

Award of Excellence

2008 Arborist of the Year

Larry Maginnis

Austin, Texas

Larry Maginnis Our first award today is this years Award of Excellence for Arborist of the Year. This year the Arborist of the Year award goes to Larry Maginnis



Mr. Maginnis is currently employed as the Urban Forestry Program Manager for the University of Texas at Austin. His responsibilities include; the preservation and maintenance of approximately 5000 trees on the main campus as well as trees located on several satellite campuses and various university landholdings.



Larry has earned a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Montana as well as an Associate of Applied Science degree in Forest Technology from Penn State.



He is a Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist, Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist, 2008 graduate of MFI. Has made contributions to the local, state and national levels.



Larry sits on the Committee for Tree Campus USA, a new program from National Arbor Day Foundation that sets high standards for university tree programs. UT will be one of the first to receive this accreditation and has been chosen as a location to host the Foundations Campus Tree Tour this fall



Larry hosted and proctored the inaugural ISA Tree Worker Certification in Texas. With the assistance of other proctors and instructors, the two day event included Aerial Rescue and First Aid/CPR training, tree climbing skills and written exam. Two separate certification dates were hosted at the University of Texas at Austin. Six new proctors have been certified at these events to ensure the future success of the certification program.



Larry was also on the job for the Texas Chapter as a volunteer head judge for the Foot lock event at the TTCC held in Fort Worth Texas.



Larry has created a student outreach program aimed at engaging and educating UT students on the benefit and joy of planting trees. To date, this program has installed 90 thirty-gallon trees across the campus and he has recruited over 225 members of the student body. Larry provides the trees, tools and planting expertise, and students bring the muscle. This program requires a serious commitment.



The task starts at the nursery selecting trees, then comes locating utilities, loading all tools and equipment, providing training, assisting in planting and providing continual care. These events are held almost every weekend in the months of October, November, March and April. Planting groups range from 8 to 40 at a time. Church groups, honor societies, clubs, and student groups all use this program as a way of fulfilling community service obligations. The program has been a tremendous success and boasts a 95% tree survival rating.



The University of Texas System has just surpassed the US Navy to be the fifth largest builder in the nation. These constant expansion projects have the potential to jeopardize our university's tree resource. However, Larry's efforts through talks and outreach have raised awareness as to the value of our trees.



Trees are now included in the programming phase of each project and are addressed individually as candidates for preservation. Over the past year we witnessed the relocation of 5 large live oak trees that would normally be lost to building projects. These are photos of their relocation. Some of you will remember last year when Larry's efforts moving the trees by the UT Stadium won UT the Gold Leaf Landscape Project of the Year Award.



In recognition of his department's success, campus administrators have awarded them with the annual funds necessary to provide large-scale tree pruning projects. As a result, this year the University of Texas at Austin conducted the single largest tree pruning event in campus history. The university solicited the pruning of 115 mature Live oak trees in the most historical section of campus. These funds bring the tree program closer to its goal of providing a reasonable pruning cycle and improve growing conditions. This contract was organized and administered by Larry.



In an effort to curb the impacts of urban setting on trees, Larry has introduced a new plant health care program at the university. To support the program several tools have been introduced including an air spade and compressor to mitigate root disorders, deep root injection equipment for fertilization and to minimize construction impacts, vertical mulching implements, canopy spray equipment, macro and micro injection tools, and the necessary training to ensure proper operation. At this time if a campus expansion project or infrastructure upgrade is necessary within the critical root zone of any tree, he can assure the tree is in the best shape possible to endure the stressors.



This year Larry has created a program aimed at providing the campus community the opportunity to purchase trees as living tributes in honor of individuals or groups associated with the university. This policy has been developed to ensure compliance of campus standards and procedures for tree plantings as well as accent his efforts to increase the campus tree tally.



Larry is a hard working and dedicated tree-guy whose passion is to work with people and trees to make the world a better place.

Please join me in Congratulating Larry Maginnis, our 2008 Texas Arborist of the Year.