

Instructor Intensive 2009

Like a tree it starts with a seed, an idea, germinating quasi surreptitious. Breaking through the debris on the forest floor into something bigger, yet tiny, nearly unnoticeable, except to those who are looking for it.

Over time, but quicker than you think, it grows and takes its place in the "community." Some notice, look and see what they expect. Some don't notice at all. Some glimpse future greatness, but await for some sign of confirmation. It continues to grow, expand, and flourish in its own way. Inch by inch it reaches for the light, strengthening at the buttress and elongating at the tips. Thoughts of it's own grander are present, undeniable, but largely ignored internally. Mirrors often distract, force the focus on narcissism, self gratification. But these energy vampires are not acknowledged.

The tempest of time, unmerciful, leveling, acts with impunity. It sways in storms. It grows. It develops, in spurts, but with a steady undertone of success, of determination. As the outward form develops, so does the inner structure. Formed by many pieces, a synergy binds the parts yet allows individualism. Suddenly, or so it seems to the uninitiated, it bursts forth unmistakable, brilliant, subtle, powerful, unflappable: Instructor Intensive Training Camp, Dayspring Florida.

Three years ago two companies joined to change the world of production tree care. Arboriculture Canada Training and Education and North American Training Solutions united in the first train the trainer intensive 2007. From the seed of that first meeting grew Instructor Intensive Training Camp (IITC) 2008. From that beginning grew this year's event IITC 2009. A fully developed training camp, IITC 2009 included over 40 participants in two levels (1&2). Level 2 consisted of 2008's returning members. These hand selected arborists from across the continent came together in 2008 to initiate a positive change.

IITC 2009 included another selected set of arborists. 2008

participants exclusively invited the level I class. A "Golden Ticket" was issued to the 2009 crew. This was the only way to gain attendance and resulted in a select, diverse and motivated group.

Six and a half days of "intensive instruction" commenced on Saturday, February 28th. The days started at 7:00 AM and continued often till 11:00 PM and sometimes later. Topics ranging from communication skills to deeply personal viewpoints were openly discussed and privately examined. The level one participant's were introduced to decisive decision making through the "Diamond Solution" as well as "accelerated learning techniques" for Adult learners. The concept of "Earn the Right" was taught and practiced.

By "earning the right" instructors both relate to students as well as establish their credentials. While a seemingly simple task, level I students were made to realize the shades of credence present when teaching arboriculture and how these influence the instructor as well as the student. Classroom topics not only involved the cerebral, but basic instruction in classroom set up, working with visual aids and templates for answering questions were introduced.



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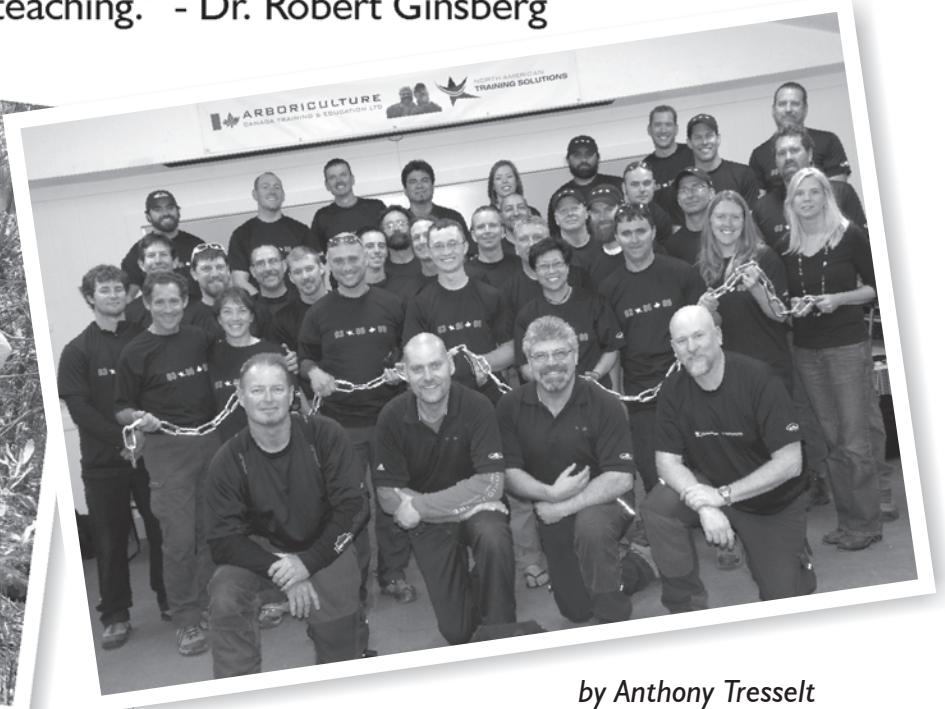
Thank you to each of the sponsors who supported the 2009 Instructor Intensive Training Camp in Ellenton, Florida on February 28 - March 6.

These companies contributed in many ways, from financial support to large gifts of time and energy. This event could not have been the success that it was without each of you. Sincere



Training Camp

“The hope that I practice is teaching.” - Dr. Robert Ginsberg



by Anthony Tresselt

Level 1's also explored the realm of authenticity and personal growth and achievement. Goal setting and achieving success became a topic for discussion and mantra. By the end of the classroom sessions, Level one students came to realize some powerful things. They have knowledge and information to share. They add value to people's lives. They are confident and charismatic. They are excellent program organizers as well as powerful and positive presenters. They impact people teaching what they love. These lessons learned will all lead to the next phase of arboricultural instructor evolution, Level 2

Level 2 participants took last year's accomplishments beyond teaching skills and credentials. Having a full year to mull over level 1 lessons, goals and accomplishments level 2's performed concentrated, exhaustive exercises, group discussions and debriefings. These revealed the role of honesty and personal involvement in the training process. This select cadre of arboricultural instructors developed the skills and courage to be authentic, honest and effective teachers. By combining these three traits with their unique personalities, diverse qualifications and combined passions, level 2's form an idiosyncratic and forceful group. A group dedicated not only to teaching, but to inspiring. Together they form a nucleus of change blazing a new standard of safety and professionalism.

Level 2 instructors: Transform people's lives. They are passionate instructors and excellent storytellers. They share from the heart through being authentic and confident. As captivating communicators they are dynamic and valuable. They earn money doing what they love. They ignite other's inner fire. They love to instruct and it shows. They connect powerfully with people

through concise and clear communication. Together all participants at IITC are excellent arborists and instructors.

Level 1 and 2 not only learned and honed new skills in the classroom. The last two days of training camp were chock full of hands on training and evaluation. Seven separate arboricultural disciplines including, climbing, chainsaw use, aerial tree removal, spar pole rigging, hazard and standard tree felling and aerial rescue were introduced. The myriad of skills necessary to complete these vital tasks were evaluated and competencies deemed.

This hands on part of IITC is important to develop instructors who not only know the material, but can also perform it. Going beyond certification, competency helps ensure not only familiarity with course material, but a demonstrated mastery of it. Furthermore, having all instructors and future instructors evaluated in the topics they train forms a vital link in the chain of credibility and competence necessary for a relevant, real and verifiable training program.

As even the mightiest tree begins as a small seed in fertile soil, so does the tangible, germane and lasting change of arboriculture. Among the 40 or so participants lies the catalyst of change to safety and professionalism in tree care. Many organizations attempt this, but IITC through Arboriculture Canada Training and Education and North American Training Solutions obtain it with a workable, living, growing blue print for success. As a tree must grow and develop to realize its full potential so to must those who care for trees. IITC assures the industry this growth and development is possible and provides real world arborists with real world tactics and solutions to make better, more productive workers and a better, safer work environment.

