

**Texas Chapter International Society of Arboriculture
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

December 12, 2014

Board Members Present:

Markus Smith	Vincent Debrock
Michael Sultan	Misti Perez
Margaret Hall Spencer	Micah Pace
Lara Schuman	Matt Grubisich
Nevic Donnelley	Jim Carse
Oscar Mestas	Jim Dossett
Lee Evans	Matt Churches
Terry Kirkland	

Board Members Absent:

Orlando De La Garza

Others Present

Paul Johnson, ISA BOD, TFS

John Giedraitis, Executive Director

I. Call to order

Markus Smith called to order the regular meeting of the ISAT Board of Directors at 12:00 PM on December 12, 2014 at Tonkaway Ranch, College Station, Texas. A quorum was declared present.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion was made by Sultan to approve the Minutes of the July 14, 2014 meeting. Motion seconded by Schuman. Motion passed.

III. Welcome and Introductions

IV. Executive Director Report

Executive Director: Giedraitis report is attached.

V. Committee Reports

- a) Finance/Treasurer: Evans reported that the Finance Committee (Kirkland, Greg David, Evans) were presenting the proposed budget. He noted that Mark Bluhm of ISA had recommended laddering certificates of deposit for investment income and the Finance Committee recommends this to the Board. **A motion was made by Kirkland to move funds from the checking account to purchase four (4), \$25,000 CD's and ladder them over four (4) years. Debrock seconded. Motion passed.** The Finance Committee also recommended not rolling over the current six month CD and just adding it to the checking account.

- b) Editor: Mestas reported that he is proposing an increase in advertising rates. For 2014 to date, there has been \$6,716 in revenue and \$19,387 in expenses. It was noted that rates have not changed in six years. **A motion was made by Schuman to raise advertising rates for the ISAT Newsletter by 25% starting with the March Newsletter. Evans seconded. Motion passed.**
- c) COR: Spencer reported that she will be joining the Executive Committee on their monthly conference calls. She also requested to let her know if the Board has any items to take to ISA.
- d) Certification: Perez reported that there were 187 new Certified Arborists, 12 Utility Specialists, 7 Certified Tree Workers and 6 Aerial Lift Specialist in 2014. She will be placing an article in the January Newsletter about the program. There were eight exams in 2014.
- e) Texas Tree Conference: Debrock is Chair for 2015 and he reported that it is in the planning stage and the Conference Committee is established and is discussing the theme and working title. He noted that the program agenda will be set by the beginning of May.
- f) Texas Tree Climbing Championship: Kevin Bassett Chair sent in his attached report. It will be held June 10-13 in Trinity Park in Fort Worth. Donnelly and Carse have volunteered to assist with the ITCC in 2016 in Texas.
- g) Arbor Day: Churches reported that Arbor Day was Nov. 7th (first Friday in November) at the Texas State Capitol. It was the 100th anniversary of the Texas Forestry Association. Evans and Debrock set up the ISAT booth and there were over 150 people in attendance. On Nov. 6, 2015 it will be at the Bush Library and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Texas A&M Forest Service. Johnson will report to the Board how ISAT will be organized into the event.
- h) Membership: Pace is the chair and will be working with his committee to contact each new member every two months. Evans, Grubisich, Kirkland and Smith offered to assist.
- i) Educational Events Committee: Schuman presented the attached report. She noted that there will be a Municipal Masters Series in addition to the Commercial Masters Series this year. Grubisich and Johnson will assist with this. They will work with Jerri LaHaie of SMA. TRAQ will also be offered in the spring and fall. Schuman also mentioned that the Certified Tree Worker class will be handled differently than in the past. Donnelly reported that the Lead Evaluator has to do two programs and the first will be in Austin this March then he will go anywhere to train someone for the second program.
- j) Publicity: Donnelly as chair reported that there was a Winter Tree Walk in Austin. Johnson and Carse will secure a contact list for all publications and give it to Donnelly so he can communicate ISAT events to others in the green industry. Grubisich volunteered for the committee. **A motion was made by Evans to increase the publicity budget to \$10,000. Seconded by Schuman. Motion passed.**
- k) Scholarships: Churches as chair will develop a policy for the next Board meeting. SFA will receive \$2,000 in 2015. He also noted he would like to visit institutions that receive scholarship funds from ISAT. Evans volunteered to help the committee.
- l) Research: Dossett as chair reported that he had spoken with Janet Bornancin, CEO of Tree Fund about dedicated endowments and she said they had a minimum of \$100,000 per endowment. He noted that there are still questions on the Tour de Trees for 2016 in Texas and that he and Sultan will bring more information to the Board at the next meeting.
- m) Sponsors and Exhibitors: Carse as chair proposed an increase in exhibitor rates for 2015. He also noted that he will be using a new layout for the conference trade show

and that he would like to see more lifts, saw and small engine reps at the show. **A motion was made to raise exhibitor rates by 25% and tier by placement on the show floor. Debrock seconded. Motion passed.**

- n) Elections: Sultan reported that the Elections and Nominations Committee will now have three members including the Past President, President Elect and an ISAT member appointed by the President. Sultan noted he will bring a formal policy back to the Board.
- o) Legislation: Kirkland reported that there are 360 Bills filed to date and none appear to be tree related. He noted that he will monitor Bill alerts.
- p) Outreach: Grubisich reported that he will bring a report to the next meeting. The TNLA show will be in August in 2015.
- q) Digital and Social Media: Spencer reported that the new Facebook policy has been implemented. In the past quarter, there have been 20 new likes for a total of 311. The page gets an average of 90 hits and 12 click on content every day. He also noted that four members now keep Facebook content fresh on the site. Giedraitis noted that the email newsletter signup application has been added to the Facebook site. ISAT has 91 followers on Twitter to date.
- r) Awards: Johnson reported last year there were be four award categories: Arborist of the Year, Arboricultural Project of the Year, Arbor Day and Gold Leaf Award for Landscape Improvement. **A motion was made by Debrock to add an annual award to recognize an ISAT member who has made a significant contributions to the Chapter as a "Volunteer of the Year" award. Seconded by Carse. Motion passed.** Carse reported that he will provide Johnson with award criteria.

VI. Old Business

- a) 2016 ISA Conference in Fort Worth: Henson and Adams could not attend. **A motion was made by Carse to appoint Schuman as ISAT Board Liaison to the 2016 ISA Local Committee Chair. Seconded by Evans. Motion passed. A motion was made by Spencer to replace the current ISA Local Committee Chair with Carse. Donnelly seconded. Motion passed.**

VII. New Business

- a) Bylaws: **A motion was made by Debrock to amend the Bylaws to extend the term of the Directors from two years to three years. Evans seconded. Motion passed.**
- b) 2015 Update to the Texas Tree Appraisal Supplement: **A motion was made by Debrock to increase the base amount to \$82 for the 2015 update. Seconded by Sultan. Motion passed.**
- c) Oak Wilt Certification vs Qualification: There was some discussion on how the certification is more like a qualification. Johnson recommended that ISAT representatives meet with Jim Houser and Jim Rooni of the Texas A&M Forest Service to discuss. Pace volunteered to chair the committee to address this issue.
- d) 2015 Events Schedule: Attached
- e) Policy: It was noted that ISAT is an educational organization and not a political advocate.
- f) 2016 Tour de Trees/Tree Fund. Dorsett and Sultan reported that they will look into the status of the event and report back to the Board.
- g) Executive Director Contract 2015: In executive session.

- h) 2015 Budget Approval: **A motion was made by Kirkland to adopt the proposed 2015 budget. Seconded by Grubisich. Motion passed.**

VIII. Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be in Waco at 10 AM on March 13, 2015 at the Texas Ranger Museum in Waco. .

IX. Adjournment

Markus Smith adjourned the meeting at 1:42 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Giedraitis

ISAT December 12, 2014 Board Meeting

Action Items	Board Member		Comments
Move funds from the checking account to purchase four (4), \$25,000 CD's and ladder them over four (4) years	Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do not roll over CD at Compass bank – put into checking.	Giedraitis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
New rate card for advertising in Newsletter and post	Mestas	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Add Spencer to EC concalls	JPG	<input type="checkbox"/>	
How will ISAT be organized into 2015 Arbor Day celebration at the Bush Library	Churches/Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calls to new Members every two months	Pace	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Contact list to Donnelly for Publicity for events	Johnson/Carse	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Updated final approved budget posted	Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Scholarship policy	Churches	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Status 2016 Tour de Trees	Sultan – Dossett	<input type="checkbox"/>	
New rate card for conference exhibitors	Carse	<input type="checkbox"/>	
New Election Policy	Sultan	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legislative efforts in 2015 session	Kirkland		
Award criteria for new 'ISAT Volunteer of the Year' awards	Carse	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2016 Arbor Fair and Symposium Chair	Schumann?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Revise Bylaws to extend term of Directors from 2 to 3 years	Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Executive Directors Report (12-10-14)

ISAT Quick Statistics:	2014 YTD	2013	2012	% Increase
Certified Arborists	1,017	956	937	8%
ISA ISAT membership	989	890	829	16%
ISA Members	898	831	816	9%
ISAT Members	893	791	715	20%
Email Subscribers	2,888	2,327	1,850	36%
Total Income	\$342,346	\$286,803	\$246,631	28%
Net Income	66,888	26	16,302	76%
Net Assets	249,217	192,619	166,231	33%



2014 Texas Tree Conference				
Online and at the Door Registrations	2014	2103	2012	% Increase
Academy	303	197	198	65%
Conference	517	451	298	58%
EHAP	24	19	0	
Tree School	94	57	61	65%
Sponsors and Exhibitors	72	64	53	74%
Speakers	40	20	20	50%
TOTAL	1050	808	630	60%

2014 Sponsors and Exhibitors

- **Texas Tree Climbing Championship
May 15-17, New Braunfels**

- Signature Sponsors
 - Vermeer
 - Posten
 - Stihl
 - Arborlogical Services
 - Bandit Industries
- Exhibitors
 - Texas Crusher
 - Brush Eaters
 - Pinnacle Arborist Supplies
 - J.L. Matthews
- Gold Sponsors
 - Austin Tree Experts
 - They Might Be Monkeys
 - Amarillo Arborlogical
 - KB Wood Turnings
- Prize Package
 - ArborMaster
- Promotional Materials
 - Tree Stuff



2014 Texas Tree Conference



- Sponsors:
 - ArborJet, Bartlett Tree Experts, Bandit Industries, CenterPoint Energy, Construction Safety Products, Davey Resource Group, Hartford Group, Texas A&M Forest Service, Vermeer Equipment of Texas, Wright Tree Service
- Exhibitors:
 - ACRT, American Arborist Supplies, Arborjet, Arbormetrics Solutions, ArborSystems, Bandit of Texas, Bartlett Tree Experts, Bobcat of Dallas, CenterPoint Energy, Construction Safety Products, Creative Sales, Inc., Davey Resources Group, ECI, Edko, LLC, Environmental Design & Davey, Laser Technology, Inc., Lassiter Tree Farm, Lone Star Trees, LLC, Nelson Tree Service, Inc., NIP Group - TreePro, Pinnacle Arborist Supplies, R&K Pump & Equipment, Inc., Rainbow Tree Care Scientific, Supersonic Air Knife, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, Texas Vegetation Management Association, The Doggett Corporation, The Kenerson Group, Top Notch Tree Farm LLC, Tracked Lifts, Inc., Tree Care Industry Association, Tree Clinic Pharmacy, Tree Stake Solutions, Vermeer Texas-Louisiana, Wright Tree Service.

ISAT Educational Events Committee Report

December 10, 2014

Lara Schuman, Chair

Date of Last Meeting: 11/25/2014

Action Items in Progress/Pending:

1. Discussed educational events for 2015:
 - a. Commercial Master Series – Michael Sultan Chair: Possible speaker – Frank Rinn in late January or early February. Three possible locations including Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio. We discussed holding a high level, small class size, hands-on event on tree biomechanics and advanced inspections, or a mid-level, larger class size, demonstration event on the same subject. Michael will follow up to determine cost and availability.
 - b. Municipal Specialist – Matt Grubisich Chair: Possible event – Paul Ries SMA municipal specialist class. Class can be held in six hours with three instructors, one from SMA. Possibly in June in Austin and Dallas. Matt will speak with Paul Johnson about agenda.
 - c. TRAQ – Possibly hold four classes, two in Feb. and two in November. Locations include Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, ?. Lara has contacted Skip Kincaid for his availability, and is awaiting a reply.
 - d. TTCC Pre-competition workshop – May – Kevin will follow up.
 - e. Certified Tree Worker Class/Test – Nevic Donnelly Chair: Several request received including Jimmy Pritchard in Feb. Nevic will hold a test in Austin first, to train Jimmy's team. Nevic and Jim Carse will assist with evaluating.
 - f. Tree Worker Trainings: SAAA Bilingual Tree Worker agreement renewed; Lower Valley Tree Worker needs agreement (70/30); TBUFC Tree Worker Training – ISAT will co-sponsor. Matt will follow up.

2015 ISAT
Events Calendar

2015	ISAT Event	Location	Committee	Chair	Notes
Jan 15, 15, 22, 23	Arboriculture 101	College Station	Executive Committee	EC	ISAT provides marketing services for flat fee
February 20, 2015	Emerald Ash Borer Workshop	Houston	Executive Committee	EC	ISAT provides marketing and registration 70/30 split
6-Mar-15	Certified Tree Worker Workshop	Austin, They Might Be Monkeys, 1402 E 5th Street	Ed Events - CTW	Donnelly	This will be a Climber Specialist only. This is a skills and written test and there are only ten spots to fill.
end of Feb. beginning March	TRAQ	Dallas, San Antonio	Ed Events - Commercial	Schuman	
Feb. / March	ISAT Board of Directors Meeting	Austin	Board	Smith	Quarterly Board Meeting
Feb. / March	Commercial Masters Series	Dallas, San Antonio, Austin	Ed Events - Commercial	Sultan	Appraisal? See PNW Chapter Educational Plan
March	TBUFC Tree Worker	Dallas		Grubisich	TBUFC don't need us except for promotion (Matt G)
March	Lower Valley Tree Worker	Brownsville	Executive Committee	EC	ISAT will handle registration like SAAA
March 21-22	ITCC Tampa, March 21-22	Tampa	ITCC Committee	Kevin Bassett, Carse	Leadership will be attending
20-Apr	SAAA Bilingual Tree Worker	San Antonio	Executive Committee	EC	ISAT does registration and 30/70 split
April or May	Municipal Masters Series	Austin/Dallas	Ed Events - Municipal	Grubisich	Paul Reis - Communication?
May	ISAT Board of Directors Meeting	Waco	Board	Smith	Quarterly Board Meeting
June	Oak Wilt ID and Management	Austin Wildflower Center	Executive Committee	EC	ISAT handles registration and expenses
June 12-14	Texas Tree Climbing Championship	New Braunfels?	TTCC Committee	Bassett	Also has pre-climb technical workshop on Thursday June 11th
July	ISAT Board of Directors Meeting	Waco	Board	Smith	Quarterly Board Meeting
Aug 8-12	ISA Conference Orlando Aug. 8-12	Orlando	ITCC Committee	Smith, Carse, Giedraitis, Schuman	Leadership will be attending
August?	Certified Tree Worker Workshop	Waxahachie or Grand Prairie	Ed Events - CTW	Donnelly	Jimmy Pritchard would like to host
Sep 30 - Oct 2, 2015	Texas Tree Conference	Waco	TTC Committee	Debrock	
Nov	TRAQ	Austin, Fort Worth	Ed Events - Commercial	Schuman	Austin, Fort Worth?
Dec	Retreat	College Station	Executive Committee	Debrock	Tonkaway Ranch
2016					
Mar	International Tree Climbing Competition				
Aug	International Tree Conference, Fort Worth				

Ed Committees: Commercial: Sultan (Chair),
 Dossett, Pace
 Municipal: Grubisich (Chair),
 Johnson & Johnson
 CT Worker: Donnelly (Chair), Carse,
 Smith, Pritchard

2014-2015 ISAT Committees

Board Members	Position	Chair
Officers		
Markus Smith	President	Governance
Vincent Debrock	President-Elect	2015 Tree Conference
Michael Sultan	Past-President	Nominations (Pres, Pres Elect, Vice Pres)
Lara Schuman	Vice-President	Educational Events Committee
Oscar Mestas	Editor	Newsletter
Lee Evans	Treasurer	Finance
Board of Directors		
Matt Churches		Scholarships and Student Liaison
Orlando De La Garza		Utility Workshop
Matt Churches		Arbor Day
Jim Dossett		Research
Matt Grubisich		Outreach
Terry Kirkland		Legislation
Micah Pace		Membership
Nevic Donnelly		Publicity
Jim Carse		Sponsors and Exhibitors
Liaisons		
Margaret Spencer	COR Liaison	Social Media
Misti Beirne	Certification Liaison	Certification
Committee		
	Chair	On Committees
Tree Climbing Championship	Kevin Bassett	Guy LeBlanc, Head Judge
Educational Events Committee	Lara Schuman	Certified Arborist Workshop Committee:
		Michael Sultan - Chair, Jim Dossett, Micah Pace
		Municipal Specialist Workshop Committee:
		Matt Grubisich - Chair, Susan Henson, Paul Johnson, Rebecca Johnson
		Certified Tree Worker Workshop Committee:
		Nevic Donnelly - Chair, Jim Carse, Markus Smith, Jimmy Pritchard
		Utility Arborist Workshop Committee:
		Orlando De La Garza - Chair, Matt Churches
2015 Tree Conference	Committee	
	Conference Chair	Vincent Debrock (Recruit and Coordinate Committee Chairs)
	Program	
	Commercial Track	Jim Dossett - Michael Sultan
	Municipal Track	Micah Pace, Paul Johnson, Brad Hammel
	Utility Track	Orlando De La Garza, Matt Churches - Rich Hendler, Ray Henning
	Academy	Micah Pace- Michael Sultan
	EHAP Training	Margaret Spencer
	Moderators	Kelly Eby
	Tree Schools	Mark Duff, Salvador Alemany
	Trade Show	Jim Carse
	Awards/Luncheon	Paul Johnson
	Student Program	Matt Churches
	Wed. Social	Michael Sultan
	Thurs. Reception	Michael Sultan
	Bookstore	John Warner
	Silent Auction	Terry Kirkland
	Fri Annual Meeting	Markus Smith and Vincent Debrock

2014-2015 ISAT Committees

	Audio Visual	Paul Johnson
	SWAG and T-Shirts	Lara Schuman
	CEU's and Testing	Misti Perez
	Evaluations	Gretchen Riley
	TFS Scholarships	Paul Johnson
	Logo	Vincent Debrock
	Administrative	John Giedraitis
		Assist Vincent and Committees
		Contract with Convention Center and Hilton Hotel
		Bid and Contract for Food
		Marketing, event brochure & on-site program
		Sponsors & Exhibitors Solicitation
		Signs
		Registration
		Evaluation
		Finances
2016 International Conference	Local Chair	Jim Carse
2016 ITCC Climbing	Local Chair	Kevin Bassett
2016 ITCC Arbor Fair and Symposium	Local Chair	Lara Shumann



Texas Chapter International Society of Arboriculture

International Texas Conference Committee

I would like to begin this report with a huge apologize for my absence from the Board Retreat and business meeting on December 12th. This is the first retreat that I have missed since we started having them. It was due to a procedure I had done to my knee on Wednesday. This had been scheduled for months with the thought that Melinda and I would be driving together. Melinda was unable to make it at the last minute and I thus could not drive. When I woke up and my knee was the size of a large Cantaloupe it became apparent that I would not be able to make it.

I was confused when I was asked by our President not to come and spend the night with the group and work on the Conference agenda. The President indicated that there would be too many questions asked about me spending the night and whether the ISAT Board would cover the cost. I then inquired about arrival time for Friday and was told anytime because someone might have some questions on the history of some of our past decisions. Therefore it seemed that the agenda did not allow enough time to go over the conference duties and responsibilities as a chapter.

I apologize for not submitting a written report on the conference progress that has been accomplished by Melinda Adams and myself. We have met several times and the following will give you an idea of what has been done and what we have left to work on or with.

When a chapter hosts an International Conference they add their appointed local conference chair becomes a member of the International Conference and Events Committee. It was this committee that I met with in Atlanta. During this meeting we reviewed and rewrote the packet sent to Chapters for providing their bid to host an International Conference. We then evaluated the sites submitted for International Conference 2019. Although this was very interesting and exciting it had nothing to do with the event that we are throwing in 2016 in Fort Worth but will help the bidding process for Chapters for any future events. There is a huge amount of work that went into this process last year.

The Local Chapter is responsible for forming a committee of volunteers to assist with aspects of the event outlined in the Local Committee Manual, providing guidance and background information regarding facilities and activities within their region, making suggestions on areas and organizations of local interest, coordinating and managing onsite volunteers, assisting with logistical aspects of the event, and promoting the event within the region. We finally received the manual just before our state conference this year. There has been no other communication with International other than receiving the manual. Melinda and I started work immediately trying to fill the local committee chairs and have

contacted several people and started to fill chairman with local personnel we feel can handle the work load etc... This will be submitted to the board when complete. Several of ISAT Board personnel will be recruited for chairs on the committees but the Board needs to be free to fill in when and where needed and generally put out fires ect...

We would not have known about providing the theme if I had not roomed with the lady in the bookstore from ISA. The other area or Committees we have been working on are

Conference Theme and Logo: We need to submit 3 themes that keep the local area and ISA as parts of the theme in some fashion. The actual logo artwork is done by International with our input.

Chapter Exhibits: The local Chapter will be given a 10X10 space at the conference the year before to promote their chapter International Conference. We are also given a booth at the conference where we may produce (at our cost) memorabilia with the Conference or Chapter logo to sell in this space.

Tree Academy Workshops: Local Chapter provides suggestions and ISA has final say on type and number

Registration: ISA Staff is responsible for all registration –related tasks. Volunteers may be requested for assistance in providing information and other tasks

Volunteer Coordination: The Local Chapter will organize volunteers for tasks outlined by the Meetings and Events Manager. Volunteers maybe needed for but not limited to hospitality/information, ticket collection, Arbor Fair events, and staffing the speaker ready room

Opening Reception: This is hosted by ISA who will fund the event through registrations. Special requests from the local chapter will be considered but if it exceeds existing budget the local chapter will pick up the costs

Exhibits and Sponsorships: All exhibitors and sponsorship contracts will be arranged by ISA Staff and all monies will be processed through the ISA headquarters.

Arbor Fair: The Local Committee is responsible for planning activities that would appeal to the local community. Arbor Fair is held at the ITCC site.

There is much more to each Committee but this is a rough over view. Melinda and I have been working on and soliciting members and several organizations to help with several defined areas. Melinda has a working relationship with the local Tourist and Information Bureau and is working on local trips for spouses, families and friends to take. I have been working on entertainment to include talking with several bands about availability and costs. The organizations contacted that have committed are Trinity Blackland Urban Forestry Council, Crosstimbers Urban Forestry Council, Keep Denton Beautiful, Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful, Citizen Foresters, Shade Makers, the new Denton Community Forest organization, City of Grand Prairie, City of Fort Worth Forestry Department and Tourist and Information Bureau.

In addition we have been talking with local representatives of larger companies that are very willing to help. Although the communication from ISA has been nothing more than a conference manual we have been working diligently to make this one of the best conferences ever. Sorry for not sending this soon although I had been providing verbal input to our President apparently I did not send or do enough to inform the board of our current status so I apologize once again and hope this helps relieve some concerns.

ITCC/TTCC Report by: Kevin Bassett – 12-05-14

We had a good year. A great TTCC in New Braunfels ran about as smooth as any competition, I've ever been involved with. Even though our Champion, Vicente Pena- Molina was unable to go to the ITCC due to injury, our second place finisher Miguel Pastenes represented us very well and finished 11th overall. Miguel was also 4th in the North American TCC earlier in the year.

Due to the change of event timing for the ITCC in 2015 we held a Master's only Competition in concert with the ISAT conference in Waco. The core team did a great job. Five climbers were invited based on their points earned at the 2014 TTCC in New Braunfels. Four of the five competed and an ITCC representative was chosen for the 2015 ITCC to be held in Tampa, Florida next March. Miguel Pastenes won that honor with a near flawless climb of a difficult and large Pecan Tree in the Pecan Bottoms area of Cameron Park in Waco.

The ITCC Chair (Andrew Hordyke) and ISA Staff member (Kara Stachowiak) came down to the San Antonio/ New Braunfels area the Week before Thanksgiving. Mark Bird, Kelley Eby, Guy LeBlanc and I meet with them and toured a number of potential ITCC sites in New Braunfels and San Antonio. So far, I have not been informed of any decisions regarding the date or place for the 2016 ITCC.

The 2015 TTCC will be held in Fort Worth some flexibility still exist as to the date however there are good reasons to change the date to the second weekend in June. With your approval, I will reserve Trinity Park for June 10th- June 13th. I plan to follow the normal program: Wednesday June 10th event set up, Thursday June 11th all day Seminar with a topic aimed at field work/ climber safety (Topic and Presenter to be determined – input welcomed), Friday June 12th Preliminary Events, Saturday June 13th TTCC Master's Challenge Finals. Once again any and all ideas for a Tree Fair, Non-Profit participation etc. for Saturday are welcomed. Kelly Eby took on this task last year and once again, I am looking for someone to pick up this ball and run it in for a touchdown. Guy and I are nearing the end of our commitment for this event. We have managed to put together a solid team of volunteers to handle all of the various tasks involved in making this event run well. After this 2015 TTCC which will choose our competitor for the 2016 ITCC we will be down to our last hurrah which will be the 2016 TTCC. By that time, hopefully, we will have the next generation of TTCC leadership in place to carry on this great event into the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Bassett
TTCC Chair, ITCC Chapter Liason