

# In the Shade



NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

October, 2018



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# President's Letter

*Emily King*



Greetings,

I hope everyone that came to the Texas Tree Conference learned a lot and had fun networking. Thanks to the Conference Planning Committee, our vendors and sponsors, and everyone who attended. Bookmark the conference website, <https://eventmobi.com/texastreeconference/>. You can go back to find speaker presentations and evaluate sessions if you haven't done so yet.

ISA Texas is largely a volunteer-led and volunteer-run organization. While our trusty executive director holds the ship together, volunteer directors serve to promote the sustainability of the organization so that it meets the needs of its members. To that end, the ISA Texas Board of Directors developed a Strategic Plan to guide our organization so it has a road map to serve current and future members. The Board will use this as a guide to ensure that activities are aligned with true priorities.

The Strategic Planning Committee started by reviewing the 2017 ISA Association Needs Assessment, which included a survey of Texas members. Committee members worked with Paul Ries to develop the framework for our chapter's Strategic Plan and used survey responses from members to fine-tune priorities. I am proud to announce that our chapter's Strategic Plan is now available online. We invite you to view and share your insights and comments with us.

The full plan and a one-page overview are both available here: <http://isatexas.com/about/isat-documents/>.

Feedback about the plan, areas of chapter improvement, or any other topic can be submitted here: <http://isatexas.com/contact/>.

My thanks to the many hands that make our workload lighter.

Emily King

## NEW MEMBERS

- Billy Allen . . . . . Hurst
- Jeremy Anderson . . . . . Stephenville
- Dylan Buffington . . . . . Brenham
- Michael Chase . . . . . Houston
- Jared Cobb . . . . . Dallas
- Tom Diamond . . . . . Frisco
- Jowell Dupree . . . . . College Station
- Daniel Garcia . . . . . Fort Worth
- Blake Harvey . . . . . San Angelo
- Ethan King . . . . . Decatur
- Gregory Mast . . . . . Austin
- Kenneth Morford . . . . . Fort Worth
- Jason Morgan . . . . . Grapevine
- Vanessa Morgan . . . . . Austin
- Charles Mowen . . . . . San Marcos
- Daniel Shaw . . . . . Houston
- Thomas Sievers . . . . . San Marcos
- Levi Singleton . . . . . Austin
- Gary Smith . . . . . Ennis
- Joseph Soto . . . . . San Antonio
- Matt Tarpley . . . . . Hope AR
- Byron Walker . . . . . Brenham
- Russell Womack . . . . . Austin

## ON THE COVER

It's fall and soon the Texas red oaks will start to show the reds they normally keep hidden. Photo by Rebecca Johnson.

## In the Shade

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## First Woman BCMA in Texas

Dallas native Amy Langbein Heath is the first woman in Texas to become a Board Certified Master Arborist—the highest level of certification offered by ISA.

Amy began working for Dallas Tree Surgeons in 2007. She became a Certified Arborist in 2008 and purchased Dallas Tree Surgeons (currently being rebranded as Texas Tree Surgeons) in 2011.

# The ISA Annual International Conference 2018

## Columbus turned out to be a nice place after all *by David M Vaughan*

My wife and I were not thrilled about going to Columbus. We had never been and knew of no one else that knew anything about the city. We were both pleasantly surprised. It is not the tourist destination of our beloved San Antonio, but it was a nice place to visit. Good food and restaurants and lots of taverns with good regionally crafted beer. It had the important stuff.

I attended the all-day workshop introducing the long awaited Guide to Plant Appraisal, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. Clark, Smiley, and Duntemann were all on the council that developed the new edition and presented a good workshop to a very experienced audience. The Trunk Formula Technique (formerly Trunk Formula Method) has significant changes. They stated that the formula is not appropriate for appraising the value of large amounts of trees, such as acreage of fire damage, flood damage, or storm damage. With all the talk about real estate appraisal, they said the main way of appraising the value of a tree or of trees will remain the appraisal of plants using the guide. They had a small box of the first printing of the guide at the conference but would only allow copies to those who had worked on the Guide.

Linda Chalker-Scott, who was also scheduled to present at our Texas conference, gave a good talk about fertilization and whether it was necessary. She will only recommend tree maintenance procedures that are supported by published research that is peer reviewed. She talked about phosphorous (P) and how excess can result with plants deficient in iron and manganese. Excess P also inhibits the presence of mycorrhizae. Her threshold for excess was 14 ppm, much lower than the recommendations for crops. She stated that aerated compost teas do not work with trees. Just use the compost. Her thought, you remove bacteria from their food source, spray or pour them out on the ground, and then expect them to survive? Just use the compost.

The keynote talk by Mark Bays was very emotional for me. My 2-year-old son was killed about a week after the Oklahoma City bombing that occurred on April 19, 1995. I soaked the cuffs of my shirt, but I was not alone. There were very few dry eyes in the audience. The survivor tree is an American elm that was close to the building and was heavily damaged by the blast. Seeing the picture of the tree shortly after the blast makes you wonder why they kept the damaged tree. (Think Charlie Brown Christmas tree.) Fortunately it took a year for the initial cleanup and the tree

was low priority and ignored, giving it time to sprout new leaves. They chose to save the tree doing incredible things to insure recovery; much like was done for the Treaty Oak in Austin. It has recovered and currently looks marvelous. It is now the centerpiece of the memorial grounds.

This year's conference was great. The conference in 2019 will be in Knoxville TN. I have grandkids in Nashville, so we will attend and plan to spend several weeks in Tennessee. Hope to see you there. ■

## Diverse learning opportunities at the ISA Conference *by Amando Cortez*

The annual ISA conference offered a diverse selection of educational sessions, such as workshops and tradeshow break-out trainings, including one on hands-on use of chainsaws. Franklin Park—with a historical conservatory—was the venue not only for the pre- and post-conference workshops, but also for the Arbor Fair & Expo August 3–5, including the International Tree Climbing Championship.

Competitors from all over the world demonstrated their top-notch skills, competing for the title of International Champion. That title went to James Kilpatrick, 2017 ITCC Champion, and Krista Strating from the ISA Ontario Chapter. Women were strong competitors at the championships and dominated the event standings. Colorful Teufelberger climbing ropes hung down like spaghetti as competitors were timed on aerial rescue, climbing speed, and throw line toss among other activities, with an occasional outburst of cheering, all on the greenest venue you can imagine.

The Arbor Fair had various tree industry vendors and horticultural extension agencies, all in outdoor pop-up tents, surrounded by mature London plane, American elm, and American chestnut trees (list not exhaustive). Vendors displayed the latest tree climbing gear from local, national, and international companies. It was an excellent place to be, and to network, especially for the workshops that included a tree walking tour of the Franklin Park Conservatory property by the horticulturist, a graduate student from Ohio State University.

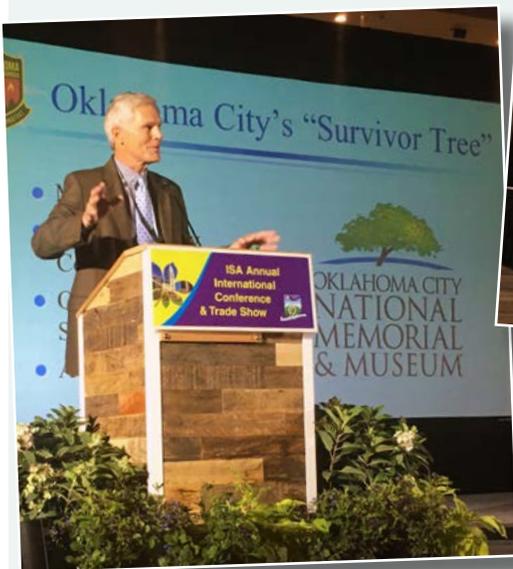
The post conference workshops offered a valuable training experience as we all need to game-up our knowledge and help train others to increase worker safety and productivity, with a more in-depth knowledge of arboriculture science and its practice. An urban walk in downtown Columbus offered such an opportunity, known as a Diagnostic Discovery. Buckeye instructors with many years of experience in the green industry guided us to various problem sites, especially ►

◀ parking lots, and one large park where trees, both in good health and in decline, were discussed. This guided tour again offered insight into the impact of climate change on urban trees with the challenges of improper tree installation.

Within the walls of the convention center, programmed sessions offered a variety of case studies and insight(s) into changes in the tree industry, including the growing role of women—as we see in ISA publications, in cutting edge scientific research, and in seeing women make strides to break into arboriculture in many ways, including as tree climbers. This is a trend that will grow, and men, as in other traditional male-dominated fields, will learn to be more inclusive – making it that much better for all of us. ■

## Short & sweet commentary on the ISA Conference *by Rachel Brewster*

When I found out the 2018 ISA International Conference was in my hometown, I saw it as the perfect opportunity to network, learn, and see my family. As a recently Certified Arborist for a small company in Texas, I was worried I'd be too small a fish in a big pond. I feared I wasn't experienced and important enough to be at the International Conference. I was very pleasantly surprised to find the ISA community extremely welcoming and friendly. I was able to chat with ISA board members and tree-world famous instructors and speakers much more easily than I expected. I learned just how supportive and tight-knit the ISA community is, and it has reaffirmed for me that I'm in the right industry. ■



# Firsthand Report from the ITCC

by Jimmy Prichard, Integrity Tree Care

Let me start by saying, “Wow, what took me so long?” The ITCC was such an amazing experience—incredible camaraderie between climbers—that you almost forget you’re involved in a competition. From gear check, walk throughs and the events, it was so laid back and just stress free – well except for the stress I have before events, lol. Happy faces everywhere, I was truly made to feel like the climbers were stars. Well I guess Star Quintero is a Star technically; she was deadly though, as usual.

Back to the comp, the setup was fantastic, and we had several friends come up from Texas to support us. Also, we brought Roxie Cat (she’s actually a dog) and we deemed her our official tree climbing competition mascot. The weather was cooler than Texas but maybe not by much.

We started in rescue and both Star and I had pretty good rescues. I think we were 5th and 6th respectively in our divisions overall. Next was speed belay, and it’s neither of our strong event, but we still got okay points. So I was feeling pretty good going into day two of the prelims. I knew I needed a great throwline to have a shot at the Masters (found out after it was 23 to be exact). But we both had rough throwline events. Mine was terrible; I scored the big goose egg. I’m pretty sure Star got one lower union with a rope installed. Work climb was next and it was in a massive red oak tree, not sure the exact species. It was one of those setups with a lot of swings and you had to fully commit to them or you might get starched. Star went first and was having a pretty good run but timed out after the last station. There was a point where all the climbers had to stop and really do a lot of housekeeping with rope slack. It was a real time killer but absolutely necessary to have a good run. My run was okay, I guess, but I honestly never feel too happy after my work climbs. I bounced on the limb walk and lost a couple points. I had the first limb toss bounce out and then hit the second. Plus, on my landing station I only got one foot in the red of the bullseyes. I think overall I may have been 13th in work climb.

Next, I was first up in our group in the ascent event. I have been working hard on getting my setup under 10 seconds. But unfortunately I fumbled some and it didn’t happen. The height was 54 feet to the bell and I think I got it in 15 seconds and some change. Star was last in our group, so she had a while to wait. She actually did get her setup under 10 seconds; it was flawless. She had a pretty good run at 24 seconds and some change and we both got our full change over points at the top.

We left both feeling we could have done better and I’m sure we had the should’ve, could’ve, would’ve. But that’s part of it, that’s the part I enjoy about comps: taking an honest inventory of where we need to improve and also seeing areas we have improved. At 47 years old I honestly feel better than I did 15 years ago. I feel the comps have pushed me to continually try and improve my skillset. But also made me think more about training, health and nutrition.

Next up for us is North Americans in Providence and the work has already begun. Hopefully all the Texas climbers can really have a strong showing there. ■

*Editor’s note: Star Quintero and Jimmy Prichard represented ISA Texas at ITCC this year. Representatives are chosen from the winners of the Texas Tree Climbing Championship (TTCC). Jimmy won the TTCC in 2017 along with Candace Matthews. Candace has since moved to New Zealand and was unavailable to represent the chapter. Star, as the 2018 TTCC winner, stepped in to provide representation. The 2018 TTCC winners will represent Texas at the North American Tree Climbing Championship. The 2019 TTCC winners will represent Texas at the 2019 ITCC.*





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## TFS Interns spend two weeks learning about urban forestry

Every year the Texas A&M Forest Service hires two interns for the summer; they spend a few weeks with every department to gain a holistic view of TFS as an agency. This year the interns, Matt Garrison and Dayziah Petruska, spent the last two weeks of their internship with the Urban and Community Forestry Program. They spent a week in Austin with Brad Hamel, the Central Texas Regional Urban Forester, and a week in the Dallas/Fort Worth area with Mike Sills and Courtney Blevins, the Dallas and Fort Worth Regional Urban Foresters.

Matt and Dayziah started their week Monday afternoon at the Austin office where Paul Johnson, the urban forestry program coordinator, gave them an overview of the program. The interns spent the middle of the week learning about many facets of urban forestry, starting with a tour of the University of Texas campus where they learned about tree protection at a campus that is constantly under construction. One afternoon they spent with the Austin Parks and Recreation crew learning about municipal urban forestry. Then they met with Vincent Debrock of Heritage Tree Care to learn about private arborist practice.

The interns accompanied Brad on his regular job duties including collecting the emerald ash borer (EAB) traps that were placed in Austin for early detection of the insect; no EAB was found. Another activity was going to Bastrop to observe Brad training the Parks and Recreation crew on proper pruning techniques. He gave a PowerPoint followed by a field demonstration.

Thursday evening they drove to San Antonio and participated in the San Antonio Zoo tree inventory on Friday.

Matt and Dayziah learned a lot about urban forestry from Mike Sills in Dallas. They met with Rich Hendler, consultant for ACRT, where they learned about utility arboriculture consulting, including proper pruning technique and herbicide treatments in utility right-of-ways and easements. With Jeff Quinters, utility forester for Oncor Electric, they learned about utility vegetation management by visiting a line clearance crew pruning trees. The interns attended several meetings, including the North Central Texas Urban Forestry Conference Planning Committee and Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council board meeting, where they learned about planning for a conference and a big tree tour, respectively.

The interns presented their summer experience to TFS at the end of their internship.

Matt related his surprise about how urban forestry is very people oriented. Dayziah was impressed with the diversity of experiences and professions within arboriculture. ■ — Brad Hamel and Mike Sills



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# Razones para Contratar a un Arbolista *secunda parte*

por Mark Duff, BCMA (TFS retirado)

## Selección del arbolista adecuado para el trabajo

Al seleccionar un arbolista se deben considerar diversos aspectos:

- El arbolista debe estar afiliado a organizaciones profesionales como la Sociedad Internacional de Arboricultura (ISA, siglas en inglés), la Asociación Nacional de Arbolistas de los Estados Unidos (NAA, siglas en inglés) o la Sociedad Americana de Arbolistas Consultores (ASCA, siglas en inglés). Eso demuestra la voluntad del arbolista de mantenerse informado y al día en las últimas técnicas.
- Busque en las páginas amarillas de la guía telefónica aquellos arbolistas que son certificados por la ISA. Los arbolistas certificados son profesionales con experiencia que han aprobado un examen sobre todo lo relacionado con el cuidado del árbol.
- Solicite una prueba de la póliza de seguro del arbolista y, si no está convencido, consulte por teléfono a la compañía aseguradora. Un arbolista de prestigio poseerá una póliza de responsabilidad civil que cubre daños a personas y propiedades, así como compensación a los trabajadores. Muchos propietarios de casas han tenido que pagar grandes sumas de dinero por los daños causados por un individuo no asegurado que dice ser experto en árboles. Usted podría ser responsable de los daños y lesiones que ocurriesen como resultado de un trabajo mal hecho.
- Algunas agencias del gobierno requieren que los contratistas soliciten permisos y/o licencias antes de que puedan hacer un trabajo. Asegúrese de que cumplan con cualquier ley local, estatal, provincial o nacional que regula el trabajo de los arbolistas.
- Pida referencias para averiguar los lugares en los que la compañía ha realizado un trabajo similar al que usted solicite. No dude en comprobar las referencias o en visitar otros lugares donde la compañía o el arbolista ha realizado trabajo. El cuidado del árbol es una inversión sustancial de larga data. ¡Usted nunca compraría un coche sin probarlo! A menos que esté cómodo con el arbolista, pida un presupuesto. Puede que tenga que pagar por éstos trámites y que le tome más tiempo, pero ayudará a la inversión. Desconfíe de individuos que van de puerta en puerta ofreciendo gangas por hacer trabajo con árboles. La mayoría de las compañías de prestigio están muy ocupadas para buscar trabajo de dicha forma. El mal cuidado de los árboles puede tomar muchos años para corregirlo y en algunos casos nunca logra hacerlo. ¿Está usted dispuesto a correr el riesgo con una inversión de valor?
- Los buenos arbolistas sólo harán prácticas aceptadas. Por ejemplo, prácticas como el desmoche, la eliminación de una cantidad excesiva de madera viva, el uso de espuelas para trepar árboles que no van a ser talados y la eliminación o mutilación de árboles vivos sin una causa justificada, resultan innecesarias.
- No acepte siempre el presupuesto más bajo. Usted debe examinar las credenciales y las especificaciones escritas de las compañías que presenten las ofertas y determinar la mejor combinación de precio, el trabajo que se realizará, la habilidad y el profesionalismo, para proteger su importante inversión.
- Solicítelo por escrito. La mayoría de los arbolistas buenos firman un contrato con sus clientes. Asegúrese de leer el contrato cuidadosamente. No tema preguntar: ¿Cuándo comenzará y finalizará el trabajo? ¿Quién será el responsable de la limpieza? ¿La cantidad estipulada será el precio total? Si deseo que se haga más trabajo, ¿cuáles son sus honorarios? ►



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# A Simple Review: The Plant Cell

by David M. Vaughan

## part 2

Inside the cell membrane, the cell is filled with a liquid cytoplasm. Within the cytoplasm are organelles. Also floating in the cytoplasm are proteins and enzymes and amino acids. It is about the consistency of a thick tomato soup. Incredibly there are about 1,000 different proteins, maybe a total of 100,000 proteins at one time floating in this soup. And that's just in the space that is not occupied by organelles.

The organelle that produces energy from the sugars made by photosynthesis is called mitochondria. It is surrounded by a double phospholipid membrane embedded with transport proteins. There are thousands of mitochondria in most plant cells. Inside, enzymes strip electrons from glucose molecules and use them to add phosphorus atoms to ADP to make ATP. ATP is the energy source for functions within a cell. Breaking the phosphate bond of ATP returns it to ADP and releases an electron that supplies that energy. All life, no matter how small, requires energy.

Ribosomes are organelles that are the factories for protein synthesis. Ribosomes are produced by the nucleus. Some are free floating in the cytoplasm and some are attached to the rough endoplasmic reticulum. The free floating ribosomes produce proteins used by the cell and those embedded in the rough endoplasmic reticulum produce proteins that are moved out of the cell for use in other parts of the plant. Ribosomes do not have a membrane.

So, DNA in the nucleus replicates small sections of RNA which contain the blueprint for a protein. Messenger RNA carries this message to a ribosome. Transport RNA gathers the correct amino acids (there are 20) and delivers them to the ribosome. The amino acids enter the ribosome, are assembled according to the directions of the RNA, ATP provides some energy, and out comes the requested protein. The protein is then shipped to the Golgi apparatus, another organelle, for final processing.

The endoplasmic reticulum is a long membrane that is attached to the outer membrane surrounding the nucleus. It has many folds and attaches to the cell membrane. The part near the nucleus is called the rough endoplasmic reticulum due to embedded ribosomes. Proteins are processed here with nucleotides that send the protein out of the cell to a specified destination. Sugars can be added to the proteins making them into glycoproteins to be used for cellular functions and reactions. Toxins in the cell are changed into benign substances for transport out of the cell.

The Golgi apparatus is attached to the endoplasmic reticulum. The Golgi apparatus is surrounded by a membrane and it is the packaging and shipping center of the cell, the FedEx of the cell. It is surrounded by tiny tubules that extend throughout the cell. There are only about 5 to 8 Golgi apparatus in a cell and almost all molecules within a cell must pass through one of them. Each one has a separate set of enzymes. Molecules are finished, sorted, chemically tagged with a destination code, and then loaded into vesicles for final transport along the tubules.

Taking up the most room inside the cell is the vacuole, another organelle that is surrounded by a membrane embedded with transport proteins. It maintains a pH of 7 in the cytoplasm. It can

merge with the cell membrane to purge waste. Waste can also be recycled by lysosomes and peroxisomes.

Lysosomes digest proteins and break them into their component parts for recycling in the plant cell. There are up to 100 in each plant cell. They have a pH around 5.

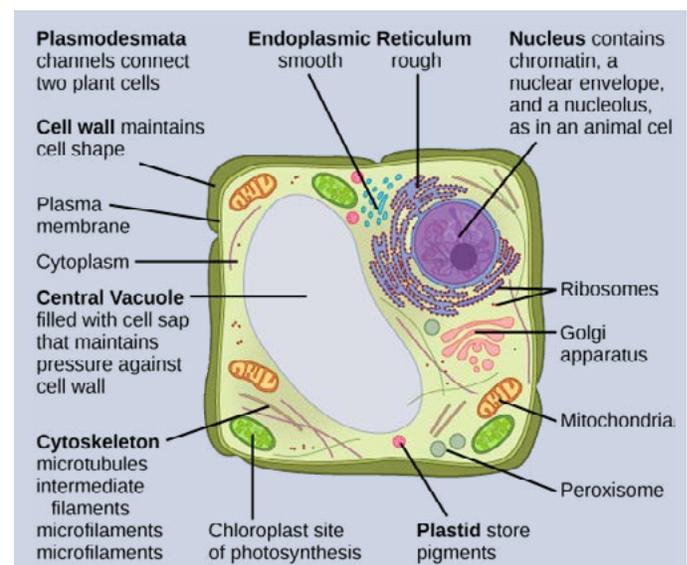
Peroxisomes digest fats and lipids. In seeds, they provide enzymes that start the conversion of stored fatty acids to sugars. They help with the assimilation of nitrogen and the metabolism of hormones.

The nucleus is where the genome is stored along with instructions for synthesizing proteins. It is surrounded by 2 phospholipid membranes. The outer membrane becomes the rough endoplasmic reticulum. The inner membrane of the nucleus (nuclear lamina) is a mesh network of fibrous proteins. Inside is DNA, RNA and the nucleus has its own organelle, the nucleolus. The nucleolus is the organelle that produces ribosomes.

How's that for complex and small. And we have not even mentioned chloroplasts. There are typically 40-50 chloroplasts in each plant cell. Each has a double membrane. They contain chlorophyll. In a leaf, there are about 500,000 chloroplasts per square millimeter. Inside each chloroplast, thylakoids are stacked with attached chlorophyll molecules.

When light hits a chlorophyll molecule's electrons, they jump into an outer orbit. This increases their energy level causing electrons to flow (like electricity). They flow through a special channel protein, ATPase. This results in a phosphate being attached to ADP to make ATP, the energy source for biological systems.

The electrons then get a second dose of light and are picked up by NADP (I will mercifully not spell that one out). The energy from ATP is used to form a sugar molecule. Each chloroplast ►



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◀ can create thousands of sugar molecules per second. With 500,000 per square millimeter of leaf tissue, a plant can generate an awesome amount of sugar.

The outer cell wall and the plasma membrane are a barrier and regulator of what may enter and exit the cell. Special membrane proteins allow water and nutrients to enter the cell while keeping unwanted stuff out. The cytoplasm holds structures and organelles that perform functions using nutrients. Mitochondria provide power for biological functions. The nucleus is the command center containing DNA, RNA, and its own organelle. Cells have transportation and communication infrastructure, protein synthesis areas, and even tunnels that connect every single cell within the plant. All contained in a body so small that 50 can fit on the period at the end of this sentence. All cells come from other cells. All functions necessary for life take place within each cell.

I am fascinated by the plant cell. ■

*This article, including both Parts 1 and 2, is based on Chapter 1 of Teaming With Nutrients by Jeff Lowenfels.*

## WHO DO YOU CALL? PLANT RESCUE 911

by John R. Warner, Certified Arborist

Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) Heartwood Chapter member Cathy Niemann and her husband, Jim, along with Forester Connor Murnane and I were successful in rescuing native Pineywood prairie grasses and flowering plant species near Jones Lake on W Goodrich Jones State Forest near Conroe and The Woodlands Township.

The area where the plant rescue was conducted underwent extensive drainage restoration in mid-August through September to best enable the watershed to handle water runoff from nearby developments. Working with the TMN group, the majority of the native bunch grasses and flowering plants were identified and marked within the construction zone so volunteers could rescue these plants unique to the loblolly and shortleaf pine forests of East Texas. As an added bonus for volunteers, they got to keep a plant for every plant rescued, and another plant went to the Jones State Forest.

If the plants had remained within the construction zone and were not removed, they would have been destroyed in the construction process. Common buttonbush, purple coneflower, and Indian blanket along with tall bunch grasses like big bluestem, little bluestem, inland sea oats, Indian grass, and Eastern gammagrass were just some of the over 18 distinct species rescued.

These prairie plants were planted around Jones Lake in 2012-2013 as a post-drought resiliency and restoration native vegetative landscape project. Community volunteers from ExxonMobil, Heartwood Chapter TMN, Texas Master Gardeners, Texas A&M Forest Service and members from Mercer Botanical Garden & Society, Texas Native Plant Society, Society of American Foresters, International Society of Arboriculture and Boy Scouts of America were involved in the original planting effort. For more information on Jones State Forest and education programming and outreach, call 936/273-2261 or email [JonesStateForest@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:JonesStateForest@tfs.tamu.edu). ■



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# EVENTS

October 5, 8:30 am–4:45 pm

## Austin area ISA Certified Arborist Prep Course

Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin.

4 Fridays: October 5 & 12, November 2 & 9

[www.arborholic.com/cap2018b](http://www.arborholic.com/cap2018b)

October 5, 9 am–4 pm

## Corpus Christi area ISA Certified Arborist Prep Course

Register with Lisa Martinez at 361-767-5217. For more

information contact Bill Green, [bgreen@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:bgreen@tfs.tamu.edu)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 710 E. Main St. Suite 1, Robstown, TX. 4 Fridays in October. Up to 10 ISA CEUs and 4 TNLA credits.

October 6, 9 am–4 pm

## The Invaders of Texas Program and Sentinel Pest Network

HARC, 5501 Gosling Rd, The Woodlands, TX

This is a FREE event, space is limited, registration is required.

<http://bit.ly/invaderswkshp>

October 11, 8:30 am

## Tree Management Workshop-recognizing oak wilt and other issues

San Antonio Botanical Gardens.

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October 13, 8:45 am –4:30 pm

## Tour of Tarrant County Champion Trees

The CTUFC Fall Tree Tour will focus on great trees of Tarrant County aboard a roomy tour bus complete with restroom. Lunch will be provided at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que in Lake Worth. Come join us for an amazing day as your guide, Wes Culwell, introduces you to the largest trees of Tarrant County.

<http://bit.ly/fall2018trees>

October 16, 9 am–4 pm

## Amarillo Tree & Turf Safety Workshop

Amarillo College Downtown Campus. ISA & TDA CEUs will be available. Watch the Amarillo Parks website for more information.

<https://www.amarilloparks.org/>

October 19, 7:30 am–11:30 am

## ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, Municipal Specialist, and Certified Tree Worker Written Exam – Selma

<http://bit.ly/2LbYStu>

October 19–21, 4:30 pm

## Texas Women's Climbing Workshop

This will be ISA Texas' second women's tree climbing workshop and it is designed for women who have never climbed trees before with ropes and harnesses but also those who have prior experience and want to improve their ability.

<http://bit.ly/TXWTCW2018>

Sponsorship opportunities are still available, more info at

<http://bit.ly/TXWTCW2018spons>

November 6–8

## Fort Worth area Certified Arborist Prep Course

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/>

November 6, 7 & 8th with exam on the 9th. Questions? Email

Courtney Blevins at [cblevins@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:cblevins@tfs.tamu.edu)

November 9, 7:30 am–11:30 am

## ISA Certified Arborist, Utility Specialist, Municipal Specialist, and Certified Tree Worker Written Exam – Fort Worth

Deadline to register is October 24.

<https://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/examDatesAndLocations?id=8699>



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# Editor's Note

*Rebecca Johnson*



Well another conference has come and gone. I hope you all took advantage of the many great networking opportunities and got a chance to meet new people and reconnect with old friends. As an industry, we're stronger when we all work together and share knowledge and experience.

This issue we spent some time focusing on the ISA International Conference and International Tree Climbing Championship. The highlight of the conference for me each year is the Women in Arboriculture networking breakfast. This year we had a record number of women competing in ITCC and that continued into the conference with a sold-out networking session. The breakfast was followed by a symposium that afternoon. Many people reported that it was the best session they'd attended – full of positivity and a focus on making things better for women.

I'm really looking forward to continuing to network with more women in arboriculture at the second annual Texas Women's Tree Climbing Workshop. I had such a great time last year – realizing that I could actually climb a tree and have fun doing it. Then in the evening talking with the other women and finding my "tribe". It was an extremely empowering experience.

I do look forward to the day when we don't need to identify as "women in arboriculture" but that day isn't here yet. But I see it on the horizon. We just need more women stepping into leadership positions and moving into the areas that have previously been closed to them – such as climbing.

I'd hoped to have the elections results in time for publication, but deadlines must be obeyed. Be sure to go over to [isatexas.com/about/board-of-directors/](http://isatexas.com/about/board-of-directors/) and get to know your new board members. It was a tough choice this year, so many great candidates were running that I'm really excited to be serving on the board with whomever is elected.



Attendees from the women in arboriculture networking breakfast at the ISA Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

## WHAT'S UP, DOC?

# The Case of the Diseased Bay Laurel–Revisited

by David N. Appel, Professor and Extension Specialist, The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Several months ago (Feb. 2018) a case of a diseased bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) was presented in this publication under the “What’s Up, Doc?” feature. The bay laurel was growing in San Antonio and exhibited familiar symptoms of distress. The most obvious of those symptoms were random scattered, dead outer branches (See Fig. 1). *L. nobilis* is not cold hardy, and it prefers moist but well drained soils. The diseased specimen was growing on poorly drained, clay soils and had been subject to unusually low temperatures.

A request was made to the original submitter of the image, Mark Peterson, to revisit the tree and submit a sample for analysis. Mark Kroeze (no relation!) with the Texas A&M Forest Service, accompanied the original Mark and provided additional observations and images. With all of the added information, a more definitive diagnosis was possible.

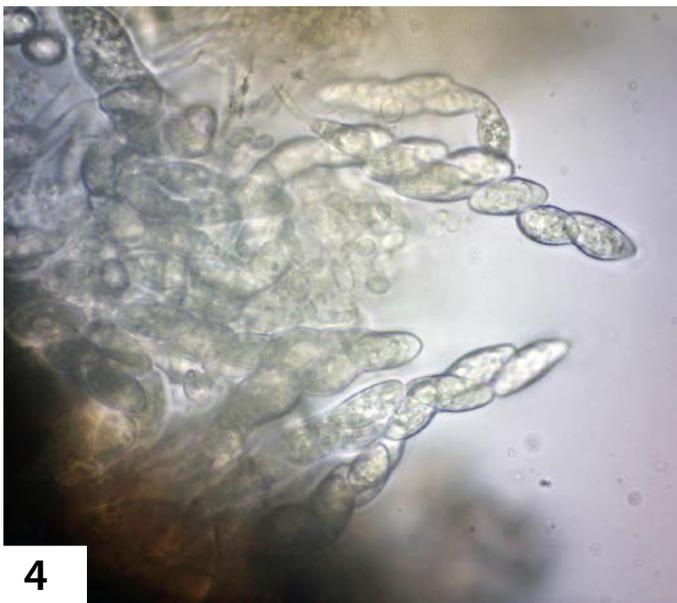
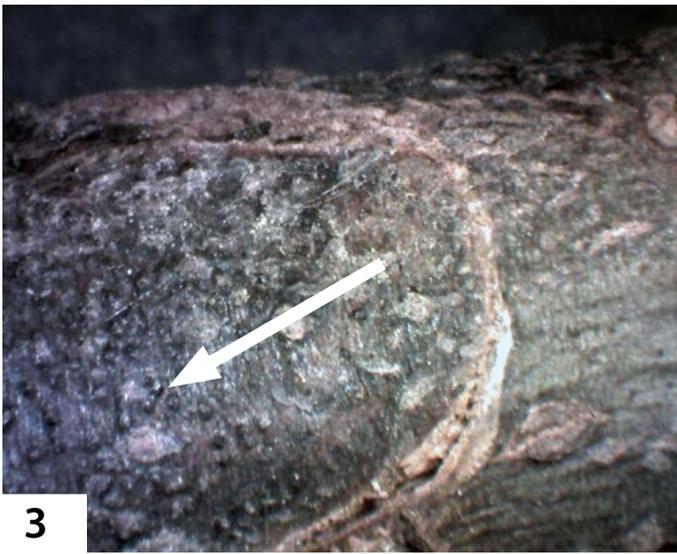
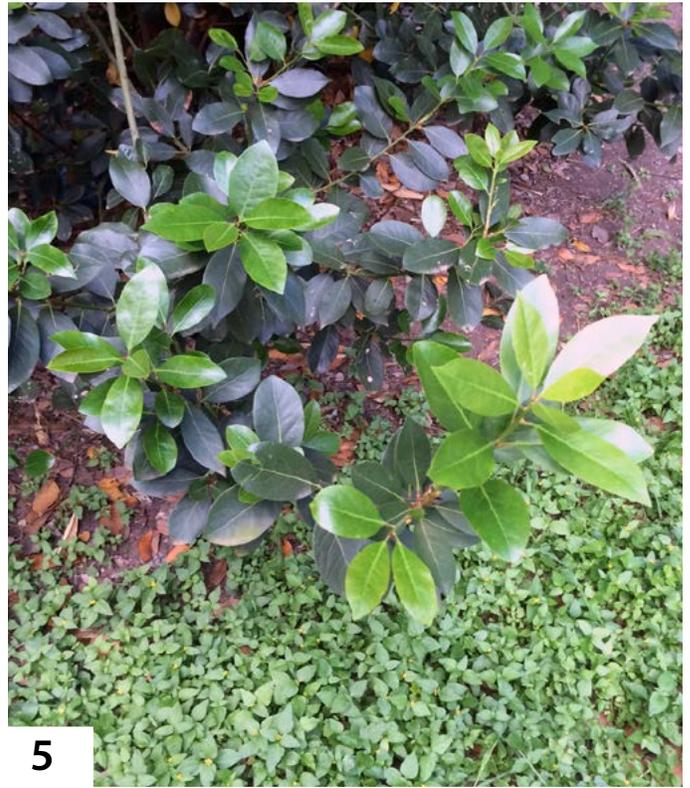
There were distinctive sunken, necrotic (dead) cankers girdling the twigs and branches (Fig. 2). With a hand lens, typical reproductive structures of *Botryosphaeria* (Fig. 3) could be seen on the canker surface. By viewing these structures, called perithecia, under the compound microscope, typical *Botryosphaeria* spores could be seen (Fig. 4).

Many different *Botryosphaeria* species cause cankers on shrubs, trees, and other woody crops such as grapevines with varying degrees of damage. Commonly known as “Bot” canker, infection is usually considered to be associated with stress in the affected plant. Also, infections are usually associated with any wounds such as bark cracks and other mechanical damage. These observations are consistent with the diseased bay laurel, where the tree was growing under less than ideal conditions, and was exposed to varying environmental extremes. Mark Kroeze noted that the tree was recovering, as seen in the new growth concealing the previous dieback (Fig. 5). ▶



◀ Control of Bot canker in trees depends on prevention by applying vigor-promoting cultural practices, reducing unnecessary wounding, and sanitation pruning with clean tools. In some woody crops such as small fruits and grapevines, the use of fungicides on wounds following pruning is recommended. Proper plant selection, made according to landscape conditions, is very important.

On a final note, an alert reader, Laura Miller, Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent for Tarrant County, suggested we should keep laurel wilt (no relation!), caused by *Raffaella lauricola*, in mind during our deliberations. This disease has made it to southeast Texas, affecting native redbay (*Persea borbonia*). Laurel wilt has proven to be a highly destructive disease on redbay and is a threat to the avocado industry in Florida. Although not responsible for the problem on our bay laurel in San Antonio, we should all be alert to this disease and its spread through Texas. ■



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## Networking with others in the green industry

# Representing ISA Texas at the TNLA Expo

by April Rose, Forest Health Coordinator, City of Austin

Wear your walking shoes when you attend the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA) Expo; there is a lot of ground to cover in both square footage and subject matter! Attendees and exhibitors represent a range of interests and expertise that may only be found in a state as diverse as Texas; nearly 500 booths filled the Henry B. González Convention Center in San Antonio. Exhibitors included growers and distributors of every type and size of plant material you can imagine, as well as soils, mulches, tools, chemicals, safety gear, irrigation technology, pavers, stone, outdoor kitchens, tree movers, palm growers, containers, and much more. Many attendees brought their whole family to enjoy the safari-themed event and Austin's own Native Texas Nursery won best booth! I was most interested in talking to tree growers about increasing diversity in their inventory, growing methods, and opportunities to increase species to add to the Central Texas landscape palette.

Ronny Nelson and Priscilla Files' hard work on the outreach committee paid off; 20 volunteers worked 32 two-hour shifts over three days and represented the ISA Texas chapter to Expo attendees. This was an important opportunity for our chapter to engage with TNLA members; volunteers spoke on behalf of ISA Texas about the benefits of becoming a Certified Arborist, and why it is important to work with Certified Arborists. They also did their own networking while enjoying the tradeshow. Seventy-five people signed up for our newsletter, and several exhibitors expressed interest in attending our conference.

During my presentation I spoke about the connection between trees and urban forests to the landscape and identified opportunities for our respective fields to collaborate and add value to each other's work. After presenting I went to lunch with fellow ISA Texas members Justin Krobot and Daniel Vetter. The unplanned guided tour of interesting and significant trees on the River Walk from a couple of locals was definitely a highlight. I told Justin and Daniel how much I like anacua trees, and Justin showed us one in front of the Alamo that he planted! I think Ronny and his team had a lot of fun too; they could not get enough of the scooters!

Like the Tree Conference, TNLA is a chance for friends and colleagues from across

Texas and beyond to connect in person. I am so thankful to Ronny, Priscilla, the San Antonio Arborist Association, and all the volunteers for helping represent ISA Texas at the TNLA Expo. If you have an interest in volunteering at an event, recruiting volunteers, or promoting ISA Texas, give me a call and I will help you find a role that fits your interests! ■



Justin Krobot, April Rose, Daniel Vetter with Texas landmark in background.



Volunteers staffed the ISA Texas booth at the TNLA Expo. Seen here are April Rose, Michele Forry, Mark Kroeze, Susan Roth and Priscilla Files.



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## What's the Big **ID**ea?



### Can you identify this Texas tree?

If you know this tree, look for the photo on our Facebook page and correctly identify it in the comment section under the photo, using the full scientific name and one or more common names. If you don't know it, check the page for an answer in a few days. The winner gets bragging rights and the chance to submit a tree to stump fellow arborists in the next issue.

*Hint:* This tree is known for its bark.

### Last issue's tree ID



Last issue's winner was Meaggan Reid, arborist at Archie's Gardenland, who correctly identified screwbean mesquite, *Prosopis pubescens*. She also provided this issue's challenge.