

In the Shade



NEWSLETTER OF THE
ISA TEXAS CHAPTER



December, 2018



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President's Letter

Emily King



Hello, Texas Chapter!

The end of the year finds your chapter leaders wrapping up 2018 and planning for 2019. At the end of November, the board of directors met in Waco for a two-day meeting of the minds. We used the newly adopted strategic plan to guide our discussions for how to manage the needs of the chapter for another year. We developed a 2019 work plan and adopted the annual budget. To maintain the basic needs of our members we are planning another robust year of workshops, and have already begun plotting the 2019 Texas Tree Conference.

Interested in taking a closer look at the strategic plan or annual budget? We work hard to keep the chapter's business transparent!

Visit <http://isatexas.com/about/isat-documents> for a full rundown of current and relevant information about how our chapter runs.

Best holiday wishes,
Emily

NEW MEMBERS

- Tanner Arwine . . . North Richland Hills
- Jose Barrera Sr. Corpus Christi
- Travis Block Anna
- Gregory Brown Arlington
- Joseph Buechman Prosper
- Thomas Burgess Wolforth
- Rodger Crouse Miami, FL
- Allison Duell Austin
- Joseph Fennell Lewisville
- Adam Fouts Garland
- Michael Hartford Cresson
- Ronnie Houston Fountain
- Adam Minisquero Allen
- Christina Moon Austin
- Michael Nealy Waco
- Omar Negual fort worth
- Alex Pelt Caddo Mills
- Bobby Pemberton Marshall
- Bud Reid Arlington
- Billy Snook Livingston
- Adam Soto San Antonio
- Dave Speed Austin
- Jose Suarez Bartlett
- Robert Taff Arlington

ON THE COVER

2018 ISA Texas Arborist of the Year Mark Bird (left) and 2013 Arborist of the Year Booker Arradondo take a break from tree pruning at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio. Along with fellow members of the San Antonio Arborist Association, the two were participating in Saluting Branches, a day of volunteer tree care held each year at national veteran cemeteries around the country.

In the Shade

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December 2018

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The Texas Chapter of ISA

successfully hosted the 38th annual Texas Tree Conference at the end of September in Waco. Our theme was Sustainability, and based on these numbers the conference surely sustained our members' needs for continuing education and networking:

Total Registrations: 1,031

Exhibitors + sponsors: 95

CEUs: 37.75

Speakers: 37

Volunteers: 41

Silent Auction: raised \$6,055 (record breaking, y'all!)



(See more about the TTC Trade Show on page 5 and lots more about the 2018 Texas Tree Awards on pages 6–8.

New Features at the TTC Tradeshow

by Bradley Hamel, Regional Urban Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service

The 2018 Texas Tree Conference was a great success with exhibitors this year. The design layout was changed to include some of the larger vendors toward the front of the hall, which created a better flow for attendees.

With approximately 50 booths, attendees enjoyed a variety of vendors, some of which had been around for a while, and others were newcomers. This was the first year we had six 20 x 40 ft. booths to accommodate the big vendors. The demo stage was added for the Heads and Tails event Thursday night, and The Texas A&M Forest Service even had their fire demonstration table on the master stage.

One new feature this year was the Tree ID Quest, a contest

where attendees had to identify pictures of trees and enter their answers on the Texas Tree Conference App (which included speakers and times, maps, and updates during the conference). The attendees enjoyed the layout of the exhibit hall, especially the food in the center. The Thursday Night Social was well attended, and the Tree Fund raised money with some great prizes with their Heads and Tails event.

The Silent Auction was a big hit with many great items to choose from; the most popular items were an amazing selection of wood carvings. The Silent Auction raised over \$6,000, one of the best years to date. The vendors enjoyed the massage booth, especially after being on their feet all day. ■



2018 Texas Community Forestry and Arboriculture Awards

aka Texas Tree Awards by Paul Johnson, Urban & Community Forestry Program Coordinator, Texas A&M Forest Service

Outstanding Arbor Day Activities: City of Shavano Park

An award to recognize individuals, organizations, or municipalities that have promoted Arbor Day through special projects, ceremonies, news articles or observations with an Arbor Day theme.

This year's winner is City of Shavano Park for their Arbor Day celebration. More than 600 people and 20 organizations turned up to help this community of 3,700 celebrate planting and caring for trees. They achieved these eight goals:

1. Increased awareness of many conservation themes and practices;
2. Educated residents on oak wilt prevention, fire-wise tree safety, and other tree care tips;
3. Demonstrated sound tree care practices;
4. Served as an educational venue/theme for their local elementary school's participation in a Birds of Prey poster contest that over 350 children participated in;

5. Recycled paper, batteries, electronics, and light bulbs, effectively improving the environment;

6. Successfully increased a sense of community by uniting citizens using a theme that everybody supports;

7. Partnered with numerous organizations dedicated to saving trees, improving habitat and other environmental conservative programs; and

8. Resulted in significant participation in a parallel objective of earning the National Wildlife Federation's recognition of Community Wildlife Habitat Certification and participated in the Trees for Wildlife program giving out 120 desert willow trees at no cost to residents.

While the event itself was impressive, months of preparation by the Shavano Park Tree Committee and City staff, the extensive advertising and educational articles in the community newsletter, and the continued recognition every time a citizen wears the event t-shirt ensured that the event touched far more people than those who just attended. ■

A.D. Smoot, Tree Committee Member; M.J. Smoot, Tree Committee Member; Randi Wayland, Tree Committee Member; Hughes Simpson, Forest Systems Department Head, Texas A&M Forest Service; Mark Kroeze, TFS Regional Urban Forester; Micah Pace, President ISA Texas; Bob Werner, Mayor; J. David Pierce, Tree Committee Member; Bill Hill, City Manager; Nancy Bula, Tree Committee Member; Kim Lane, Tree Committee Member.



Arboricultural Project of the Year: Yippee Ki Yay, Pease Park Conservancy, Austin

An award to recognize individuals, organizations, or municipalities that have made significant contributions through tree planting and landscaping which enhances environmental protection, conservation, beautification, energy conservation, or wildlife protection.

Internationally acclaimed artist Patrick Dougherty created one of his majestic Stickwork sculptures at Pease District Park in January, 2018. Branches of locally harvested tree saplings, including invasive species, were woven into a monumental and imaginative sculpture in Pease Park along the Shoal Creek Trail. Construction took three weeks.

During the last 30 years, Dougherty has created more than 275 site-specific public art installations all over the world. Each sculpture is designed to harmonize with its unique location. As Dougherty explains: "my art is an opportunity to make community, although that's not its primary goal; it's only a secondary gain. In building sculpture and having people unite and throw their energies into it, a kind of magic happens."

The interactive spirit of the project and its whimsical nature has sparked the imagination of Pease Park patrons and passersby of all ages. Partners for the project included Austin Parks and Recreation Department, the Austin Economic Development Office's Art in Public Places program, surrounding neighborhood associations, and the Art School at Laguna Gloria. Two local tree companies offered their services free of charge, and more than 200 volunteers assisted with the project.

This project enhances and benefits Pease Park, an urban forest in the heart of Austin, by removing invasive species and educating the public about their

◀ harmful effects and the importance of urban forestry. The project also provides a unique opportunity to bring new users to the park. Incorporating public art into public parkland helps bridge the gap between two important communities in Austin, all the while activating a public space for everyone to enjoy.

The project includes work in two project categories and associated subcategories: education and promotion, including public education, events, and print/online materials; and urban forest stewardship, including invasive species control.



See more Stickwork sculpture photos at <https://peasepark.org/yippeeki-yay>.

The objectives of the project were and are:

- Educating the public, particularly school children and the more than 200 volunteers who assisted during the project, about urban forestry and the negative impact of invasive species. Because they used invasive species there was great opportunity to discuss how they impact natural habitats and why it is important that native species thrive in the region.
- Encouraging community engagement and raising awareness of Pease Park, an urban forest in the heart of Austin. This elevated the park's stature as a historic cultural landscape.
- Utilizing public art as a tool to raise community consciousness and reinforce an authentic sense of place.

Stickwork is a project of Pease Park Conservancy (PPC), which is dedicated to the rehabilitation, beautification, and support of Austin's central city park for the enjoyment of Austin and future generations. ■



Hughes Simpson, Forest Systems Department Head, Texas A&M Forest Service; Ixchel Granada, Director of Projects and Programming, Pease Park Conservancy; Micah Pace, President ISA Texas.

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The Gold Leaf Award–Landscape Improvement: Educational Tree Trail, City of Denton *The 2018 Gold Leaf Award winner is the City of Denton for their Educational Tree Trails Program. This program is the result of suggestion from a local resident to educate the public about trees the City has been planting through the Shady Trails Initiative.*

In the spring of 2015, the Denton City Council approved approximately \$350,000 for a series of four tree-planting projects. Due to the positive response from the public, the initial program has been expanded and has resulted in the planting of 1,416 trees along trails in 15 city parks.

The Educational Trails Program began in 2017 to educate the public on the various types of trees being planted along trails in city parks. This has been accomplished through the installation of educational signage in prominent locations along trails in the 15 city parks where trees have been planted so far. Moving forward, the program will continue to install signage as trees are planted along trails in additional parks. The signs measure 36 by 24 inches and include the common names of the various trees planted as well as a picture of the mature tree, leaf and fall color if applicable.

This program is funded through the City’s Tree Mitigation Fund as allowed through the provision to “educate citizens on the benefits and value of trees.” ■



Hughes Simpson, Forest Systems Department Head, Texas A&M Forest Service; Haywood Morgan, Urban Forester, City of Denton; Micah Pace, President ISA Texas.

Arborist of the Year: Mark Bird *This award recognizes an arborist who has shown leadership, commitment, innovation, impact, and sustainability in the fields of arboriculture and community forestry.*

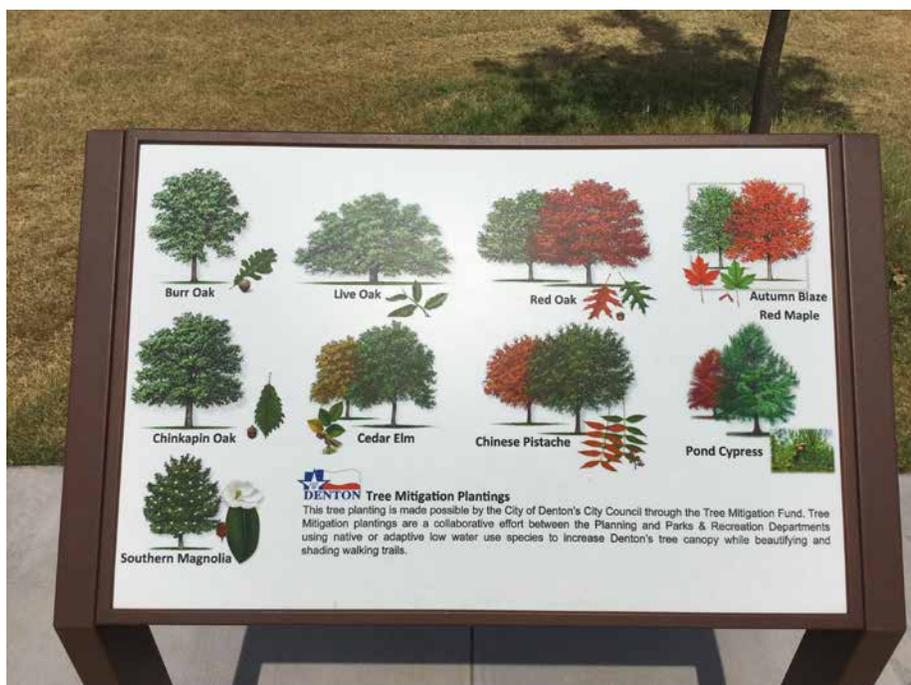
This year’s winner is Mark Bird, City Arborist for the City of San Antonio. Mark’s career in arboriculture and community forestry is a wonderful example for all of us from his beginnings as a climbing and sales arborist to his current position and responsibilities. In addition to his professional duties, Mark serves on the board of directors for Alamo Forest Partnership, one of our regional urban forestry councils, and San Antonio Arborist Association.

Mark’s service is illustrated in three projects – the annual Jammin’ Jams Fruit Tree Adoption in conjunction with Pearl Farmers’ Market, the ISA Texas day of service in Rockport following Hurricane Harvey, and the defense of tree ordinances in Texas at the local and state level. Mark has been integral in each of these projects and continues to strive to do more while helping protect and preserve the trees in San Antonio. ■



Micah Pace, President ISA Texas; Mark Bird, City Arborist, City of San Antonio; Hughes Simpson, Forest Systems Department Head, Texas A&M Forest Service.

Note: These awards are sponsored jointly by Texas A&M Forest Service and ISA Texas.



ISA Texas Volunteers of the Year: Misti Perez and Michael Sultan

Each year ISA Texas selects an individual who has exemplified, in both spirit and action, the meaning of service. This year we are pleased to have had the difficulty of trying to choose only one. While we are deeply grateful for all of our volunteers that help make ISA Texas a success, the Volunteer of the Year Award is reserved for those that have accomplished something special and/or whose service stands out.

We have selected two such outstanding and dedicated members as recipients for the 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award. Our first recipient has been a key member of the ISA Texas Board of Directors since 2011 and also serves as a proctor for arborist exams. This individual previously coordinated the first aerial lift certification exam in the state of Texas, expanding the field of knowledge for our members. This worthy recipient is at the heart of every educational event ISA Texas hosts, as she is responsible for making sure we all receive our CEUs. She is our dedicated Certification/Credential Liaison, Misti Perez.

Our second recipient has served your Board of Directors as a Director, VP, President, and Past-President. His presence has played a major role in the success of our annual conference for the past seven years, serving as Conference Chair, Academy Chair, and the Commercial Track Chair. This year he completes his service, stepping down after a three-year term as ISA Texas' Council of Representatives Liaison. He has faithfully, and fashionably I might add, represented ISA Texas for the past eight years – Michael Sultan.

These two deserving recipients represent the very best of ISA Texas and I am honored to have recognized them in front of their peers and the entire ISA Texas membership. ■



Michael Sultan, Past-President ISA Texas;
Micah Pace, President ISA Texas; Misti Perez,
Certification/Credential Liaison, ISA Texas.

A large advertisement for Nelson Tree Service, LLC. The background is a photograph of seven workers in a wooded area, wearing safety gear like hard hats and high-visibility vests. Overlaid on the image is the text 'PROTECTING THE REPUTATION OF THE UTILITIES WE SERVE...' in large white letters, and 'IT'S PART OF OUR JOB' in green letters below it. In the bottom left corner, there is a QR code and a 'See the videos' button. In the bottom right corner, the Nelson Tree Service, LLC logo is displayed, featuring the word 'Nelson' in green with a red apple icon for the 'o', and 'TREE SERVICE, LLC' in red below it. Underneath the logo, it says 'Vegetation Management Specialists' in white. At the very bottom left, there is a small copyright notice: '©2017 Nelson Tree Service, LLC. All rights reserved.'

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Eighteen participants, two assistant instructors, and three instructors attended the Second Annual Texas Women's Tree Climbing Workshop.

ISA Texas holds second annual Women's Tree Climbing Workshop

by Dee Chambless and Mariah Menzie, workshop attendees

Last month was the long-awaited second annual Texas Women's Tree Climbing Workshop. All the attendees expressed such appreciation to the sponsors who helped make this workshop a success. We were thrilled to have our three outstanding coaches—Melissa, Bear, and Roxy—return again this year. These coaches are artists and three of the best communicators ever. I watched in awe as they (from the ground) coached up to three aloft climbers at a time. They calmly talk each climber through the next step that individual needed to take without skipping a beat. It was a big plus to have Star and Amanda assisting the senior coaches. The returning climbers were all better climbers this year than last. In my (non-arborist) career I have always avoided women-only groups, feeling I would be leaving out 50% of the experts I could learn from. In this case, however, I find myself craving the next Texas Women's Climbing Workshop.

– Dee

This is an exciting time to be a woman in arboriculture. Attitudes and practices are changing rapidly, making this career much more accessible to women. In the past, I have felt like I didn't have a place in the industry. I have sometimes felt that my work was inferior to my male counterparts, too. The WTCW reverses that narrative and replaces it with a culture of guidance and respect, as well as connecting a network of remarkable women. Thankfully, the Texas ISA chapter and the sponsors of the WTCW are leading the charge toward these changes, and their foresight will be rewarded by providing a path for a safer, more women-friendly work environment that will benefit the industry as a whole and the women who are a part of it.

– Mariah



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RETREET leads Harvey recovery project

Volunteers plant trees for 88 Port Aransas families

by Grady McGahan, founder/executive director, RETREET

On November 3, Dallas-based nonprofit RETREET led a coalition of local, regional, and national partners in planting 150 native trees (all 15 gallons in size), free of charge, for 88 families in Port Aransas, rebuilding in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Volunteers traveled to Port Aransas from all over the US to join locals in completing the work in a mere five hours.

Port Aransas RETREET addressed an often-overlooked part of the recovery process. Trees are destroyed alongside infrastructure and housing in every disaster. While bringing life back to an area produces an immense psychological impact by making decimated landscapes feel like home again, there are almost no resources available to do this unique work. Most people struggling through the recovery process do not have time, energy, or funds required to replace their lost trees and do not know which trees should be planted where, or when is best to do so. Of everything lost, mature trees are what will take the longest to replace.

“It’s been a long journey back. RETREET’s volunteers and trees helped my community fill voids left by the devastation and bring smiles as we watch them grow – a symbol that life is returning and this will be a great place to live again,” said Rebecca Kasbaum, a resident of Moore, OK, pointing out the impact RETREET’s work has had in her community following an EF5 tornado that devastated her town on May 20, 2013.

RETREET also hosted A Celebration of Community at the City of Port Aransas Civic Center following the planting, which was free and open to the public. Sponsored by Tito’s Handmade Vodka, the event featured dinner, drinks, and live music.

Major funding for Port Aransas RETREET was generously provided by Keep America Beautiful through their Community

Restoration and Resiliency Fund, as well as by The Home Depot Foundation. Port Aransas RETREET was a major environmental and infrastructural investment that will leave a legacy for generations to come. These trees, which now serve as powerful symbols of hope, reestablished the environmental identity of Port Aransas, providing shade for islanders and habitat for birds and other wildlife.

ISA Texas and Texas A&M Forest Service lent a helping hand as well, sending arborists to decide proper planting locations and lead teams of volunteers. RETREET intends to spread its programs to other communities along the coast and is committed to hosting numerous plantings over the next several years. Sign up for their mailing list through their website (www.retreet.org) and join them in redefining disaster relief by engaging communities to replant lost trees!



Above, a group of volunteers planting a tree.

Below, volunteers came from around the US, including ISA Texas members and Port Aransas locals.



EVENTS

December 6, 8:30 am–1:00 pm

Tree Health Care Workshop - Montgomery County Extension 9020 Airport Rd. Conroe, TX 77303

PRESENTED BY: ARBORJET Featured Speaker: Emmett Muennink, BCMA Arborjet solutions for the most common tree pests and diseases in the Houston area. This is a free workshop, 3.0 ISA CEUs
RSVP by December 5th: emuennink@arborjet.com
214-799-6115

December 12, 12 noon

Webinar - Rekindling the Forest in Our City: A story of research, responsibility, and care

Kristen King, NYC Parks & Sarah Charlop-Powers, Natural Areas Conservancy, 1.0 ISA CEU
www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/

December 13, 11:00 am–12:00 noon

Webinar - Reducing Tree Damage During Construction

Dr. Nina Bassuk, Cornell University, 1.0 ISA CEU
www.treefund.org/webinars

December 17 @ 9:00 am – December 19 @ 2:00 pm

2018 Earth-Kind Landscape Short Course – College Station

Please plan to attend 2018 Earth-Kind Landscape Short Course in College Station. This is a continuing education program designed for professionals responsible for managing and maintaining urban green space such as residential landscapes, parks, commercial properties and golf courses. The course will also benefit municipalities, schools and city water utility personnel, particularly those interested in developing sustainable urban landscape conservation programs. 18 TDA and 16 TNLA CEUs have been approved.

Register online at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Horticulture>.

December 18, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Waco - 2018 TNLA Grower Summit

Texas Farm Bureau Conference Center, Waco
The 2018 Grower Summit will be worth 8 TNLA CEUs and 5 TDA CEUs.

Member - \$90.00 / Non-Member - \$140.00

*** Registration includes lunch ***

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

January 10, 2019, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm CST

College Station – Retail/Landscape Summit

Texas A&M University
<http://bit.ly/2OKBMaz>

January 17, 2019 @ 8:00 am – February 1, 2019 @ 5:00 pm
Arboriculture 101 – Bryan

Whether you are preparing for ISA's Certified Arborist exam, TCIA's Tree Care Specialist credential, need CEUs, or are interested in improving your knowledge of trees, plan to attend Arboriculture 101. This popular class, taught by Dr. Todd Watson, is a comprehensive short-course designed to offer practitioners an in-depth understanding of urban trees and their care.

Register online at <https://conta.cc/2QIlqzF>

January 22, 2019, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Crew Leader Qualification Workshop, Dallas

Aspiring, new and veteran crew leaders – develop and grow your leadership, communication and personnel management skills, and learn how to apply them to strengthen your team. Participants will take an exam to earn TCIA's new Crew Leader Qualification. Prerequisite: Completion of Tree Care Academy Crew Leader manual. Includes lunch. Registration starts at 7:30 am.

<http://bit.ly/2Q7IbCB>

January 23, 2019

Texas Regional Stormwater Conference – New Braunfels

<https://www.txphase2ms4.com/>

January 26, 2019, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Winter Tree Fest, Austin

Celebrate Texas trees in the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Arboretum with family-friendly tree climbing, walks and talks, s'more roasting, fort building, a tree sale and more! Wildflower Center ecologists and arborists will present fun, educational walks and demonstrations under the trees. Young explorers can learn, craft and play all day.

<https://www.wildflower.org/event/winter-tree-fest>

January 26, 2019

City of Houston Arbor Day in MacGregor Park

Tree planting (1,000 trees) and tree adoption sponsored by Arbor Day Foundation for Harvey Relief, 1,000 3-gal. trees for residents to pick up.

February 9, 2019

12th Annual Tree Planting Competition in Missouri City

Hosted by Houston Area Urban Forestry Council. For more information contact Matt Weaver at mweaver@tfs.tamu.edu

Arbor Day in the Desert

Texans from across the state gathered in November in the high desert city of El Paso to celebrate the State Arbor Day and the importance of a community's tree canopy. The celebration, themed Growing our Desert Canopy, is a nod to the City's mission to have safe and beautiful neighborhoods, a vibrant regional economy, and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities, in part by increasing the urban forest.

"Increasing the city's canopy will certainly help us accomplish these goals, and Arbor Day is a great way to start," said Steve Lunsford, City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Land Management Superintendent.

The celebration, hosted in Galaztan Park, a newly constructed, state-of-the-art natatorium, included a ceremony, educational activities, free tree adoptions, and the planting of more than 100 trees to enhance the site and increase the existing tree canopy.

El Paso is located on the Rio Grande across the border from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The climate is a high desert at 3,800 feet elevation with an average rainfall of just 8.71 inches. In this environment, tree canopy is vital. Recognizing the benefits of a healthy urban forest, the City of El Paso has set out to increase the percentage of the ground that is covered by the City's canopy.

The keynote speaker was Greg McNicol, University of Texas–El Paso Associate Vice President for Facilities Management. He said "Campus trees serve multiple roles to include shade, soil protection, energy savings, enhanced air quality, stormwater management and a habitat for wildlife."

Texas A&M Forest Service is making it easy for anyone, anywhere to participate in Arbor Day. They've provided tips online to help communities create a memorable Arbor Day, as well as educational activities for schools, groups and families to get outdoors and learn more about trees. Visit <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/arborday/> for ideas on how to host an Arbor Day ceremony. Here you can also find instructions on how to properly plant a tree and activities about the benefits of trees, tree parts and how to identify a tree by its leaves or structure – plus so much more.

About Texas Arbor Day: Under the leadership of the Texas Forestry Association, Texas first observed Arbor Day in 1889, celebrating the benefits that trees provide over a lifetime. Today, the Texas State Arbor Day is sponsored by Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Forestry Association, and the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.



Students from El Paso's Johnson elementary were on hand to help celebrate.



Planting trees.



Presentation: Steve Lunsford, City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Land Management Superintendent, with Tom Boggus, State Forester.



Renee Jordan, City of Plano Park Planning Manager, Smokey Bear, and TFS' Mike Sills display the Tree City USA banner at the Arbor Day celebration. This year's Arbor Day in Plano was significant for a couple of reasons. First, it was the Parks and Recreation Department's 50th anniversary. Second, on this 50th anniversary Arbor Day, the city announced that Plano would be hosting the 2019 Texas State Arbor Day for its 30th year Tree City USA.



West Texas A&M University was recognized with their second Tree Campus USA award. Pictured is the university president addressing the students before planting several trees on WTAMU campus



Smokey in Plano.

Arbor Day around the state



Georgetown had a tree giveaway for Arbor Day again this year. They gave away 400 trees of three different species—all 5-gallon size. The trees were paid for by tree mitigation money from development.



Free trees for Arbor Day, Montgomery County.



More Arbor Day around Texas

Montgomery County

Texas Arbor Day 2018 was celebrated in Montgomery County on the Tree Campus USA of Lone Star College-Montgomery. Part of the celebration was honoring the winners of the ISD Poster Contest— Trees Are Terrific—as well as the contest sponsors. A large ceremonial tree was planted, and 100 smaller seedlings will go to school campuses around the county. The poster contest was open to nearly 13,000 fourth grade students in Montgomery County school districts.

Students, teachers, parents, sponsors and honored guests learned from foresters how to measure tree height and the benefits derived from #HealthyTreesHealthyLives. They also learned how to imagine and start your own Texas Tree Trail.

Special thanks to Conroe district urban foresters and conservation education staff Caroline Cruz, Dawn McCook, Connor Murnane, and John Warner, and Woodsy Owl Conservation Corps members Nalleli Hidalgo and Andre Saenz for being on hand to offer guidance.

The poster contest winner will be announced March 2, 2019 at the Texas Wildlife & Woodland Expo.

Lake Somerville

The Lake Somerville State Park complex partnered with Trees for Houston and Texas Roots to plant over 500 trees between the Birch Creek and Nails Creek units. The area had been devastated by floods and this event was the initial effort at reforestation.

On November 3 the complex welcomed over 100 volunteers. Texas A&M's Aggie Replant, Conservation Biology, Beta Tau Omega, Aggieland Lion's Club, and Wildlife Society showed up in true Aggie Spirit. Sam Houston State University's TKE Fraternity and Blinn College Refined Ladies gave



great strength and energy to the efforts of the day. Evan Anderson, ISA Certified Arborist, gave Birch Creek State Park's demonstration on proper tree planting. Also among the volunteers were a number of Cub Scouts.

In addition to planting trees, the scouts at Nails Creek State Park were able to attend a program presented by the Lake Somerville State Park Interpreter, Joy Nutt. The program covered the importance of conservation, which allowed the scouts to receive their World Conservation Award while making a lasting difference at the Lake Somerville State Park. What more could you add to a tree planting day? HEB's full hot dog lunch with all the fixings and Country Boy's Sausage tacos for breakfast! When the community gathers together for a good cause, great things happen!



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WINTER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

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What's the Big **IDEA**?



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 may win the award for most common names.

Last issue's tree ID



Last issue's winner was Laura M. Miller, County Extension Agent, Commercial Horticulture, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. She correctly identified roughleaf dogwood, *Cornus drummondii*. She also provided this issue's challenge.