

## About the Organizers

Sophia Sparks, co-founder and CEO of New Tribe, is pleased to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> International Canopy Conference. **New Tribe** is a small company in Oregon, USA, making innovative tree climbing equipment and offering all levels of tree climbing training through our school and guide service, **Tree Climbing Northwest**.

## Background

The allure of the tree tops is so universal that nearly everyone can report that they climbed trees as a child. This youthful romance with the canopy has matured since the early 1980s with the development of multiple canopy access solutions—an array of tools and techniques gathered from a spectrum of vertical mobility systems using rope and harness.

Since 1984, New Tribe has been at the hub of this activity. Our focus is on recreational tree climbing—climbing for the joy of it. Free of the limitations of a specific application like tree care or caving or tactical maneuvers, recreational tree climbers have drawn from all vertical disciplines. In the past decade, our tree climbing community has flourished worldwide, sharing influences and knowhow through enthusiastic networking. We refine our personal climbing styles to suit exactly the trees and conditions where we climb. We know how to gear up for maximum climbing safety with minimum equipment, facilitating travel into wild forests. We can tailor climbing styles to suit our level of physical fitness, so we don't need to be athletes to climb successfully. We can help empower the canopy science community with knowledge and choices to make your climbing safe, efficient, and appropriate for you and your projects.

## About the Presenter

Conducting this workshop is **Tim Kovar**, the principle tree climbing instructor for Tree Climbing Northwest. Mr. Kovar began climbing trees as a young boy in Nebraska, USA. Working as a professional arborist in the early 1990s, he became involved with Tree Climbers International, the renowned recreational tree climbing school founded by Peter Jenkins in Atlanta, GA.

As a Master Instructor with Tree Climbers International since 1993, Mr. Kovar helped design and fine-tune the tree climbing courses that are now being taught worldwide. He has led international tree climbing expeditions. He has climbed and taught in eight countries, working with canopy researchers, people with disabilities, eco-tourism resorts, and tree climbing schools. Examples:

Brazil *Naturalia* eco-resort near Manaus, training staff and helping establish a tree climbing visitor attraction and school

Panama Bocas Del Toro and the Soropta Peninsula, guiding canopy researchers

Costa Rica Monteverde Cloud Forest, training and rigging for a biologist and two photographers for the educational media project *Canopy in the Clouds*

Taiwan Rigging and photographing the forest canopy for a university professor

Japan Climbing and documenting ancient trees that were saved near Seto, Japan

USA Personal tree climbing instructor to author Richard Preston for his book, *The Wild Trees*

USA California Redwoods, training researchers in canopy access and skywalking

USA Tree Climbing Northwest, Portland, Oregon, teaching all kinds of people how to safely climb trees, including training scientists who are using these techniques worldwide

## WORKSHOP #2: Tree Climbing Techniques

The sphere of technical tree climbing has been shaped by contributions from all of the vertical movement disciplines. We will survey this field with emphasis on the tools and techniques that can be valuable in canopy research. Moving through the content from the ground up and back down again, we will demonstrate selected skills and provide hands-on experience for participants. Our presentation will be interactive and responsive to participants' expressed interests. We will also provide a guide to resources for tree climbing training and equipment worldwide.

Tree Entry: Hand throwing, projectile launchers, and rope anchoring options

Ascending: Four different climbing systems will be set up for participant inspection and hands-on experience: doubled rope technique, Texas style, RADS, and Super System.

Hauling and lowering

Mobility in the crown: Re-directs and motion lanyard systems, traversing tree to tree, rigging Treeboat Hammocks and other canopy staging devices

Descending: Rope systems, rappel devices and mechanical descenders

Rescue scenarios

Throughout the conference Mr. Kovar will be available to consult individually with participants and to assist those who wish to try equipment and techniques with instructor guidance.