from a thunderstorm when cool air overrides a layer of warm air that forces the warm air to rise very quickly. Damage from tornadoes are from both the high winds and blowing debris.

Statistics seem to indicate that the worst month for tornadoes on the Canadian Prairies is July, however tornado activity can begin in April increasing throughout the spring and

tapering off toward the fall and ending by October.

Most tornadoes occur between 1pm and 8pm and can generate winds in excess of 300kms per hour. Harmless objects can become deadly missiles in a matter of seconds. Tornadoes are most destructive when they are on the ground and they normally don't last more than 20 minutes in one location however, the same tornado can touch down several times in different places.

Tornado Indicators

Large hail can form as a result of a powerful thunderstorm and this indicates a potential for tornado development. Tornadoes usually occur near the hail producing part of the storm.

The calm before the storm when the air becomes absolutely still can indicate possible tornado development.

A cloud of debris can indicate an approaching tornado even if a funnel is not visible.

Funnel cloud

This can develop from a visible rotating extension coming from the base of a cloud. When one or more of the clouds turns to a greenish colour (caused by the hail) and a dark funnel descends then a tornado has formed.

The calm behind the storm . Tornadoes usually form at the trailing edge of a storm and clear sunlit skies can sometimes be seen behind it.

A tornado warning is announced once a tornado is sighted or discovered by weather radar. When the warning is issued, waste no time getting to a safe place .

If outdoors when the tornado comes, the best place to find protection is on

(Continued on page 12)



Thank you to our Elm Sponsor, **Vermeer Canada**, for *Planting a Legacy* in St. John's Park during Winnipeg's **2016 Arbor Day celebration!**

See this tree's story on the **Manitoba Tree Register!**



Submitted by Keith Anderson Homeowner series. From May 31, 2016

It happened again this year. The newest tender growth, that was just unfolding from the buds, was hit with a few degrees of frost on May 12 and all of a sudden the trees that were showing the promise of spring looked like they were nuked in some serious chemical warfare. The leaves that were already out seemed to be untouched, the buds that were still closed also were untouched by the frost.

The leaves on many trees and shrubs can be damaged by the low temperatures. Around here that can include Colorado spruce, green ash, and Manchurian ash as well as others. These three trees have leaves/needles just beginning to emerge from the bud, and that is the most vulnerable point for damage from freezing. Trees and shrubs that had leafed out earlier, such as crab apples, lilacs, or maple were not damaged. What the, what the?

Simply put, their leaves had time to toughen up or harden off before the cold temperatures hit.

First symptoms of a frozen ash include (it really hurts to sit down..... ha ha, kidding) wilted or drooping leaves and then after a few days the frozen leaves either turn brown or black and look like they have some dreaded disease.

But wait, there is good news, Mother Nature has provided mechanisms within the tree to deal with spring frosts and other defoliations that occur early in the growing season. Adventitious buds. This is a second set of buds laying dormant on the tree that become activated in the case of defoliation as the result of spring freezing or, something that the Battlefords may be dealing with in the next few years, defoliation by Forest Tent Caterpillars.

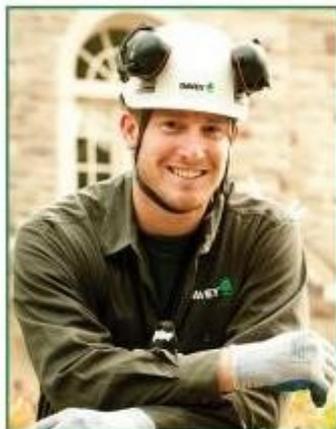
Does defoliation harm the tree? Yes somewhat, as the tree has to use stored energy to push the second set of buds. A tree that was in good shape and vigorously growing last year will likely overcome this set back. If the tree was struggling and not looking so good last year, then you can probably expect some die-back in the smaller branches or twigs.

Will the brown or black frozen leaves remain on the tree all summer? No, they will get crispy and fall off in the wind.

When can I expect the adventitious buds to leaf out? If they haven't already started then you can expect it any day now.

If the tree does not show any releafing by mid June, it may not. This could indicate the end of the road for that tree.

It's not always possible to protect your landscape or cover your ash, but with a little knowledge you can eliminate some worry and get some releaf.



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(Continued from page 10)

the lower level of a building. A basement or storm cellar is best. If there is no time to get to that sort of shelter then it is best to lie down in a ditch or a low lying area, covering your head and neck areas with your arms.

If you are in a vehicle you shouldn't try to out drive the tornado. Tornadoes are unpredictable, can change direction quickly and pick up your vehicle with ease and toss it through the air. It is recommended that you get out of the vehicle and seek shelter in a building. If there is no time for this then get out of the car and lay down in a ditch or low lying area away from the vehicle.

After the tornado check your crewmates for injury or entrapment in debris and provide first aid if required. If anyone is seriously injured, only move them if they are in danger of further injury. Call for help. But use the phone for emergency calls only.

If you smell gas fumes or chemical fumes, leave the area immediately but stay out of damaged buildings.



Image from Google—wonderopolis.org

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Alberta - 2016 Fall Schedule

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Caroline, AB - Oct. 30 - Nov. 4

Chainsaw Safety & Cutting Techniques
Calgary, AB - November 7

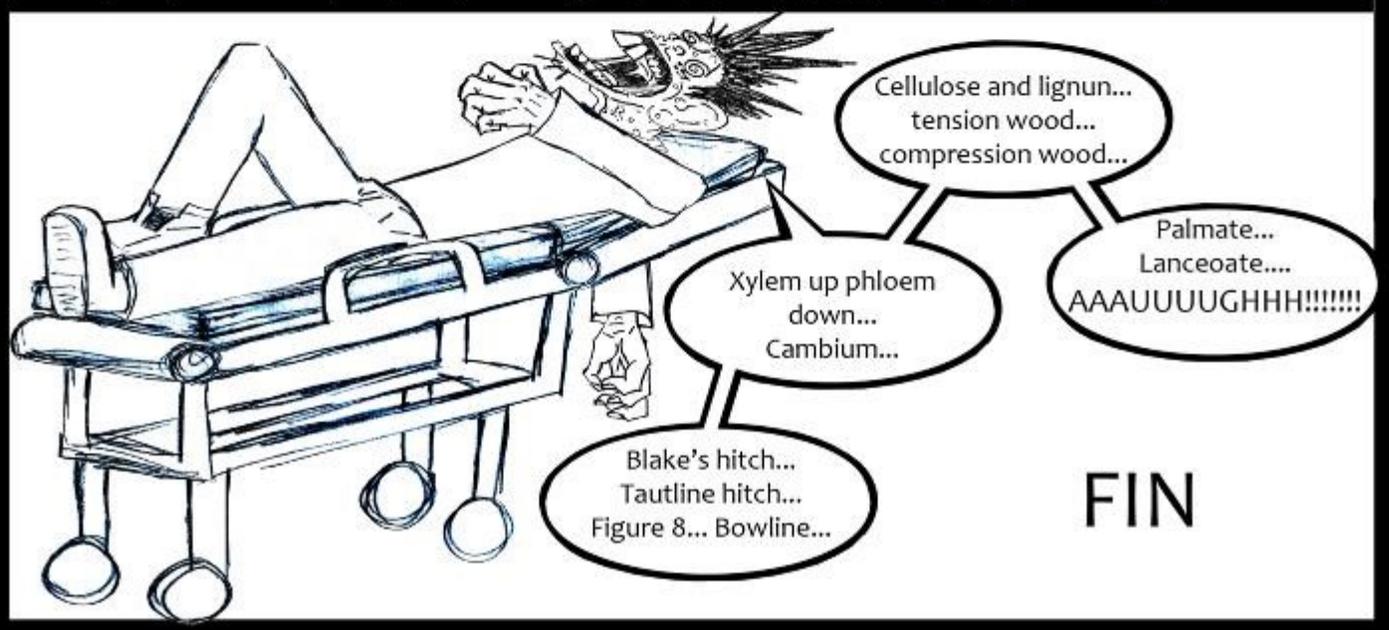
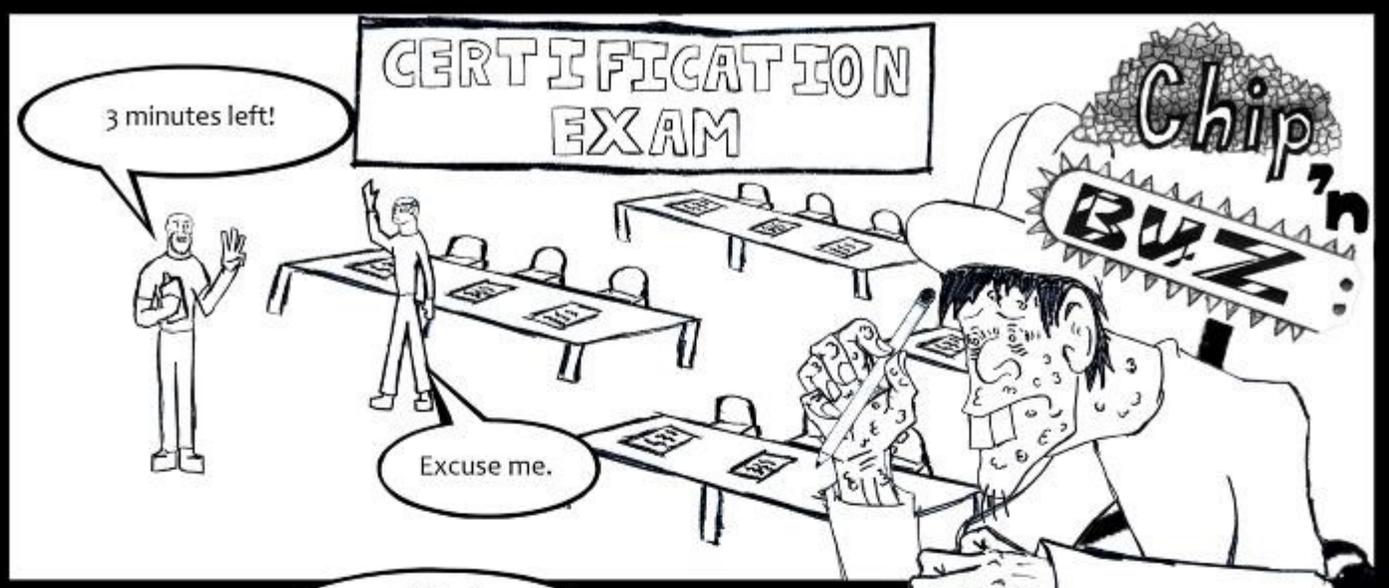
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Bus card	75	55	85	65

(10% discount for ads in all 4 newsletters)

Newsletter submission deadlines

Issue Dates:	Submission Deadline
July	June 15
October	September 15
December	November 15
March	February 15

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Submit articles, ads, letters and written requests to:

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