2009
Texas Tree Conference
Awards Luncheon

Round Rock, Texas

October 1, 2009

Texas Chapter
International Society
of Arboriculture

TEXAS
FOREST SERVICE
The Texas A&M University System

Award of Excellence

2009 Arborist of the Year

Courtney Blevins

Weatherford, Texas

Outstanding Arborist Award

Courtney was born in the Port Arthur, Texas, home of so many famous Americans. Soon after, his family moved to a Dallas suburb where he went to school through high school. At an early age, he knew that he had a love of trees and the outdoors.

In 1983, he received a BS in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin.

After a short stint with the US Forest Service, he joined up with TFS and worked in East Texas until 1987 assisting landowners in timber management. . He then moved on to the TFS Lubbock nursery managing the field nursery for hardwood seedling production and assisting landowners with windbreak and conservation plantings. In 1991, Courtney blew into Dallas as the regional urban forester from 1991 – 2002 and then on to Ft. Worth region (the Cross Timbers region) from 2002 to today.

TFS = Training for something 1

and we train some more.

Until we fit right in with the ‘TFS Family’.

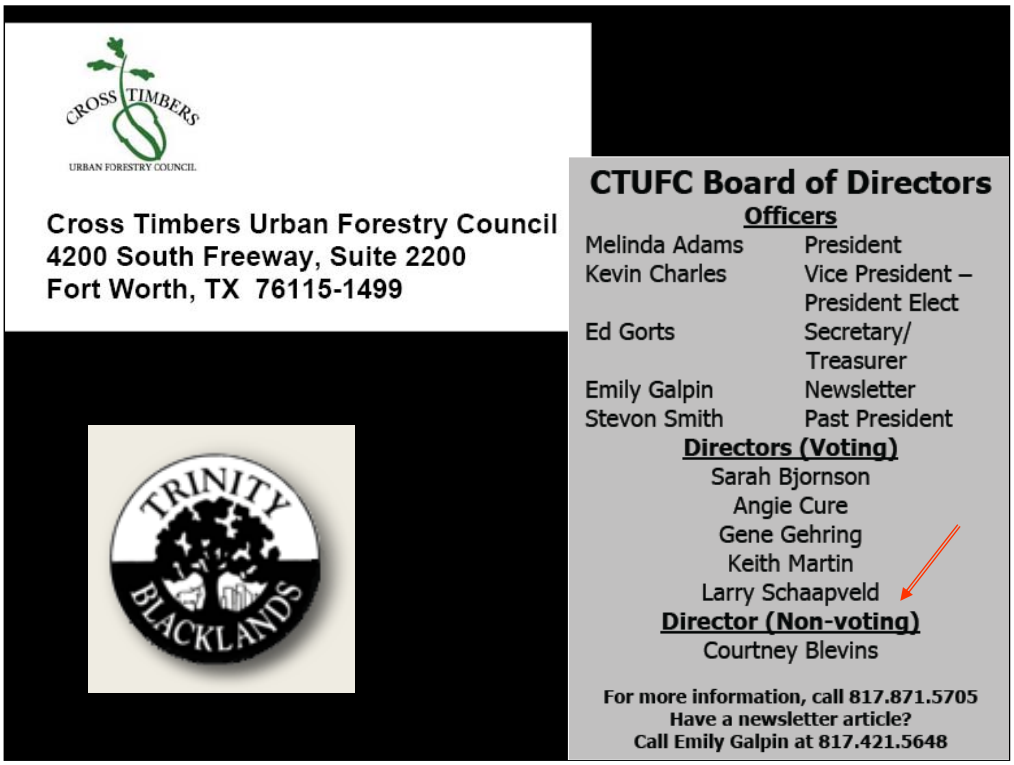
Now Courtney is 100% TFS but even then, he has managed to maintain his identity – probably because he was trained by the ever feisty Larry Schaapveld. Hey CB, resistance is futile.

Courtney has made lots of friends as a tree guy.

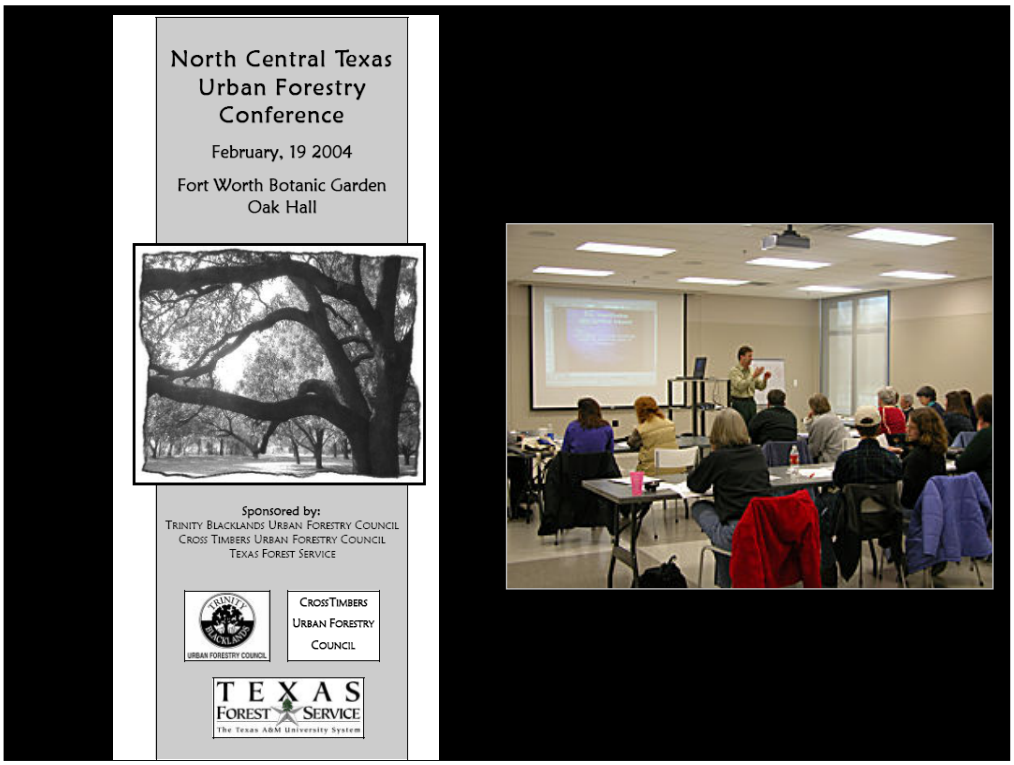
In fact, he has become sort of a Smokey Groupie

and it is obvious why - it is a great way to meet Celebrities!

and girls just love a big hairy guy - and they love Smokey too right Courtney?



He was a founding member of the Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council and the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council. Of course, just like his lovely wife Christie keeps the sharp knives away from him at home, the Council has sense enough to keep him from voting.



Courtney works hard with his groups to deliver one of the highest quality, best attended urban forestry conferences in the US.

Maybe because his is just a big kid at heart, he always has time for kids and helps to deliver one of the most active regions in Texas for the Arbor Day poster contest.

Courtney teaches arboriculture at Tarrant County College and has helped to improve the quality of tree care in the private sector. He also likes to teach his students to walk like a Beatle. Once a rocker, always a rocker! Let it Be dude!

Courtney reaches out to civic groups, master gardeners, master naturalists and citizen foresters. Helping citizens to help their urban forest.

He also helps to train our new foresters with his amazing command of urban forestry and arboriculture.

Courtney is big-hearted and generous, giving his time to causes that he believes in.

LOCAL NEWS

Candidates agree to preserve trees ★

12:15 AM CDT on Tuesday, April 1, 2008

By Lowell Brown / Staff Writer

Candidates for two Denton City Council seats agreed during a candidate forum Monday that the city could do a better job saving trees from development.

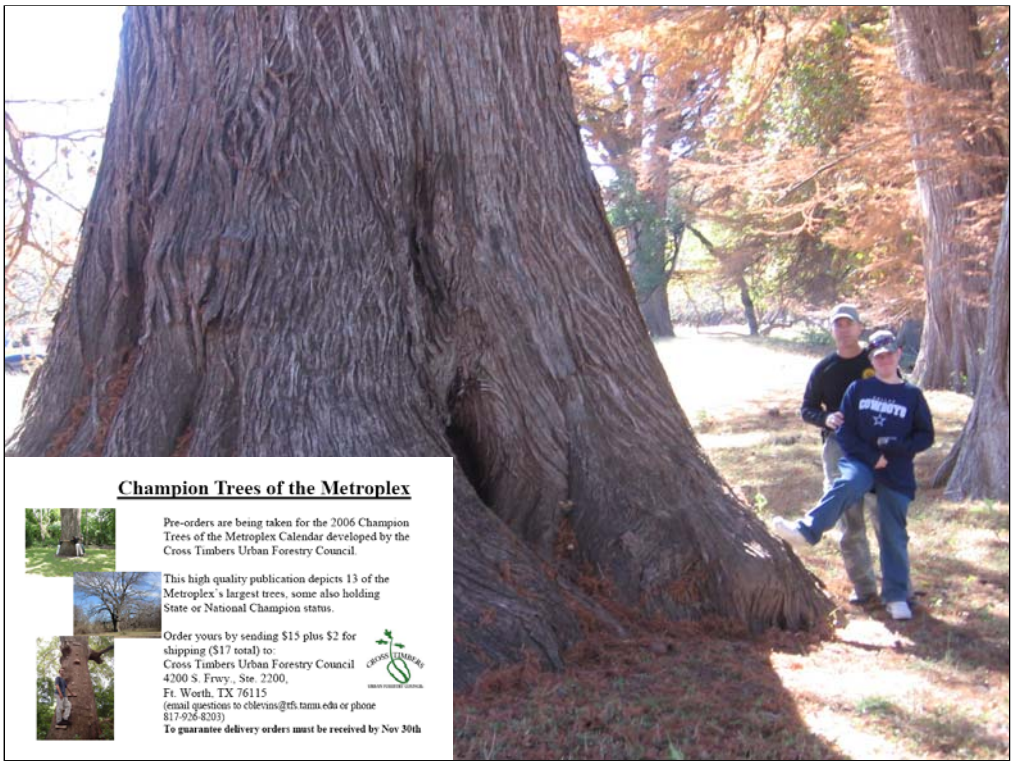
Current council members Pete Kamp and Joe Mulroy called for stricter enforcement of the city's tree preservation and mitigation ordinance. Their challengers in the May 10 election, Mike Sutton and Jerry Mohelnitzky, said simplifying the 2004 ordinance would be key to protecting more trees.

The candidates responded to a question from Pati Haworth, a member of a citizen committee that reviewed the tree ordinance in 2005 and 2006 and urged the city to tighten enforcement, eliminate loopholes and hire an urban forester, among other recommendations.

But the core of what Courtney does is to help communities in his area to plant, care, remove and protect trees.

In fact, Courtney has more Tree City USA cities than any other region in the state.

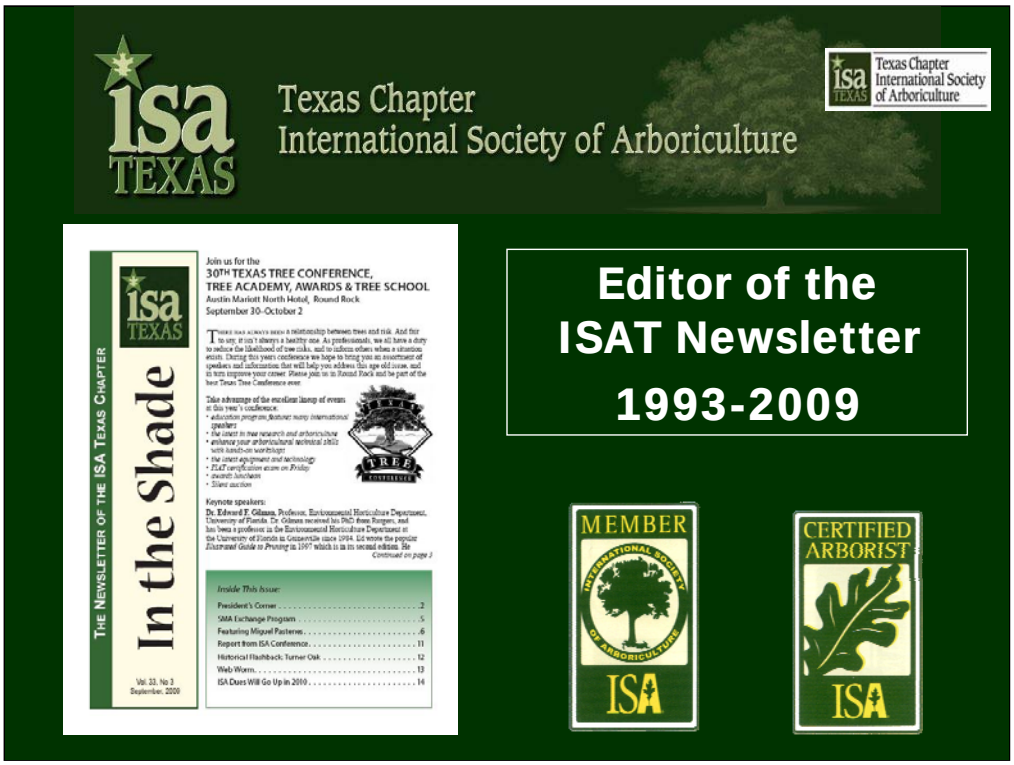
Courtney is 100% Texan and because everything in Texas is bigger and better, as a Texas Forester, he loves the big and historic Texas Trees



Champion Trees are a passion with Courtney and he works to make folks aware of their importance.

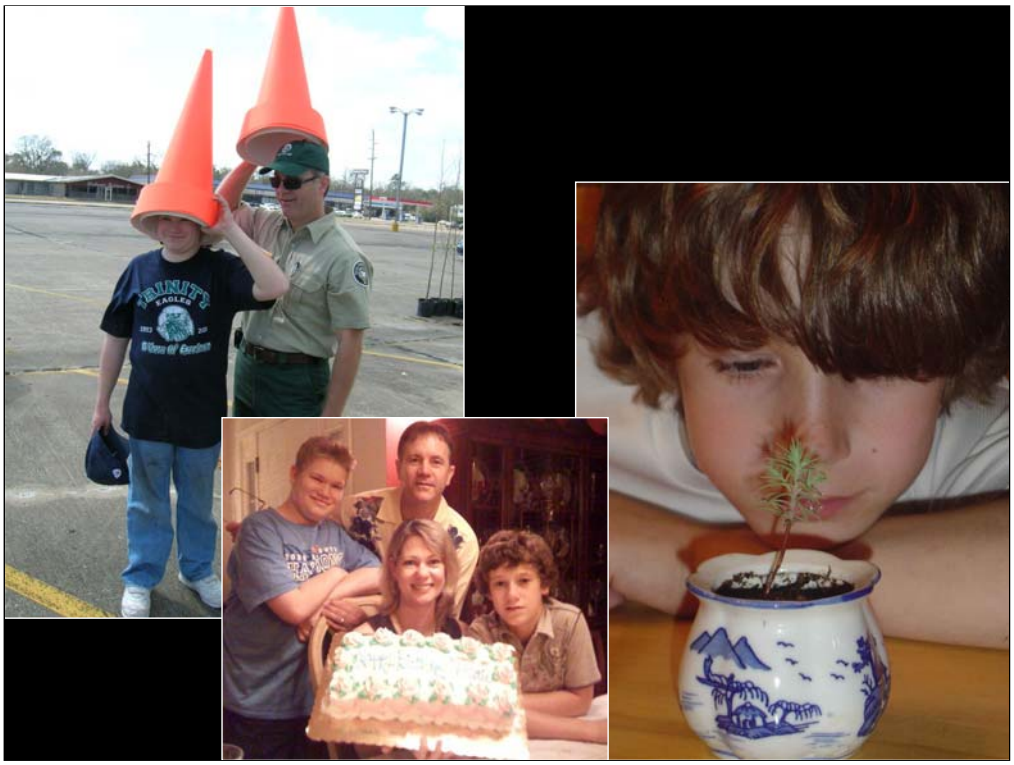
In fact, if you are out in the woods around the Metroplex, don't be surprised if you see Courtney out with his big trees.

Arborist of the Year isn't the first award for Courtney. He has been recognized by the Society of American Foresters and has received the Texas Forest Service "Andy Anderson I&E Award" for contributions in public awareness of urban forestry. He has also received two service awards from the Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council. He is a certified Forester and of course he is an ISA Certified Arborist.



Courtney quietly works behind the scenes to promote arboriculture in Texas. In 1993 he joined the ISAT board as Editor and continued this position until this year. That's an amazing 16 years of service to the Texas Chapter. In addition, he served as Texas tree conference co-chair in 2004

Courtney has earned the respect of his coworkers and the folks he selflessly serves. In fact, if respect is the measure of a man, than the folks who know him, know that he is the standard measurement for arborists and foresters.



Courtney has been blessed with a deep faith in God and a wonderful family. He married Christie in 1986 and they have two sons; Matthew and Michael.

In summary, let me quote Courtney directly, He told me, “ISA and specifically ISA Texas Chapter have been invaluable to me in my career. There is the obvious value of the research done and presented through ISA but of even greater value are the personal relationships I’ve developed over the years. This network of fellow professionals has taught me more than all the books and publications ever can and I am deeply grateful for their influence.”

Well Courtney, it is the members of ISA Texas and the citizens, arborists and communities of the Metroplex who are so well served by your humble hard-work and dedication who are grateful.

Everyone, please join me in Thanking and Congratulating Courtney Blevins, our 2009 Texas Arborist of the Year.