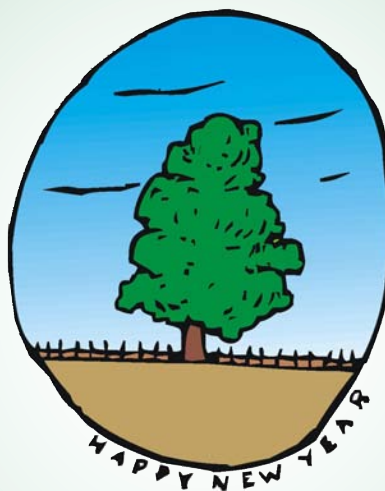




In the Shade

Vol. 30, No.4
January 2007

We wish you



**a happy, safe, and
prosperous 2007!**

ISAT Scholarship Winners Announced

ISAT has announced the winners of this year's scholarship awards. They are Jeffrey Lawrence King, a senior majoring in forestry (urban forestry option) at Texas A&M, and Anthony (Tony) May, a senior majoring in urban forestry at Stephen F. Austin State University.

ISAT gives two scholarships annually, one to a student at Texas A&M and one to a student at Stephen F. Austin. Recipients, who are selected by the schools, must be majoring in arboriculture or urban forestry. The scholarships have been given for more than 20 years, and the awards are currently \$1500 each.

We'll have more information next issue on the winners and their activities and plans for the future.

Still Time to Sign Up for the Last Half of Arboriculture 101

If you missed the January 5 deadline to register for the entire Arboriculture 101 short course, it's not too late to sign up for the last two days of the course (January 26 and 27). Download a brochure and register online at the ISAT website www.isatexas.com.

This highly respected course is taught by Dr. Todd Watson of Texas A&M. Course attendees routinely score significantly higher than the national average on the Certified Arborist Exam.

President's Message *by Gene Gehring*

This issue of *In the Shade* is the second of six that will be published during my tenure as president. I was saddened to learn of the death of one of our members. (See the article by Mark Peterson.)

Seeing the tag line of the email, I had thoughts of a tragic fall, an unrecognized hazardous tree, a chainsaw accident . . . Ours is a dangerous profession. For all of the dangers of the job, it seems like I hear of more members killed or injured by vehicle "accidents." It has long been a common courtesy to park out on the curb and not block the driveway or accidentally spill something on the concrete. To be hit while working at the tailgate could happen to any of us.

The primary mission of ISAT is education and training. With proper training a lot of "accidents" can be

avoided. There are numerous driver safety programs available, but not many options when it comes to tree care. ISA is sponsoring Dr. Watson's "Arboriculture 101" workshops in Round Rock in January. He goes through most of the modules on the certification exam, including safety issues.

Keith Brown is working on the next Tree Climbing Championship. He is looking at Dallas in May. One of the things discussed at the last board meeting was having Red Cross and safety training at the pre-event workshop. The workshop, combined with successful participation in the climbing events, would count as the practical portion toward becoming a "Certified Climber." The written portion could be taken during one of the regularly scheduled Certified Arborist testing dates.

The second National Oak Wilt Symposium (NOWS) will be held in Austin, from June 4-7, so mark your calendars now for "NOWS." The registration brochure will go out in January.

The Texas Tree Conference is in the planning stages. If you would like to volunteer to help, or suggest a specific speaker or topic, please contact Jordy Hagen (jordy4trees@satx.rr.com), John Giedraitis (jpg@tfs.tamu.edu) or myself (ggehring@hotmail.com).

I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday season and will have a happy and prosperous new year!

When is Arbor Day?

Texas officially celebrates Arbor Day at the same time as the rest of the country, on the last Friday in April, which this year is April 27. On that day the Texas Forest Service, in cooperation with many other groups, conducts the official state ceremony in a host city.

But April isn't necessarily the best month to plant trees in our Texas climate, so many cities and regions have chosen another time to hold their Arbor Day tree plantings. Arbor Day is celebrated in Texas communities anytime from November through April.

Houston and many of its neighboring communities continue to observe Arbor Day on the third Friday in January, as it was in earlier years. In South and Central Texas, many cities celebrate Arbor Day during February. Fort Worth celebrates for the entire month of February. Dallas decided to break with tradition altogether and celebrate Arbor Day in mid-November!



Treetop Tools for the Pros



PP 780 Telescoping Pole Saw
For cutting tree limbs of varying diameters and heights where access with more than one tool is impractical. Lightweight telescoping adjustable shaft, 16' 10" overall length.

Replacement Parts Available!
Limited Lifetime Warranty!



HT 101 Pole Pruner
Ideal for hard-to-reach places, the HT 101's adjustable shaft telescopes to 11.5'. Powerful 31.4 cc 4-MIX® engine.



PP 900 Pole Pruner Set
The ideal tools for demanding, high-volume tree work. Durable extended fiberglass poles with 12' reach and a pruning capacity of 1.25".

Replacement Parts Available!
Limited Lifetime Warranty!



MS 200 Chain Saw
A rear handle version of "The ultimate arborist saw." Perfect for ground or bucket work. Features include a Quad Power™ engine, tool-less fuel and oil caps with retainers, and a carburetor preheat shutter for summer/winter operation.



MS 192 T Chain Saw
NEW! Introducing the tough little brother of the MS 200 T, this saw delivers exceptional power and balance. This is STIHL's lightest gasoline powered chain saw ever, only 6.6 lbs. For in tree-use only by professionals.

Only 6.6 lbs!

To find the STIHL dealer near you, call 1-800-GO-STIHL or visit stihlusa.com

A TRIBUTE TO RYAN L. STEPHENS

On Friday, November 17, a great San Antonio arborist and personal friend, Ryan L. Stephens, was killed by a hit and run driver in a stolen vehicle while he was assisting his crew. The fact that he died while helping his crews was not surprising since he enjoyed the details of his profession and never stopped trying to learn more about it. He attended nearly all of the conferences and training workshops ISAT put on during the past 20 years.

Ryan epitomized the adage, "Never judge a book by its cover." With full beard, boots, and cowboy hat, he could be intimidating to new customers, but what they didn't know was that he was well versed in philosophy, religion and history, and was self-taught in Spanish. His personal library contained close to 1000 books. He was also one of the funniest men I ever knew.

Above all, Ryan was a connoisseur of wine. Many a night he and I shared and discussed the virtues of certain vintages. His cellar was as unique and complex as the man. My lasting regret is that I was too busy to accept his last invitation just weeks before his death.

Ryan L. Stephens served his country and its citizens with distinction as a Marine and as a professional arborist. He was truly a Renaissance man and will be missed by his family and his family of San Antonio arborists.

Respectfully,
Mark A. Peterson

Municipal Specialist Report

All the surveys from the tree ordinance workshop on October 4 have been evaluated, and thanks to those attendees who took the time to share their thoughts about the event. All the responses will be taken into account when planning the next municipal forestry event. And again, thank you to those who volunteered to assist with the development of future programs in Texas. We will be contacting you after the first of the year to get started with the planning of these events.

Please send any ideas/comments regarding municipal forestry training, workshops, or other educational services to Jim Carse, jcarse@round-rock.tx.us or 512-341-3368

Upcoming Events:

Municipal Forester Institute – Feb 18-23, 2007, Lake Arrowhead, California. Application deadline was December 15, 2006, but in case there is still room in the class, interested people can contact The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA): www.urban-forestry.com or 706-769-7412

43rd SMA Annual Conference – Sept. 15-19, Hollywood, Florida.

Other Notes:

- SMA reached its highest number of members in 2006; the group now has 1250 members. If you work with a municipality or have dealings with public trees, please consider becoming a member. Just check off the box on the ISA membership application or visit www.urban-forestry.com to apply.
- Remember that the ISA Municipal Specialist Certification test can be taken at any of the regular Certified Arborist test sites. There are seven test dates in Texas next year, starting on January 27 in Round Rock and ending in October at the state conference.
- Also, for those renewing their ISA Arborist certification, if you are a member of ISA and the Texas Chapter the recertification fee is only \$100 every three years. It's \$200 for those who choose not to be a member of both entities.

–Jim Carse





Cool Tools by Patrick Wentworth

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY SWISS ARMY KNIFE

Several issues ago, I mentioned a new “cool tool” that was a multifunction tool – knife, hand pruner, screwdriver, etc. made by Leatherman®. It continues to be a favorite of mine.

The advent of the multifunction tool began about 100 years ago with the invention of the Swiss Army knife. Two companies actually produce a similar product – Victorinox and Wenger.

Wenger has recently unveiled the ultimate multifunction tool which they call the “Giant Collector’s Knife.” To celebrate their 100th anniversary, they put all 85 tools that they use in various models into one knife which has over 100 functions.

The Giant Collector’s Knife features a wide range of Wenger tools including seven blades, three types of pliers, and seemingly countless screwdrivers, saws, wrenches, and other tools. Additionally, some of the more unique implements included are a bicycle chain rivet setter, signal whistle, cigar-cutting scissors, laser pointer, tire-tread gauge, and the requisite toothpick, tweezers, and key ring. This knife weighs two pounds

and eleven ounces, measures slightly under 9” wide, and features Wenger’s revolutionary EVO ergonomic handles for easier gripping and control.

“This is not exactly going to win any awards for lightest, smallest, or most efficient tools with which to go backpacking. It is however, getting a lot of attention and is the best platform for showcasing our product capabilities,” said Dennis Piretra, Director of Marketing for Wenger NA. “The most often asked question is about whether or not we have a pouch for it. Our answer is simple. You don’t need a pouch, the knife has a key ring.”

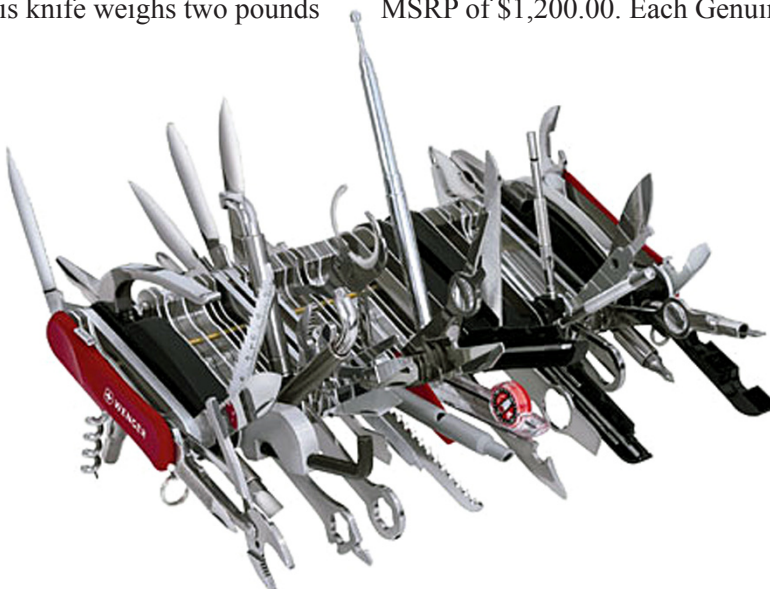
“This knife is a compilation not only of Wenger’s entire family of tools but Wenger’s history,” added Piretra. “100 years of quality craftsmanship is compiled in this collector’s item and is a testament to Wenger’s ingenuity and creativity while still upholding the Wenger’s Swiss made quality of excellence.”

Below is a full list of all 85 implements. This special edition knife must be individually ordered through Wenger, NA and has an MSRP of \$1,200.00. Each Genuine

Swiss Army Knife is designed and crafted to hold true to Wenger’s commitment of excellence and features a lifetime warranty as proof of their dedication to quality manufacturing.

Implements in the 100th Anniversary Giant Collector’s Knife

- 1 2.5” 60% serrated locking blade
- 2 nail file, nail cleaner
- 3 corkscrew
- 4 adjustable pliers with wire crimper and cutter
- 5 removable screwdriver bit adapter
- 6 2.5” blade for Official World Scout Knife
- 7 spring-loaded, locking needle-nose pliers with wire cutter
- 8 removable screwdriver bit holder
- 9 Phillips head screwdriver bit 0
- 10 Phillips head screwdriver bit 1
- 11 Phillips head screwdriver bit 2
- 12 flat head screwdriver bit 0.5mm x 3.5mm
- 13 flat head screwdriver bit 0.6mm x 4.0mm
- 14 flat head screwdriver bit 1.0mm x 6.5mm
- 15 magnetized recessed bit holder
- 16 double-cut wood saw with ruler (inch & cm)
- 17 bike chain rivet setter, removable 5mm Allen wrench, screwdriver for slotted and Phillips head screws
- 18 removable tool for adjusting bike spokes, 10mm hexagonal key for nuts
- 19 removable 4mm curved Allen wrench with Phillips head screwdriver
- 20 removable 10mm hexagonal key
- 21 patented locking Phillips head screwdriver
- 22 universal wrench
- 23 2.4” springless scissors with serrated, self-sharpening design
- 24 1.65” clip point utility blade
- 25 Phillips head screwdriver
- 26 2.5” clip point blade
- 27 golf club face cleaner
- 28 2.4” round tip blade
- 29 patented locking screwdriver, cap lifter, can opener



30 golf shoe spike wrench
 31 golf divot repair tool
 32 4mm Allen wrench
 33 2.5" blade
 34 fine metal file with precision screwdriver
 35 double-cut wood saw
 36 cupped cigar cutter with double-honed edges
 37 12/20-gauge choke tube tool
 38 watch caseback opening tool
 39 snap shackle
 40 mineral crystal magnifier with precision screwdriver
 41 compass, straight edge, ruler \ (in.V cm)\
 42 telescopic pointer
 43 fish scaler, hook disgorging, line guide
 44 Shortix laboratory key
 45 micro tool holder
 46 micro tool adapter
 47 micro scraper - straight
 48 micro scraper - curved
 49 laser pointer with 300 ft. range
 50 metal saw, metal file
 51 flashlight

52 micro tool holder
 53 Phillips head screwdriver 1.5mm
 54 screwdriver 1.2mm
 55 screwdriver .8mm
 56 fine fork for watch spring bars
 57 reamer
 58 pin punch 1.2mm
 59 pin punch .8mm
 60 round needle file
 61 removable tool holder with expandable receptacle
 62 removable tool holder
 63 special self-centering screwdriver for gunsights
 64 flat Phillips head screwdriver
 65 chisel-point reamer
 66 mineral crystal magnifier, fork for watch spring bars, small ruler
 67 extension tool
 68 spring-loaded, locking flat nose-nose pliers with wire cutter
 69 removable screwdriver bit holder
 70 Phillips head screwdriver bit 0
 71 Phillips head screwdriver bit 1
 72 Phillips head screwdriver bit 2
 73 flat head screwdriver bit 0.5mm x 3.5mm

74 flat head screwdriver bit 0.6mm x 4.0mm
 75 flat head screwdriver bit 1.0mm x 6.5mm
 76 magnetized recessed bit holder
 77 tire tread gauge
 78 fiber optic tool holder
 79 can opener
 80 patented locking screwdriver, cap lifter, wire stripper
 81 reamer
 82 toothpick
 83 tweezers
 84 key ring
 85 second key ring

About Wenger

Wenger is the exclusive United States and Caribbean marketer of Wenger Genuine Swiss Army Knives™, Wenger Swiss Watches™ and Wenger Swiss Military™ Watches. The company's web site is www.WengerNA.com.

Experience the Nelson standard of performance

- Vegetation management professionals since 1919
- Safety Programs designed to enhance productivity and protect our employees, customers and the public
- Industry leader in field and office technologies
- The "right" equipment to fit the job and the maintenance program to keep it running
- Nelson... A cut above the competition

Nelson
 TREE SERVICE, INC.

Contact the following Nelson representative to discuss your Vegetation Management needs

**Randy Gray at
 1-985-419-1116**



COMPONENTS OF DIAGNOSIS, PART 1: FOLIAGE & TWIGS

This is the first part of a three- or four-part series on diagnosis of tree and plant problems. If you spend any time at all diagnosing tree problems, you will likely find different approaches to the process. They may appear different at first glance; however, I feel that any tips or guidelines on tree diagnosis have the same result, and I bet they are all the same basic steps with different language describing the recommended steps. I have used language and a method here that has been successful with many of the new arborists we hire as well as in lectures to college level students of urban forestry.

Before bringing the affected material out to start the process, it will be helpful to have available a few pieces of simple equipment. The most valuable is an inexpensive to moderately expensive dissecting microscope, available in most science supply catalogs. A scope that only magnifies to 50-75 times can serve the purpose beautifully. Having its own light source is convenient, but supplying one is not that big a deal for this type of scope. An X-acto knife and forceps are simple tools that can go a long way in helping any diagnosis. Let's begin.

Basically I approach diagnosing any complex problem that is unfamiliar by dividing the tree into four basic regions, starting with the foliage and twigs. This includes but is not limited to observing the last three to five years of growth rate or internodes' growth increments. Be careful here, as different species can have different "healthy" growth rate increments. Species performance will also vary on different sites, in different soils, and under different cultural conditions. Inspect other individuals on the site, or area of the same species, to see what the average is in that area. Knowing the expected growth rates, under all the different variables, simply comes from experience—as well as time you spend in reference materials.

This is the point at which you pull out any reference books or material you normally use. Having one or two picture type reference books is very important. Having images of other plants with the same conditions can speed the process dramatically. There are a couple of books I always use when diagnosing. There is nothing at all wrong with using these resources; just be sure to thoroughly read about the origin, description, reported occurrence, life cycle, species normally effected by the organism, and suggested methods of disease management.

What does the foliage look like? Are there apparent abnormalities in the surface of the leaf? There might be what looks like a foreign structure that appears to be originating from below the leaf surface and securely attached to the leaf tissue itself.

Structures like these likely arise from a fungal type of leaf pathogen that enters or infects the foliage in the early spring, and what you are seeing is a reproductive structure produced by the pathogen that normally develops spores or similar types of structures in order to begin to spread, possibly to adjacent foliage, other parts of the same tree, or additional trees. This would only occur successfully if environmental conditions favor continued infection of the pathogen. If it was still cool, and available moisture was present, then the pathogen might be increasing in coverage.

Not all fungal types of organisms require cool and moist environmental conditions to spread, germinate, and infect new foliage. Case in point would be *Enomosporium* sp. that infects foliage of photinia and hawthorn sp. This organism indeed spreads and infects new foliage at a higher rate during cool and moist conditions. It does not exclusively move during that time, but also during periods of warming air temperatures.

Mauget Micro-Injections

*The Pioneers and leaders
in Micro-Injection Technology for over 40 years.*

WE MEET ALL YOUR "TREE CARE" NEEDS FOR:

- ☛ Fertilizers
- ☛ Insecticides
- ☛ Fungicides
- ☛ Antibiotics



**MAUGET'S Micro-Injection
Technology Delivers Materials Using The Tree's
Natural Transport System.**



TREE CLINIC

512-385-6604 Fax: 385-6612
P.O. BOX 50179, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78763

A Distributor for the J.J. Mauget Co.

The fungal leaf structures visible on the leaf surface may be sparse, with a small number scattered across the leaf surface with the area surrounding the structure usually discolored, appearing yellowish. This area commonly progresses to a brown color appearing necrotic as the tissue dies. These areas may grow together into a continuous leaf surface that appears distorted and certainly not normal.

Did the leaf develop normally in size, shape, and color or does it appear larger or smaller than normal for that particular plant? This may quickly include or eliminate chemical injury as a possible diagnosis.

The point at which you decide that the problem is biotic (caused by some type of biological agent) or abiotic (caused by cultural or environmental effect) is usually in the beginning. Many times you may not have enough information to separate the problem into one or the other but by this point, you certainly should.

A plant can have a fungal leaf infection without necessarily having prominent structures visible on the leaf surface. At this point in the diagnosis, you may already have a couple of foliar disease candidates that you suspect being the problem.

If you get close to something you suspect, as I have stated before, it is just as important to eliminate things that it is *not*, for as you do this, the list of correct candidates begins to shorten rapidly. So do not feel frustrated if you think you have reached a dead end; instead, you have actually reached a point at which you can refer to reference material!

Let's say you have determined that it is fungal and isolated to the leaf. Most quality reference books can do the rest. You identify the species of plant/tree, that your problem is fungal and only on the leaf, then you look under leaf diseases of that species, and there should be an entire section in a good reference book. Now you start comparing images of other plants or the same plant that you believe has the same problem. Many of us find the problem here.

It may be that the leaf is expressing abnormal symptoms and no type of structures can be found on the leaf surface; the symptoms being expressed are developing from something back from the leaf. That is to say it is originating on the twigs, limbs, branches, trunk, or root system. We will only consider other things that may originate on the twigs right now.

This is where insect infestations may be the origin of the leaf symptoms. Look for scale insects at and along the twigs. Some scale will be visually apparent as small semi-roundish bumps that can have some reddish or tan color.

There are other scales that placing the twig under the dissecting scope may reveal: tiny and small or obscure grayish colored structures, very flat along the twig. These can be obscure scales common on many oak and pecan species. This is where the reference books can solve the rest for you; look in the section of scale problems on that species.

This is also where you might indeed discover tiny structures very flat to the twig surface that would be fungal lesions often similar to what you saw on the leaf surface. If so, then investigate twig blights in the reference books on that species.

Look also for insects that bore into the twigs. Small weevils or beetles can commonly cause leaf abnormalities by cutting off the flow of moisture and nutrients to the leaf. The presence of boring type insects will leave evidence of tiny holes where they were present. You may get very lucky and the insect is present on the sample, but more often just the evidence or damage is present. It will be consistent regardless of what species they show up on, due to the presence of uniform type holes corresponding to the size of the insect.

Again, reference books can take over here, and again by comparing images in the books you can find the pest causing the problem.

You can see that I am recommending to heavily rely on reference material, and the purist would not be happy with me. The fact of the matter is that most arborists have not had pathology courses or a strong disease background. Reference books have their limitations but they are the one resource we all utilize. Why not, if it's going to help you determine what your problem is? I will list those reference books I recommend at the end of the last part.

This concludes the first part. Part 2 (next time) will include the origin of your problem further back on limbs, branches and scaffold branches.

IF A TREE IS TREATED AS A
LIVING ORGANISM, WITH AN
UNDERSTANDING OF ITS VITAL
FUNCTIONS, IT WILL BE A
CONSTANT SOURCE OF PROFIT
AND PLEASURE TO MEN.

— N.T. MIROV



Certification Corner by Pat Wentworth

ANNOUNCING ISA's "FIND A TREE CARE SERVICE"

ISA has launched a new "Find a Tree Care Service" website to help ISA certificants—or their companies available for hire—get their message to homeowners who are looking for quality tree care. The site went on line January 2. Listing is optional.

This new search tool is available to ISA certificants around the world and the first year subscription is FREE. This is a great way to advertise your company services, whether you are self-employed or not.

Consumers access the site by clicking on "Find a Tree Care Service" at the "Trees Are Good" website (www.treesaregood.org). "Trees are Good" receives almost 40,000 unique visitors on average every month.

ISA receives calls from homeowners for suggestions on who to hire for particular services. The existing "Find a Certified Arborist" website confused homeowners looking for quality tree care services, because it does not list who is available for hire.

The new site will not replace the "Find a Certified Arborist" webpage (www.isa-arbor.com/findArborist/findarborist.aspx).

"Find a Certified Arborist" has changed its name to "Verify an ISA Certification" and includes all ISA certifications. It does not include company or service information.

Added features of "Find a Tree Care Service" include identification of your ACSA membership or your employer's TCIA membership; listing multiple counties of service; customization of all contact

information; and listing of available services.

To activate your free listing, visit: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/findtreeservice/EditFindTSMMenu.aspx> and login using your certification username and password. Click the "Edit Find Tree Care Service" link near the top of the screen and follow the menu. If you do not have a username and password, contact ISA at isa@isa-arbor.com.

The free listing will be available for a limited time, so ISA advises certificants to sign up as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding this new program, please contact the ISA at 217-355-9411 or isa@isaarbor.com. To download written instructions, visit:

www.isa-arbor.com/findtreeservice/resources/Find_tree_service_acct_setup.pdf

2007 Certification Test Dates

Date	Location	Check In	Application Cut Off Date
January 27	Round Rock, TX 301 W. Bagdad Rd., Bldg. 2	5:00 pm	January 10
February 3	Humble, TX Mercer Arboretum 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd.	8:30 am	January 17
March 29	Round Rock, TX 301 W. Bagdad Rd., Bldg. 2	12:00 noon	March 12
April 20	San Antonio, TX CPS Energy Management Training Center 4514 Frank Bryant Lane	12:00 noon	April 3
June 15	Fort Worth, TX Tarrant County College Northwest Campus 4801 Marine Creek Parkway	TBA	May 31
August 30	Round Rock, TX 301 W. Bagdad Rd., Bldg. 2	12:00 noon	August 7
October (TBA)	TBA	TBA	TBA

Check the ISAT website – www.isatexas.com – for updates. Lead Proctors are: Pat Wentworth for Round Rock, James Koenig for San Antonio, and Dave Hintz for Humble. Thanks everyone for your support of the Certification Program.

–Pat Wentworth, ISA Texas Certification Liaison

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

January 12–13 and January 26–27, 2007

Arboriculture 101 – Round Rock, TX. Registration is still be open for the last two days of this four-day short course. Designed to help you get ready for the Certified Arborist Exam or just brush up on your skills, the course is taught by Dr. Todd Watson. For more information, visit www.isatexas.com.

January 27

First Certification Examination of 2007 – 301 W. Bagdad Rd., Bldg. 2, Round Rock, TX, Cut-off date for registration is January 10. See the entire 2007 schedule of certification tests on page 8 of this newsletter. Visit the ISAT website (www.isatexas.com) for details and registration forms.

January 27

Houston Arbor Day Celebration – Help plant 20,000 trees in one day! Contact Dallas Singleton at dsingleton@tfs.tamu.edu or 936-546-1570.

January 31

Coastal Bend Tree Health Workshop – Corpus Christi. The latest in tree care and safe tree work. Contact Karen Woodard at kwoodard@tfs.tamu.edu or 936-546-3129.

February 14

North Central Texas Urban Forestry Workshop – Discovery Gardens, Dallas Fair Park. Contact tfsdallas@sbcglobal.net or cblevins@tfs.tamu.edu

February 18–23

2007 Municipal Forester Institute – Lake Arrowhead, CA. Although the official registration deadline is past, there may still be room in this week-long professional growth event. Contact The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA): www.urban-forestry.com or 706-769-7412.

February 20-23

2007 ASCA Consulting Academy – Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sacramento, CA. www.asca-consultants.org/conferences.html.

March 8

Warren and Omega Chisum Skeet Shoot – Texas Disposal Systems Exotic Game Ranch, Austin. Mark your calendars and visit <http://www.ktb.org/support/skeet/index.htm> periodically for updates on this event, benefiting Keep Texas Beautiful. For more information contact Stacy Cantu at 512-478-8813 or stacy@ktb.org.

May 10–11

Identification and Management of Oak Wilt Workshop – DFW Metroplex (location to be announced). The Texas Forest Service and the Texas Chapter ISA are hosting a third workshop for ISA Certified Arborists on how to identify and manage oak wilt. Registration will begin April 1 so all interested arborists are urged to become Certified Arborists before that date! See the ISAT website, www.isatexas.com.

May 11-12

Texas Tree Climbing Championship and Tree Worker Certification Workshop and Test – Dallas. Come compete with the best in Texas. There will be a pre-competition workshop covering skills needed to pass the ISA Tree Worker Certification exam. For more information contact Keith Brown, TCC Chair at 512-996-9100 or Keith@AustinTreeExperts.com.

June 5, 6, & 7

National Oak Wilt Symposium – The Texas Chapter ISA is sponsoring the Second National Oak Wilt Symposium. at the Hilton Austin. Learn how private landowners, arborists, local communities, cities, state and federal agencies are working together to effectively manage this disease in Texas and elsewhere. Plus, 2007 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Texas Cooperative Oak Wilt Suppression Project. Find out what has been learned from this multiagency effort. Get the whole story at www.texasoakwilt.org/NOWS/conference.html.

News from Around the Tree World

America in Bloom 2007 Awards

The 2007 America in Bloom (AiB) awards entry form is available now online. Registration deadline is February 28. Objectives of America in Bloom are to improve the visual appeal of neighborhoods, parks, open spaces and streets through the imaginative use of flowers, plants, and trees, to encourage involvement by citizens, municipal governments, local organizations and businesses, and to emphasize environmental awareness and preservation of heritage and culture. For more information, visit:

<http://www.americainbloom.org/>.

Funds Help Agencies Hire Students

If you could use another pair of hands on staff but can't afford to pay much toward an additional salary, consider hiring a student through the Federal Work-Study Program. Program implementation varies per school, but typically includes funding to cover 60-80% of the student's salary, up to an allotted amount. In many areas, non-profit organizations and/or governmental agencies are eligible to participate. Call the Financial Aid Office of a junior college, college, or university near you to see if they participate in this program and ask for more detailed information.

Frito Lay Free Tree Opportunity

Frito Lay, in partnership with The National Arbor Day Foundation, is helping to make America a little greener by planting 100,000 trees across the United States. There will be 75,000 seedling trees planted in a National Forest and the other 25,000 seedling trees are being given away. To learn more about the program and how to apply for free trees, please visit www.arborday.org/makingamericagreener.

i-Tree Software Training

The first i-Tree Academy will be held April 30 through May 3 in Blacksburg, Virginia. Students will get hands-on experience with all i-Tree tools in a state-of-the-art computer lab. For details go to www.arborday.org/itree/.

A Great Article on Fungi

Jack Hill has recommended an article by Mike Amaranthus about soil inoculation of mycorrhizal fungi. The article, entitled "Don't Treat the Soil Like Dirt," is posted at the website of Environmental Design Inc., "the tree transplant specialists." You can read the article by going to:

www.treemover.com/articles_detail.cfm/7/Don't_Treat_Soil_Like_Dirt/Use_of_Mycorrhizal_fungi_for_tree_health.

Arbor Day Conferences & Seminars

This spring and summer, National Arbor Day has several conference offerings around the country. These include: Trees & Utilities National Conference (April, Las Vegas); Trees, People, and the Law Symposium (May, Seattle); Storms Over the Urban Forest National Conference (May, Atlanta); and the Urban Wildlife Management National Conference (June, Portland, Oregon). There is also a full slate of seminar offerings at sites throughout the country. For more information on upcoming conferences & seminars, check out www.arborday.org/conferences. Complete brochure and registration pages will be available three to four months before each event. If you have any questions about these upcoming events, please contact conference staff at 888-448-7337.

Global ReLeaf Tree Planting Grants

Global ReLeaf, a program of American Forests, is offering annual grants towards tree planting projects. They are accepting project proposals for 2007. More information, including application forms and criteria, can be found at: www.americanforests.org/global_releaf. Deadlines for grant proposals are January 15 and July 1. If you have questions regarding grant specifics or plan on applying for funds please contact Margo Dawley, 202-737-1944 x224 or mdawley@amfor.org.

AF& PA Recycling Awards

Entry forms for the 2007 American Forest & Paper Association Recycling Awards are now available at www.paperrecycles.org. Apply online for an individual, business, community, or school recycling award. Entries must be received by February 16.

Input Wanted on New Seminar Topics

In September, The National Arbor Day Foundation conference staff surveyed a group of past seminar attendees to find out which potential new seminar topics would most interest them. Trees & Roads and Tree Diseases & Pests were the most popular. Are these topics of interest in your area? Would seminars on these topics fill a need in your state or are they already being addressed? Would you attend a seminar on these topics? If you have other suggested topics please send them our way. Please e-mail comments to Matt Fong at mfong@arborday.org. We appreciate your input!

Attention Student Members: Study in the UK This Summer

A diversity of urban natural resource programs awaits you in the UK, according to Rita McKenzie, urban forestry specialist at Purdue University. Purdue is sponsoring A Study Abroad Course—UK Urban Natural Resources May 15 through June 6.

Check out this website to see the places, programs, and organizations involved in the course:

<http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/fnr/html/ugrad/UrbFor/fnrstudyabroad.htm>.

Rita's email says: "The UK has a unique structure of awards for urban improvements of all kinds. We will be visiting many award winning sites. Staying at top quality youth hostels (you can click on those from the website) which include bed and breakfast reduces expenses. We plan to keep the cost below \$2500, not including your airfare. The course will be limited to 20 people.

"Right now we need an expression of interest. Please let me know. We will keep you apprised of the cost as soon as the local arrangements are confirmed."

Questions? Contact Rita at e.mckenzie@purdue.edu or 765-494-3625.

A different kind of "knot hole." Watch for more about arborsculpture in the next issue.



New Champion American Elm Crowned

The Texas Forest Service has confirmed the dimensions of the largest known American elm (*Ulmus americana*) in Texas. The tree will be added to the next edition of the Texas Big Tree Registry, a listing of the largest specimen of every tree species found in Texas."

"This tree is just tremendous," said Jason Ellis, Texas Forest Service forester in Jacksonville, who officially measured the tree in November. "Its girth really makes the difference when you compare it to other trees of the same species."

Trees in the registry are compared by a 'tree index,' which combines trunk circumference in inches with total height in feet, plus one-quarter of the average crown spread in feet. The new champ has a circumference of 256 inches, a height of 80 feet, and a crown spread of 110 feet, giving it a tree index of 364 points. Only trees within five points of each other are listed as co-champions.

The purpose of the Big Tree Registry is to recognize the owners and nominators of the state's largest trees in order to stimulate a greater public appreciation of trees. It is published quarterly at:

<http://texasforestsservice.tamu.edu/shared/article.asp?DocumentID=476>.

Currently, the Texas Forest Service recognizes 291 native or naturalized tree species that qualify for the list. Of these, 78 are current or pending national champions or co-champions, as listed in the National Register of Big Trees, published by the non-profit conservation group American Forests.

SWPRTI ARBORIST SCHOOL

Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute (SWPRTI) will be conducting an Arborist School and Certification Examination on February 2 – 4, 2007 at Western Hills Guest Ranch located 8 miles east of Wagoner, Oklahoma.

Certified Arborists – This school will give you 11 CEU's at a classroom registration cost of \$80. For complete information go to the SWPRTI webpage www.swprti.org and follow our link to the Arborist School.

Questions? Please call Susan Campbell, Urban Forester, City of Allen, TX, (214) 509-4833

**THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER**

4200 S. Frwy., Ste. 2200
Ft. Worth, TX 76115

Phone: 817-926-8203

Fax: 817-871-5724

Email: cblevins@tfs.tamu.edu

www.isatexas.com



PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
DALLAS, TX
Permit No. 1199

ISAT Board of Directors

President

Gene Gehring
2000 Winewood Ln.
Arlington, TX 76013
817-307-0967
ggehring@hotmail.com

President-Elect

Jordy Hagen
26132 Phillips Place
San Antonio, TX 78260
210-669-3563
jordy4trees@satx.rr.com

Vice President

John Geidraitis
Texas Forest Service
301 Tarrow St., Ste. 364
College Station, TX 77840
979-458-6650
jpg@tfs.tamu.edu

Editor

Courtney Blevins
Texas Forest Service
4200 S. Freeway, Ste. 2200
Fort Worth, TX 76115
817-926-8203
cblevins@tfs.tamu.edu

Past President

Pat Wentworth
Austin Tree Specialists
P.O. Box 50061
Austin, TX 78763
512-291-8844
pat-ats@texas.net

**Executive Director
& ISA Liaison**

Mike Walterscheidt
242 Monkey Road
Elgin, TX 78621
512-587-7515
mbwalter@totalaccess.net

Board Members

Jim Carse
City of Round Rock
301 W. Bagdad
Round Rock, TX 78664
512-341-3368
jcarse74@yahoo.com

Jack Hill
113 Broken Bough
Conroe, TX 77304
936-788-2463
jhill@burditt.com

Jim Houser
724 Stonewall Ridge Lane
Austin, TX 78746
512-413-7546
jhouser3@austin.rr.com

Mary Ann Sullivan
5204 Strickland Ave.
The Colony, TX 75056
972-625-1477
masull1988@aol.com

Todd Watson
2812 Normand Dr.
College Station, TX 77845
979-458-1753
t-watson@tamu.edu

Koby Weatherford
Texas A&M University
1371 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843
979-458-4740
kweatherford@tamu.edu

Hans Williams
SFASU Forestry
P.O. Box 6109 SFA Station
Nacogdoches, TX 75962
409-468-2127
hwilliams@sfasu.edu