

# In the shade

November, 2011

Vol. 35, No. 4



## At the Texas Tree Conference



## New Ideas & Industry Trends

by Susan Henson

As the day began the air was full of excitement. A new venue in a familiar location had the whole crowd wondering what to expect from our old friends in Waco. The convention center had changed but the quaint college town had pretty much remained unchanged since we were there three years ago. As we broke from the group session it became apparent that with the excellent class lineup it would be hard to pick just one session to go to. They all were excellent topics with well known industry speakers. I stayed true to the municipal track for apparent reasons: I am an arborist for a municipality and these classes were hand picked by your executive board from some of the best in the industry.

“Using Bare Root Trees with Minday Maslin” was an eye opener. This topic had been approached several years ago when Bonnie Appleton spoke at one of the tree workshops before the conference. Some of us had been exposed, but the extent to which the industry has grown was apparent from the beginning of the session. Nancy Herron with Texas Parks and Wildlife did an interesting presentation on reaching youth with urban forestry. We must engage the young in protecting our natural resources! The last session of the day was “Using Fruit Trees in Texas Parks and Public Spaces.” I entered this session with great skepticism but was truly amazed by the information presented and how fruit trees can truly work in a public situation. I left feeling a little humbled because I had always fought this notion but the facts have swayed me into giving them a chance in the right situation.

Friday’s session started with “Navigating the Political Process” and David Dockter did a whirlwind explanation of how we can maneuver within the political confines of our individual communities and protect our assets—trees! This information was useful and I took several sayings away that I will be using in future classes. Last but definitely not least was Dr. Sherrill who spoke on “Utilizing Urban Timber.” This topic was helpful and gave us alternatives to hauling lumber to the dump. It can be turned into useful products, not just land fill fodder!

It was a conference filled with information, networking and sharing of thoughts and ideas. I heard several people comment that they felt it was one of the best Texas Tree Conferences and I would have to go along with this thought because it truly was an amazing conference! ■



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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Keith Brown



Serving as ISAT president is a great honor. I look forward to getting credit for the hard work of so many great volunteers. Just kidding. To name a few, Jim Carse, Heather Brewer and David Vaughan really stepped up to help provide a great conference this year. We ended up with 455 total registered attendees, 10 percent more than last year. Additionally, our list of vendors and sponsors grew. I think we can officially start calling the event our annual conference and tradeshow. And, in case you missed it, we had many nationally recognized speakers: John Ball, Kim Coder, David Dockter. Really great presentations this year. Our organization is steadily growing, and more importantly, steadily providing more and more services and improvements to our industry.

Over the last year I've witnessed ISAT leaders come together from all angles of our industry to produce real value for all walks of arborists: a regional urban planning meeting, improved oak wilt recommendations and new oak wilt research getting started. Kevin Patton has joined our board from the utility industry. We're really developing into a strong forum where trees and arboriculture are brought into the light. (As I'm typing this, the word 'arboriculture' is underlined in red as a typo. Somebody at Microsoft or Apple really needs to fix that!)

If you haven't visited the website lately, go check it out. The home page is where you'll find coming events where you can get CEUs. We've also got a steadily growing 'consumer' section. Here, commercial arborists can advertise their business and you'll find some good articles for relevant tree-related issues that have been reviewed by several of your peers on the ISAT board. This is great information to share with your community members, customers and colleagues.

Our second annual board retreat / new board member orientation will be taking place in early December. Let us know of any valuable services we can provide you so it can be discussed during this kick-off meeting. Also, if you want to get involved and be a part of the leadership effort, reach out to any of your board members or me. You can find everyone's contact info on the website.

*moment of silence  
for those who have suffered  
from the unprecedented forest fires this summer*

Regards,  
Keith Brown  
ISAT President  
Board Certified Master Arborist TX-0985BT

## ISA Launches Online Learning Center

ISA continues to provide the latest in educational opportunities with its newly launched Online Learning Center (OLC). The OLC is a 24-hour portal to learning and professional development in arboriculture.

The center features self-paced training courses on a variety of topics. Initially they are offering 25 courses – including a free one – and they plan to keep adding new topics to the course library.

To access the OLC and other online educational resources visit [isa-arbor.com/OLC](http://isa-arbor.com/OLC).

## SAAA Update

*By Booker Arredondo*

San Antonio Arborist Association (SAAA) is moving full steam ahead. In September we had former state tree climbing champion Guy LeBlanc teaching new climbing techniques. The SAAA will also co-host with ISA the Certified Tree Worker test, along with CPR/First aid training Nov. 11 and 12.

ISA certification will not only give your company more credibility, it is also a great marketing tool to insure you are properly trained to work in trees. The SAAA hosted several events this year and promises to get better. Don't get left on the bus. Get ISA certified and go forward with your company. Go to [sa-aa.com](http://sa-aa.com) for more information about us. Come join us! Have a nice tree day.

## San Antonio Arbor Day

The Alamo Forest Partnership, CPS Energy, and San Antonio Parks and Recreation will sponsor an Arbor Day celebration in San Pedro Park, San Antonio, Saturday Nov. 12 from 9 am to noon. More information at [alamoforestpartnership.org](http://alamoforestpartnership.org). Free native trees, a Tree Sprout Kids Zone, and a sawmill demo will be featured.

<https://picasaweb.google.com/117164653749730932159>

The Champ Hunter's Gallery is a visual treat: lots of great pictures from various big tree measuring trips over the past few years. Pete Smith coordinates the Texas champ tree program. The photo shown is of Lower Boot Canyon, Big Bend.

– link sent by Courtney Blevins



## Thanks to Tree Conference Sponsors & Exhibitors

by James Carse, Texas Forest Service

We literally had companies from all over the nation at this year's event. If they weren't here in person at a booth, then they donated items for the silent auction or raffles and sent catalogs and flyers to

### ArborMaster Returns

ArborMaster training will be offered again this year in Irving. Classes are:

Level 1 Precision Felling & Chainsaw Handling: Nov. 29-30

Level 1 Tree Climbing Methods & Work Positioning: Dec. 1-3

Level 1 Arborist Rigging Applications: Dec. 5-6

Level 2 Arborist Rigging Applications: Dec. 7-9

For further information, please visit [ArborMaster.com](http://ArborMaster.com) or contact ArborMaster directly at 860-429-5028.

distribute. I'm not sure if we had more or less vendors than last year, but the indoor trade show hall looked great, and with our largest number of attendees ever, the vendors were busy with potential customers.

Thanks again to all those companies that attended, and especially to those who went beyond the call of duty and sponsored this great conference.

A big thank you to our Gold level sponsors:

Society of Commercial Arborists  
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And our Silver level sponsors:

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Morbark (Bobcat of Dallas)  
Native Texas Nursery  
Nelson Tree Service  
Plant Growth Management Systems  
Poston Equipment (Bandit) & NiftyLift  
Rainbow Treecare Scientific  
SherrillTree  
Smiths South-Central Sales  
Tree Care Industry Association  
Top Notch Tree Farm  
Tracked Lifts  
Tree Clinic Pharmacy  
Tree Stake Solutions  
TVMA  
Vermeer Equipment of TX, Inc.  
Witch Equipment (Rayco)

# Silent Auction Blows Last Year's Out of the Water!

by Heather Brewer

This year's silent auction raised \$2,900! That beats out last year's total by \$453. The money will help future foresters or arborists get one step closer to reaching their goal and paying for it. If you donated an item, gathered items from others, placed a bid or won an item, pat yourself on the back. A chainsaw does not work without *all* its links and it's the same concept for a silent auction.

When the last bid was written, the big ticket items were a block of ancient Kauri wood gathered by Carri Burns from the City of Lakeway, numerous rounds of golf at Horseshoe Bay Resorts gathered by Dale Amstutz with ArborSystems, a handheld blower gathered by Heath Hayes and donated by Fowlkes, Norman & Assoc., and an original painting by Matt Weaver with Texas Forest Service (TFS) in Houston. The highest earning honor

goes to the Republic of Texas money gathered by Jim Carse with TFS in Austin and donated by the State Preservation Board.

If you donated one of the many high quality handmade items -bravo! These items are one-of-a-kind treasures that give the auction a unique twist. I applaud your artistic ability and willingness to go the extra mile for ISAT.

The handmade items included fascinating planters, sophisticated wood turned items, whimsical carved cypress knees, all sorts of lovely jewelry, yummy jams, flavorful home-made wine, hard-to-find acorn flour,

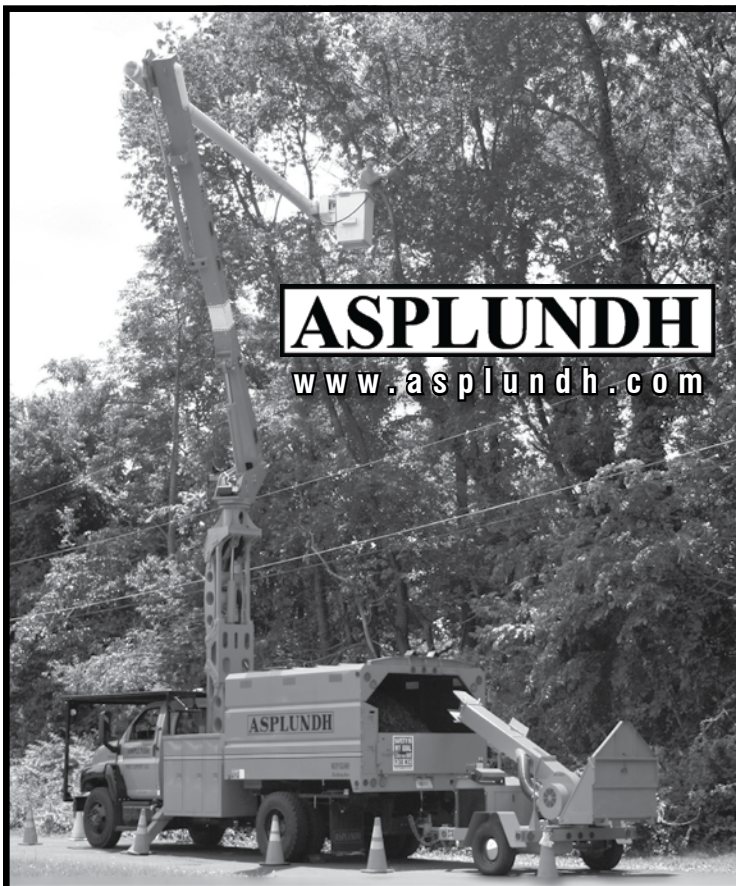
skillfully knitted items, crowd pleasing original paintings and line drawings.

Any auction is only as good as the items that are donated. A quality auction does not happen by magic; it takes a lot of begging and follow up. Please make a note on your calendar to donate something next year.

Seriously, when you stop reading this article write "ISAT silent auction" on a Post-It note and slap it down on your March 2012 calendar. This will give you plenty of time to create the handmade hit of next year's show or dredge up the courage to ask a business for an item. ■

See conference photos by John Giedraitis at <https://picasaweb.google.com/116982053780344052654/2011TexasTreeConferencePictures#>

See conference photos by Margaret Hall Spencer at <http://photobucket.com/txtreeconf2011>



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# Righteous Indignation and the Role of Contracts

by Robert Hager

Recently, I received a call for services from a fellow who had purchased the home of a former client. The previous homeowner had included my name on a list of service providers whom the new owner could trust to deliver excellent service. What's so special about that? Allow me to explain.

I had only worked for the previous homeowner one other time, but it had been about four years, so I sent him a letter to see if it was time for a check-up on his trees. Jackpot! I secured pruning work for not only his residence but also three other properties that he owned. I had contact with the client during the process of performing the work that he had authorized in four separate proposals, and he expressed his approval as the work progressed.

I had no reason to be concerned about collecting timely payment for these jobs. He had paid on time previously, and he promptly paid the invoice for the first of these four jobs. As the other jobs got invoiced, however, no further payments arrived. His failure to respond to our office's more delicate reminders of the three remaining invoices resulted in my calling him directly to request payment. He assured me that he would get a check in the mail immediately. Well, he did. But it was for the second invoice only! He still owed five figures.

In my ensuing telephone conversations with him, he insisted that he would not have approved the amount of money represented by the four proposals. He added that he had previously promoted my company's services to others but that he had influence and could easily change his tune if I pressed him.

I pressed him. I sent him a thorough letter and enclosed copies of the signed contracts. In the letter, I stated that he had approved *all* of the work and had been receiving *all* of the invoices, so to affect surprise at the total amount now

was disingenuous. I reminded him that my men and our company had expertly honored our end of the contracts and that I expected him to honor his. I concluded that I would require his immediate payment in full. (And I got it.)

This wasn't just a legal matter to me; it was a moral one. Even though I kept the letter professional at all times, it surely revealed my righteous indignation. My implied message was that he could go right ahead and threaten to tarnish my reputation and that of the business for which I worked, but I would stand by what was right.

I was shocked that this man put my name on a list of trusted service providers.

Maybe he became forgetful and just made a mistake. More likely, he knew down deep that he had tried to intimidate his way out of a commitment and had mustered the humility to let things go.

I know many of you have been through the same stressful experiences and stood your ground as well. But there's not always such direct evidence that doing so in the face of unpleasantness can pay off in the end. I hope this story provides some encouragement. I also hope it serves as a reminder to obtain those signed contracts and keep them on file. In a case like this, it's a lot more effective to stand up for what's right when you have the contracts to back you up! ■



## MFI 2012

Registration is open now for the 2012 Municipal Forestry Institute, to be held Feb.19-24, 2012 at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, NE.

The intensive week-long program is designed for people who plan, manage, and administer urban forestry programs and who want to become more effective leaders and managers. It is sponsored by the Society of Municipal Arborists in cooperation with the Arbor Day Foundation, the US Forest Service, and others.

Download details and register online at [urban-forestry.com](http://urban-forestry.com).

## SMA Internships

The Society of Municipal Arborists, in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry program and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, is launching a municipal forestry internship program for undergraduate college students interested in a career in municipal arboriculture.

Several positions are available nationwide for the summer 2012 program. Download a flyer and an application from [urban-forestry.com](http://urban-forestry.com).

In addition, several cities are needed nation-wide to serve as host cities for the internship program. For how to apply see [urban-forestry.com](http://urban-forestry.com).

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## Working “In The Zone”

This year Texas ISA extended its commitment to providing worker safety education by having Dr. John Ball as its first speaker at our conference in Waco in early October. While Dr. Ball also presented a diagnostics seminar at the Tree Academy the day before the conference, it is as a safety instructor that he is best known among arborists internationally, and his Thursday morning presentation on safety certainly revealed why.

Another source of eye-opening stats on how many of us are getting mangled out there is our “sister” organization TCIA, which has made a very strong commitment to worker safety, and regularly conducts accident surveys of their members. Their “Accident Briefs” column and calendar every month should be mandatory reading for everyone in this business. Scott Jamieson of Bartlett Tree Experts and board of directors member for TCIA has also written some excellent articles on safety in *TCI Magazine*.

While it is valuable to know where tree work typically ranks amongst all occupations in terms of fatalities (*fifth highest* per Dr. Ball), or which category of fatality kills the most workers (“*contact with an object*” per CDC/NIOSH [Centers for Disease Control/National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health]), or what the single leading cause of workplace fatalities to tree workers is (*electrocution*, per Dr. Ball), knowing the underlying causes of these specific occurrences can be more helpful in creating workplace polices that can reduce them. I’ll describe two underlying factors, and end by proposing three specific policy suggestions.

**Attitude/ Behavior:** These two are obviously linked. There are many ways in which attitude causes safety

problems. And behavior is something that Dr. Ball has repeatedly said is one of our biggest threats to safety. One fact about tree worker fatalities is that *it is often older workers, those over 30 with many years of experience, who are killed*. While Dr. Ball theorizes that simple probability is the main reason for this, complacency also likely plays a role. This is one attitude issue that this old timer is often guilty of. But knowing that my odds of dying increase the longer I do this (as

~~~~~  
“Anyone still climbing when they’re 55 just has a death wish”  
~~~~~

Dr. Ball said in his conference presentation, “Anyone still climbing when they’re 55 just has a death wish”) helps me keep my head in the game.

In his article in the June 2011 issue of *TCI Magazine*, Scott Jamieson discusses behavior at length. Like Dr. Ball, he writes that a key aspect of *serious accidents is the oft-held belief that having done something the same way countless times in the past without incident makes the behavior acceptable*. Jamieson also refers to something called “Heinrich’s Injury Pyramid,” which he says has been used by industry for years to describe the ratio of unsafe acts to major injuries. The pyramid claims that *for every 300 unsafe acts, one major injury will occur*. Jamieson states that new research is beginning to call the validity of this claim into question, and that recent research indicates that

companies should also be looking into the severity *potential* of incidents, since “near misses” and “close calls” can teach us a lot more about where deficiencies in our safety procedures lie. However, the pyramid scheme is similar to another oft-quoted ratio: for every unsafe act workers see a supervisor perform, that act will be repeated 100 times.

The point here is that we need to pay particular attention to incidents that have high potential for dire consequence, adjust safety policies accordingly, and make sure those in supervisory capacities are not acting “above the law.”

**Lack of training:** According to a study done by NIOSH of some tree worker fatalities which occurred between 1985 and 2007, 70 percent of the fatalities occurred to individuals who did not receive any formal safety training, and 75 percent occurred in companies that did not have written safety policies. While the study group was only a fraction of the total fatalities which occurred in that time period, TCIA believes it is a fair representation.

In a second, more thorough study of fatalities, NIOSH found a “substantial proportion” occurred to workers who were self-employed or worked for companies with less than ten employees, although on this matter, TCIA’s own survey revealed that companies with the absolute lowest accident and incident rates were non-TCIA members who had a TCIA CTSP (Certified Treecare Safety Professional) on staff. TCIA’s senior safety advisor Peter Gerstenberger believes this is probably due to the very small size of companies with such an employee, where the CTSP is probably the business owner and crew chief.



And one area where Dr. Ball believes the greatest lapse in many company's training program exists is in **driver's training**. Transportation fatalities have recently grown at a faster rate than other categories of fatalities.

**What to do:** Outlining an entire safety policy is way beyond the scope of this article. Instead I'll suggest three safety procedures, all related, that I believe could eliminate 90 percent of the fatalities in the category with the highest percentage of deaths: "contact with an object." While contact with chippers and chainsaws certainly account for some deaths in this category, the vast majority is in the sub-category called "**struck-bys,**" which typically account for about 45 percent of all worker fatalities.

All three of my suggestions are called for by the **ANSI Z133**, the safety standards "bible" of our industry. First, a job briefing should occur at the beginning of each job. In my

workshops, I teach this as having five parts: area and tree hazard assessments; a hazard management plan; a work plan and an emergency plan.

The second suggestions are related to the work plan, and specifically deal with struck-bys. That is to **define a work zone or drop zone, and to always use "call and response" communication inside of the work zone**. Sometimes called "command and reply," this is simply a system in which ground personnel **always** ask if it is clear to enter the drop zone **before** doing so, **and wait** for a response from the aerial personnel, and likewise, aerial personnel **always** ask if it is clear **before** bombing out logs **or even unhooking equipment**, and again, wait for a response.

I admit that due to my years of being in this business before any safety guidelines existed, this old dog still has trouble following safety guidelines consistently. But if all of us unerringly

employed just these three safety procedures, we could eliminate the greatest threat to life in tree care operations. ■

*The author is the owner and operator of Arbor Vitae Tree Care in Austin. He has over 30 years experience and is available for worker safety and tree care workshops. He may be reached at 512-301-8700.*

## 2012 Certification Exams

As of October 23, these Certification exams have been set for next year:

January 7, 2012	in Houston
May 14, 2012	in Ft. Worth
April 11, 2012	in Round Rock
August 15, 2012	in Round Rock
October TTC	in Waco

More exams will be scheduled by Pat Wentworth, ISAT Certification Liaison, and his volunteers. Keep watching [isatexas.com](http://isatexas.com) for details.

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### Nevic Donnelly, Arborist of the Year

Nevic Donnelly started as a tree worker in 1994, when lion tailing, topping, and flush cuts were all in a day's work. When he became his own boss in 1999, he introduced better methods, better gear, and better safety procedures. Then he attended the 2001 Texas Tree Climbing championship and found out he was still doing too many things the wrong way. So he hit the books with the goal of improving himself and his company in every aspect of tree care.

Since then he has committed himself to providing excellent tree care and growing his business through professional education and a commitment to safety. Nevic became a Certified Arborist in 2004, a Municipal Specialist in 2006, a Certified Tree Worker in 2007 and a Certified Tree Care Safety Professional in 2009.

He's also helped train and educate arborists throughout Texas by:

- being a sponsor of the Texas Tree

Climbing Championship and the Texas Tree Conference.

- helping bring the Certified Tree Worker program to Texas and working with ISA and ISAT to develop a training program for tree workers that satisfies the first aid/CPR and aerial rescue prerequisites for CTW certification



- serving as ISAT board member, assistant proctor for Certified Arborist exams, and head judge at the Tree Climbing Championship.

Nevic also speaks regularly to garden clubs, Master Naturalist groups, and public schools, promoting proper tree care. He has regularly committed personal and company resources to caring for distressed public trees and arranging tree climbing events for children at schools and public events. He is a member of the City of Austin Urban Forestry Board and has received two distinguished service awards from two different mayors for his work on Urban Forestry.

In 2009 Nevic's company, They Might Be Monkeys, was one of the first locally owned Texas companies to receive accreditation from TCIA for quality work, a safe working environment, and fair business practices. They Might Be Monkeys was the only company in the state with fewer than 10 employees to receive this accreditation. A profile on Nevic and the work he has done was published worldwide in *Tree Care Industry Magazine* in June 2009. ■

### Arboricultural Project of the Year: The Green Ribbon Project

Houston is America's 4th largest city and one of its fastest growing. For years, aesthetics took a back seat to moving goods and people on Houston freeways.

Then ten years ago, Houston leaders decided they wanted to improve the city's image. The Green Ribbon project was designed to "forest" the region's freeways and other rights-of-way with thousands of trees and other landscaping.

Today, lush greenery, fresh flowers, and trees of all sizes line most freeways and many other roadways in the Houston District of the Texas Department of Transportation. The dramatic transformation was made possible by the hard work of Houston District personnel and partners such as Quality of Life Coalition, Trees for Houston, Greater Houston Partnership, and Scenic Houston.

This year, the Houston District celebrated the planting of the one millionth Green Ribbon Project tree – an enormous accomplishment that was years in the making. ■



### Landscape Beautification Awards: *Three for Trees*



Both Gold Leaf beautification awards this year are sports related. The Dallas Mavericks have a history of tree planting, and this year they launched their Threes for Trees tree planting project. For every 3-point shot the Dallas Maverick players made this past season, a tree would be planted in one of two city parks.

In March, 320 trees were delivered to Lake Park in Oak Cliff and T&P Hill at White Rock Lake. The trees were delivered, unloaded and planted by 200 volunteers and 100 city employees.

This was a cooperative event involving government, a sports team, neighborhoods and private industry. The partners for this project included the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department, the Dallas Mavericks, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Arboriological Services, Friends of Oak Cliff Parks, For the Love of the Lakes, Dallas Citizen Foresters and many neighborhood volunteers. ■

### *Super Grow XLV*

This NFL environmental initiative involved planting trees, educating kids, and having a party—all designed to help offset the environmental effects of SuperBowl XLV in 12 communities that had joined together to bring the game to North Texas.

In partnership with the National Football League Environmental Program, the North Texas Super Bowl XLV Committee, Moore Tree Care, and the Texas Forest Service, the Texas Trees Foundation designed and coordinated 12 community tree planting projects. While the NFL does a tree planting event at every SuperBowl event, the



Texas event was the largest ever. It was also the first to map all planted trees. This data was supplied to David Novak at the US Forest Service so he can track environmental benefits.

For the kids, Texas Trees Foundation partnered with SLANT 45/Big Thought and Oncor to provide 500 small tree liners to a school in each of the 12 host communities. Trees were provided to 6,000 youth to plant in honor of Super Bowl XLV.

SuperGrow XLV ended with a big party called the Touchdown for Trees Grand Finale before the game. ■

### Arbor Day Award: Grand Prairie

The City of Grand Prairie has been a Tree City USA for 27 years. It is the second oldest Tree City in the state of Texas. The city is very proud of this designation and strives to uphold Tree City USA all the time. Grand Prairie has hosted three State Arbor Day celebrations during its tenure as a Tree City USA.

This year's Arbor Day Ceremony was held at the Summit, Grand Prairie's premier facility for active adults. There were over 700 children in attendance along with 400 adults resulting in a whopping 1,100 people attending. Over 1,000 trees were handed out.

Grand Prairie has several tree programs that allow people to dedicate trees to individuals, groups or organizations that people would like to memorialize. Trees from these programs are dedicated during the Arbor Day Ceremony each year. This year they dedicated trees in the Grand Prairie Living Memorial Forest,



Centennial Tree Program, and Summit Guardians Program. ■

# Pest Post by Ron Billings

Welcome to *Pest Post*, a new column intended to keep ISAT members abreast of hot topics involving insects, diseases, or invasive plants affecting or threatening Texas' trees. This first contribution is from Dr. Ron Billings, Manager, Forest Health, with Texas Forest Service. Other specialists may contribute articles for future issues.

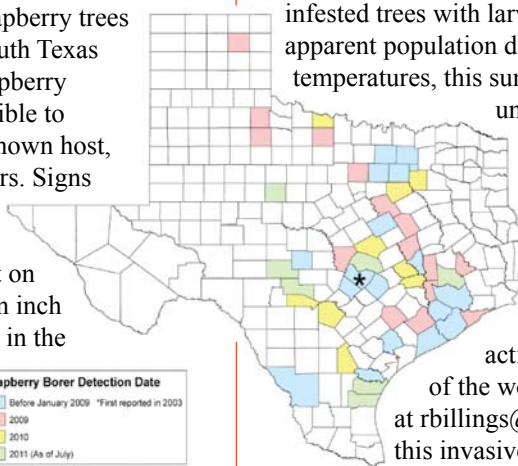
**Update on Soapberry Borer:** The soapberry borer (*Agrilus prionurus*), a native of Mexico, was first reported in Travis County in 2003. Recent confirmed reports have documented attacks of this invasive pest on western soapberry trees in 42 counties in Texas, extending from south Texas to the Oklahoma border (see map). All soapberry trees larger than 2 inches DBH are susceptible to attack. Soapberry trees, the insect's only known host, tend to die from the top down in 2 to 3 years. Signs and symptoms of attack are bark flakes knocked off by woodpeckers that feed on the larvae, winding beetle galleries evident on the exposed sapwood, white larvae up to an inch long beneath the bark, D-shaped exit holes in the bark, and profuse epicormic branching along the lower trunk.

Dr. Donald Grosman (dgrosman@tfs.tamu.edu), Coordinator of the Forest Pest Management Cooperative in Lufkin, has been

testing several systemic insecticides for prevention and control of soapberry borer. One of the most promising is emamectin benzoate (EB), recently registered by EPA for a variety of conifer and hardwood pests. EB has proven effective as both a therapeutic and preventative treatment, if the infestation is not too advanced at the time of injection.

There is other good news on the soapberry borer front. Although infestations spread rapidly in Texas from 2008-2010, fewer reports of new infestations are being reported in 2011. Indeed, most untreated soapberry trees that Don Grosman has been monitoring as check trees have yet to be infested, and infested trees with larvae are difficult to find. Whether this apparent population decline is due to last year's cold winter temperatures, this summer's heat and drought, or some unrecognized biological control has yet to be determined.

If you observe any active infestations of soapberry borer (western soapberry trees with flaking bark, beetle galleries and white larvae), or if you have noticed a similar decline in activity of this invasive pest in your neck of the woods, please contact Dr. Ron Billings at [rbillings@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:rbillings@tfs.tamu.edu). We need to determine if this invasive pest is no longer a threat to our native soapberry trees. For more information and photos of soapberry borer infestations, visit [texasinvasives.org](http://texasinvasives.org). ■



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# Changing of the Guard

Editors

## Thanks! And Welcome, Oscar

By Paul Johnson, TFS Regional Urban Forester, San Antonio



Thank you! I owe a great big thank you to many of you. First off, Jeannette, thank you so much. I have received many compliments on the

newsletter the past two years and really, they are all yours. You make a tough job very easy. Next, I have to thank all of you who have contributed to the newsletter. I have said it before and I will say it again. The newsletter is only as good as the material that is in it. I would name you each individually, but I am sure that I would miss someone.

Visit our website <http://bit.ly/oppVyK> to review previous issues. We have taken the newsletter from black and white to full color and it makes a difference. Thank you to the ISAT board for all their support. I also would like to thank all of our advertisers. You really help make it possible to provide this newsletter to our members.

I stepped away from the newsletter so I can serve as Vice President this year and hopefully follow that up with President Elect, President, and the highly sought after position of Past President (Todd, I hope you serve the role of Past President

as well and as actively as Jim did :) My new position includes being chair of the membership committee. I would like to see us grow the membership this coming year. Please send me any ideas you have on bringing more people into the organization. What can we, ISA Texas, do better for you, the members?

The other item on my agenda is the 2013 Texas Tree Conference – where would you like to go? What fun things should we do? What topics would you like us to cover? What would make the conference the best use of your time and your hard earned \$\$\$? Each year the conference gets bigger and better. Following Susan's 2012 Conference is going to take a lot of work, so I am starting now. Please, let me know if you would like to help plan for 2013.

I am pleased that Oscar is taking over the reins here at newsletter central. It is always comforting to know that you are leaving your project in the hands of someone more capable than yourself. Who knows, this newsletter might be in 3D before he is done with it.

OK, for the last time: Please submit something for the January 2012 issue. The holidays make a mid-December deadline tough, so sit down, pound out a few hundred words and send them to [omestas@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:omestas@tfs.tamu.edu). ■

## Adios, Pablo

By Oscar Mestas, TFS Regional Urban Forester, El Paso



So I guess it's out with the old and in with the new. Actually I think I've got 20 years on Paul so maybe I should be saying out with the youngster and in with the more mature guy. Okay enough political correctness.

Thanks, Paul, for the great job you did as the ISAT newsletter editor. I just hope I can keep carrying the Texas Forest Service torch as the third (as far as I know) TFS person to fill this position. and do as well as my predecessors.

I hope everyone had a great experience at this year's conference; it's always good to see old friends and acquaintances as well as making new ones. So as the new sheriff in town, I'll be the one rounding up articles for future newsletters.

Let's not be shy out there, I expect to see a plethora of articles streaming in from all parts of Texas to keep this as one of the best darn newsletters around. ■

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# TREES AT THE EDGE

By Mark Kroeze

Things truly are bigger in Texas and that includes the trees! In fact, Texas has 86 trees that are the largest specimens of their kind. Only Florida (106) and Arizona (87) have more. Note to Texans, get your binos out and find a couple more!

While these large trees quickly grab our attention for their size and history, there are those among our urban and natural forests that need our help. I would like to introduce you to the Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Trees of Texas.

After consultation with Chris Best, state botanist; Bill Carr, botanist for the Texas Nature Conservancy; and Pete Smith of the Texas Forest Service, a number of trees were identified as rare, threatened, or endangered. A majority of



*Leitneria floridana* (Corkwood).

Photo courtesy Missouri Botanical Garden PlantFinder.

this listing (non-hawthorn) is found in the higher elevations of the Trans-Pecos. We do not have an accurate field assessment of the Trans-Pecos species and their response to the drought.

I would argue that it would be possible to grow many of these species in urban areas, considering the various irrigation, aspect, and soil regimes we could provide to meet the needs of these species.

Here is the current listing with scientific name and common name:

<i>Pinus arizonica</i> var. <i>stormiae</i>	Pino real
<i>Leitneria floridana</i>	Corkwood
<i>Ostrya chisoensis</i>	Big Bend hop-hornbeam
<i>Quercus arkansana</i>	Arkansas oak
<i>Quercus carmenensis</i>	Sierra del Carmen oak
<i>Quercus graciliformis</i>	Chisos oak, slender oak
<i>Quercus robusta</i>	Robust oak
<i>Quercus tardifolia</i>	Lateleaf oak
<i>Crataegus anamesa</i>	Fort Bend hawthorn, coast hawthorn
<i>Crataegus brazoria</i>	Brazoria hawthorn
<i>Crataegus dallasiana</i>	Dallas hawthorn
<i>Crataegus poliophylla</i>	Rosemary hawthorn
<i>Crataegus stenosepala</i>	Narrow-sepal hawthorn
<i>Crataegus turnerorum</i>	Turners' hawthorn
<i>Crataegus viburnifolia</i>	Viburnum-leaf hawthorn
<i>Crataegus warneri</i>	Warner's hawthorn
<i>Malus ioensis</i> var. <i>texensis</i>	Blanco crabapple
<i>Fraxinus papillosa</i>	Chihuahua ash, Mexican white ash ■

Mark Kroeze is Urban Forester, City of McAllen Public Works, and Chair—Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Trees, Texas Urban Forestry Council.

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# 'Treeage' for Car-Damaged Trees

by David Vaughan

The car struck the tree at more than 60 miles an hour. The teenage driver was dead and his girlfriend was in intensive care. The car was wrapped around a tree and the car battery had gone through a metal garage door about 25 feet from the tree. The 15-inch cedar elm was standing straight but had a large wound. A wrecker pulled the car from around the elm, and that doubled the size of the wound. Now we had a wound that involved 80 per cent of the circumference of the tree and was 3 to 4 feet tall. Our client owned the tree and we got the call the next day. When they wait for the insurance appraisers, that call normally takes a week.

Our client asked what it would cost to remove the tree and was amazed when we told her we could save it and that the wound would be covered in a year. She was more surprised when we told her it would only cost 2 hours of labor and 50 gallons of fertilizer. Folks do not expect low costs, especially when the other guy's insurance is paying for everything.

The client was skeptical, but I was confident in the outcome and she decided to let us repair the tree. Maybe my guarantee to remove the tree at no cost next year if she was not happy with the outcome had a little to do with her decision. I called our production manager and that afternoon he traced some ragged bark and tacked a piece of roofing felt over the wound. We use roofing felt because it is flexible, easy to cut and, unlike black plastic, holds up for the year we want the wound covered.

A few days later the tree was fertilized. That's it, very simple.

During the year after the accident, the elm did not show any signs of stress. Our client removed the roofing felt after about 11 months. The wound was about 90% covered with normal looking bark and with normal functioning cambium under that surface callus. Dr. Dirk Dujesiefken, in his ISA podcast last October, states that their studies show that not only do we get normal woody tissue, normal bark, and normal cambium; we also have no discoloration and no decay under the surface callus.

I did my first car damage repair in 1980 on an arizona ash. I was Allan Brook's production manager, had my BS in Forestry and my MS in Arboriculture, had never heard of such a thing, and was pretty sure that Mr. Brook was touched. Back then we covered the wound with roofing felt and sealed the edges with roofing tar or mastic, very messy. I went back every two months, removed a corner of the felt, peeked in and could not believe what I saw. After a year, the ash had 100% coverage of the wound.

I have since done this to about a dozen trees, mostly live oaks but also one pecan and one red oak, and have had similar results. The biggest problem is getting to the tree within 3 days, maybe 5 days of the wounding. Victims will wait on the insurance appraisers.

I have not tried this procedure on a limb. The BMP (best management practices) says it will work on a limb. Almost all of the limbs we see that are damaged by vehicles or equipment are too low and need to be removed for clearances. The one time I did have the right situation I did not think about the procedure and lost the opportunity to try it. When you only do something 12 times in 35 years it's not the first thing to come to mind. (I'm sure it has nothing to do with old age!)

Our BMP says you can use plastic or burlap to cover the wound. I like roofing felt because it is easy to work and form, it lasts a year in Texas heat, and it's hard to see so people leave it alone. Anything that keeps the parenchyma cells moist will work. Painting the wound is not necessary and not recommended, but this procedure will work even if the wound has been painted. We paint the roofing felt to cover the roofing nails and to cover lines that are on the felt.

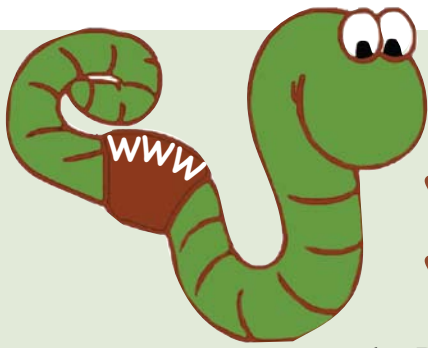
Take a look at the before and after pictures. This procedure works. Five years after the accident, the elm is still looking good. One spot on top of one of the major roots did not cover and I am seeing some decay in that area that has me concerned. Give it a try the next time you are asked to be an EMT for a damaged tree and you need to perform treeage. ■



▲ Original damage to the elm, hit by a car at 60 mph.

The elm as it appears five years later (Aug. 15, 2011). ▼





## WEB WORM

by Pat Wentworth

[http://web.utk.edu/~grissino/tree\\_rings](http://web.utk.edu/~grissino/tree_rings)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/08/business/energy-environment/08sustain.html?\\_r=1&emc=eta1](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/08/business/energy-environment/08sustain.html?_r=1&emc=eta1)  
recycled trees

<http://www.hastingsreserve.org/oakstory/LaceLichen2.html>  
oak info site

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/fact-sheets.shtml>  
tree facts

[https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0AigRqZIMVCvKdDd5RGZ0NDJDRkFBUWxid2o4NnlS2c&hl=en&authkey=CN\\_anqWP#gid=0](https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0AigRqZIMVCvKdDd5RGZ0NDJDRkFBUWxid2o4NnlS2c&hl=en&authkey=CN_anqWP#gid=0)  
Denrochronologist spread sheet – very old trees

<http://www.fertilizer101.org/>  
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## Dallas: Hottest place in Texas?

Despite recent rains, Texas is in one of the worst droughts on record and Dallas has just exited its worst heat wave in history. The National Weather Service reports that according to Texas tree-ring records, 2011 was the second worst summer drought in nearly 500 years.

Among Texas cities, Dallas and its trees may be the hardest hit from the summer due to the urban heat island effect whereby concrete retains high heat overnight. This heat island placed intense stress on existing trees which require cooler temperatures at night. An informal survey of July and August temperatures at Love Field and Addison Airport (which borders Dallas) showed the City of Dallas had the hottest night-time temperatures in Texas.

The Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee (UFAC) is working to implement measures to prevent further tree loss and to mitigate the effects of the urban heat island. The UFAC's recommendations to the city council include:

1. Water trees, not grass.
2. Water trucks should be utilized to irrigate the city's most critical trees.
3. Water funds: Redirect mowing and other landscape funds to watering trees.

UFAC also recommends that city departments develop drought response plans, and coordinate to ensure additional tree maintenance activities.

For more information on UFAC's work on behalf of stressed trees in Dallas, visit [dallastrees.org/](http://dallastrees.org/). ■

## San Antonio Tree Maintenance License Ordinance Amendments

by Mark Bird, City Forester, San Antonio

Since 1997 the City of San Antonio has had an ordinance that requires individuals and businesses that provide tree care services to obtain a city-issued Tree Maintenance License (TML). We recognize the value of trees and their multiple benefits to the citizens of San Antonio. In 2010, our city tree preservation ordinance was amended to include preservation and tree planting to meet a tree canopy goal of 40% in our area.

With our increased awareness of the value of trees, their economic and environmental benefits and understanding the requirements for care, it is time to amend the Tree Maintenance License ordinance. The current TML has a minimal requirement of four CEUs for a three-year license and acknowledgment of compliance with the city Oak Wilt Ordinance. In an effort to raise the standard of tree care in San Antonio several amendments and incentives to the current TML are proposed.

These include:

- 15 hours of CEUs by the Tree Maintenance License holder over the three-year license period
- Proof of liability insurance (\$300,000 minimum)
- Acknowledgement of our TML code of ethics
- A 50 percent reduction of license fees for ISA Certified Arborists
- The City of San Antonio Development Services Department will provide 10 hours of qualifying CEUs per year
- The City of San Antonio Solid Waste Department will allow license holders to dump chips for free at city brush recycling facilities

With these changes, the City of San Antonio hopes to raise the standard of tree care services for our citizens and provide a path for tree care professionals to become Certified Tree Workers and Certified Arborists. ■

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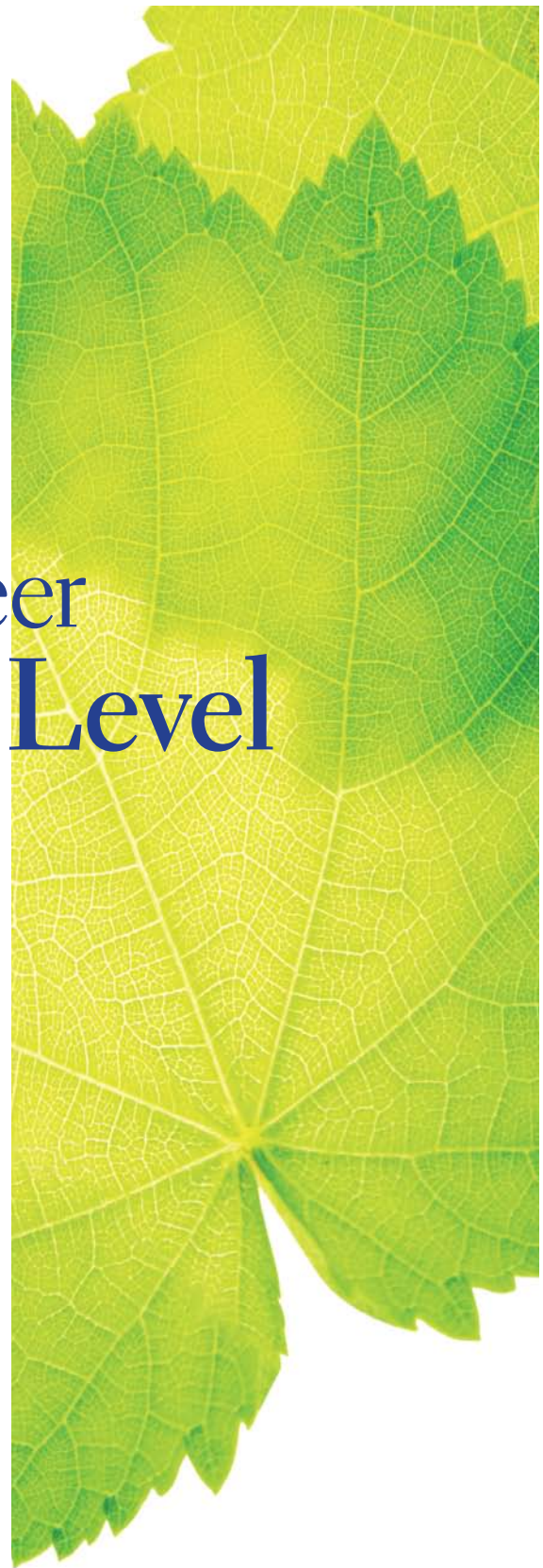
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