

Climbing Lines by Guy LeBlanc

Getting Hitched



In the Shade

The number of climbing hitch options has multiplied more than ten fold in modern times. Prior to about 15 years ago, the vast majority of American climbers knew only one – the taut line. Then along came the Blake's hitch, a superior variation of the taut line. Both are types of "open" hitches, meaning the end of the rope beyond the hitch is hangs free. These hitches can be tied with the "tail", or end of the climbing line beyond where it is tied to the rope snap or carabiner, or tied with a "split tail", a separate piece of line about three feet long. The two main advantages of the split tail are that when it becomes worn, you do not have to cut the end of the climbing line off to replace it, and, you can change tie-in points without having to untie your climbing hitch.

Then, in the mid-90's a new hitch appeared. As with most innovations, it came out of the International climbing competition. The Machard, as it is called, is a "closed" hitch. This means that both ends of the split tail (closed hitches are normally tied with a split tail) are secured back to the carabiner (rarely a rope snap) when the hitch is tied. That seemed to open the door wide to a whole new host of closed hitches, most of them European in origin.

I was not a big fan of these closed hitches at first. They are tied with line that is much smaller in diameter than the climbing line,

usually about 5/16th's of an inch, and I was used to the heft and security of my half-inch climbing line tied back to itself. If you don't wear gloves when you climb, you are likely to get lots of friction burns on your fingers if you convert to this system, as you adjust to the smaller diameter of your hitch line. Another thing I didn't like was that until technology caught up with technique, many of the small diameter lines melted easily on fast descents. That has changed, as Technora, a high melting point fiber, has become a common component in most split tail rope.

Currently, the most common ropes for closed hitches are Beeline, HRC, Tenex and Ultra-tech. One of the **absolute most important things** to be aware of regarding the use of closed hitches is that different brands, strand counts and fiber contents of split tail line will interact very differently with different brands, strand counts and fiber contents of climbing line. It is **crucial** that you become familiar with how the various combinations will interact **before** using them at height. I personally like Beeline on Arbormaster. Beeline is favored by six-time world champion Berndt Strasser of Germany. I also like HRC, which is favored by two-time
Cont'd on pg. 4



President's Message by Gene Gehring

I received my June issue of 'Arborist News' as I was pondering what I should put in the July president's message. One of my favorite sections is Detective Dendro. Most of the problems presented in this series I am doing good to be able to recognize the tree. I have read about the problems, but since most of my career has been in Central and North Texas, most of the species written about if I were to see here; the diagnosis would be heat/drought stress. Or the tree does not like growing in high

alkaline black gumbo or limestone soils. This issue was different; one glance at the photo and my first thought was oak wilt. As I skimmed the article, I thought possibly construction/over watering. But, as the author gave more "clues" I knew it was oak wilt. I realized I have seen those exact pictures before when I read Jim Zwack with Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements was the author.

In my last president's

message, I encouraged everyone to attend the National Oak Wilt Symposium. I thank everyone who did attend and hope you acquired more than just 22 ISA ceu's for your attendance. Courtney (editor of this newsletter) asked me to write an article about the symposium. As president of the sponsoring organization and a member of the host committee, I would have nothing but glowing reports of all the national speakers, and I would tell everyone who did not attend that they truly missed an excellent program. So for a less biased perspective from an attendee please read Sarah Brakin's, (Arborological Services) write up.

The last major event that will take place during my tenure is the Texas Tree Conference in Waco, October 10-12. The conference committee is hard at work developing "The Roots of Arboriculture" tree conference. They have invited Nelda Matheny as the keynote speaker. They are putting together an excellent agenda and I am looking forward to attending for more than just turning over the gavel. Be on the lookout for more information in the mail and on the website www.isatexas.com.

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Climbing Lines

Continued from pg. 1

world champ Mark Chisholm of New Jersey.

Another important aspect of how these lines interact has to do with the climbing hitch used. Strasser introduced the world to the Schwabish (*at left in photo*), a knot which I find works nicely until my Beeline starts getting worn. Then it seems to fluctuate between slipping and grabbing too much, even when the line is not glazed. Marc Chisolm uses both the Valdotaín (*at right in photo*), and the Valdotaín tresse, or VT. For a good in-depth article with lots of photos, refer to articles by Mark Adams in any of the common trade journals such as ISA's Arborist News. Mark does an expert job of covering this subject in more detail than I can here.

One thing I like a lot about the Schwabish, and its brother the Distel, is that you do not have to hold these hitches in place on your line while you

connect them to your carabiner, as you do with the Valdotaín. For me it's a small difference that just makes the day that much smoother, especially when it's cold outside.

I mentioned that split tails are nice because you don't have to cut away a piece of your climbing line. Nowadays, as spliced eyes are common, that's not done much anymore, and even folks using half inch line for their climbing hitch are using split tails. Another nice thing about split tails is that they can be very inexpensive, even at \$1.50 a foot, as you only need about four feet of line. Of course, if you buy them with an eye pre-spliced into each end, that same piece of rope will now cost you about \$25. As you may have guessed, I am averse to this. I am quite comfortable with termination knots like the double fisherman's (*see photo of Schwabish*).



*"Acts of creation are
ordinarily reserved for
Gods and poets. To
plant a pine,
one only needs a
shovel."
Aldo Leopold*

And speaking of, in my last column, the termination knots on the hip prussic of my Friction Saver were buntlines, another great termination knot, and **not** double fisherman's, as I had indicated. The difference? The bunt takes less line to tie, and is easier to untie. The fisherman's is more streamline, as the tail doesn't stick out the side of the knot as it does with the bunt line. Neither is as streamlined as a double eye-spliced split tail, but at one fourth the cost (three six-packs!) I can deal.

Most climbers now use a "line tender" micro-pulley to draw their slack up with one hand (*see*

photo of Valdotaín). With some closed hitches, such as the Knut, you can do this without this additional piece of hardware, due to the way they are tied, and attached to the carabiner, but I find that even these hitches definitely work better with a micro-pulley.

Remember, if you are new to using these small diameter line, closed-end hitches, as with any new technique, its **low and slow** until you get it right. Climb safe.

The author is the owner of Arbor Vitae Tree Care in Austin, TX and has been in the tree care industry for over 30 years.



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Board Report

Part 2. Part 1 ran in May issue

Finance Committee

- Overall the organization is exceeding expectations in comparison to the 2006-07 budget, but also understanding that ISA purposefully budgeted less net revenue in order to invest in other areas of the mission.
- All departments at or exceeding budgeted revenue
- Overall net revenue exceeding expectations
- *Arborist News* and *A&UF* expenses exceeding budget -due to increased pages and shipping costs.
- New product development under budget - EG & S Certification
- Committee expenditures are being monitored
- ISA still is performing at or above the most recent peer comparisons available, in relation to net profitability and personnel ratios.
- Eight proposals were submitted for review to the Special Project Fund Committee. The committee reviewed the proposals with the following results:
- Approved four projects totaling \$16,900.56.
- Recommended two projects for approval by the board for \$59,000.

- Requested additional information on two projects.
- Denied one project.

Approved/Recommended \$75,900 including:

- The preliminary projections for the 2007 Hawaii Conference reflect a negative \$167,000 impact on ISA finances in the 2007-2008 fiscal year. **The 2007-2008 ISA Annual Budget will be approached with the goal of submitting a balanced organizational budget.**
- The Finance Committee also recommends the board give consideration to the establishment of a Conference Committee.

ISA is a well managed, financially healthy, and growing organization. The ED, EC, and board should plan for future growth of the membership, ISA staff and the office facilities. There is a limit to what can be accomplished with the current staff and office space. Therefore, a plan of growth and development should be included in the 2007 – 2008 operations plan.

The full PowerPoint presentations of these reports are available with notes at http://www.isa-arbor.com/bod/BOD_PowerPoint.aspx.

Official Meeting, February 25, 2007

**** Most of this meeting was held in Executive Session, excluding all staff and board members who recused themselves.****

Are you planning to take the arborist certification exam? Do you need study materials to prepare for the exam?

ISA is conducting a study to compare study materials. Participants who complete the study will receive one Arborists' Certification Study Guide, plus seven Introduction to Arboriculture interactive CD-ROMs for FREE! (A retail value of USD \$585.60) Check below for the eligibility requirements. Participants must:

- be eligible to take the ISA arborist certification exam;
- plan to take the ISA arborist certification exam for the first time;
- have access to a computer with Microsoft software;
- be fluent in the English language;

If you fulfill the requirements and want to participate in this research study, please visit the ISA website and click "Announcements" for more details.

AI 1: Portland, Oregon was approved as the 2012 conference site.

AI 2: ISA will donate \$10,000 to the TREE Fund. The Executive Committee and TREE Fund Board will meet to discuss allocation of funds for activities at future conferences.

AI 3: An Executive Director Performance Evaluation Process was established and accepted. Please see CPP0809 for further information.

(<http://www.isa-arbor.com/bod/policies/PPP0809.pdf>)

AI 4: A Memorandum of Understanding with Hong Kong was approved. They are to be called an associate organization.

AI 5: International Awards were awarded as follows:

- Award of Merit – James Rocca
 - L.C. Chadwick Award for Arboricultural Research – Ed Gilman
 - Alex L. Shigo Award for Excellence in Arboricultural Education – Nelda Matheny and James R. Clark
 - R.W. Harris Author's Citation – Kim Coder
 - Honorary Membership – Judy Adams
 - Honorary Membership – Mary Steiner
- Award of Achievement – Richard Herfurth

AI 6: The Award for Excellence in Arboricultural Education was renamed to be the Alex L. Shigo Award for Excellence in Arboricultural Education. This year's award will be the first given in the new name.

Other Items

The Nominations and Elections Committee is accepting nominees for one board vice president position. Two nominees, D'Arcy Schenk (Prairie Chapter) and Dave Scharfenberger (Wisconsin Chapter) were nominated at the meeting. All other nominations should be given to Bob Benjamin by 5 p.m. (CST) April 2, 2007.

The Nominations and Elections Committee is accepting nominees for three Certification Board positions including:

Municipal Specialist

Utility Specialist

Certified Arborists outside North America

No nominations were provided at the meeting. All nominations should be given to Bob Benjamin by 5 p.m. (CST) April 2, 2007.

It was decided that only one ISA member will serve on the TREE Fund Board, therefore no nominations are necessary, as Mike Neal's term was a two-year term. This decision was per the TREE Fund's request.

Discussion proposing Board Vice President terms to be limited to two consecutive terms. A proposal to amend the bylaws will be submitted to the C & B committee

The Executive Committee will be examining a draft proposed by Tage Rønne (Denmark Chapter) for the ISA Tree Worker Relief Fund and will report back to the board in Hawaii.

Walt Warriner tendered his resignation as a board member and as board vice president.

Motion: Moved by J. Morell, seconded by B. Fountain "L. Lanphear & R. Lidkea acted appropriately as Executive Committee in this complaint & in accepting advice of long-standing ISA Attorney & have the support of the Board of Directors." Motion carried.

Nominations and Elections Committee were directed to revise the Policies and Procedures with clear guidelines regarding campaigning and electioneering.

The next board meeting will be July 27 & 28, 2007 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Certification Corner

More and more people are becoming certified. ISA Certified Arborists have once again passed ISA members. Nationwide there were 20,721 Certified Arborists vs 19,261 ISA members as of June 1st.

Over 100 exams were given in May alone. Over 3000 applications to take the exam had come in by the end of May (more than any fiscal year before)

Texas has 2 more exams to be given this year. Round Rock in August and Waco in October - these tests will be the 105th and 106th times the test has been offered in Texas. With any scheduled test, one may take the Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist, Utility Specialist, or Tree Worker written tests. The Board Certified Master Arborist test is a private exam set up with a computer based testing facility that the Certified Arborist schedules independently.

To be eligible for the exam, go to the ISA web site:

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/certification.aspx>.
Questions about certification? Go to

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/resources/certapp.pdf>.

Once you've satisfied the eligibility requirements, send you application and check into ISA at least 16 calendar days before any scheduled exam. (Sooner is better as exams have limited seating.)



by Pat Wentworth

- <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/trees-new/index.html>
- **Fact sheets about trees.**
- <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/DENDRO/DENDROLOGY/ident.htm>
- **A great ID Key is part of this site. Let's you identify your mystery tree. Key from either a leaf or twig sample.**
- http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_prune/prun001.htm
- **How to prune a tree - sounds basic, but I'm always surprised at how many people still don't know basic pruning skills. A lot of Dr. Shigo's original work is here.**
- <http://www.historictrees.org/>
- **Own a piece of history. This site sells historic trees - seedlings or cuttings from historic trees from all over the country including Texas.**
- <http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/>
- **Find the biggest trees of any species. Nominate a tree if you know of one larger than they have record.**

ISA Hispanic Committee by Mark Duff

The ISA Hispanic Committee (HC) met February 6-8 in Cuernavaca, Mexico at the Chapultepec Ecological Park and Conference Center for a workshop/conference on arboriculture and urban forestry. Nearly 100 forestry and horticulture students and leaders from all over Mexico attended. Our hosts from Cuernavaca, along with the ISA and the Mexican Association of Arboriculture (AMA), co-sponsored the events and picked up most of the associated costs. The first two days featured

individual presentations by HC members. The third day featured a hands-on training and demo on proper pruning, climbing techniques and chainsaw safety, also by HC members. An ISA Certified Arborist exam was given at the end of the day. **Day 1:** Dr. Alicia Chacalo, Metropolitan University of Mexico (Arboriculture), Master of Ceremonies; Iris Magaly Zayas, USDA Forest Service (Coop. Forestry), Benefits of Urban Trees and Community Trees; Dr. Raul Cabrera, Texas A & M (Extension

Horticulture), Tree Biology; Dr. Hector Benavides, Intl. Center for Forest Ecology (Dir. Research), Dendrology; Sally Gonzales, University of Puerto Rico (Extension Service), Urban Soils; Henry Mayer, University of Florida (Extension), Water Management.

Day 2: Sharon Lilly, ISA (Educational Goods and Services), Identification and Management of Tree Problems; Mark Duff, Texas Forest Service (HC Chair), Selecting the Right Tree from the Nursery to the Planting Site; Luana Vargas, ISA (HC Liaison), Tree Planting and Establishment; Carlos Llanos, Tree care industry (Colombia), Utility ROW Maintenance; Carlos Anaya, Chief Urban Forestry (Buenos Aires), Urban Forestry in Argentina; AMA reps. and hosts, Tree Planting Demonstration.

Day 3: Eduardo Medina, Davey Tree (Climbing and Safety Specialist), Chainsaw Safety and Aerial Rescue; Bryan Kotwica, Davey Tree, Sherrill Inc. and ISA (Crew Foreman and Illustrator), Proper Pruning and Climbing Safety; Miguel Angel Gomez, Host (Certified Arborist and owner of local tree care/landscaping company), Pruning/Safety Demo.

This was the first time the entire HC was together to give a workshop of this type. Judging from the feedback from the AMA, our hosts, students, professors and others, the event turned out to be a great success. The hospitality was unbelievable. I think we spread a lot of good
Continued on pg. 10



NORTHEAST TEXAS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Applications invited for the position of

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE (12 month position)

An amount of \$1.4 million has been earmarked for the construction of enhanced agriculture facilities, including a covered livestock pavilion, greenhouse, and classroom/laboratory building. Currently, under the direction of a full-time farm manager, the College operates an approximately 200 acre Research and Demonstration Farm with 35 Santa Gertrudis, eight Black Angus, and three Hereford - Santa Gertrudis crossed cattle. The College has an ambitious agriculture vision which includes credit and non-credit instruction, diversification of the farm, creation of a botanical garden and a community garden, synergistic activities with other College departments, Urban-Rural Exchange, and a residential College on the Ranch program. The College plans to base its programs on concepts of sustainable agriculture. (Agriculture vision available online at: <http://www.ntcc.edu/HR/AgVision.htm>)

RESPONSIBILITIES: Provide leadership for agriculture programs, including development of new initiatives, liaison with high schools and universities, curriculum design, and assisting with management and utilization of the College farm. Sponsor student organizations, recruit and advise students, serve on institutional committees, and assist in recruiting and employing second faculty member in agriculture. Some teaching will be required.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidate should possess a doctorate in agriculture. Must have at least five years of full-time successful teaching experience, as well as practical experience managing a farm or ranch. Experience conducting agricultural research is required. Must have excellent interpersonal and communication skills and be a team player.

SALARY: Salary negotiable. The College offers health, dental, life, income protection insurance, and an excellent retirement program.

APPLICATIONS: Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Position begins as soon as possible. Please send an NTCC Application for Employment, a complete résumé, unofficial transcripts of all college course work, a letter of application in which you address the above responsibilities, and two letters of recommendation from current or former employers. Please DO NOT send or fax any other materials. Other materials may be requested by the college at a later time. Send materials to:

Mr. Jerry Henry, PHR
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ISA Hispanic Committee

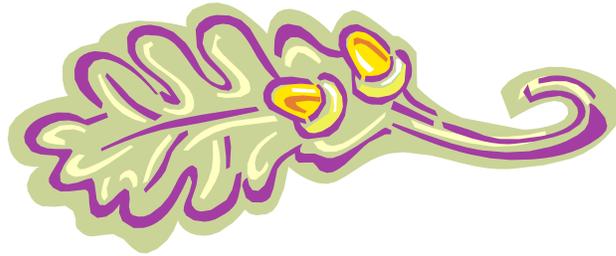
Continued from pg. 9

will to our neighbors to the south.

With this experience, I think we are well positioned to replicate a stand-alone workshop in Spanish, such as this one, in Texas, or to

conduct a concurrent session in one of our Texas Urban Forestry conferences or other Texas ISA functions. I will be putting together a packet of PowerPoint presentations, many developed for this event, and send them very soon to those of you who have requested them.

Our HC meeting went very well. We now have three new



committee members, two of which you may already know: Manuel Jordan and Bryan Kotwica. Both will significantly strengthen the committee with their expertise. Our ISAHispana.com website, the most complete source of arboriculture information in Spanish, has recently had a facelift. Please check it out.

Soon it will be upgraded again with additional information. A \$5000.00 grant from the USDA Forest Service is being sought for this purpose. Members of our HC have been very active lately translating and editing ISA educational material and CDs. New material is being posted for sale on the ISA main website and ISAHispana.com every couple of months.

I would like to thank the ISA, AMA and the Texas Forest Service for their continued support of the HC.

Carbon Credits in East Texas by John Boyette

I have been hearing about Carbon Sequestration and Carbon Credits for quite a while, but only in a vague, “someday” reference. That is, up until now. It appears that selling credits for sequestering carbon has become a reality.

Before I get into that, let’s review a few basics. Carbon sequestration is any process that can remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere and tie it up into a form that is

relatively stable, meaning that it will not return to the atmosphere, at least not any time soon. This is becoming more important because of the link between carbon dioxide and other “greenhouse gases” and global warming. This is still a hotly debated subject, but the general consensus is that we do need to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, or at least slow the rate of growth. There are two ways to do that. One way is to reduce emissions of CO₂ at their source and the other

is to actually remove it from the air.

CO₂ is a natural component of the atmosphere. It is produced whenever carbon based matter, such as wood, coal, or gasoline is burned. It is also produced during plant and animal respiration and as a by-product when organic material decays. Volcanoes are the largest producers of CO₂, but there is not much that we can do about that. It is the burning of organic

material, coal, gasoline, natural gas, that has attracted most of the attention and debate. There is increasing pressure world-wide to reduce emissions of CO2 and other gases from our factories, cars, and other sources.

The other side of the equation, sequestration, is what is so interesting for forest landowners. When trees and other plants grow, they combine water and CO2 in a process called photosynthesis, to make glucose. Glucose is a simple sugar that is also the basic component in wood. Because of this process, trees actually remove CO2 from the atmosphere and “sequester” it in the wood they grow. When we make products from that wood, we are “sequestering” that carbon into many different building materials and other products that are stable. In other words, that carbon will not be released back into the atmosphere, at least not for a long time. Farmers can also sequester carbon by changing their tillage practices to techniques that increase organic matter content in soil.

Sequestration is not a new concept, we have been talking about it for some time. In fact, some European countries are way ahead of us and are actually paying farmers and forest landowners for the carbon they are removing from the atmosphere. These are called carbon credits. Industries that produce large amounts of CO2 such as power plants can offset the negative effects of this

production by buying these credits. Now, it seems that some U.S. companies are doing the same thing.

There is a fairly new organization called the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) where companies actually buy and sell carbon credits, similar to a stock exchange. The CCX was founded in 2003 by a number of corporations like Ford, IBM, Amtrac, just to name a few, that have agreed to reduce their carbon emissions by 4% by the end of this year, and 6% by the end of 2010. If their reduction efforts fall short of these goals, they can buy carbon credits at the CCX to offset the shortfall. Just like stocks, carbon credit values fluctuate over time. When this first started, these credits were worth about one dollar apiece, now they are up to about four dollars.

The Iowa Farm Bureau saw the potential in this program and has paved the way for Midwestern farmers to take advantage of this opportunity. Currently, there are about 850,000 acres of cropland that are earning dollars for the landowners for the carbon credits that they are producing.

The Iowa Farm Bureau is looking to branch out into forestry. On November 30th, Dave Miller, who runs this program in Iowa, came to speak at the Farm Bureau office in Nacogdoches. They are looking for landowners who might be interested in participating in this program and they actually had

contracts in hand.

Right now, they are only interested in open, pasture land that was converted to timber in 1990 or after. The rules for calculating carbon credits are very simple for stands that are in that category. Calculations for existing forest land are much more complicated and will probably require some in-depth research which will probably take some significant funding.

According to the information that Dave furnished us, a newly planted stand of loblolly pine can be expected to sequester 1.51 tons of CO2 per acre per year in its first five years, 1.86 from age 5 to 10, 6.99 from age 10 to 15, and 6.17 from age 15 to 20. So, in theory, if you have a 12 year old plantation that was planted on open land, and assuming carbon credits are selling for \$4.00, you could expect an annual payment of \$27.96 per acre. Currently this is only a pilot program and will expire at the end of 2010 so payments would only be for the next few years. After that time, we don't know for certain what

“All organizations are perfectly aligned to get the results they are currently getting.” - Arthur Jones



Cool Tools by Pat Wentworth

Since the revolution in mobile telephones began in the late eighties, few if anyone is without a cell phone. Like computers, they have become less expensive and packed with more features each year. Anyone who has ever lost a cell phone or changed services and upgraded have come up against a problem - what to do with all of the data stored on the old phone.

A few retailers have developed or acquired software to backup the data on your old phones and transfer it to your new phone. Now you can do it yourself with a little device called the "Backup Pal."

Backup-Pal™ works with virtually any cellular phone and has been carefully designed to accommodate new phones as they come to market. When switching carriers or phones, Backup-Pal™ allows hassle-free transfer of contact data from one cell phone to another without the complexity of additional software, PC use, lengthy setup or internet connectivity. All you need is your cell phone and Backup-Pal™.

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Attach the unit to the adapter that corresponds to your phone, plug it into the handset, and you're ready to use Backup-Pal™.



It retails for about \$40.00 and can be found at:

<http://store.backup-pal.com/SearchResults.asp?Cat=21&awsAction=setphone&Manufacturer=Motorola&Model=E815>

NOWS Wrap Up by Courtney Blevins

The National Oak Wilt Symposium in Austin provided an outstanding selection of speakers and topics with the latest research on Texas' primary oak disease issue.

across the country, supplying interesting perspectives and ideas which Texas arborists and foresters could put to use.



in the next issue of In the Shade but for now enjoy a few photos from this first-class symposium.

These speakers came from

A more detailed write-up may be



Dr. Dave Appel



Dr. Todd Watson



Joe Pase, Eric Beckers and Jim Houser networking



ISAT President Gene Gehring



John Giedraitis kicks off the oak wilt tour at the capital



TFS foresters Robert Edmonson, Jim Rooni & Mark Duff



Oak wilt casualty



Boat trip social on Town Lake

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Message from the Editor

If you are wondering why this issue of *In the Shade* looks a bit different it's because Associate Editor Jeanette Ivy has taken a well deserved vacation.

Jeanette's skills of putting together a beautiful newsletter will return with the next issue so if you find any problems in this issue it's my fault and not hers!

Courtney Blevins
Editor



AD RATES	
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