



RAY SMITH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Tree Pruning & Removal
Plant Health Care
Landscape Design, Installation & Maintenance
Ponds & Water Features
27 Henry Road, PO Box 5024
Southampton, NY 11969-5024
(631)-287-6100 www.raysmithassociates.com



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: January 1st, 2007

RAY SMITH & ASSOCIATES BECOMES ACCREDITED TREE CARE COMPANY

Ray Smith & Associates, Inc. is proud to announce that it has been accredited under a new Tree Care Company Accreditation program administered by the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) and built on the threefold foundation of ethics, quality, and consumer confidence.

The new program represents the only business practices and compliance audit process in the tree care industry. Under the process, businesses undergo extensive review of professional practices aimed at safeguarding consumers. The review includes:

- ▶ Best business practices
- ▶ Ethical business conduct
- ▶ Formal training and certification of employees
- ▶ Certified Arborists on staff
- ▶ Compliance with industry standards
- ▶ Consumer satisfaction
- ▶ Adherence to safety standards
- ▶ Full insurance coverage

TCIA Accreditation means that Ray Smith & Associates, Inc. adheres to all the accreditation standards and has undergone a rigorous application & review process. TCIA verified this by conducting an on-site audit.

TCIA Accreditation for Ray Smith & Associates is in effect for a period of three years, with renewal check-ups required every year. The annual renewal ensures that the required numbers of certified arborists are still on staff, that the company is still properly insured and that the company has a good safety and consumer satisfaction rating. The company is re-accredited every three years.

According to TCIA president Cynthia Mills, "TCIA Accreditation provides consumers a way to find tree care companies that are trustworthy in their business and tree care practices. Our TCIA Accreditation program is the only one of its kind in America and will give consumers peace of mind."

The process of becoming accredited is no easy task. "The process is incredibly thorough. They left no stone unturned," states Ray Smith, CEO. "We are pleased that Ray Smith & Associates has been recognized as one of the best tree care companies around." Mills echoes that sentiment. "Ray Smith & Associates, Inc. has made a commitment to excellence in all facets of its business. I applaud their efforts."