

2004 Texas Community Forestry Awards

David Appel, Outstanding Professional of the Year and Texas Arborist of the Year

Outstanding Professional Award - Recognition of a professional individual for his or her contribution to urban forestry activities within a community. Nominees may include executive directors, municipal foresters, private arborists, educators, etc.



Dr. David Appel is a Professor and Associate Department Head in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology at Texas A&M University. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the TAMU Forest Science Department. He began his career with Texas A&M in 1981 as an Assistant Professor. His first research project concerned the nature of widespread oak mortality in central Texas, which led to a long, continuous study of the diagnosis, epidemiology and control of oak

wilt. Other plant diseases he has worked on include Hypoxylon canker and decline of post oak, pitch canker of Virginia pine, Phymatotrichum root rot in apples, Pierces'e disease of grapes, and most recently Giant Asian dodder and sudden oak death.

In addition to the 50% research appointment in the Texas Agricultural Experiment station, Dr. Appel's academic appointment includes 40% teaching in the College of Agriculture. His teaching career has included courses in graduate and undergraduate plant pathology, urban forestry, arboriculture, forest protection, and environmental regulations. He has also educated a number of graduate students (several of which are here with us tonight!).

Dr. Appel's academic appointment consists of a rare three way split, in which he has a 10% appointment with Texas Cooperative Extension. His service responsibilities have included cooperative projects with numerous other agencies, and he has given hundreds of homeowner meetings, workshops, training sessions, conferences and papers at scientific meetings.

Among his accomplishments, Dr. Appel should be most proud of these:

1. Increasing our understanding of oak wilt in Texas,
2. The use of technology to develop practical, successful controls of oak wilt that have widespread application in Texas and throughout the nation,
3. The success of his graduate students in promoting tree health in Texas,
4. The cooperative relationships he has participated in with state and federal agencies, in particular TCE, TFS, TDA, TNLA and the USFS, and lastly, working closely with the arboriculture industry in Texas to find the answers to difficult tree health problems in Texas.