



In the shade



INSIDE:
Replanting Bastrop State Park
A great year for saltcedar leaf beetles
Poda de árboles jóvenes
HAUFC tree planting competition

NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

Vol. 36, No. 6

March, 2013



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Susan Henson



Fellow Arborists and Tree People,

As we spring into another season of planning, planting, pruning, irrigation, mulching etc., it becomes apparent that we have our work carved out for us. Your membership in ISA is helping us to achieve the lofty goals of developing forests in urban and rural areas by keeping us up to date with the newest research and practices in arboriculture. Your chapter of ISA is helping by bringing these developments to the many different regions of Texas.

The first workshop making the rounds to our different regions is the Master Series – Wood Decay Identification and Assessment Training, presented by Dr. Chris Luley. He is distinguished in our field and has a wide scope of technical expertise and experience in urban forest management and research, advanced diagnostics and pest management, training and education, tree risk assessment and treatments for use in advanced plant health care. This is just the start of our regional workshops, so watch the newsletter and website for more.

While we are on the subject of great speakers and topics we would like you to consider our call for presentations for the Texas Tree Conference to be held in Waco on Oct. 2 – 4. You are probably working on or have recently finished a project that would be worth sharing with your fellow arborists. We can all learn from each other. We all know Texas is a unique environment for arboriculture, and by sharing our knowledge and experience we all learn how to work with what we have and make this a better place to live, work and play. Maybe you know of a speaker that you have heard recently that would make a nice fit for the conference. Drop us a line and give us their name so we can expand our speaker base and knowledge.

If you don't like giving presentations there are several ways you can help the organization and thus the tree industry in Texas. You could start by volunteering to help with conference registration, vendors, speakers etc. How about working one of the local workshops? We have a huge climbing competition coming up in Plano on May 16–18, and we could use all the help we can get! Kevin Bassett is chairman this year and is taking the event to a new level with workshops, food and fun for all ages! Bring the family and make a day of fun and education for all!

We look forward to seeing you at one of the many workshops, the climbing competition, and/or the conference this year. Please, remember that we are your Board and work for you. Let us know how we can help or what would help us become a better organization for all our members. There are no penalties for asking questions but if you don't ask we will never know.

Susan J. Henson, Horticulturist/Arborist
President, ISAT

2013 ISAT Masters Series: Wood Decay Identification and Assessment Workshop

Do you want to stand apart from the crowd, take your arboricultural career to the next level, and add to your growing list of credentials? If so, then the ISA Texas Chapter Master Series Wood Decay Identification and Assessment Training Workshop is for you!



Dr. Chris Luley will present this training March 20 in Houston and March 21 in Austin.



2012 officially the hottest year on record

For you weather geeks, 2012 marked the warmest year on record for the contiguous United States with the year consisting of a record warm spring, second warmest summer, fourth warmest winter and a warmer-than-average autumn. The average temperature for 2012 was 55.3°F, 3.2°F above the 20th century average, and 1.0°F above 1998, the previous warmest year.



The economy and Texas' green industry

TNLA survey results are out: Green is big business in Texas. It has a total economic contribution of \$17.97 billion in output, 200,303 jobs, and \$10.7 billion in added value.

To view a report summary, go to www.tnlagreen.org/tnlagreen/20130102#pg30

COVER PHOTO:

Spring flowering of Mexican plum at the University of Texas at El Paso. Photo by Oscar Mestas.

Save the Date:
SMA Conference Nov. 5



Mark your calendar for the 2013 International Society of Municipal Arborists Annual Conference and Trade Show November 5 in Pittsburgh, PA. Workshops will be held on November 4.

Plan to stay in Pittsburgh for the annual Partners in Urban Forestry Conference, which follows November 6 and 7.

Note: The 2012 SMA Conference Livecast is available for viewing until March 15. You may choose to view the entire livecast at one time or view in segments until that date. For more information, visit <http://www.urban-forestry.com/>

ArborMaster returns March 19-23

ArborMaster returns to Texas this month! Please plan to join us for hands-on in the field training in San Antonio March 19-23:

- L1 Tree Climbing Methods, Work Positioning and Best Practice: March 19-21.
- L1 Precision Tree Felling, Chainsaw Handling and Safety: March 22-23.

For more information or to register, contact ArborMaster at 860-429-5028 or visit www.ArborMaster.com.

Register for ISA Conference in Toronto

Registration is now available for the 2013 ISA Annual International Conference and Trade Show in Toronto August 3-7.

Learn about trees and diversity, trees and disaster recovery, tree risk assessment, and other new research and trends in the industry.

Also enjoy networking with other arboriculture professionals while attending the International Tree Climbing Championship, trade show, and other events.

This year's educational topics include:

Tree Academy Workshops (Aug. 3-4)

(Earn up to 12 CEUs)

- Tree Risk Assessment
- Tree Problem Diagnostics
- Advanced Tree Biology
- International Tree Failure Database
- Structural Pruning
- How to Talk Trees

Educational Sessions (August 5-7)

(Earn up to 16 CEUs)

- Innovations in Urban Forestry Research
- Tree Biomechanics
- Tree Risk Assessment
- Issues in Urban Forestry
- Three Symposia
- Trees and People

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Featured Keynote Speaker – Karl J. Niklas, 'What We Don't Know about Tree Biomechanics: A Biophysical Perspective on Why Trees Fall Down'

Climbers' Corner (August 5-6)

(Earn up to 6 CEUs)

- Redirects in Rope Systems
- Ergonomic Awareness and Safety for the Tree Care Worker
- Tree Climbing Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines
- Promoting a Positive Safety Culture

Register by May 31 for the lowest registration rates.

ISA

Member:

\$445 USD

Non-member: \$575 USD

See the conference site

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/conference/index.aspx>

for details on registration, housing, and all conference sessions, events, and activities. Keep watching!



Wildlife & Woodland Expo March 23

The 2013 Texas Wildlife & Woodland Expo and Spring Fling is designed to help families learn a little about the land on which they live – and how to best take care of it – through hands-on

clinics, live demonstrations and children's activities.

The event will be held Saturday March 23 from 10 am to 4 pm at Lone Star College-Montgomery, 3200 College Park Drive in Conroe. Activities include:

- Advanced training and volunteer opportunities for Texas Master Gardeners and Texas Master Naturalists.

- Badge opportunities for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Visit <http://expo.tamu.edu>.



2013 TTCC is looking for volunteers

The ISA Texas Tree Climbing Championship will be held in Plano (just northeast of Dallas) on Friday May 17 and Saturday May 18. We are looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks from judging and scorekeeping to set-up and “tech-ing.”

Most volunteers will need to commit to being available both Friday and at least part of Saturday, and Sunday is reserved as a rain day. If you are interested only in helping with setup, we need competent pruners for Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday will be a workshop with three-time interna-

tional tree climbing champion Mark Chisholm.

This is a really fun event, with the most opportunities our ISA chapter offers its members for learning a variety of tree care techniques from dozens of participants and spectators, all for free. Just give us some of your time and be part of the team. We need to determine who’s got the biggest throwballs in Texas.

We’ll give you lunch, a limited edition T-shirt (almost guaranteed to be free of spelling errors) and as many CEUs as we can con out of the chapter.

If you are interested, contact head judge Guy LeBlanc at 512-301-8700 and leave your contact info including email, and what you are interested in doing to help (no guarantees). Those interested in competing should go to isatexas.com to download a registration.

SIGN UP EARLY! Both volunteering and competing spots are limited.

–Guy LeBlanc



Texas 2010 Champion Abram Zies competing in the aerial rescue event at the International Tree Climbing Championship in Chicago.

New Texas ISA Members

Timothy M. Brosnan	Austin
Margo Marie Cummings	Richardson
Don Felan	Prosper
Bart A. Karber	Dallas
Gary M. O’Neil	Tomball
Peter Rausch	Little Rock
Aaron Friar	Lufkin
Daniel E. Valadez, Sr.	San Antonio
Jason P. Donnelly	Austin
Carla Picinich	Fort Hood
Dennis Houy	Fredericksburg
Allen Z. Matthies	Midland
Brad Palermo	Houston
Jonathan E. Cates	Hutto
Jason Paul Gladden	Lubbock
Justin Roth	Montgomery
Steven R. Wright	Wylie
Barrett Fannin	Frisco
Nathan Abbott	Austin
Joshua T. Finley	Dripping Springs
John E. Macha	Richmond
Jeff Moore	Corpus Christi
David A. Wong	Dallas
Tiffany McGallian	Houston
Mark W. Mann	San Antonio
David Kearns	College Station
Austin Kirmer	San Antonio
Bryan Koepke	Cedar Park
Greg Gundersen	Cedar Park
James F. Gobel	Round Rock
Greyson Lamb Rennels	Muleshoe
Ross Womack	Bryan



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2012: a very good year for saltcedar leaf beetles in Texas!

by Allen Knutson, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

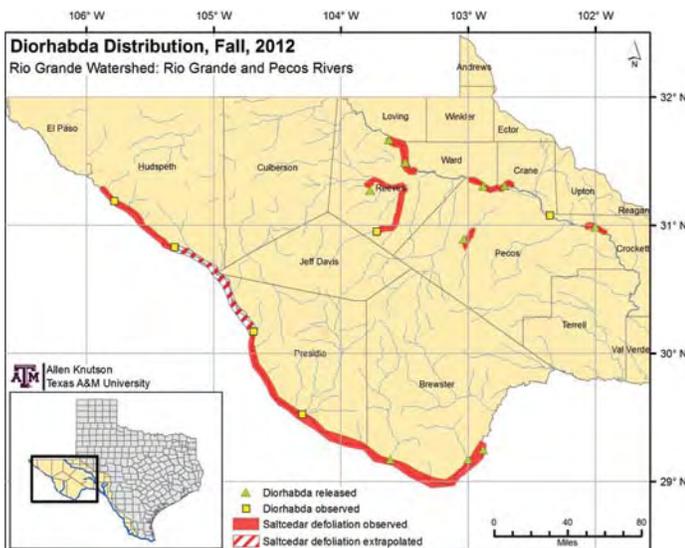
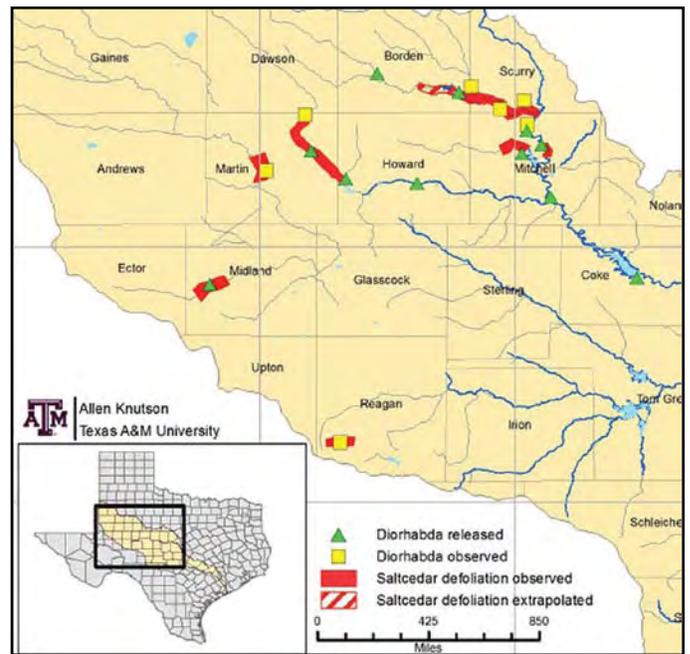
During 2012, saltcedar leaf beetle populations increased and dispersed at many locations across the state and more saltcedar trees were defoliated than ever before. After the early February 2011 freeze, beetle populations were low or absent at many sites last summer. However, the mild winter of 2011-2012 favored survival of overwintering beetles. This was followed by an early spring and dry summer which allowed beetle numbers to further increase and disperse. Although the 2011 record drought took a heavy toll on farms, ranches and water supplies, these dry conditions seem to favor increase of saltcedar leaf beetles. If the winter of 2012-2013 is again mild, leaf beetles should return in force next year.



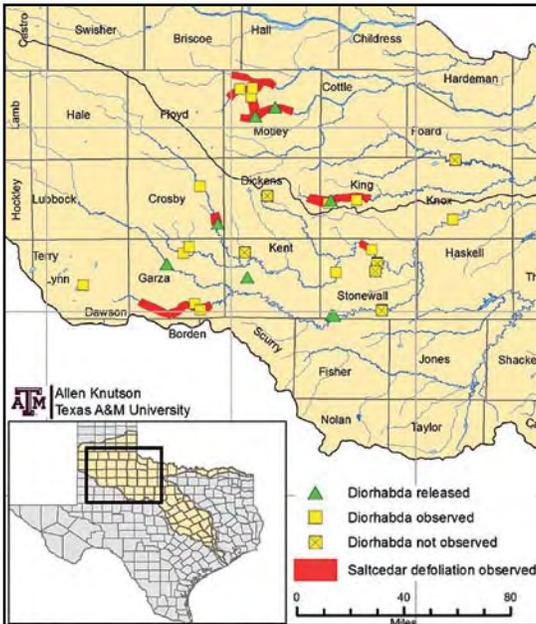
There are now three species of leaf beetle established in Texas; the Uzbek beetle in the Panhandle, the Mediterranean (Crete) leaf beetle on the Upper Colorado River, and the subtropical leaf beetle (Tunisian) on the Pecos and Rio Grande Rivers.

Rio Grande, Pecos Rivers. The Mediterranean leaf beetle, originally imported from Crete, was released on the Pecos River in 2006 and defoliated saltcedar trees along 11 river miles. However, following the prolonged freeze, of February 2011, none were found and this species is now believed to be absent from this region. A second species, the subtropical leaf beetle (Tunisian) was released at five sites on the Pecos River in 2010-2011 and quickly established and increased. During 2012, this species, originally collected from Tunisia, defoliated large acreages of saltcedar along the Pecos River and adjacent areas (see map).

The subtropical tamarisk beetles was also released on the Rio Grande River during 2009-2010 and rapidly increased and dispersed. During the past two years, this species has defoliated almost all of the saltcedar along the Rio Grande River from Big Bend National Park upriver to Candelaria, where the road ends. Beetles apparently continued to move upriver during 2012, through the "Forgotten River" section, until mid-August when a rancher reported beetles on the river at Indian Hot Springs in Hudspeth County. By October, beetles were defoliating saltcedar trees within 40 miles of El Paso.

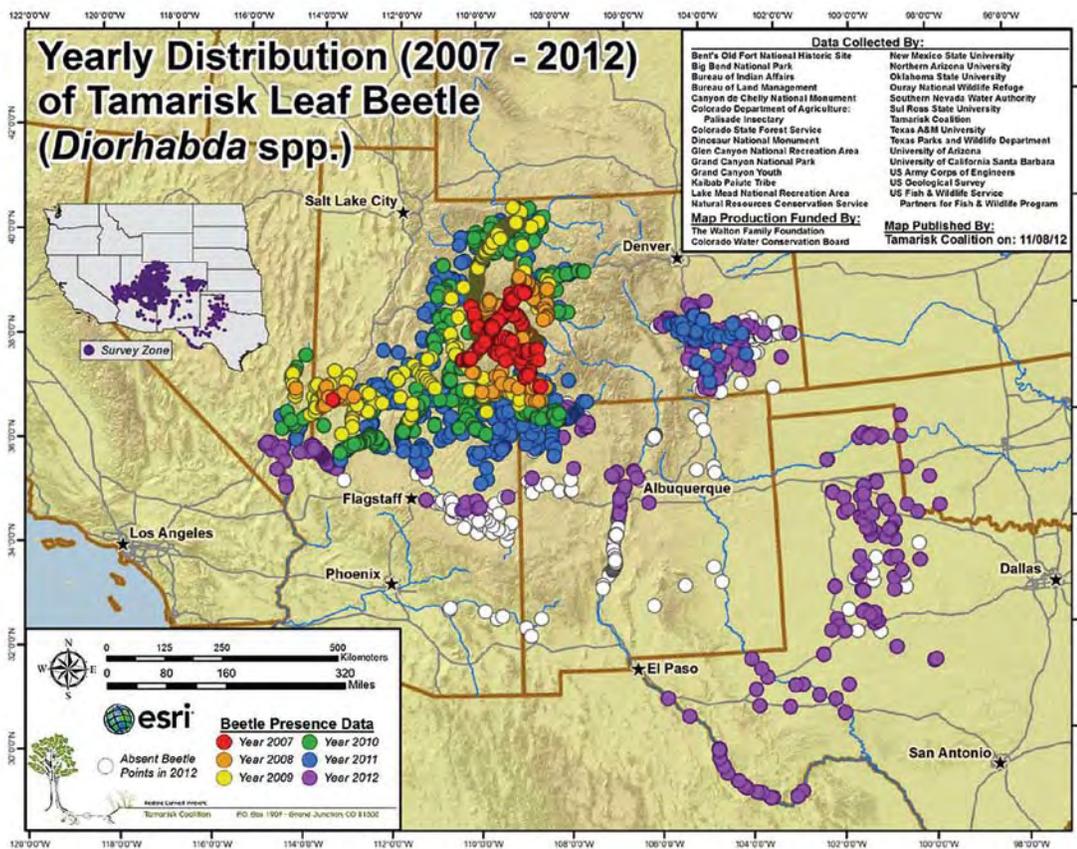


Colorado and Concho. Large populations of the Mediterranean leaf beetle defoliated extensive stands of saltcedar stretching along Sulphur Springs Draw in Martin County and also at Lake Thomas. Beetles also defoliated saltcedar along the Colorado River in Mitchell County. However, this species has been slow to recover in Howard County. Small populations were present at Lake Spence and Lake Ivie but disappeared following the February 2011 freeze. Overall, the Mediterranean has not increased or dispersed as rapidly as has the two other species in Texas. Large numbers of the subtropical tamarisk beetle have been released at Lake Ivie and Lake Spence during 2011-2012, but are not yet established.



Brazos and Red Rivers. Both the Mediterranean (Crete) and Uzbek species, *D. carinata*, are present in this area. The Uzbek beetle, originally collected from Uzbekistan, defoliated miles of saltcedar along the Pease River in Motley County while the Mediterranean species defoliated trees along most of the Wichita River in King County, saltcedar infestations on White River Lake and along the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River in southern Garza County. A few beetles were found at sites in Knox, Stonewall, and as far west as Lynn County. These are early “pioneer” beetles that disperse far and wide from established populations.

Canadian and Red Rivers. The most surprising event in 2012 was the discovery of the Uzbek beetle in the Texas Panhandle and its rapid spread. This species was released at several sites during 2005-2009, but was not seen again until 2012 when it suddenly defoliated large areas of saltcedar on the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River, the Red River and the Canadian River. Surveys by Texas AgriLife Research found *D. carinata* in Hutchinson, Roberts, Hemphill, Gray, Wheeler, Armstrong, Donely, Collingsworth, Childress, Randal, Cottle, Motley, Briscoe and Hall counties. Tom Royer at Oklahoma State University reported beetles defoliating trees in adjacent Oklahoma.



Thanks to Jesse Lanci and the Tamarisk Coalition for providing this map. For more information on the TC, go to tamariskcoalition.org

The saltcedar leaf beetle feeds only on saltcedar and athel. Athel is a closely related species that grows along the Rio Grande River in Texas. If saltcedar or athel trees are not present, the larvae starve to death. Saltcedar beetles were first established in Texas in 2004 at Big Spring, TX. Since then, there have been no reports of beetles or larvae feeding on any other plant, except saltcedar and its close relative athel (*Tamarix aphylla*). Larvae of the saltcedar leaf beetle feed on saltcedar leaves and tender bark. Larvae feed for about 12-14 days during the summer. Full grown larvae are about 1/3 inch long. Several generations are completed per year. The adult stage overwinters on the ground under leaf litter and in clump grasses.



EDITOR'S NOTE by Oscar Mestas

Spring is just around the corner. Officially it begins March 20. I think of a new beginning, time to dust things off, toss out the old and try something new. With that being said, you all may or may not have noticed the recent change in the cover of *In the Shade*. The last three issues have been photos. November was the marquee at the Waco convention center, January was the state champion Afghan pine, March is a Mexican plum in bloom. We would like to continue with the cover photo concept.

What I need from you, the members, are good quality digital photos. I know we have a lot of upcoming professional photographers out there who would like to see one of their pictures on the cover. For clarity and quality, we would like a 300 ppi digital photo in portrait or vertical orientation, with a minimum size of 1800 x 2700 pixels. I can't promise it will make the cover, but we will catalog it and keep it in reserve for a possible later issue. Photo content should be tree/arboreal related. Please don't send photos that can be construed as commercial or advertisements. What I mean by that is the photo could be one of your climbers, a significant or historic tree in your community, or a closeup of a flowering redbud branch, but not a tree photo with XYZ Tree service logo prominent in the foreground; I think you get my drift.

Also we are looking to highlight ISAT members. If you know a Texas member who deserves recognition, send me a note at omestas@tfs.tamu.edu and nominate them for a possible spot in the newsletter. Finally we are also looking for general candid people photos of you and your crew and/or employees.

Who doesn't like to see themselves in print? I think it's cool when I'm flipping through a newspaper, magazine or newsletter and there's a photo of me or someone I know. Don't we all have that little bit of celebrity narcissism in us? Once again, if you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter send them to me at omestas@tfs.tamu.edu.

TCIA hires Texas/Louisiana Regional Outreach Coordinator

Margaret Hall Spencer, an active member of ISA Texas, is now the Texas/Louisiana Regional Outreach Coordinator for the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA). She will continue to do consulting work with Dr. Todd Watson.

In her new position, Margaret will facilitate increased participation in TCIA programs via regional workshops that address both owner and employee needs, including EHAP, CTSP, Chipper Safety and other Tree Care Academy training programs, PHC Implementation, and Business Boot Camp. She will organize member gatherings, attend regional meetings, conduct individual company outreach visits, and work to strengthen the position and visibility of professional tree care with the public and in the green industry.

TCIA's mission is to advance tree care businesses. They develop safety and education programs, standards of tree care practice, and management information for arboriculture firms around the world.

For more information about TCIA, contact Margaret at mspencer@tcia.org.



Margaret Hall Spencer

Member Spotlight: Ed Dolphin

Taking Care of Nature is a Privilege and a Calling

A funny thing happened to Ed Dolphin on the way to becoming a lawyer. Armed with a political science degree from Abilene Christian University, he started filling out applications for law school, but filling out the applications made him sick to his stomach! Something seemed to be telling him he was not meant for a career in law.

He spent several years in another field, and he began having thoughts like: ‘I hate wearing a tie. . . . I enjoy working outdoors. . . . I like getting my hands in dirt.’ He realized that the green industry would be a natural fit.

So in 1998 he went to work for Arbor Care Inc., and in 2001 he became a Certified Arborist. “Tree care is the original green industry,” he says, tracing it back to the book of Genesis where God told Adam to care for His garden.

When Ed looks at a plant, he is sometimes in awe of how everything has to come together for this thing to thrive – enough water but not too much, and just the right nutrients. For Ed, being a caretaker of nature is a privilege and a calling. There’s no doubt in his mind that God was nudging him in this direction all along.

After working for others for more than a two decades, Ed started developing his own business plan. He joined forces

with a partner who has a forestry background, and in January they launched Grandiflora Services, LLC (<http://www.grandifloraservices.com>). The new firm offers an unusual combination of services: tree care, forest management and rainwater harvesting.



Adding forest management to standard tree care services makes sense in Ed’s location: The Woodlands, north Harris County, and Montgomery County. This heavily wooded area is located at the western edge of the Great Piney Forest that stretches from east Texas to the east coast.

At one point timber and paper companies owned a sizable portion of this land, but sold large acreage tracts to individuals and investment companies that wanted to diversify their portfolios.

Grandiflora offers management plans that allow the land to be tax exempt and that help the owners gain the highest yield from their investment. These plans integrate wildlife, timber and recreation use.

Grandiflora is also one of the first companies in its service area to offer the design and installation of complete rainwater harvesting systems. Rainwater harvesting is not as well established in the Houston area as in some other parts of Texas, and Ed sees a promising future in helping solve water problems while cultivating this underdeveloped market. They are members of ARCA–American Rainwater Catchment Association.

“Plants will take any water they can get, but they prefer rainwater,” says Ed. “Overuse of groundwater is a problem for everybody.” We need to change how we use water, he says, and sees rainwater harvesting as a part of a transition to more sustainable water use.

Ed is an enthusiastic outdoorsman, active in a variety of outdoor sports, including hunting, fishing, hiking and geocaching. In addition to being a board member of ISAT, he is also a Certified Texas Master Naturalist; an Assistant Scoutmaster; a member of Legacy Outfitters, a Christian men’s outdoor group; and a Director Consultant with BNI, a business networking group. Ed and Anne, his wife of 20 years, are parents of Sarah, 15, and Andrew, 13.

ED’S MS 150 BIKE RIDE

Ed and his wife Anne will be participating in the MS 150 bike ride April 20–21 from Houston to Austin. Part of their commitment is to raise \$400 each for the MS Society to fund research to overcome this debilitating disease.

To support Ed’s ride and contribute to this worthy cause, or for more information, please go to: http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/TXHBikeEvents?px=11631393&pg=personal&fr_id=20226



Board Certified Master Arborists Paul Johnson and Jeff Lehde prune roots at the Brazos County Master Gardener root pruning workshop and air spade demonstration in Bryan.

New National Tree Planting Standards Released



The American National Standards Institute has approved a major revision to ANSI A300 (part 6)-2012 which brings industry consensus around tree planting. The initial standard only covered transplanting, and is now expanded to include initial planting.

The new standard provides guidelines on objectives, plant and site inspection, tools and equipment, digging the hole, installing woody plants, support systems, and post-planting care practices.

You can purchase a copy of this standard from the ISA: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/store/product.aspx?ProductID=129>.

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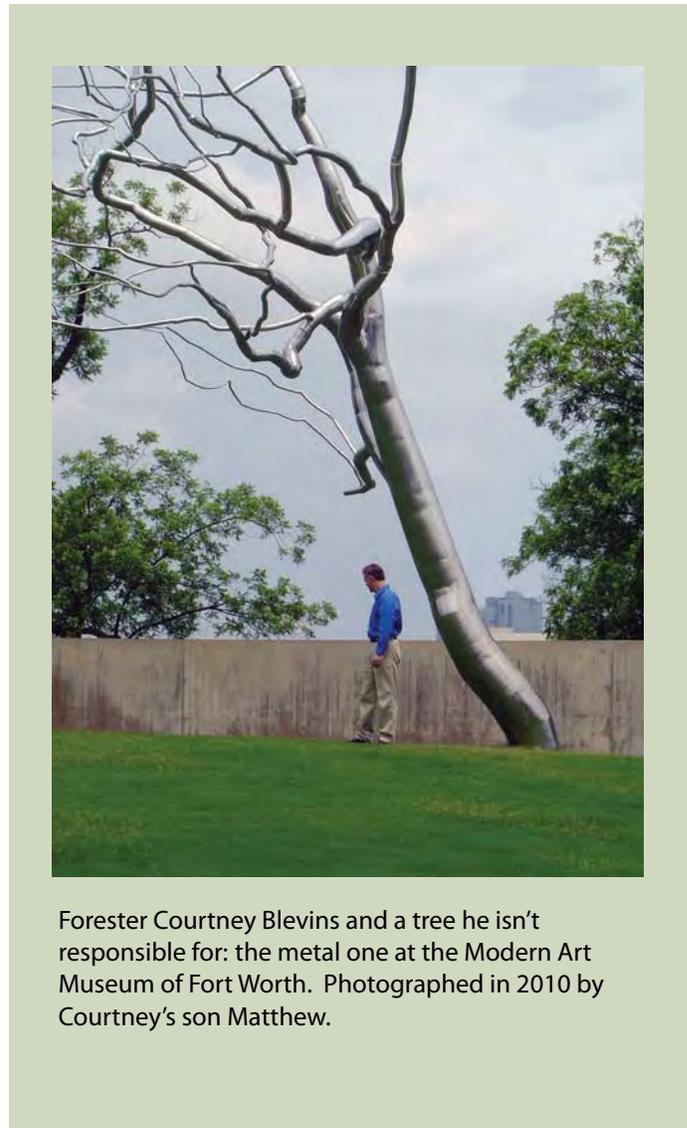
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info@dlarborist.com
859-252-2529



Forester Courtney Blevins and a tree he isn't responsible for: the metal one at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. Photographed in 2010 by Courtney's son Matthew.

Arbor Day events help fund more trees in McAllen



Mark Kroeze, McAllen City Forester, officially proclaimed February 9 as Arbor Day to the City Council. Also on hand were Carlos Sanchez, Public Works Director; Chris Lash, Recycling Director; and Michelle Romero, Keep McAllen Beautiful Board President. The McAllen Arbor Day Challenge will be celebrated annually to raise money for the city tree fund.

In a first for the city, a long stretch of a major thoroughfare in McAllen was closed to traffic to celebrate Arbor Day and promote urban tree planting.

Bicentennial Boulevard, between Pecan Avenue and Nolana Avenue, was closed off February 9 for a full day of Arbor Day events, including a family fun walk/run, a 5K run, a 10K run, a 20-mile bike tour and a 30-mile bike race.

“The idea is to establish a tree fund that will be used to buy and plant more trees throughout the city,” said Salvador Alemany, Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Urban Forester in Weslaco. “We’re also hoping that Arbor Day becomes a large annual event, like the Fourth of July.”

Plans called for the first 300 people to register for any of the events to receive a free t-shirt and free tree saplings valued between \$50 and \$75, along with information on proper planting and care. Prizes were awarded to the first three finishers in each event.



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Last month hundreds of Texas A&M University students joined forces with the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) and Texas Parks and Wildlife to help replant Bastrop State Park, devastated in 2011 by the most damaging wildfire in Texas history.

In two weekends, 800 Aggies planted approximately 30,000 loblolly pine seedlings. The student volunteers were led by Aggie Replant, a student environmental organization. TFS

and partner nurseries grew the seedlings from genetically unique seeds, and TFS foresters worked alongside Bastrop State Park rangers to train the students in proper planting technique.

Since wildfire recovery replanting started in December, 214,089 seedlings have been planted at the park. The park has reopened, including all campgrounds, cabins and almost all trails



At tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/bastrop you can find complete Bastrop State Park visitor information and the latest on wildfire recovery. To find out more about seedling distribution and other restoration and recovery efforts visit the Lost Pines Recovery Team website at bastroprecovery.org/.

Aggie Replant student volunteers form backdrop for (front row, from left) State Forester Tom Boggus, State Rep. Tim Kleinschmidt, State Sen. Kirk Watson, Park Superintendent Janie Hackett, and Texas Parks & Wildlife Commissioner Bill Jones.

Students give the gig 'em sign after finding a natural seedling.



Texas A&M University Chancellor John Sharp addresses students at kickoff event.

Seedling plug on its way to a new home.



Replant volunteers planting a seedling in Bastrop State Park.

Houston celebrates the importance of trees

Residents in Harris County kicked off the new year with an Arbor Day celebration that served as a continuation of the “Replant Houston” effort, dedicated to reforesting parks devastated by the 2011 drought.

TFS Foresters Mickey Merritt and Matt Weaver were instrumental in the event on January 26, which drew hundreds of volunteers.

The group planted 25,000 trees “to celebrate the fact that we’ve been recognized as a Tree City USA for 25 years in a row,” said City Forester Victor Cordova.

Apache Foundation’s 3 millionth tree being planted. ▶

Forester Mickey Merritt presents a Tree City USA plaque to Houston Mayor Annise Parker. ▼



Austin has one of the top ten urban forests in the USA

In February 2013, American Forests named Austin one of the top ten urban forests in the United States. American Forests is one of the oldest national non-profits. They are involved in a variety of important forest projects, from restoring endangered warbler habitat to re-foresting monarch butterfly roosting habitat in Central Mexico.

Austin is in good company with the other cities on the top ten list, including Portland, New York, Denver, and Seattle. Many of the other cities are in a much more tree-friendly climate where it rains frequently. The fact that Austin achieved this honor amidst a prolonged drought is impressive. The complete top ten list, with photos, is at www.americanforests.org/our-programs/urbanforests/10-best-cities-for-urban-forests/.

Much of the credit goes to the City of Austin's Urban Forestry Department (austinurbanforestry.org) and local non-profit TreeFolks (treefolks.org). Both groups work tirelessly to ensure the health and longevity of the city's urban forest.

Austin also continues to be dedicated to the creation of wildlife habitat. The Wildlife Austin program (www.keeptaustinwild.com) encourages citizens to garden for wildlife and incorporate native plants and trees into their landscapes. As of December, 2012, Austin had almost 2,000 certified wildlife habitats.

– Erin Cord, Wildlife Austin

An aerial view of downtown with one of Austin's most popular places, Zilker Park, in the foreground. An Austin City Limits Festival crowd can be seen at left of photo.



What's the Big IDEa?

Can you identify this native Texas species?



If you know this tree, correctly identify it on our facebook page. If you don't know it, check the page for the answer in a few days!

Hint: Dendrology 101



How to enter: Log onto our facebook page and type in both the common and scientific name. We will check the page daily until the tree has been correctly identified, confirming the correct answer.

Last month's winner

Jennifer Hrobar, Urban Forestry Supervisor at UT Austin, wins again, with a little help from former ISAT president Jim Carse. They correctly identified last month's tree, nutmeg hickory, *Carya myristiciformis*.



130 volunteers plant 1,300 trees in two hours at HAUFC Tree Planting Competition

More than 130 volunteers planted 1,300 trees in less than two hours February 9 as part of the 6th annual Houston Area Urban Forestry Council (HAUFC) Arbor Day Tree Planting Competition.

Twelve 11-member teams in professional, amateur and student divisions competed to see which team could plant 100 trees in the shortest amount of time. Co-sponsors with HAUFC were the Harris County Flood Control District and the Texas A&M Forest Service.

Each 11-member team – 10 diggers and one captain – was assigned 100 5-gallon trees, a mound of mulch, and a designated area. Teams worked against the clock to plant the trees according to established guidelines, using only hand tools.

BIO Landscape and Maintenance won first place in the professional division and turned in the best score of the whole event: 17 minutes, 42 seconds. In the amateur category, a team from the Houston Alumni Chapter of Sam Houston State University won first place with a time of 48 minutes. The Memorial High School Mustang Outreach Bunch

(MOB) was the only student team, with a time of one hour, 11 minutes and 31 seconds.

Here are the results for all 12 teams:

Organization	Captain	Time
Professional:		
BIO Landscape and Maintenance	Rafael Bega	00:17:42
Asplundh	Jeff Vining	00:36:27
Lewis Tree Company	Gary Elliot	00:58:48
ABC Tree Company	Samuel Ventura	01:21:45
Davey Tree	Juan Guzman	01:43:00
Amateur:		
Sam Houston State	Walter Hambrick	00:48:00
US Green Building Council	Angel Rivera	01:09:26
Malachi Masonic Lodge #6, Team 1	Torrance T. Lee	01:26:30
Malachi Masonic Lodge #6, Team 2	Brian Wallace	01:36:58
Gensler	Kristian ten Wolde	02:09:00
Jr. Chamber of Commerce	James Tao	02:21:00
Student:		
Memorial Mustang Outreach Bunch	Nom Lee	01:11:31

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Paul Johnson works with volunteers from the Malachi Masonic Lodge #6





◀ The winning team of BIO Landscape and Maintenance in action.

The Asplundh team with their Judge Cary Moran. Asplundh came in second in the professional category. ▶



Competing teams planted 1,300 trees at the HAUCF tree planting contest. ▼



Bajo la Sombra

Poda de árboles jóvenes *por Salvador Alemany MFS - Dasónomo Urbano Forestal de La Región del Valle del Río Grande Texas, Texas A & M Forest Service*

Existen diversidad de motivos y circunstancias por las cuales podamos un árbol y comúnmente tomamos en consideración su edad y condición. Para árboles jóvenes y recién plantados esencialmente perseguimos tres objetivos; desarrollar una rama líder y dominante, uniones fuertes entre tronco y rama, y una copa balanceada. Para lograr estas metas debemos para cada árbol establecer un ciclo y determinar la cantidad de follaje a eliminarse, y siempre llevando a cabo cortes bien efectuados utilizando técnicas apropiadas. Es muy prudente determinar un ciclo o frecuencia de poda a la que someteremos al árbol, pues eliminar sobre el 25 por ciento de la copa en una sola operación puede poner en estrés al árbol, poniendo en peligro su vitalidad. Recordemos que la fotosíntesis llevada a cabo en las hojas es fundamental para la producción de azúcares y necesario para el grosor del tronco, ramas, y la formación del sistema radical. De esta forma obtendremos un espécimen con buena forma y estructura.

El proceso requiere que evaluemos varias características, como por ejemplo las ramas que surgen desde un mismo punto de origen llamadas codominantes, es necesario reducir su número para así obtener un líder dominante. Usualmente estas uniones en el tronco producen fallas y desgarres de la corteza. La corteza incluida es característicamente un ejemplo de una débil unión entre ramas codominantes cuando la

corteza queda atrapada entre dos ramas produciendo una unión débil. Eventualmente estas uniones producen desgarres por el efecto de vientos.

Otro de los elementos esenciales que debemos tomar en consideración al podar árboles jóvenes es eliminar ramas bajas sobretodo en individuos plantados en parques, encintados y cerca de avenidas en donde la frecuencia vehicular y de transeúntes requiere de un espacio libre de ramas que puedan crear obstáculos. Por ende es importante elevar la copa

eliminando ramas inferiores que a la postre mientras por el incremento de su tamaño conllevará más riesgo la poda. Recordemos que en muchos casos al cortar ramas grandes aumentamos el riesgo de pudrición y agrietamientos de la corteza.

Antes de efectuar la poda intentemos visualizar a ese árbol joven como será de adulto. Un aspecto importante es determinar la dirección y orden de las ramas. Si están opuestamente o lateralmente colocadas y el espacio entre ellas.



Figura 1. Ejemplo de dos ramas creciendo paralelamente y corteza incluida en el centro, área de estructura débil.



Figura 2. Ejemplo de ramas codominantes surgiendo de un mismo punto desde el tronco principal, estructura débil.

Idealmente debemos visualizar ramas colocadas alternamente y espaciadas de otra forma se desarrollaran uniones en forma de uve y débiles por la proximidad entre ellas. A mayor cercanía más tempranamente el roce y formación de uniones débiles que crearan problemas estructurales. Este hecho es determinante tomarlo en consideración a la hora de determinar el ciclo y la frecuencia del proceso de poda y cuáles serán las ramas permanentes del espécimen ideal que estamos labrando

Para lograr estos objetivos se pueden emplear varias técnicas como por ejemplo un corte de reducción. Esta técnica acorta la longitud de la rama cortando hacia la rama secundaria más pequeña. Otra técnica aplicada es la remoción, en esta técnica se elimina la rama secundaria procedente de una rama principal. Al realizar el corte independientemente a la técnica empleada este debe ser limpio y nunca a ras con el tronco. No debemos penetrar la zona del collar de la rama. Esta operación será determinante para que el árbol pueda llevar a cabo el proceso de compartimentalización

adecuadamente disminuyendo el riesgo de pudrición por la herida.

Otro de las prácticas que se deben evitar es la llamada cola de león, este efecto ocurre cuando se remueve excesivamente muchas de las ramas secundarias. Además de ser una práctica totalmente anti estética, la vitalidad del árbol está totalmente comprometida. Recordemos que los límites al llevar a cabo una operación de poda no deben sobrepasar entre 22 al 25 por ciento de la cobertura original del espécimen.

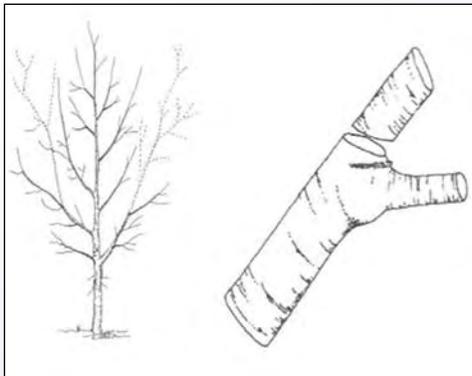


Figura 3. Corte de Reducción, eliminando el segmento de la rama principal adyacente a una rama secundaria. Con esta técnica generalmente cambiamos la orientación del desarrollo de las ramas.

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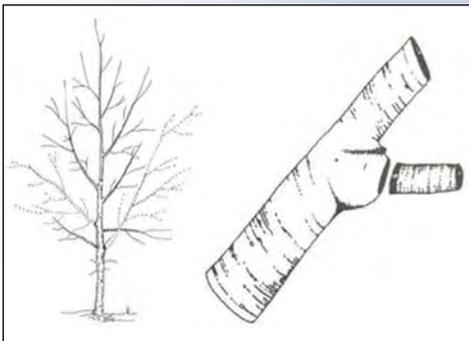


Figura 4. Corte de Remoción, eliminando la rama secundaria contigua a la rama principal.

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Figura 5. Arbol sembrado en zona de estacionamiento exhibiendo buena forma y en donde las ramas inferiores se removieron.

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