

In the Shade



NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

Vol. 41, No. 3

September, 2017

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

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ON THE COVER

The Texas State Capitol was the site of some tree-related controversies in August. See page 4. Photo by John Giedraitis.

“What’s Up Doc?” Returning to TTC

Root rots! Leaf beetles! Wilts! Cankers! Webworms! Blights! Declines! Borers! A new, improved version of “What’s Up Doc?,” the popular diagnostic program from 2014, will be presented September 27 at the TTC Tree Academy.

The hands-on inspection of disease and insect samples will be retained, but more time will be devoted to information on the pests and pathogens and strategies for control. And you’ll get to see more microscopic views of the bad guys.

Test your own diagnostic skills and interact with Dave Appel (Dr. Oak Wilt), Sheila McBride (the CSI diagnostic nerd), Todd Watson (not “the” Dr. Watson), and Bill Ree (Mr. Pecan Kernel) as they try to stump you with examples of Texas tree problems. Come prepared to tell us about a diagnostic problem of your own! ■

PRESIDENT’S LETTER by Lara Schuman



Well this is the last President’s Letter of my term. It has been an honor to have the opportunity to serve the chapter as president this year. One of the perks of this job is getting to go to the International Tree Conference and International Tree Climbing Championship to represent the chapter. This year, the ITC and ITCC were in Washington, D.C. It was my first time to visit our capital, and wow was it impressive! I spent a day touring museums and seeing the national monuments, but there was way too much to see for just one day. I highly recommend visiting, if you get a chance.

I got to cheer on our own Miguel Pastenes and Star Hansen Quintero, as they competed in the ITCC. It is amazing to get to see the best climbers from all over the world competing, and Miguel and Star represented Texas well. Congratulations to both of them for making it to the international level! The competition was held at the National Arboretum, which is also a fabulous place to visit, especially for a bunch of arborists. Their collection of bonsai trees is just incredible. Some clever person made tiny tree climbers for the bonsai trees, to showcase all of the events of the competition.

The International Tree Conference was great this year. The speakers were good, and the topics were really engaging. I took note of several of the best speakers to bring to our Texas Tree Conference next year. I really enjoyed a talk on busting myths in arboriculture, by Linda Chalker-Scott, an associate professor at Washington State University. She’s looked into the science behind products, practices, and research. It turns out that lots of common products and practices are not backed up by good scientific research. This is good to realize, since our reputations as arborists largely rely on effectiveness of our practices. After all, a long-term client is way more valuable than a one-time sale. I hope to see all of you at the Texas Tree Conference in Waco. We can debate some of these myths over a cold one on the bridge! ■

Yes, there’s still time . . .

. . . to volunteer for the Texas Tree Conference

We can still use a few good volunteers for a variety of tasks at the TTC:

- Moderating sessions
- Helping at the book store
- SWAG & speaker gift assembly

Sign up at: <https://www.volunteersignup.org/BFL8W>

. . . to donate items for the TTC silent auction

Even small donations can be bundled together to create nice gift baskets so don’t be shy; every item helps our chapter continue to support student scholarships and research. Maybe your company would like to donate something. For more information contact April T Rose, aprilrose@gmail.com. ■



Special Legislative Session Update



by Jason Alfaro,
Parks and Recreation
Director, Kingsville

Governor Abbott called a 30-day special session of the Texas Legislature to deal with 20 issues; one of his issues was concern over local government control of trees on private property.

At the end of the session, House Bill 7 was passed by both the Senate and the House and was signed by Gov. Abbott. It is very similar to Senate Bill 744 that was passed in the regular session but was vetoed by the Governor. House Bill 7 will allow property owners to offset fees for removing trees or vegetation on their property by planting new trees, and municipalities can't charge fees for any tree that is removed and is under 10 inches in diameter. It also stipulates who can offset fees, and by how much: homeowners can entirely eliminate fees by planting new trees, while residential developers can offset 50 percent of fees, and owners of commercial properties can offset them by at least 40 percent. It will take effect on December 1 of this year.

House Bill 70 and Senate Bill 14 were very different from House Bill 7. Both bills basically allowed clear cutting of most trees

on private property without any need of approval from the local government. The Senate passed SB14 and the bill was moved to the House for a hearing and a vote. The bill was heard in a public hearing but was left pending in the House Urban Affairs Committee at the conclusion of the special session.

During this special session, multiple tree advocates came out to show support for our Texas trees. A discussion group was set up for interested parties across the state to discuss the legislative session. Once the special session started, many urban foresters, concerned citizens, environmental organizations, and municipalities joined the discussion group and ultimately formed a state-wide coalition against bills that they felt would be detrimental to Texas trees in our rapidly growing state. The role of ISA Texas was to bring awareness to the situation and allow people to make their own decisions on what to do. We hope that we helped bring awareness to something we are all here for... our great Texas trees. ■

Andrew Dobbs, Legislative Director for the Texas Campaign for the Environment, worked closely with ISA Texas members and various environmental groups to advocate for a bill that protected trees. This is an abridged version of a letter he wrote to members of his campaign after the special session of the legislature. Used with permission.

As y'all probably know, the House concurred with Senate amendments to HB 7. We got some great legislative intent on the record, and while that is not 100% binding, it will be very difficult for anyone to claim in court that the bill meant something other than mitigation fees can be offset with planting. Many of the fears we expressed today should be settled by this, and while some remain (the concern about a loophole in the residential exemptions is very concerning), no bill is free from the possibility of abuse, and we will never get to rest on our laurels and expect all threats to be gone forever.

We need to put today into context. The threat when this session began, the demand of the governor, the Lt. governor, and about half the Republicans in the House was for a bill that would preempt all local tree protections. HB 70 and SB 14 were real threats—SB 14 passed the Senate! The builders, the developers, powerful interests were 100% for the right to kill any tree, anywhere, for any reason. Today they get... the bill we were fine with in the regular session with a little bit extra for some homeowners. Again, it'd have been better to kill this too, but nobody gets everything they want. The good news is our enemies got almost nothing they wanted and millions of trees in Texas are safe today because of our work.

This is one of my favorite things I've ever worked on, and an accomplishment I'll be proud of all my life. I am so grateful for everybody that contributed to this effort, and so incredibly happy I got to know you all. Thank you so much, and let's celebrate!

Yours,
Andrew Dobbs, Central Texas Program Director, Legislative Director
Texas Campaign for the Environment



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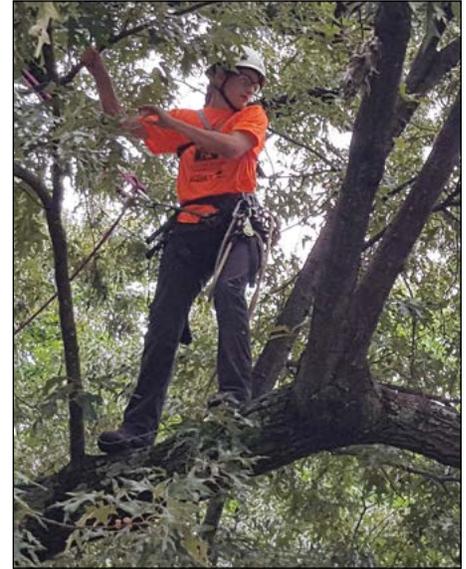


ITCC was great!

- from flash flood warnings to chatting with tree climbing champions to meeting other new climbers who were just as nervous as I was.
- to sitting at the top of the work climb tree looking at swings bigger than I had ever attempted, not wanting to sound my start, until the guy above me said, "You'll be fine! You're a Star!" and after a nervous laugh, thought, well I should probably go ahead and stop holding up the line.
- to hanging out with Kirbie and Miguel, who showed me the ropes around the International scene.
- to watching gear being willingly shared with a climber whose baggage was lost en route.
- to talking with and learning from past champions that were down to earth and offered help and advice.
- to joining in with a crowd cheering on and shouting support to an exhausted competitor working to pull her ropes out of the Masters' challenge tree.
- to realizing that there was no reason to be nervous, the only ones judging were the judges.
- to answering the question of why we do what we do: because we love trees, climbing beats any office job, and the community that has formed around it is a second family.

Best of luck to the Texas champs representing us next year, Jimmy and Candace!

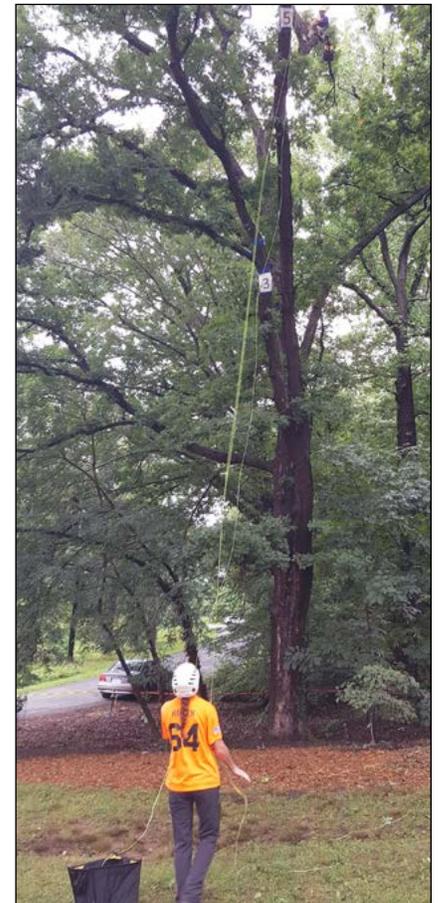
– Star Hansen Quintero



From top left (clockwise):
Miguel Pastenes and Star Hansen Quintero prepare for ITCC preliminary events.
Star Hansen Quintero traverses during the work climb.
Star Hansen Quintero in the throwline event.

Miguel Pastenes attaches his lanyard in preparation for the pole saw portion of the work climb.

Photos by Kirbie Houser.



“by far the best”

2017 International Tree Conference, Washington, DC.

by David M. Vaughan, Certified Arborist

This was my third consecutive international conference and by far the best program of that group. Orlando and Ft. Worth were not the equal of our Texas conference. This one came up to that level. We put on a very good conference in Texas.

Three talks were especially noteworthy for me as a commercial arborist. Linda Chalker-Scott gave the first talk of the sessions on More Arboriculture Myths: The Science Behind What Works, What Doesn't and Why. She did not make the sellers of mycorrhizae mixes very happy. The second day Susan Day talked about Soil Profile Rebuilding: Achieving Sustainable Soil Management in Compacted Soils. I had heard her webinar on this topic so mostly reinforcement for me. She was mobbed after her talk when they said she would stick around if there were more questions. And the guy who changed my approach to many diseases two years ago, Dr. Glen Percival, did it again with his talk on The Use of Biologicals: Their Potential for Soil Borne Disease Management.

Linda Chalker-Scott is an associate professor at Washington State University. She gave us guidance on how to tell what's science and what's pseudoscience. Her aim was to keep us from using products and practices that aren't based on reputable science. Her list of products with no consistent, reliable supporting science include compost tea, special water like magnetic water, Epsom salts, gypsum, hydrogels, and phosphate fertilizer. Under over-extrapolated science she listed corn gluten meal, harpin, and she was not kind to mycorrhizal and probiotic inoculants. She said there was no reliable supporting science for leaving rootballs intact, retrenchment pruning (sorry Detective Dendro), and amending soil before planting. She even specifically mentioned a study by Ed Gilman where mulching increased evaporation as not-so-good science. She said that foliar feeding is not effective unless you are trying to determine the deficiency. If it works, you have the right nutrient and you need to get root uptake.

She had nothing good to say about mycorrhizal and probiotic inoculants. These organisms occur naturally in the soil in great abundance. If conditions are so bad that they have all died, the ones you add will not survive. Unhealthy soil will not support packaged microbes. I would add that mycorrhizae require a plant root soon after germinating so they do not survive long without plant roots. Bottom line is the science does not support the use of these products. The analogy was it is like using a salt shaker to add salt to the sea.

Susan Day is an associate professor at Virginia Tech. Her talk addressed compaction after construction on large areas. She stated that every time we move soil, we lose about 44% of macroaggregates, 35% of the carbon, and 47% of the mineral-bound carbon. To loosen compacted soil on large areas too large for the air spade to be cost effective, they apply a 4-inch layer of compost on top of the compacted soil. Then they dig 2 feet deep with a backhoe, pick up that soil and drop it; just once. (Oh, to have 2 feet of soil). The idea is to get vertical veins of compost from the surface to the 2-foot depth that will allow tree roots to penetrate. It is the tree roots that keep the soil from compacting again, and it is the roots that eventually correct the compaction. Roots are the key to correcting compaction; trees are the answer. Her research is avail-

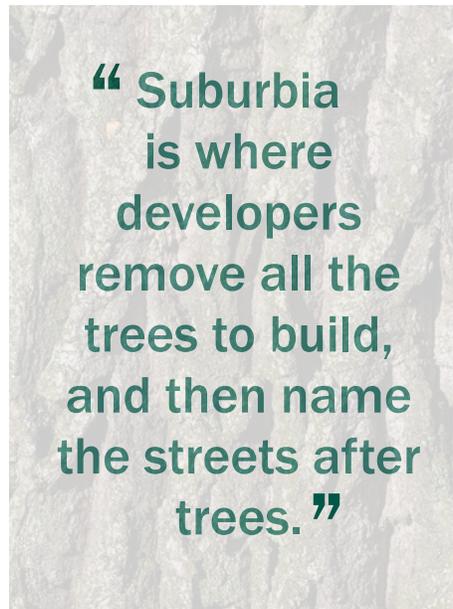
able at www.urbanforestry.frec.vt.edu.

Dr. Glen Percival heads the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory, Reading, Berkshire, United Kingdom. He continues to reinforce and introduce new ideas in plant care. He recommends Trichoderma for wound treatments and a bacillus that works on Rhizoctonia. They are using an air spade and amending soil with biochar, sugar (molasses), and mushroom compost (a good source of Trichoderma) to suppress phytophthora and other soil borne diseases. He spoke about some soon to be published research on endophytes that had an effect on a Ceratocystis disease they have in England. There is a virus that is good at suppressing bleeding canker.

Exciting to me was some new research looking at why certain trees in a forest population are killed by a disease and adjacent trees of the same species are not harmed. That research showed that it was the endophytic populations of each tree that made one resistant and the other susceptible. Endophytes are organisms (fungi, bacteria, viruses) that live in a tree and cause no harm. My thought here: what if the reason that 10–15% of the live oaks in a mott (root sprouts that are genetically identical) that survive oak wilt do so because of the endophytes that colonize the survivors. That research is available upon request to Dr. Percival. His parting thought was, “all answers lie in nature.”

Other good talks covered branch loading (Czech Republic), phenoxy herbicide (2-4D), environmentally friendly soil treatment (Hong Kong), and what pests matter (very few pests require treatment). All presentations are available on the ISA website. Best quote of the conference: Suburbia is where developers remove all the trees to build, and then name the streets after trees.

We had a wonderful time in Washington DC. The conference was at the Gaylord National Resort located on the Potomac River in the heart of the National Harbor District. Actually, truth be known, the resort is located in Maryland. Next year's conference is in Columbus, Ohio, and I am already looking for an excuse to attend. ■



**“ Suburbia
is where
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trees.”**

EDITOR'S NOTE by Rebecca Johnson



Wow, another year down. Time is certainly flying. Hopefully by the time you get this newsletter you've received the email regarding ISA Texas nominations and have clicked the link and voted. If not, go vote right now; I'll wait.

I enjoy being on the chapter board. It's a chance to really dig in and make a difference. In addition to serving as editor, I serve on the education and conference committees. I tell folks interested in serving on the board that it's a chance to work on a "pet project" you have. For me, my pet project has been a women's tree climbing workshop. I'm so excited to announce that it will happen in November. It's open to all women (18 and up), regardless of climbing ability. This year Texas had our first ITCC woman competitor, Star Hansen Quintero, and she placed 12th out of 22 – beating out several other seasoned competitors. I'm hoping that this workshop will mean that we will continue to send women to ITCC.

It's not all fun and games, of course. I also was responsible for ordering the swag for the Texas Tree Conference. (Are you registered yet? if not, better do it now while you're thinking about it.) Balancing budget, ideas, and strong opinions while battling deadlines meant a lot of hard decisions were made. I hope you're happy with the swag, and if not, let us know what you'd rather see. The budget means that we can't always deliver, but we'll certainly try.

Being on the board has provided me with lots of networking and professional opportunities. I really appreciate the nominating committee and membership for electing me and I'm looking forward to another year. ■


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UPCOMING EVENTS

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.wtufc.org/site/programsAndEvents/index.php

TREE Fund webinar September 7 at 12:00 pm (Central)

Dr. Rich Hauer (University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point) discusses the state of urban and community forestry. For more information and to register go to <http://www.treefund.org/webinars>.

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>

Exploring the Urban Forest 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.

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>



ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) October 23, Fort Worth

Deadline to register: September 22.
The new ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) is a 2-day educational course followed by a half-day assessment that includes both a written and field component. Your instructor will be Skip Kincaid. <https://tinyurl.com/FWTRAQ>

ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) October 26, San Antonio

Deadline to register: September 22.
The new ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) is a 2-day educational course followed by a half-day assessment that includes both a written and field component. Your instructor will be Skip Kincaid. <https://tinyurl.com/SATRAQ>

Chipper Operator Specialist October 27, 8:30am – 12:30 pm, Mesquite

Accidents involving brush chippers are a significant concern. This course covers hazard awareness and procedures for hooking up, transporting, setting up, operating, and maintaining a

chipper. Attendees who pass the exam will earn TCIA's Chipper Operator Specialist designation and will receive a certificate, laminated wallet card, arm patch, and decal.
<http://streamsidegreen.com/upcoming-classes>

TREE Fund webinar November 8 at 12:00 pm (Mountain)

Dr. Dan Herms (The Ohio State University) discusses EAB. For more information and to register go to <http://www.treefund.org/webinars>.

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/>

Texas Women's Climbing Workshop November 17–19

Deadline to register: October 1
At Camp Texlake, Austin. This will be the ISA Texas' first women's tree climbing workshop. Designed for women who have never climbed trees before with ropes. <https://tinyurl.com/ISATWC>. For information on being a sponsor or other questions, contact Rebecca Johnson at Rebecca@arborholic.com

Arboriculture 101 – 2018 Save the Date! January 18-19 and February 1-2, 2018

Held at Bryan. 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. Registration will open in early November.
<http://streamsidegreen.com/upcoming-classes>

*Want to see your event
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ITCC report from on the ground

(sequestered with the scoring team, running from the rain, etc.)

by Rebecca Johnson

This year ITCC had a record number of contestants, largely due to more chapters sending women competitors. Wanting the event to be more fun and less hectic, the ITCC committee and ISA staff had worked together to craft a schedule that had the preliminary events spread out over Friday and Saturday, with the Masters' Challenge held on Sunday (as usual).

On Friday, we were all bustling around—setting up tents, scoreboards, and computers (for the scoring team). We had a large tent for volunteers and registration and a smaller tent for the scoring team and their computers. Then there were the little pop-up tents scattered here and there. Light rain started falling around 10, but we kept on, sure in our knowledge that it would only be a light rain and would soon be over. Lunch arrived and we quickly set up pop-up tents over the tables to keep the food dry.

However, around noon the skies opened up. Visibility was limited to about 15 feet and anyone caught in it was soaked in seconds. Climbers, fans and volunteers congregated under the tents. The scoring team scrambled to get the computers put

away before they were dripped on or sat upon. But spirits weren't dampened; we were sure it would pass quickly and we'd get back to our event. Then the thunder and lightning were noticeably closer and a quick check of the radar showed that the storm was well and truly soaked in. The committee made the difficult decision to shut it down for the day and resume on Saturday and just do a mad rush to get through the preliminary events.

Saturday dawned gray and drizzly. It was clear that there was going to be intermittent rain throughout the day, but we pressed on. The scoring team, with their computers, were moved (sequestered) into a building far away from the event site. As a member of the scoring team, this meant I was going to miss most of the event. Locked away in a building far from everyone, eyes and fingers glued to laptops, the scoring team gradually went slightly insane. Before long there were chair spins and hair standing on end. One look at us and a decision was made to grant us "compassionate release" from our sequestration, and a shuttle was arranged to take us to watch the climbers. I got there while the Texas team was on a

short break in their rotation. I had time to catch up with Miguel and Star and see how they were doing. I also caught a photo of Kirbie and Miguel taking shelter from the rain.

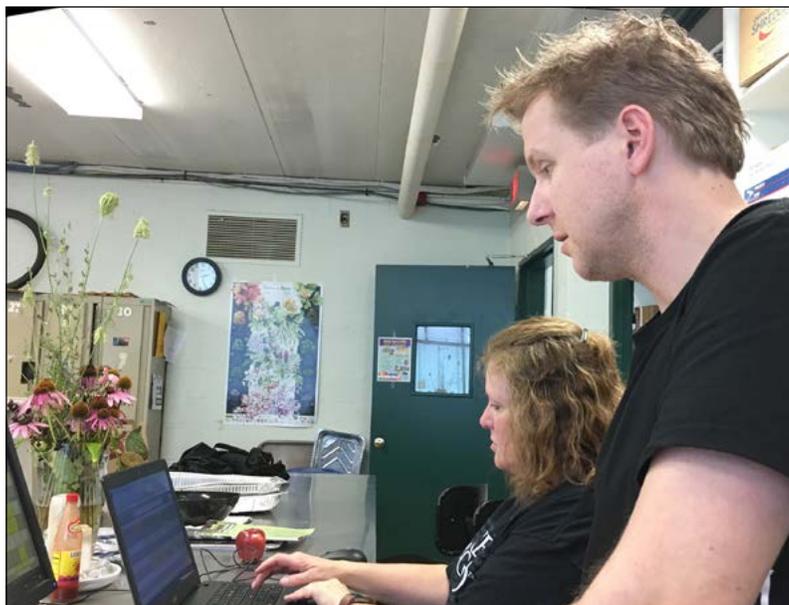
Back in sequestration, we waited anxiously for the final score sheets to be delivered. Checking the scores, we realized that it was going to come down to those last score sheets to determine who would be in the Masters' Challenge. FINALLY! They were delivered and we quickly entered the data and let the program crunch the numbers. When the last number was crunched, we had our list for the Masters'. I was disappointed that neither of our Texas climbers made it to the Masters' but so excited to see that Star was number 12 (out of 22) and had placed better than a lot of seasoned climbers. Final results of the prelims can be found at <https://www.itcc-isa.com/Portals/0/docs/2017ITCCResults.pdf>

The Masters' Challenge day was clear and sunny. And all eight competitors had good, clean runs. But in the end, the reigning champs won again. I don't know, maybe all they do is climb trees in New Zealand. ■

Photo by Rebecca Johnson



Miguel Pastenes and Kirbie Houser take shelter from the rain during the ITCC preliminary events.



William Melville, of the New Zealand chapter, shows the stress of flying overnight and immediately jumping into scoring.

Photo by Rebecca Johnson

Family vacation includes ISA Conference

by David Mauk
and Vancie Mauk

David Mauk, Jones Road Tree Service, Houston:

I decided in February of this year to take my family to Washington DC. The venue would provide a great history lesson for my wife, daughter, and my two boys, as well as great sightseeing opportunities. My plan was also for all of them to attend the ISA International Conference when a speaker talked on a subject that piqued their interest. This year's international workshop can best be described as informative and inspiring, as well as fun. My teenager provided the following view of her experience of Washington, DC, and the conference:

Vancie Mauk:

As a first time attendee I was pretty excited to go to Washington DC and the 2017 ISA Conference. I first attended the opening ceremony with John Gathright. His speech was really inspiring because he was making dreams come true in Japan. He was

helping families bond and kids who were disabled to have fun and have an amazing experience. I never knew that a tree was so helpful with rehabilitation. What is really great is that he has not only changed lives but his work is also inspiring and moving not only to those in the arboricultural field but also to medical, rehabilitative and therapeutic practitioners.

The session "Optimizing The Bio-mechanics Of The Production Arborist" was given by Amanda Carpenter, who is an amazing lady and therapist who loves to move. I never knew that we have many things in common with trees. If we treat trees and ourselves poorly then we will be unhealthy, so that is why we have to take care of ourselves and the society of trees. We are made to move, eat healthy, and drink lots of water. She also talked about sugar vs. salt. Sugar makes us crave and then we do not feel good, but when we have salt our bodies tell us when enough is enough.

On Monday evening our family went to Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial and World War II Memorial. It was fun to walk around what the people of the past left us to see of what they did to make the United States of America its own nation. The White House is where all the presidents lived when they took over leadership of a country that we all should really be thankful for. Mount Vernon was an amazing place. George Washington, the amazing person who became the first president and who left a legacy to all the others after him, lived on such beautiful acreage.

Finally we would encourage all to attend future International Conferences. It is very important for the arborist community of Texas to be a part of the international discussions in arboriculture. We need to support and inspire others by attending these conferences. ■

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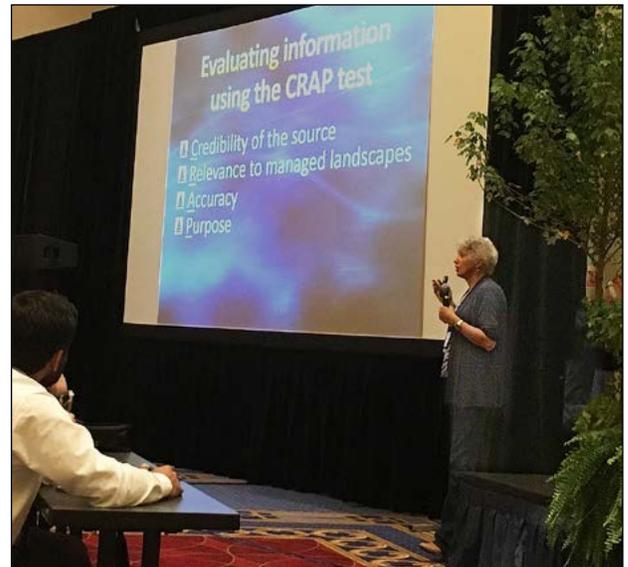
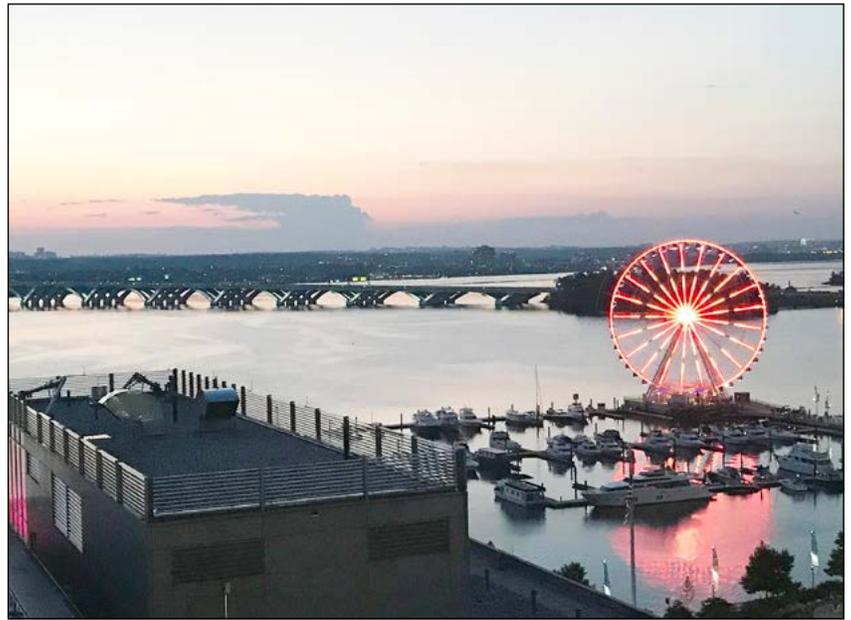


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Tiny climbers appeared on some of the bonsai trees at the National Arboretum during the ITCC. Photo by John Giedraitis.



Above right: The site of the conference was the National Harbor, a venue complete with public art and a ferris wheel. Photo by John Giedraitis.

Right: Linda Chalker-Scott presented the “C.R.A.P. test” during her talk on arboricultural myths. Photo by Rebecca Johnson.



Some of the ISA Texas members got together for a photo at the ISA International Conference in DC. Pictured here L-R: Emily King, Rachel Cywinski, Colter Sonnevill, Paul Johnson, Keith Babberney, Jan Davis, David Vaughan, Rebecca Johnson, David Mauk, Jim Carse, Lara Schuman, Michael Sultan. Not pictured: lots of Texas folks including Gretchen Riley, John Geidraitis, and Pete Smith.

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ISA Texas Continues its Outreach Mission

by Micah Pace, ISA Texas President-Elect

ISA Texas continues to promote professional arboriculture around Texas. One way we strive to achieve this goal is by serving as an exhibitor at various events throughout the year. ISA Texas was proud to participate at the 2017 Texas Nursery and Landscape (TNLA) Expo in Dallas August 10-12. (<http://www.nurserylandscapeexpo.org/>) Our own board member Gene Gehring also provided a well-received presentation entitled *Best Management Practices for Promoting Healthy Trees*.

The TNLA Expo is a popular annual green industry event that draws folks from all across Texas and the greater southwestern region. According to a TNLA representative, the unofficial registration this year was nearly 6,000 exhibitors and attendees. Talk about a captive audience! Attending industry-affiliated events is a great way to grow

ISA Texas and promote its membership and the value of credentialed arborists.

A big thanks to the following volunteers who shared their time and passion to promote both professional tree management and ISA Texas:

- AJ Thibodeaux and Chad Simmons (Preservation Tree)
- Marc Beaudoin and Taylor Guynes (Texas Trees Foundation)
- Courtney Blevins and Mike Sills (Texas A&M Forest Service)
- Sam Hill and Andrew Wimmel (Sam Hill Tree Care)
- Matthew Simmons (City of Plano)
- Michael Sultan (Davey Resource Group)
- Laura Miller (Texas A&M Agrilife)

One of the most rewarding benefits of membership to a professional group with such passion and commitment is the opportunity for service it provides. With approximately 1,000

members, ISA Texas has a family of diverse professionals with a range of talents. Every year ISA Texas hosts or participates in educational workshops, professional trainings, public outreach events, and internal working group sessions. If you have a desire to serve, give back, or simply volunteer, please consider contacting me. We typically have a list of events on our website to view and consider. If you don't see something that interests you directly, contact me anyway to discuss how you'd like to serve. We are a membership-run organization . . . we can't do it without you! ■



ISA Texas board member and former President Gene Gehring gave a presentation at the 2017 TNLA Expo.

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Tree climbing education for women, taught by women

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

Come learn a new skill or improve your foundation in a safe and positive environment. This two and a half-day event was specifically created for women by women climbers who have competed in tree climbing championships and are working in the tree care industry.

ISA Texas has teamed up with the Women's Tree Climbing Workshop to offer a fun, safe space to learn. No worries about looking silly or not being safe. This workshop is open to all women (18+), of all skills and ability levels. Bring your tree climbing equipment (if you have any) and we'll help you determine what's safe to use for tree climbing. Don't have equipment? We've got you covered. Taught by International Tree Climbing Championship competitors Bear LeVangie, Melissa LeVangie and Rebecca Seibel-Hunt, with over 40 years of collective climbing experience, you know you're in good hands.

You will learn a multitude of styles in climbing equipment and techniques. Come network with women and female arborists from all over the country and Texas! This will be an all-inclusive weekend; we'll provide all the instruction, fun, use of equipment, yoga, food and lodging for 3 days/2 nights. You will leave from this climbing experience with a new skill, wonderful memories, new friends, and a sense of personal accomplishment. This workshop is limited to 20 participants. Registration is

open but space is limited so register now at <https://tinyurl.com/ISATWC>.

Where: Camp Texlake, Austin Texas

When: November 17-19, 2017

Cost: \$500 for ISA Texas members, \$555 for nonmembers (includes a membership).

Who should attend: any woman who wants to climb trees.

Clothing: Please wear long pants, hiking

boots and short or long sleeve shirts (no tank tops).

What to bring: any climbing equipment you have, a bedroll, a yoga mat (and one to share if you can), and a fun attitude.

Extras: Please bring a reusable water bottle and something to carry snacks out and up into the trees.

Please dress and plan for weather: sunscreen, insect repellent and rain/warm gear.

ISA CEUs will be available. ■



Star Hansen Quintero, ISA Texas ITCC competitor. Photo by Kirbie Houser.

One tree survived a storm, one didn't

TFS assists San Angelo with tree assessments

The Texas A&M Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program recently assisted the Tom Green County Courthouse with a request to look at the health of a historic bois d'arc tree. Golda Foster, Chairman of the Tom Green County Historical Commission, reached out to TFS employees about the health of the tree after they noticed it had developed a lean; Tom Green County Judge Stephen Floyd supported her in her efforts.

The request was sent to the U&CF staff, and Urban Program Leader Paul Johnson and Central Texas Regional Urban Forester Brad Hamel responded. The two TFS employees met with Golda Foster and Judge Floyd to examine the historic tree. Golda informed them that one of the first county judges planted the bois d'arc in 1884 on the edge of the courthouse property; it is now a street tree.



Above: Paul Johnson uses a rubber mallet to "sound" for decay in the bois d'arc.

Right: Closeup of the large canker in the pecan.

Paul and Brad used the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Basic Tree Risk Assessment form to determine both the risk rating of the whole tree failing from root plate lifting and the risk of the major scaffolding branch failing. After considering targets (pedestrians on the sidewalk and visiting the courthouse, and vehicles on the road), both parts were determined to have a low risk of impacting the targets within the next 12 months.

Tom Green County employees also asked TFS to assess a mature pecan, which was adjacent to the bois d'arc. This pecan had major swelling and decay from a canker rot around the trunk at breast height. Paul and Brad once again performed an assessment and determined that the risk of whole tree failure, impacting the target of pedestrians, was high. A report with the tree risk assessments was sent to Golda Foster and Judge Floyd the following week.

During the Fourth of July weekend, San Angelo experienced three different storms with high-speed winds over 80 mph. The bois d'arc survived the storm, but the pecan tree failed at the trunk canker. TFS used their professional experience and ISA TRAQ to properly assess both trees. Paul and Brad's quick response and professional knowledge provided a great service for Tom Green County. ■

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What's the Big **IDEa**?

Can you identify this tree?



Hint: this tree is often planted for its beautiful fall color.

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 November issue.

May winners



The winners in May were Oscar Mestas and Nevic Donnelly, who correctly identified the tree as a cork oak, *Quercus suber*.