

# In the shade



**NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER**  
Vol. 41, No. 2

July, 2017

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## In the Shade

is published six times a year  
by the Texas Chapter,  
International Society  
of Arboriculture.

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## ON THE COVER

Men's and women's champions,  
Jimmy Prichard and Candace  
Matthews, celebrate their victory!  
Congratulations to you both. Photo by  
John Giedraitis.

## Caitlyn Pollihan Is New ISA Executive Director

ISA welcomes its new Executive Director  
this month: Caitlyn Pollihan. Caitlyn is  
taking over from  
James Skiera, who  
has retired after 22  
years of leadership  
with ISA.



Caitlyn is experienced in forestry  
leadership and  
association  
management.  
She previously  
served as Executive

Director of the Council of Western State  
Foresters (CWSF) and the Western Forestry  
Leadership Coalition (WFLC). ■

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Lara Schuman



Congratulations to the winners of the 2017 Texas Tree Climbing Championship, Candace Matthews and Jimmy Prichard! It was a great event this year. I'm always impressed with the good attitudes of the competitors, who cheer each other on and seem to be competing more against themselves than each other.

This year we had three women compete. I have a ton of respect for these ladies who aren't intimidated to participate in this still predominantly male event. There are more and more women getting involved in arboriculture, and not just doing sales or working in offices either. I got my start in this field as a grounds person for our family tree care company, running a chainsaw, dragging brush, and driving a dump truck daily. It makes me really happy to see these tough women taking it to the next level. If you are interested in learning to climb, be on the lookout for a women's tree climbing workshop coming soon!

It is almost time for our yearly election for members of the ISA Texas board of directors. Nominations are open, so if you or someone you know would like to get more involved in running the chapter, please go to our website and put in a nomination form. We'd love to have board members represent all areas of the state and all the different areas of our profession. If you feel you can't commit to all of the responsibilities of a board member, but would still like to get more involved, we'd love to have you serve on a committee. Please reach out to any of us or our executive director for more information. I hope you have a great summer and I'll see you in Waco this fall. ■

## Nominations Wanted for Board of Directors

by Vincent Debrock, Nominations Committee Chair and Past President

The time of the year has come again to rejuvenate your Board of Directors. As past president, I have enjoyed seeing how much work gets accomplished and all the workshops and outreach organized through the year. My experience on the board has been very rewarding. On my first year on the board, I was asked to organize the Masters' Series workshop. I was able to choose for our early spring workshop a subject and speaker I was interested in as a commercial arborist, as well as work with the speaker, Dr. Chris Luley, on the format of the class: Remember your Mallet? It was very rewarding to see everyone enjoy it.

On the board there is a place for everyone: municipal, commercial, nonprofit or utility arborist. All it takes is some eagerness to give back some of your time and share your passion. We meet four times a year and touch base with conference calls to get things done. Towards the end of the year, everyone gets together for what has become our chapter's signature event, the yearly Texas Tree Conference, and as you know, that is a blast. If you want to put the time in at the board, you may get to chair your own conference one day! Don't be shy, there is a big support team to coach you along the way.

To get on the board, nominate yourself or someone else, using this form:

<http://bit.ly/2017nominations> ■



*by Jim Dossett, Head Judge, 2017 Texas Tree Climbing Championship*

On May 19 and 20, the Texas Tree Climbing Championship returned to the towering pecans of Austin's Govalle Park. Forty competitors from around the state, and several out-of-state competitors, joined nearly 50 volunteers and many spectators to decide who would represent ISA Texas at the 2018 International Tree Climbing Championship.

Since this was my first year as head judge of the event, I approached it with some trepidation; the bar has been set quite high by our previous head judge. But through the process of organizing the event and carrying it out, I quickly realized that with our amazing team of volunteers and support staff, I had nothing to worry about. Our corps of volunteers is truly impressive. Many of them have decades of experience in working this event, and it was a true blessing to lead this group

and see all of their hard work pan out to a safe, successful event.

We had an overwhelming response for competitors this year—so much so that we had to have a waiting list for competitors and ask some of the registered out-of-state competitors to withdraw or volunteer. Fortunately, several volunteered instead of competing, and their contribution to the success of the event was significant. The organizing committee also made the decision to hold the gear inspection process on the night before the event, which allowed us to start the preliminary events early on Friday morning. A special thanks to Patrick Brewer and Nicholas Crowther of Bartlett Tree Experts for volunteering the use of their facility for the gear inspection.

Thursday also hosted the pre-competition workshop which was once again taught by our good friend Phil Kelley. Phil conducted an excellent workshop on advanced rigging that drew nearly 60 participants—one of our best pre-comp workshop turnouts to date. Phil

is a consummate professional, and his knowledge and skills are always welcome here in Texas. Phil's contribution continued throughout the competition as he provided valuable insight into many parts of the event.

### **Speaking of Thursday**

Thursday is our usual set-up and run-through day for all of the events. Because of the threat of rain, we began set-up on a soggy Wednesday morning and had an awesome group of volunteers to help us out. By Thursday morning, we were well on our way to having the event ready. Thursday began early and ended late, with gear inspection wrapping up around 9pm. But all the preparation was worth it when the event started on Friday morning.

In addition to our competitors and volunteers, our sponsors also were a huge help. Husqvarna was our premier sponsor this year, running the stock saw competition and donating some amazing prizes to the winners of the Masters' Challenge and the stock saw competition. J.L. Matthews came out to the Thursday ►

Above: Miguel Pastenes, 9-time Texas Champion, begins his limb walk in the Work Climb event. Miguel had the highest point total in this year's preliminary events. Photo by Faith Warren.





Amanda Hancock gets final rule from Head Judge, Jim Dossett, before her Masters' Challenge event. Photo by John Giedraitis.

◀ night gear inspection and set up shop for competitors to buy gear they needed for the competition. A big thank you to all of our sponsors for their commitments of time and money. Their support makes the event sustainable!

## 2017 TTCC Volunteers

Jacob Akinzie	Jeff Jones
Nick Arthur	Marvin Juarez
Keith Babberney	Michael Klein
Gene Basler	Bill Koenig
Kevin Bassett	Guy LeBlanc
Thomas Berger	Brennon Magee
Brandi Blaisdell	Neville Mann
Austin Breaux	Nic Martinez
Jim Breaux	Jackson McIntosh
Chris Brewer	Jesse Neumann
Rachel Brewster	Gerzen Nyiri
Bryan Brock	Amesa Paff
Keith Brown	Kristoffer Rasmussen
Jim Carse	Kirsten Schneider
Nate Clark	Curtis Schoessow
Dorian Davey	Lara Schuman
Vincent Debrock	Kaden Schuman
Nevic Donnelly	Markus Smith
Jason Donnelly	Kenneth Smith
Jim Dossett	Nate Sponseller
Gene Gehring	Michael Swartz
Eddie Gorostieta	Casey Tavares
Curtis Hopper	AJ Thibodeaux
Kirbie Houser	James Tuttle
Steve Houser	Carl Wiggins
Rebecca Johnson	

Fortunately, the weather held out on Friday for the preliminary events and we had a great day of competition. At the end of the day, with all of the preliminary events concluded, the finals of the stock saw competition were held and winners were declared. Nine-time TTCC Champion Miguel Pastenes swept the men's division in the preliminaries while

the three women who competed this year put up impressive results as well, with Amanda Hancock of Austin finishing on top in the women's division.

With the Masters' Challenge scheduled to start on Saturday morning, competitors, judges, technicians and volunteers headed out to relax and recharge after a long day of competition. When we all returned Saturday morning, it was clear there was some serious weather moving in. Only a few minutes before we were scheduled to begin, we made the difficult call to postpone the start time to later in the day. It was a good decision! The skies opened up, thunder boomed, and lightning struck all around the park. Being out in the open during that storm would have been a bad place to be. The weather cleared up for our start time and the Masters' began, albeit in a soaking wet tree. Because of the conditions of the tree and the nature of the course, we made a decision to have a pre-positioned rescue line and Bryan Brock of Kansas as our designated rescue climber ready to go. Fortunately, the skill of the climbers kept them from needing Bryan.

The competitors in the men's division were Miguel Pastenes, Dallas; Vicente Navarro, Dallas; Vicente Pena, Dallas; ▶



The Masters' Challenge Judging & Technical team (l to r): Steve Houser, Jackson McIntosh, Nevic Donnelly, Event Chair Markus Smith, Head Judge Jim Dossett, Guy LeBlanc, Keith Babberney, Bryan Brock. Not pictured: Nick Martinez. Photo by John Giedraitis.



◀ Jimmy Prichard, Ft. Worth; and our out-of-state competitor, Nick Markley. On the women's side, Amanda Hancock and Candace Matthews, both of Austin, competed.

The course was difficult and made more so by the wet conditions, but all seven competitors had great climbs. In the end, Jimmy Prichard and Candace Matthews came out on top and will represent the chapter in 2018! Congratulations to you both!

Event awards were announced following the Masters' Challenge. In addition to the preliminary and Masters' Challenge winners, two important awards were announced: the Volunteer of the Event award and the Spirit of the Competition award. The Volunteer of the Event award is given to a volunteer who has made a significant contribution to the event, has embodied the spirit of service to the event, and has played a crucial and unselfish role in the safe and successful completion of the event. This year's volunteer award went to Bryan Brock of ▶

TTCC winners Jimmy Prichard and Candace Matthews both won climbing kit prize packages from ArborMaster. Photos by John Giedraitis.



Below left: Phil Kelly and others inspect the competitors' gear at the Thursday night gear inspection event. Photo by John Giedraitis.

Below right: This year's belayed speed climb event was a tough 50' run up a pecan that was our Masters' Challenge tree in 2009. Photo by Faith Warren.



◀ Kansas. Bryan voluntarily withdrew from the competition to make room for Texas competitors but made the trip anyway to volunteer. Like all the volunteers, he worked tirelessly to help set up the events, was an all-day, in-tree technician for the aerial rescue event, was our rescue climber for the Masters' Challenge, and overall was a great example of what a volunteer should be. Thank you, Bryan, for all your hard work!

This year's Spirit of the Competition award was given to Jimmy Prichard. Jimmy has been competing for nearly 15 years in our chapter events and is a perennial Masters' Challenge competitor. Despite his determination to win, Jimmy has always maintained an attitude that exemplifies the spirit of the event. He's a cheerleader, a coach to the more inexperienced climbers, a promoter, an innovator, and is determined to be successful and share that success with his fellow competitors, judges and volunteers. Congratulations, Jimmy, on the award!

I have volunteered at climbing competitions for many years and in many locations and the aspect that keeps me coming back is the comradery. The historical roots of the competition are the tree climbing jamborees of the 1970s in the Western chapter and a hallmark of these events that survives today is the comradery and spirit of friendly competition. For those of us lucky enough to be a part of this "tribe," these events keep us sharp, keep us connected, and allow us to use our skills and experience away from production in an environment of fun and friendship.

Of course, none of it would be possible without the help of our volunteers, our scoring team, our sponsors, and the chapter. I look forward to next year's event and to seeing you all again out on the field! Stay safe and keep an eye out for the next location of the best traveling tree-climbing roadshow in the country—the Texas Tree Climbing Championship! ■

*Jim is also Division Safety & Training Coordinator for Bartlett Tree Experts, and a member of the ISA Texas board of directors.*

## Preliminary Scores and Rankings

### MEN'S

Competitor	Chapter	Overall Prelim Ranking	Preliminary Total (200 Max)
Miguel Pastenes	Texas	1	177.3333333
Vicente Pena Molina	Texas	2	136.8605
Nick Markley	Ohio	3	133.155
Jimmy Prichard	Texas	4	124.5863333
Vicente Navarro	Texas	5	114.8381667
Matt Starks	Missouri	6	113.1556667
Joshua Dickens	Texas	7	111.5801667
Chris Coates	Maryland	8	107.8933333
Otoneil Sanchez	Texas	9	106.7706667
Andrew Machuca	Texas	10	96.85866667
Jose Navarro	Texas	11	94.983
Ephraim Taylor	Oklahoma	12	91.09666667
Clayton Geer	Texas	13	84.8105
Norberto Mendez	Texas	14	79.46333333
Joseph Booth	Texas	15	73.605
Keith Cooper	Texas	16	72.782
Ramiro Dorantes	Texas	17	72.72666667
Mark Hance	Texas	18	71.28666667
Thomas Berger	Arkansas	19	71.23166667
Nicanor Buitron	Texas	20	61.09833333
Steve Driskill	Texas	21	60.62166667
Carlos Garcia	Texas	22	57.23833333
Stan Williams	Texas	23	56.62
Paul Salas	Arkansas	24	55.44666667
Eduardo Navarro	Texas	25	51.33333333
Gralin Middleton	Texas	26	51.13166667
Oscar Dorantes	Texas	27	45.33333333
Alfredo Velasquez	Texas	28	42.66666667
Joey Cameron	Texas	29	40.33333333
Chance Martinez	Kansas	30	34.66666667
Ricardo Ramirez	Texas	31	28
Israel Velasquez	Kansas	32	26.175
Erick Navarro Palacios	Texas	33	6

### WOMEN'S

Competitor	Chapter	Overall Prelim Ranking	Preliminary Total (200 Max)
Amanda Hancock	Texas	1	56
Candace Matthews	Texas	2	45.66666667
Star Hansen	Texas	3	20.66666667

## Masters' Scores and Rankings

### MEN'S

#1 Jimmy Prichard – 264.33 points  
 #2 Vicente Pena-Molina – 239.66 points  
 #3 Miguel Pastenes – 195.33 points

### WOMEN'S

#1 Candace Matthews – 57.66 points  
 #2 – Amanda Hancock

To download the overall scoresheet, go to <http://bit.ly/2017TTCCscores>

### MORE PHOTOS!

More photos from the TTCC at <https://goo.gl/photos/CTSKthcN84vzZMG59>

More photos of the pre-competition rigging workshop at <https://goo.gl/photos/tar6PhVevejEUcg69>



## EDITOR'S NOTE by Rebecca Johnson



**W**ow! What a great couple of months this has been. I had the chance to attend the first oak wilt qualification workshop this year. It was hosted at St Edward's University in Austin. St Ed's (as it's affectionately known in Austin) has been an oak wilt center since the 80s, but thanks to the work of arborists, there are still lots of thriving live oaks on campus.

Quickly following the workshop was the Texas Tree Climbing Championship. If you missed it, I gotta tell you that you missed out on seeing amazing climbers and comradery. The first time I attended I was amazed at the cooperation between climbers. "Aren't they competing against each other?" I asked, and was quickly informed that it's more about competing with yourself and improving the industry as a whole. It's a great example for all of us.

What's next? I'm really looking forward to traveling to DC for ITCC and the ISA conference. I've been fortunate to get to be part of the Women in Arboriculture networking event. Every year we have more and more women joining the profession; soon there will be lines for the women's restroom. There's a perception (and often earned) that arboriculture and forestry are not welcoming to women and minorities. Networking events like this help us create entry into the profession and connect individuals with the resources they need to be successful. If you're going to be in DC, I urge you to sign up for the breakfast; it's open to all attendees, including men. And finally, I'm happy to announce that Texas will be the newest chapter to host the Women's Tree Climbing Championship this coming November. Watch our website for registration and sponsorship opportunities. This workshop is for women of all climbing abilities– from never climbed to working climber, from tree climber to recreational rock climber. ■



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Exploring the Urban Forest July 13, August 3 and September 16

Hands-on workshop for formal and non-formal educators interested in using the natural world as a classroom. Participants will become Project Learning Tree (PLT) certified educators and receive PLT's PreK-8 Guide with 96 TEKS correlated activities.

Cost \$60, includes book and lunch. CEUs available for teachers and ISA Certified Arborists. Registration is at [www.plttexas.org](http://www.plttexas.org).

## Leave the Leaves Seminar July 16–August 18, Edinburg

at the Edinburg City Service Center. Organized by Edinburg Forestry Partners. The dos and don'ts of pruning, presented by Bill Green, regional forester, and Allen Williams, authority on native and well adapted plants and trees.

[ekuprel@cityofedinburg.com](mailto:ekuprel@cityofedinburg.com)

## ISA Texas Board of Directors Nomination Deadline: July 21

Elections will be held in August and new board members will be installed in September at the annual membership meeting at the Texas Tree Conference in Waco. Download a nomination form at <http://bit.ly/2017nominations>.

If you need a paper copy mailed to you call John at ISATexas at 979-324-1929.

## 2017 International Tree Climbing Championship July 28–30, Washington, DC

at the US National Arboretum.

<http://www.itcc-isa.com/events/itcc/itcc>

## ISA Annual International Conference and Trade Show July 29–August 2, National Harbor, MD

at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center.

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/events/conference/index.aspx>



## 2017 STIHL Tour des Trees

July 30 – August 5

Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C.

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<http://stihltourdestrees.org/2017-rider-gallery/>

## Certified Arborist, Municipal Specialist and Utility Specialist Exams

August 11, Dallas

As with all certification examinations, the application must be in the ISA office twelve working days prior to the exam. More information and application at:

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/examDatesAndLocations.aspx?id=7759>.

## Spanish Language Aerial Lift Specialist Event August 25, Selma

Safety training for tree care workers.

[https://tcia.org/TCIA/EVENTS/Event\\_Display.aspx?EventKey=SH17SETX](https://tcia.org/TCIA/EVENTS/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=SH17SETX)

## Certified Arborist Test Preparation Course September 1–22, El Paso

Hosted by the West Texas Urban Forestry Council, Texas A&M Forest Service, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

[www.wtufo.org/site/programsAndEvents/index.php](http://www.wtufo.org/site/programsAndEvents/index.php)

## Certified Arborist Test Preparation Course September 8–29, San Antonio

Fridays at San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston. Sponsored by San Antonio Arborist Association, the course is designed to help prepare professional arborists to take the ISA Certified Arborist examination. Call Emma Trester-Wilson SABG @ 210-829-5360 with questions. <http://sa-aa.com/event-2109538>

## 2017 Texas Tree Conference September 27–29, Waco

at the Waco Convention Center. There will be Texas, national and international speakers, and tracks for commercial, municipal and utility arborists. Time to socialize and visit the exhibitors.

Information on being a sponsor or exhibitor:

<http://bit.ly/2017Exhibitor>



## Partners in Community Forestry Conference November 15–16, Tulsa, OK

One of the largest annual gatherings in the country of community forestry practitioners and advocates. Spend two days finding new ways to strengthen your own community forestry program. An event for urban forestry professionals, environmental nonprofit leaders, and educators interested in the role of trees in our cities.

<https://www.arborday.org/programs/pcf/>



ISA Texas hosted two Oak Wilt Qualification workshops this spring. Pictured here are the attendees of the May workshop at St. Edward's University in Austin. Dr. Dave Appel is demonstrating how to inject a tree at risk for oak wilt. Photo by Armando Cortez, City of San Antonio.

# Arborists Invited to 2017 Nursery/Landscape EXPO

ISA Texas arborists are invited to come and experience the 2017 Nursery/Landscape EXPO in Dallas on August 10–12 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center. EXPO's business building opportunities include:



- EXPO's two-day education conference is offering 7 hours of ISA CEUs.
- At the education conference, you can hear expert speakers such as Laura Miller (Protecting Pollinators), Dotty Woodson (Rainwater Harvesting for Urban Irrigation), and ISA Texas board member Gene Gehring (Best Maintenance Practices for Healthy Trees).
- The tradeshow pass gets you into three days of the tradeshow to source new products and meet one-on-one with hundreds of exhibitors.
- You also get access to two days of keynote presentations, and drink tickets to make new connections at the Welcome to Dallas Party.



Early bird specials end July 21. To create your show schedule, find CEUs and more, visit [NurseryLandscapeEXPO.org](http://NurseryLandscapeEXPO.org) or download EXPO's mobile app.

For a limited time, the first 500 arborists can register for a free tradeshow-only pass by visiting [NurseryLandscapeEXPO.org](http://NurseryLandscapeEXPO.org) and applying promo code WF7D! For more information contact [EXPO@nurserylandscapeexpo.org](mailto:EXPO@nurserylandscapeexpo.org) or call 512-579-3857. ■

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# The King is Dead... Long Live the King!

About 13 years ago, at the suggestion of Oscar Mestas and James Tuttle, ISA Texas sent Pat Wentworth and Kevin Bassett to Fort Davis to do a site analysis and hazard evaluation of what was left of a historic cottonwood grove on Fort Davis.

By the time the fort was designated a National Historic Site in 1961, the grove was still in excess of 150 trees. Over the years, many have been lost to drought and neglect. Trees had been pruned a couple of times before, with the last time about 1962.

At that time, some cabling work was done, but in a completely inadequate manner, and certainly not meeting today's standards. For example, six-inch lag eyes were used that barely reached through the bark.

In 2006, the National Park Service (NPS) put out to bid the pruning, removal and cabling portion of the work. Tree Loving Care was awarded the contract and has now been caring for the trees in the grove as well as other trees on the fort since 2007. Cables were installed in some of the trees, although the NPS did not have lightning protection installed, as was recommended. NPS set up a schedule of pruning the trees every five years

The largest of these older trees became the new Texas Champion Rio Grande Cottonwood after the National Champion (about 5 miles down Limpia Creek) was lost in the Rock House Fire in 2012. The new champion was about 250+ years old and has been declining for decades. In March 2013, a 6-foot co-dominant limb fell. This exposed, as was long expected, that the tree was hollow.

The tree continued to decline and had lost two thirds of its canopy. NPS made the decision to remove the tree instead of prune. Even though the tree was on an open area, for safety to our climbers and ground personnel and to protect any artifacts in the area, we opted to remove all of the canopy with a crane.

Perhaps a future champion may come from the tree. Cuttings were rooted, and about 20 clones are growing in a facility at the fort.

Meanwhile the new champion was nominated, measured and confirmed, and Fort Davis still has the Texas Champion Rio Grande Cottonwood! It is just under 7 feet in diameter DSH, 101 feet tall, with a canopy spread of 100 feet. ■

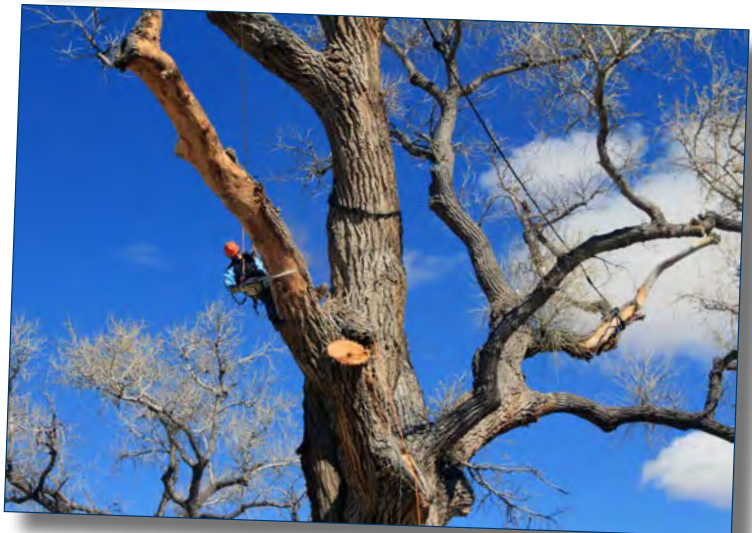
—submitted by James Tuttle, Certified Arborist TX0117A



(above)  
Removing the old champion's crown with a crane.



(left)  
Old champ showing hollow.



(below)  
Photo shows scale of tree.

# Preview: 37th annual Texas Tree Conference

by Micah Pace, President-elect ISATexas and Conference Committee Chair

After a one-year hiatus on account of ISA International hosting their little get-together in Fort Worth in 2016, we are back bigger than ever! Mark your calendar now for the biggest and best Texas Tree Conference yet!

We anticipate over 1,000 attendees and will have Texas, national and international speakers and topics. There will be tracks for commercial, municipal and utility arborists with plenty of time to socialize and visit the exhibitors at the packed trade show.

Here's a sneak peek at what you can attend this year:

- Two pre-conference Tree Academy Sessions Wednesday (9/27): 1. What's Up Doc? Tree Diagnosis Workshop with Dr. Appel and Friends and 2. Improving Connections & Resilience in Texas Cities Urban Forestry Workshop with Drs. Luloff, Gordon, and Elmendorf.
- The Wednesday evening (9/27) Members' Dinner and Social at the Bridge, 6 –7:30 pm. Come hungry, thirsty, and prepared to offer your best tortilla backhand while enjoying bbq, beer & friends!

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**Get a brochure, register online, find out about poster sessions, get details about speakers, events, and more, at**  
**<http://isatexas.com/events/texas-tree-conference/>**

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- The Tree Conference and Trade Show –Thursday (9/28) and Friday (9/29) – that includes educational tracks for commercial, municipal and utility arborists, an awards luncheon, networking socials, receptions and much more.
- And the Texas Tree School Sessions Friday (9/29) for up-and-coming arborists or for those that simply want to refresh their basic tree care knowledge. The English track is offered by master instructors Guy LeBlanc, Arbor Vitae Tree Care, and Brad Hamel, Texas A&M Forest Service. The Spanish track will be conducted by Mark Duff, consulting arborist; Adolfo Sanchez, FOS Tree Care, Guadalajara, Mexico; and Bill Green, Texas A&M Forest Service.

This year we will continue our history of providing outstanding education programs featuring nationally known speakers,

the latest in tree research and arboriculture, an expanded trade show, an awards luncheon, and numerous networking opportunities.



I am so proud of my conference planning team for all the time, thought, and passion they spent in developing one of the best programs anywhere in the country. I want to thank them for making this year's conference a success!

Your 2017 conference track chairs are: Matt Grubisich, Texas Trees Foundation, and Matt Weaver, Texas A&M Forest Service – Municipal Track

Michael Sultan, Davey Resource Group, and Jim Dossett, Bartlett – Commercial Track

Steve White, Davey Resource Group, and Matt Churches, NM Group – Utility Track

Mark Kroeze, Texas A&M Forest Service, and Gene Gehring, Urban Renewal – Texas

We are so excited to offer a diverse program of professional topics and speakers. We will cover current issues of importance, such as EAB management in Texas and surrounding region, starting a small business, and internet marketing 101. We will also explore urban heat island management strategies in Dallas and beyond, ways to improve utility tree management programs, a review of global tree care, changes in NERC rules, TDA licensing, and wildfire risk reduction qualification.

This event could not exist without the dozens of annual volunteers that generously give of their time to help us serve the entire membership. Please take a moment to thank them when you see them in Waco.

Finally, please think about donating something to our Silent Auction, which helps to support our members and the fine programming ISATexas provides each and every year. Please contact April Rose, [april@rosewoodarbor.com](mailto:april@rosewoodarbor.com) if you'd like to assist or have items to donate. ■



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# NEW MEMBERS

Jose Aguilar .....	College Station
Clay Bales .....	Austin
Jamie Bevis.....	Aledo
Alex Brown.....	Dallas
Jason Brown .....	Texarkana
Jaclyn Clark .....	Dallas
Cassandra Cobb .....	Austin
Merrit Cowden .....	Dallas
Ray Davis.....	Cypress
Kenneth Harrelson .....	Livingston
Derek Hausmann .....	Austin
Clayton Hinds .....	Ft. Worth
Carl Joiner.....	Leander
Justin Krobot.....	San Antonio
Joseph Lazarin .....	San Antonio
Anibal Lopez .....	San Antonio
Robert Makowski .....	Denton
Trevor Olmos.....	Plano
Stephen Patterson.....	Dallas
Sean Simons .....	Dallas
Patricia Stanley.....	Mansfield
Ashley Tatum.....	Austin
Rogelio Vasquez.....	Teague

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See the video





# Bur Oak Planted in Memory of Clayton Kirkland

by Jeff Floyd

On March 29 a 30-gallon bur oak was planted on the grounds of Midland College to celebrate the life of Clayton Kirkland. Clayton was the son of Terry and Gayla Kirkland. Terry is Director of Grounds Services at Midland College and a former officer on the Board of Directors for ISA Texas.

The tree, donated by Alldredge Gardens of Midland, will have plenty of room to stretch out as a grand reminder of Clayton whom Terry described as "...just a big kid at heart." ISA Texas is contributing \$100 for a memorial plaque to be placed at the site.

Midland Treekeepers, a committee of Keep Midland Beautiful, coordinated the planting with the assistance of James Tuttle, owner of Tree Loving Care. Terry and three of his crewmembers helped plant the tree along with Keep Midland Beautiful executive director Amanda Byrom and committee members Bart Hotchkiss and Mark Walter. Mark, who is also a Certified Arborist in Midland, explained "We not only share the joys of those in our industry, but we also share their sorrows." ■



Planting the tree were (front row, left to right:) Tony Love, Sam Martinez, Roydell Niblett, and (back row, left to right) Bart Hotchkiss, Terry Kirkland, Amanda Byrom, Mark Walter.

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## ***In Memoriam:*** **Forest Service Director Emeritus Bruce R. Miles**

*by Tom Boggus, Director, Texas A&M Forest Service*

Forestry lost a champion last month with the passing of Texas A&M Forest Service Director Emeritus Bruce R. Miles. Bruce was a “forester’s forester” and the first home grown, dirt forester (that’s high praise to a forester) to rise through the ranks and become Texas State Forester.

Bruce did a lot of living in his 82 years with us and he will be remembered for many years to come. He joined TFS in June 1959, as an assistant forester in Lufkin and completed his career with us in May 1996, as the sixth State Forester of Texas. In the 37 years in between, Bruce became a legend working throughout East Texas and in College Station. He was known for his uncanny ability to remember names and places and stories, but, most of all for how he cared for his employees and their families (including knowing our pets).

He received many awards and accolades during his career such as SAF’s Gifford Pinchot Medal (1981) and A&M’s Distinguished Performance Award for Administration (1982) as well as serving as Texas Forestry Association’s President in 1993. Retirement didn’t slow him

down as he was asked to serve as a national board member for the inaugural board for the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities.



He left his mark on forestry in our state with leadership in all aspects of our profession such as the industry-funded Texas Reforestation Foundation (TRF) that resulted in many thousands of acres being planted in Texas. Also, there are literally hundreds of photos of Bruce planting trees at Texas Arbor Day events - nearly all with him assisting a child around the tree and inspiring the next generation of foresters. He was inducted into the Texas Forestry Hall of Fame in 2008 because of just these types of efforts in promoting forestry across Texas and the nation.

Bruce also made an oral history video which is viewable at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9XH0N2N6MA>.

Please feel free to honor Bruce, Dianne, and the family by posting a tribute to Bruce on the Hillier Funeral Home memorial page:

<http://www.hillierfuneralhome.com/tributes/Bruce-Miles-1> . ■

## **Rehabarama: Restoring San Antonio neighborhoods, block by block**

Mark Bird, San Antonio City Arborist (I), and Booker Arradondo, President of San Antonio Arborist Association, in front of one of the houses being rehabbed during a day of volunteer work in San Antonio. Members of the SAAA and two companies—Tree Wise Men and Booker’s Tree Service LLC—did volunteer tree work at the houses.





The largest city in the largest continental state in America has an urban forest to match. And now, for the first time, information about Houston's trees is available online through the free app My City's Trees (<http://mycitystrees.com>).

With just a few clicks of a mouse, anyone with access to the Internet can explore Houston's urban forest, the benefits it provides, and the contributions trees make to the environment, economy, and the well-being of residents. One key benefit measured in the application is the amount of energy savings that trees produce for the community.

"We're very excited, because the timing for this web tool could not be better for us," said Jeff Taebel, Director of Community and Environmental Planning for Houston-Galveston Area Council. "We just received a grant from the U.S. Endowment

for Forestry in Communities and American Forests to do a major urban forestry project. And one of the keys to this project is having a better understanding of our forests. This web tool gives us, for the first time, some information on the urban tree canopy that could really help our partners know what's going on with our forests."

The Texas A&M Forest Service's My City's Trees app is based on data gathered through the Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis program, a partnership between federal and state forestry agencies.



Urban FIA data reveals information about Houston's urban forest such as tree species, age range and canopy cover provided by trees. With regular surveys, My City's Trees will compare that data over time, showing change – including that resulting from urban forest management decisions.

"The fantastic thing about Urban FIA and My City's Trees is that the data is collected on a repeated basis so it's not just a single snapshot in time," said Gretchen Riley, Texas A&M Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program Partnership Coordinator. "Communities will be able to utilize this information to make decisions about the future and to look back and see how those management decisions actually affected the urban forest."

Houston is the second Texas city, after Austin, to complete an Urban FIA survey and be included in My City's Trees. San Antonio is on deck to conduct a survey this year as are several other cities across the nation. Once completed, they also will be included in the web app.

For more information see the My City's Trees video at <http://bit.ly/MCTTFS>, view an introductory webinar at <http://bit.ly/TFSMCTweb> or contact Gretchen Riley at 979-587-8135 or [griley@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:griley@tfs.tamu.edu) . ■

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