

Vol. 30, No.5 March 2007

Texas Tree Climbing Championship April 20–21

It's here again: The annual Texas Tree Climbing Championships. Come join us in Plano (northeast Dallas) on April 20 -21. Last year Miguel Pastenes was crowned

champion and made a great run at the International Championships in Minneapolis. This year's champion will get an extra special treat: the International Championships will be held in Hawaii, and the Texas champion will get free travel and boarding to



Her Honor the Tree Climber: Dallas Mayor Laura Miller participated in the Mayor's Challenge at the 2003 TTCC.

compete for the title of International Tree Climbing Champion.

The competition will be held in Bob Woodruff Park in Plano. Trees in this

park are arguably the biggest trees the jamboree has ever used. One of the burr oaks on the site has been dated back to the 1700s. This will be a real treat for competitors and spectators.

The competition consists of five preliminary events and the final Master's Challenge. The Cont'd on page 3

Register Now for National Oak Wilt Symposium

Plan to see oak wilt at its worst in both urban and rural settings in Central Texas at the National Oak Wilt Symposium June 4–7 at the Hilton Hotel in Austin. Learn how private landowners, arborists, local communities, cities, state and federal agencies are working together to effectively manage this disease in Texas and other states.

2007 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Texas Cooperative Oak Wilt Suppression Project. Lessons learned from this multi-agency project will be discussed in both oral presentations and field trips.

Oak wilt researchers and management specialist from across the

United States will come together to present the latest findings about the biology and management of this devastating tree disease.

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President's Message by Gene Gehring

I hope this edition of "In the Shade" finds everyone healthy and excited to get in the swing of spring. Recently, I was at the public library with my son. While he looked for a "Magic Treehouse" or "Junie B. Jones" book, I browsed the new book section. A book titled "Six Lessons for Six Sons: An Extraordinary Father, A Simple Formula for Success" by Joe Massengale and David Clow caught my attention. The description on the inside flap begins, "Joe Massengale rose above his hardscrabble roots to become a successful Beverly Hills businessman, creating a tree service from scratch and building it into an enduring and profitable enterprise."

My first thought was, "Someone actually wrote a book about an arborist who started a business. The least I can do is check it out and attempt to read it." I was surprised

to find that the book was not the typical dry cure for insomnia that many business advice books tend to be. Joe Massengale grew up in Marshall, Texas, the son of a black sharecropper and logger, in the 1930s and 1940s. He moved to Los Angeles at the age of 17 and started in the "tree care business" with a partner, going door to door knowing they had to pay for the rented truck and a place to sleep that night. The six lessons he is passing on after more than sixty years of being in business are:

Lesson one: Confidence

"... what I learned in Marshall: confidence is watching and trusting yourself, but not assuming. It's being honest and keeping your word, not taking something that isn't yours."

Lesson two: Fortitude

"The time was going by and we

owed that money, so we kept going. A hundred fifty people said no. The hundred fifty-first said yes.... It's a dangerous thing to just sit and want. That's how you become bitter. If you want something, get up and do something, get up and talk to someone. Knock on a door. Just keep moving – you might find what you need."

Lesson three: Pride

"But I'll tell you, find a business of any kind that actually keeps its word, and that's the one you stay with. So many people you deal with today cut corners and make excuses ..."

Lesson four: Persistence

"... there are two things you can do with setbacks, and you see this in the character of every true leader: negatives that you experience in life either go in the 'trunk' or they go in the 'tank.' If they go in the trunk, you carry them around as a burden. They weigh you down and you have to drag them when you move. If they go in the tank, they're fuel. Sometimes a terrible obstruction can become a very powerful fuel. It can drive you to reach your goal."

Lesson five: Fearlessness

"... now I need to look without fear at every obstacle before me, from the outside or the ones I make myself, and find a way to get over them."

Lesson six: Focus

"I didn't let the labels make any difference in my own life, and I wasn't about to let a label tell Andre what he could make of himself."

Was he successful? Defining success in terms of money, the story I liked was: "His brown Rolls-Royce sits in the garage. Joe shows it with particular pride. When he went to

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Texas Tree Climbing Championship April 20–21

Continued from p 1

five preliminary events consist of two speed climbs, a line throwing, an aerial rescue and a work climb. The two speed climbs use two different techniques for climbing a rope to a height of 50 feet. The throw line event tests a competitor's aim as he attempts to throw his line to heights approaching 60 feet into a tree. The aerial rescue challenges the climber to diagnose and properly handle a simulated injured worker from high in a tree to the ground. The work climb is the competition that tests all the basic challenges and techniques that are a part of everyday work. Only the top five competitors from the preliminary rounds qualify for the Master's Challenge. This final event combines the throw line, speed climbs and work climb into one event. The winner of the Master's Challenge will be crowned Texas Tree Climbing Champion.

Thursday, April 19, the day before the competition. will be full of activities as well. In Reverchon Park, downtown Dallas, there will be an aerial rescue workshop. Presenting the hands-on demonstration will be former Tree Climbing Champion and local legend Guy LeBlanc. This workshop will detail specific techniques that should be used in the event a worker should get injured while in a tree. Anyone who works in trees or employs tree workers should not miss this opportunity to learn from one of the best teachers of the subject.

Immediately following the workshop will be the Mayor's Challenge. The return of this fun event will help attract attention to professional tree care on both local and national levels. The Mayor of Dallas is challenging mayors from across the state to compete for the title of Mayor Climbing Champion. This may even get into the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

Go get your calendar now and book the dates of Thursday, April 19 through Saturday, April 21 to join us in Dallas. While you are there, be sure to say a special thanks to all the volunteers who help make this happen. I would like to take this opportunity say thank you to Nevic Donnelly, Kevin Bassett and Chris Brewer for their extraordinary effort in helping coordinate the event.

-Keith Brown

Jump Start Your Career

On Thursday April 19, before the competition, there will be an Aerial Rescue workshop. This is a great opportunity for Certified Arborists to get CEUs. Former Texas Tree Climbing Champion, Guy LeBlanc, will be teaching the workshop. Guy is one of the top tree climbers in the state and is an exceptional teacher. With a minimum of 18 months experience, this training plus a Red Cross CPR/first aid course would complete the examination eligibility requirements for the certified tree worker/climbing specialist certification.

This year's jamboree will be a great opportunity for contestants to qualify for ISA's Certified Tree Worker. This certification is great for workers looking to push the envelope for their career, and it will be great for employers, too! The bottom line is that customers are willing to pay more for properly qualified workers. This is the way to a more professional and more lucrative work environment. We will mail an information packet to you upon receipt of your registration form.

-Gene Gehring

President's Message Continued from p 2

buy it, he was wearing workman's coveralls after trimming trees all day. The salesman at the dealership asked him if he was there to see the janitor. Joe paid for the car in cash." But success should not be defined simply in terms of money. Two-time heavyweight champion George Foreman, who wrote the foreword, says this about success: "If you define success too narrowly, you can succeed beyond your wildest dreams while losing your family, betraying your customers, and leaving nothing behind but personal tragedy."

Nowhere in the book did it mention where Joe Massengale learned about trees, other than on the job. You have the advantage of being a part of ISA, whose main mission is education. ISAT has several educational opportunities coming up: certification exams, workshops, Tree Climbing Championship in April, Texas Tree Conference in October, and we are hosting the Second National Oak Wilt Symposium June 4-7. Please read the rest of the newsletter for more on these and other important happenings.



Pathologist's Corner

Russell Peters, author of Pathologist's Corner, is recovering from hip surgery, so Part 2 of his four-part series on Components of Diagnosis has had to be postponed. We wish Russell a speedy recovery and look forward to the next installment of his series, which we expect to publish in the May issue.

Cool Tools by Patrick Wentworth ASCEND FOUR STORIES IN FOUR SECONDS

The "Cool Tool" of the month this time goes to an MIT student who just won an award for the Powered Rope Ascender. Capable of carrying a fully loaded soldier up four stories in less than four seconds, this new device will rival the Canadian invention I wrote about a year ago.

The battery recharges up to 90% in as little as 5 minutes. It weighs only 15 pounds and can be operated using only one hand (leaves one hand free for weapons according to the website.)

The device can also be remotely controlled and has a lifting capacity of over 1,000 pounds. Used in conjunction with other devices such as a block and tackle or winch, it

can be used to pull cars out of ditches or trees out of roadways. With a larger battery, it can make an ascent of over 600 feet on a single charge!

Go to the website: http://www.atlasdevices.com/index.htm

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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGvibmr2CIU

to see a video of the product in use. The price and availability have yet to be disclosed on the website, but it appears to be an improvement over the Canadian device.



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Basic Training for Ground Operations in Tree Care

A five-part workshop to be held March 29 in El Paso is designed to improve the safety, productivity and morale of field crew personnel responsible for ground operations. Topics include An Orientation to the Arboriculture Profession, Vehicle Safety, Job Planning & Preparation, Working Safely & Efficiently, and Brush Chipper Operation & Maintenance.

Lead instructor is Guy LeBlanc, owner of Arbor Vitae Tree Care and former Texas tree climbing champion. The workshop is sponsored by ISAT, Texas Forest Service and Vermeer.

Registration includes a ISA Grounds Operations Workbook and lunch. To register go to **www.isatexas.com**. You may **register online** for this event.

Register Online!

ISAT's new online registration service for educational events is making registration easier and faster.

When an event listed on the ISAT home page says "Click to Register," you can register online. You can also go straight to the "Register Online" page at https://www.shop.isatexas.com.

If online registration is not available, you may register by email or by downloading a registration form and mailing or faxing it.

As the year progresses, more educational events will offer the option of online registration..

Texas SAF Annual Meeting April 24-26

Foresters, mark your calendars for April 24 – 26 and come join us in Galveston for the 2007 Texas Society of American Foresters (TSAF) Annual Meeting. This year the meeting will be held at the Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa and Convention Center. Located on historic Galveston Island on the Texas Gulf Coast, the Motel and Convention Center are nestled among the tropical surroundings and majestic pyramids of Moody Gardens.

According to Program Chairman Eric Taylor, the theme of this year's three-day meeting is Ecosystem Services: From Priceless to Valuable. A pre-conference training for those interested in TDA Pesticide License Certification is being offered from 10 am to 5 pm on April 24 at the Convention Center. This will run concurrently with Conference registration and preconference check-in. A reception with entertainment from 5:30 to 9 pm will provide SAF members an opportunity to get acquainted with new members or visit with old friends.

On Wednesday, April 25, breakfast will be served at 7:30 am and registration will resume at 8:00 am. The technical program, from 8:30 am until noon, will include talks on market-based mechanisms, carbon banking, and habitat mitigation banking. If you aren't familiar with these terms, you need to be in Galveston and get updated on where forestry is headed.

At the TSAF Awards Banquet at noon Wednesday, TSAF award winners will be announced and a national SAF representative will deliver an update. You can network, visit with exhibitors, and participate in the Foresters Fund silent auction. The afternoon session will direct attention to wetlands mitigation banking and

wildland/urban interface issues.

On Thursday, April 26, attendees will help Galveston Island participate in its first Arbor Day event. After the Arbor Day celebration there will be a TSAF business meeting and lunch. The meeting will adjourn at 2 pm. Before leaving Galveston, you may want to try out the new Schlitterbahn Water Park next to Moody Gardens.

For more information contact Eric Taylor at eric-taylor@tamu.edu or Mike Murphrey at mmurphrey@tfs. tamu.edu.

-Ron Billings TSAF Communications Chair

Oak Wilt Identification & Management Workshop May 10-11

ISAT and the Texas Forest Service will be hosting another workshop on the Identification and Management of Oak Wilt in Texas. The workshop is scheduled for May 10–11 at the Cooperative Extension Complex on Coit Road in Dallas.

This two-day workshop is reserved for ISAT Certified Arborists only and will cover the identification and management of oak wilt in Texas including: host/fungus biology and interaction, field diagnosis, and treatment protocol. Upon workshop completion, participants may include their names on a list of Texas Oak Wilt Certified Arborists as it appears on the Texas Oak Wilt informational website: www.texasoakwilt.org.

Registration for this workshop will begin April 1 and will be limited to the first 60 registrants. For more information, contact Jim Houser, TFS Oak Wilt and Invasive Species Coordinator, at 512-339-4589 or email jhouser@tfs.tamu.edu.

W. Control

Climbing Lines by Guy LeBlanc Where's the Rub?

Many pieces of climbing equipment are currently so commonly used they are almost considered mandatory. One such item is the so-called "friction saver" (FS). This device is normally hung in the tie-in crotch, and one's climbing line is then placed in the FS. This eliminates the friction that would otherwise occur if the rope was running directly through the crotch, hence the name. The three main benefits to this are: eliminating injury to thin-barked trees, drastic reduction of rope wear, and greatly improved maneuverability for the climber.

Tree injury reduction is not an important aspect of the FS if you are always working in trees like live oaks and cedar elms, which have extremely durable bark, even on small diameter branches. But even in a place like central Texas, where these trees make up the majority of the urban forest, there are still many other species that really need this protection. For trees like cottonwood or sycamore, for example, I would say use of an FS is mandatory. Just one ten-foot descent with your weight fully in your line can burn through the outer bark of even large diameter stems on these species if you are "dry-crotched," resulting in injury to the tree. Less obviously susceptible to such injury are trees like

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pecans and red oaks. While these trees have very coarse bark on their largest branches, it thins out very quickly as diameters go below about four inches, still a large enough diameter for a small climber to safely tie in to.

What you really come to appreciate if you use an FS on all your climbs, and not just thin-barked trees, is how much longer your ropes will last. It makes a significant difference. But in my opinion, the most underrated advantage of these devices is how much faster and smoother you can move through the tree's canopy. This is especially true in a wide profile canopy like a live oak, where your rope is often running against multiple branches as you get farther out from your tie-in. The near complete elimination of friction at the tie-in point makes the friction acquired through other points of contact unimportant. It is particularly helpful when doing a redirect type of descent through a second crotch. When performing this type of maneuver while dry-crotched, the friction of both crotches sometimes makes the descent impossible.

There are numerous types of friction savers available currently. Like other pieces of equipment like "traditional tooth" handsaws that are now sold as a "new" product, the original FS is also now being sold as a "New!" It can be seen in the Sherrill Arborist Supply catalog, along with others I'll describe here. It used to be called a "cambium saver," and is simply a U-shaped piece of leather hose that the climbing line is threaded through. Very easy to use and install from the ground, its biggest drawback is that while it protects trees well, it doesn't reduce friction nearly as much as the next generation of FS, which is a thick nylon webbing strap with a ring stitched onto each end. The rings are of different diameter, which is critical for the removal of the strap once you are back on the ground. You must either tie a small knot, or more commonly, attach a screw link to one end of the line. As you pull the line out, the knot or screw link passes through the larger ring, and is caught by the small one, bringing the strap down. However, this only works if you remember to pull the stopper through the large ring first!

A throwline tied to the climbing line is usually necessary to prevent the rings from hitting the ground during removal, which can damage them. And it is imperative that you be certain that the crotch you install the FS in is wide enough to allow it to be pulled out. Also be careful that no narrow crotches below the tie-in point could snare it. This happened to a contestant in the ITCC in Nashville, 2005.

The nylon strap type of FS is definitely superior to the leather hose type, but it's not as easily installed from the

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6 ground. In fact, most friction savers are kind of tricky to install from the ground, especially as you go higher, with more limbs below the tie-in point getting in the way. Two-time world climbing champion Mark Chisholm says he avoids installing friction savers from the ground. He ascends a dry-crotched line via footlock or other non-abrasive technique to his tie-in point and installs one "in person".

One key drawback to the nylon strap style is that it is a fixed length, usually sold in two- to six-foot lengths. This can be too short, or even, in small trees, too long. Recently, an adjustment device called the friction saver prusik became available that makes the strap style FS much more versatile. It is basically a "hip prussik" with a ring instead of a snap or carabiner, which makes it possible to use this type of FS on a "spar" (a length of stem with no crotches).

More commonly in use nowadays is the "Rope Guide" (RG). This is the type of FS that Mark Chisholm prefers (see a Sherrill catalog for Mark's comments on the RG). Two big advantages to the RG are: 1) it is made of rope, so it lays and wraps better on

crotches and spars than a strap, and 2) it is highly adjustable, being ten feet long. One thing I don't like about the RG is



that it adjusts via a mechanical device. As you may remember from my piece on lanyards, this is a big negative in my book. Apparently it was for others as well, for there is now a version of the RG available that adjusts with a hip prusik attached to a specialized clevis. I like this approach a lot more, but as with my lanyard, I prefer to customize.

I use a length of ½ line with a large eye splice in it (like a split tail) to which I girth-hitch a large FS ring (FS rings can be purchased separately). I put a safety knot in the other end. I then make a hip prusik out of Ultratech and tie a small FS ring onto that using double fisherman's (see photo). Just as functional, and one third the cost. If you want to market it, just give me a 10% cut!

Remember, although I sometimes refer to custom-made equipment, I have extensive experience and only make such devices for my own personal use. Employers should only provide ANSI/ OSHA approved devices for employees, and no one should rely on custom-made equipment created by unqualified persons. Climb safe.

The author is the owner and operator of Arbor Vitae Tree Care of Austin, TX and has been in the tree care business for 30 years.

ISAT Helps Underwrite Texas Arboretum at Wildflower Center

ISAT has voted to donate \$5,000 to support the proposed Texas Arboretum, being developed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

The Arboretum, part of the Wildflower Center's new Gardens Master Plan, will be located in an area of deeper soils suitable for growing a large number of tree species. Developed as a classic arboretum, it will be an interpreted systematic collection where visitors can learn about the diversity of Texas trees in a relatively compact area. The ground plane will be maintained in simple sweeps of native grasses and wildflowers, and pathways will connect different groupings of trees.

A major emphasis will be placed on Texas oaks, but many other woody species will also be included. The Arboretum will serve as a resource for tree identification, landscape design inspiration, field trips, and outdoor classes, and will be the centerpiece for the Wildflower Center's tree-related educational programs. In addition, the Texas Arboretum will work closely with other arboreta within the state such as the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, an affiliate of the Wildflower Center.

In recognition of the Texas Arboretum project, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has been selected as host of the official 2007 Texas Arbor Day April 27 from 10 am to noon. The Texas Forest Service, in cooperation with other groups and individuals, will conduct the official ceremony, with State Forester Jim Hull presiding. Texas Arbor Day will include music, speakers, and a tree planting. Tree books will be on sale all weekend at the gift shop.

THE TREE CIRCUS

Axel Erlandson was born in 1884, the son of Swedish immigrants. He raised beans and other crops in Central California near Turlock.



Sycamore Tower

There, inspired by observing a natural graft in his hedgerow (inosculence) he began to shape trees. He would create designs on paper first and then plant in the specified patterns; pruning, grafting and

bending them. This began as a hobby for the amusement of himself and his family.

In 1945 Erlandson's daughter and wife took a trip to the ocean near Santa Cruz. There they saw people lined up to pay to see such oddities as tilted buildings and optical illusions.

They returned home and mentioned (off hand) that Axel's trees could draw people who would pay to see them if they were on a well-traveled tourist route. Axel jumped on the idea and bought a small parcel of land in Scotts Valley, California on the main road between the Santa Clara Valley and the ocean; and started the process of transplanting the best of his trees to their new home. The Tree Circus opened in the spring of 1947.

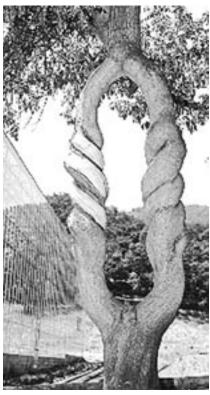
Erlandson planted six sycamore trees in a circle, topped them all at one foot, then approach grafted them together to form the diamond patterns for the first 2.5 meters (8'). He left an opening at the top. This specimen is one of Erlandson's most balanced symbiotic creations.

Axel Erlandson shaped his trees for over 40 years. He created the world's most outstanding examples of "arborsculpture." When asked how he got his trees to grow like this, he would reply, "I talk to them."

This form of

Double Twist Tree (1952 on left and 1995 on right)





arborsculpture has been around perhaps since 1516 when the first known painting of arborscultpture was painted. To find out more, get the book Arborscultpture - Solutions for a Small Planet by Richard Reames. published by Arborsmith Studios. It's available through www.amazon.com.

-Pat Wentworth

A Thank-You Letter

February 15, 2007

Gene Gehring, President ISA Texas Chapter 242 Monkey Road Elgin, TX 78621

Dear Gene and ISAT Board,

Thank you for your sponsorship of the 2007 Texas Arbor Day Poster Contest. The International Society of Arboriculture Texas Chapter has diligently sponsored this program since its inception in Texas. On behalf of the Texas Forest Service and the Arbor Day Poster Contest program, I thank you for your continued support.

Each year, the Texas Forest Service raises funds to hold the Poster Contest. Just to let you know what your dollars have gone towards over the years, here are the items you help sponsor.

- \$500 savings bond for the state winner
- Regional and state prizes
- State ceremony
- Printing and mailings

Last year we displayed 30 of the regional winners and state winner in the Capital. Frames and easels were purchased, so that this could be accomplished. We displayed a list of our sponsors on both ends of the hallway where the posters were displayed as our way of saying thank you. We plan to do this again this year.

All of this is possible, because of your continued support. If you have any questions about the Texas Arbor Day Poster Contest, I would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

Angie Soldinger Conservation Education Coordinator

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

March 8

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

March 29

Basic Training for Ground Operations in Tree Care – El Paso. A workshop designed to improve the safety, productivity and morale of field crew personnel responsible for ground operations. Lead instructor: Guy LeBlanc. To register go to **www.isatexas.com**. You may **register online** for this event.

April 19

Texas Tree Worker Certification Workshop and Test – Reverchon Park, Dallas. This pre-Tree Climbing Championship competition workshop covers aerial rescue skills needed to pass the ISA Tree Worker Certification exam. Contact Keith Brown, 512-996-9100 or Keith@AustinTreeExperts.com.

April 20-21

Texas Tree Climbing Championship – Bob Woodruff Park, Plano. Come compete with the best in Texas. For more information contact Keith Brown, TCC Chair at 512-996-9100 or Keith@AustinTreeExperts.com.

April 24 - 26

2007 Texas Society of American Foresters (TSAF) Annual Meeting – Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa and Convention Center, Galveston. For more information contact Eric Taylor at eric-taylor@tamu.edu or Mike Murphrey at mmurphrey@tfs.tamu.edu.

April 27

Texas Arbor Day – Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin. Watch for details at http://www.wildflower.org/.

May 10-11

Identification and Management of Oak Wilt Workshop – Cooperative Exttension Complex, Dallas. 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.

June 4–7

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.isatexas.com.

July 28 – August 1

ISA 83rd Annual Conference and Trade Show – Honolulu, HI. Visit www.isa-arbor.com/conference/default.aspx

October 10-12

21st Texas Tree Conference – Waco. This year's theme is "The Roots of Arboriculture" Contact Jordy Hagen jordy4trees@satx.rr.com, to volunteer or for more information.

October 19-21

ISA Fall Leadership Workshop, Champaign, Illinois. For more information: www.isa-arbor.com/calendar/calendar.aspx

It is well that you should celebrate your Arbor Day thoughtfully, for within your lifetime the nation's need of trees will become serious. We of an older generation can get along with what we have, though with growing hardship; but in your full manhood and womanhood you will want what nature once so bountifully supplied and man so thoughtlessly destroyed; and because of that want you will reproach us, not for what we have used, but for what we have wasted.

Theodore Roosevelt,1907 Arbor Day Message

National Oak Wilt Symposium

Continued from p 1

The NOWS will be highlighted by two days of oral presentations, your choice of field trips, a Texas-style social event, and ample time to network with those directly involved in studying or managing oak wilt. Also, presentations will be made available in a published proceeding.

The rural oak wilt field trip will focus on issues related to oak wilt epidemiology and control in the Central Texas oak-juniper woodlands. The destination will be the Ft. Hood Army Installation, approximately 70 miles northwest of Austin. Participants will meet with representatives of the Nature Conservancy for briefings on the unique ecosystem at Ft. Hood and the efforts made to preserve the habitats of many endangered species. The impact of oak wilt on oaks growing in Golden Cheeked Warbler habitat will be viewed along with trenching and other oak wilt control activities and regeneration in existing centers. The results of studies on inoculum availability and vector transmission in relation to species composition will be discussed.

The urban oak wilt tour will spend a day in Austin and the surrounding Hill Country. After a visit to the historic Treaty Oak and heavily live oak-forested Austin neighborhoods, the tour will focus on oak wilt suppression projects in developed and rapidly developing areas. At the various stops knowledgeable speakers will discuss oak wilt biology, epidemiology, and suppression. Planned demonstrations include Texas-style trenching utilizing a rocksaw that cuts 60 inches into the limestone. Both micro and macro injection (infusion) techniques for the delivery of fungicides directly into the vascular tissue will be observed. A potential new technology to aid in diagnosis of oak wilt, the Handy PEA chlorophyll fluorimeter, will also be demonstrated.

There will be ample opportunity to converse with oak wilt professionals from Texas and across the country. This field trip includes lunch and a tour at the renowned Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. Participants should be prepared to board and exit the bus several times and walk no more than one block at any stop.

Entertainment includes a trip on The Commodore's Pup the original Lake Austin riverboat—and a traditional Texas BBQ dinner at Westwood Country Club

Registration before May 4 is \$295; \$350 after. Space is limited, so register early. For more information or to register, go to www.isatexas.com.

New Co-Champ Found at Big Bend

Texas is a big place, with lots of different environmental conditions that produce unique tree species. Those found only in Texas are considered endemic, which is one reason our state boasts so many national champions. One place known for its unique set of tree species is Big Bend National Park, and TFS foresters periodically travel to Big Bend to find and remeasure the national champions in the park, many of which were discovered in the early 1980's by former Chief Ranger Jim Liles.

One species required a couple of trips to update: Drooping Juniper (Juniperus flaccida). In May 2006, TFS regional urban forester, Oscar Mestas, and program coordinator, Pete Smith, found and remeasured the listed national champ in a narrow draw above Lower Juniper Spring. But our records showed another possible champ on Casa Grande that hadn't been measured since its discovery in 1982. So Oscar and Pete set out in November to climb Casa Grande and find the tree, using best-guess GPS coordinates, an old map and photo, and determination. The trip was worth it, since the tree was not only still alive, but had grown enough to rival the champ, making them both national co-champions!

-From the Big News, Winter 2007



Oscar Mestas and the national co-champion Drooping Juniper above Lower Juniper Spring.



Pete Smith and the new national cochamp Drooping Juniper on Casa Grande

Past Chapter President, Jerry Pulley Credited with New U.S. Record

The October 2006 issue of the *Pan-Pacific Entomologist*, a journal of biosystematics of insects and closely related arthropods, included a paper of interest to Texas arborists. The paper, authored by Stan Wellso and John Jackman, announced a new United States record for *Agrilus prionurus*, Chevrolat, 1838, a buprestid species previously described from Mexico. The adults and larva of the beetle were collected September 5, 2003 from western soapberry, *Sapindus drummondii*, by Jerry Pulley in Travis County, Texas.

Mr. Pulley sent the beetles to John Jackman, professor of Entomology, Texas A&M University, for identification. Adults were compared with *Agrilus* spp. in the A&M insect collection and could not be identified.

Believed to be of Mexican origin, the beetles were sent to the Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA. There the leading expert regarding *Agrilus* spp. from Mexico tentatively identified the specimen as *A. prionurus*. He later verified the identification by comparison with the type at the British Museum of Natural History.

Buprestids (Coleoptera; Buprestidae) are known as the flat head borer family. This newly recorded species is very similar to *Agrilus planipennis*, the devastating

emerald ash borer so prevalent in the upper midwest. Both species feed in the cambium between the bark and wood, producing galleries that eventually girdle branches and ultimately kill the entire tree.

Upon hatching, the larva chews through the bark into the cambial region and feed on the phloem and outer sapwood. The S-shaped feeding gallery becomes progressively wider as the larva grows. Adults eventually emerge head-first through a D-shaped hole about 2-4 mm in diameter.

Stressed soapberries are probably the most vulnerable to borer infestation but, like ash trees killed by the emerald ash borer, apparently sound, vigorous individuals die in large groups.

Mr. Pulley first observed infestations in western soapberry as early as 1998. He says it was apparent he was dealing with the genus Agrilus, but had no knowledge of the species. After observing the dramatic decline in soapberry populations for several years and the simultaneous development of the emerald ash borer crisis in the upper midwest, he determined the soapberry decline phenomenon should be pursued. With the assistance of the biosystematics experts another "exotic invader" has been identified.

Cer	tifica	atioi	า Test	Dates
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Date	Location	Check In	Application Cut Off Date
March 29	Round Rock, TX 301 W. Bagdad Rd., Bldg. 2	12:00 noon	March 13
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 14
October 10	Waco	4:00 pm	September 24

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

Important Reminder: The test application form must be at ISA's office with your check 16 calendar days before the test date or you will not be allowed to take the exam.

-Pat Wentworth, ISA Texas Certification Liaison

ISA Hispanic Committee Update

by Mark L. Duff

Part 1 of 2: History

For those of you who don't know about us, I'll give some history of the ISA Hispanic Committee:

About 12 years ago an ad-hoc group was formed called the Hispanic Issues Committee. The committee met at the annual ISA conference and was openly attended mostly by conferees from Latin America, the Caribbean and Spain. During this period the committee operated without permanent members, organized structure or policy statements. However, six years ago, the Committee gained full standing committee status under the direction of Manuel Jordan. Since then I have presided as Chair. The name Hispanic Issues Committee was changed to the Hispanic Committee about five years ago.

We now have 12 members, including 4 PhDs, from seven countries (Argentina, Spain, Colombia, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Mexico and the United States). We have formulated written policy and structure statements per the ISA Strategic Plan, and have been busy putting programs together, developing the ISAHispana.com website and translating a ton of technical material. We also have an

ISA Staff Liaison and a representative from the ISA Executive Board on our committee.

The Hispanic Committee falls under ISA's Educational Goods and Services Committee umbrella which is composed of six groups; the Arborist News Editorial Board, Journal of Arboriculture & Urban Forestry Editorial Board, Science and Research Committee, Plant Appraisal and Valuation Committee, and the Best Management Practices Committee.

Why do we need a Hispanic Committee in the first place, you might ask?

- 1. The majority of tree care workers in much of the US and Texas are Hispanic (many are recent immigrants), and for better or worse, use Spanish as a primary language.
- 2. The ISA is an international organization and needs to lead the world (Hispanic countries included) in research and in the development and promotion of professional arboriculture practices.
- 3. The tree care industry has requested our help it all comes down to the bottom line.

It all started with a two-day USDA Forest Service Hispanic Tree Care Worker Initiative meeting in Atlanta during July 2000. This meeting was attended by representatives of the Big Three (Asplundh, Davey and Bartlett) and others in the tree care industry who employ significant numbers of Hispanic tree care workers. The object of the meeting was to hash out what the major issues were within this Hispanic community.

The major issues boiled down to:

- Lack of communication due to language barriers which leads to safety concerns and greater accident rates among Hispanic workers = loss of income
- Lack of bi-lingual safety/technical training and materials (most of what little existed, was very poorly translated) This leads to inadequately trained staff that creates loss of income
- High turn-over rates in some cases as high as 200%.
 (Many workers, as soon as they got their CDL license, moved on to become truck drivers in other sectors.)
 This leads to loss of income as well.

The committee has launched a number of projects to address these concerns. Find out about them in the next issue.



ISAT Board of Directors Report

Friday, January 19, Elgin, Texas

Members in Attendance

Courtney Blevins
James Carse
Gene Gehring
John Giedraitis
Jordy Hagen
Jack Hill
Jim Houser
Mike Walterscheidt

Todd Watson Koby Weatherford Pat Wentworth Hans Williams

Others Present

Keith Brown Neviticus Donnelly

REPORTS

Editor: Editor Blevins will contact various chapters and find out what they charge for advertising and make a recommendation on our rates. (Recommendation later made to double our rates). Bulk mail server also changed to get the newsletter out quicker.

Convention 2006: Walterscheidt reported a net profit of \$7,492.49 with an attendance above 300.

Convention 2007: The Conference will be held October 10, 11, & 12 in Waco. The contracts were signed and will be delivered by Gehring. There was some discussion of Corporate rates for the conference.

Tree Climbing Championship: Keith Brown reported the TTCC will be held in Plano on April 19-21.

Arbor Day: The 2007 Arbor Day will be held at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. There was some discussion on donating money to the Center to help establish an Oaks of Texas Arboretum. A motion was made to donate \$5,000; motion seconded. After discussion a motion was made to table this motion so that Pat Wentworth could gather more information and make a recommendation to the Board: motion

seconded and passed. A later vote was taken by email and the donation was approved. A motion was made to fund the 2007 Arbor Day Poster Contest at \$2,500; motion seconded; motion passed.

Certification: Wentworth reported on Certification and that the tests are set for 2007 and available on the website.

Membership: Walterscheidt reported we continue to increase.

Educational Services: Giedraitis reported workshops have done well especially Arboriculture 101.

Awards: Giedraitis discussed awards and the possibility of adding another award for 2007.

Publicity: Carse said that all events have been sent to magazines and journals.

Scholarships: A motion was made to increase scholarships for TAMU and SFA to \$2,000 each; motion seconded; motion passed.

Research: We have some dollars now and need to get proposals.

OLD BUSINESS:

NOWS (National Oak Wilt Symposium): Gehring distributed the registration brochure and asked for comments

Board Attendance: A motion was made to appoint Keith Brown to fill the remaining part of Mary Ann Sullivan's term; motion seconded; motion approved.

New Business:

2007 Budget: A motion was made to approve the 2007 budget with the addition of more dollars for Arbor Day; motion seconded; motion approved.

Logos: A motion was made to approve the new ISAT logos; motion seconded; motion approved.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 19, 4:30 – 6:30 pm in conjunction with the TTCC.

-Mike Walterscheidt, Courtney Blevins

ISAT New Members in January & February

Peter Blanchette – City of Dallas David Boyer – Austin John Boyette – Texas Forest Service, Nacogdoches

Larry Clendenen – Kimley-Horn & Associates, Dallas

Christian Deem – Preferred Landscape & Lighting, San Antonio

Christopher Dolan – City of Austin Arlon Feuerbacher – Stephenville Margaret Hall-Spencer – First Colony Community Assoc, Sugar Land

Corbett Hancock – The Woodlands Gerardo Hernandez – Bartlett Tree Expert Co, San Antonio

Karl Hoffman – Freese and Nichols, Inc. Fort Worth

Mike Hooper – Westheimer Tree Experts, Houston

Ricardo Lara – Richmond Tim Levenhagen – City of Allen

Gary Morgan – VMC Landscape Services, Dallas

Bill Polkinghorn, Jr – Bills Tree Service, Coldspring

Rafael Ramirex, Jr – Trinity University, San Antonio

David Richardson – Carrollton Richard Thompson – City of Corpus Christi

Brent Wester – Wester Professional Tree Services, Beaumont

Donald Williams – Affordable Arborist by Big Country Tree, Georgetown

Brian Williams – Waco Gregory Wreyford – Brothers Tree Service, Royse City

Life consists in what a person is thinking of all day.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

1000 Pine Seedlings Planted In Anapra, Mexico



A thousand pine tree seedlings were planted in Anapra, Mexico February 10 and 11 as part of an effort to improve air quality in the area.

The project was sponsored by two state agencies, the Texas Forest Service and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and two non-profit organizations, the West

Texas Urban Forestry Council (who call themselves Amigos de Trees) and Las Hormigas de Rancho Anapra de Cd. Juarez.

U.S. volunteers delivered the seedlings—purchased from the Windbreak Program of TFS— to Mexican partner Las Hormigas February 10. Las Hormigas handled the distribution of the seedlings to Anapra residents. Each resident who received a seedling signed an adoption form and promised to care for the tree for three years.

Victor Valenzuela of TCEQ has the names of the adopters and will monitor the trees' progress for the next few years.

-Information from Oscar Mestas, Regional Urban Forester, Texas Forest Service

Elvia Villescas, director of Las Hormigas, demonstrates how to plant the pine seedlings.



Houston Urban Tree Count Helps City Work More Efficiently

With the help of a Texas Forest Service Urban Forestry Partnership Grant, the City of Houston is conducting an ongoing street tree inventory for the city. To date, 146,000 street trees have been inventoried using City of Houston staff foresters and interns. "Our goal is to not only inventory 100% of our street trees" says City Forester Victor Cordova, "but also to record all available planting spaces."

The information collected has helped the city become more efficient in their day-to-day operations. The inventory enables the Forestry Division to estimate and establish a realistic budget, become proactive in managing at-risk trees, support code enforcement, and develop a disaster preparation and response plan to reduce tree damage caused by severe weather in critical access corridors to the Texas Medical Center.

The inventory is also tied into the city's Geographic Information and Management System (GIMS) website. This system allows the different city departments as well as the general public to query, locate and view street trees using interactive maps.

For more information on the City of Houston's Street Tree Inventory, contact Victor Cordova at 713-867-0379 or visit the City of Houston's GIMS website at: http://pwegis.pwe.ci.houston.tx.us.

—Dallas Singleton Regional Urban Forester, Texas Forest Service

Coastal Bend Tree Health Conference Covers "Trees and Extreme Weather"

The 6th Annual Tree Health Conference was a great success! With the timely subject of "Trees and Extreme Weather," 150 attendees and volunteers packed the room. The guest speaker, John Worrell, Bartlett Tree Experts, was a big hit, and imparted a wealth of information. Everyone found the information very beneficial. We are already working on next year's conference, aptly named "Thar She Blows."

-Karen Woodard Regional Urban Forester, Texas Forest Service



At the Houston Arbor Day planting on Will Clayton Blvd, left to right: Brian Pope, TFS; Bill White, Houston Mayor; Todd Nightingale, TFS; John Warner, TFS; Wes Moorehead, TFS, and Tyler Wagner, TFS

Thousands of Volunteers Plant 35,000 Trees

The largest volunteer event in Houston Parks and Recreation Department history took place on January 27, Houston's Arbor Day. The HPARD, TxDOT, Texas Forest Service, Trees for Houston and the Houston Airport System partnered together to help transform the esplanades on Will Clayton Parkway into a new forest of 35,000 trees.

Thousands of volunteers braved cold, rainy, muddy conditions and rolled up their sleeves, grabbed their shovels and planted trees alongside Mayor Bill White and Congressman Ted Poe.

"This is the biggest tree planting event in the history of our department," said Joe Turner, HPARD Director. "Needless to say we are excited about the event and about the volunteers, both individuals and corporate teams, who are taking shovel in hand and planting trees with us to celebrate Arbor Day."

When the new forest matures it will not only make a great first impression on visitors arriving by plane to Houston, but every tree planted will have a positive impact on the environment. Victor Cordova, HPARD City Forester, explained, "As trees grow, they remove CO² from the atmosphere. A single tree can remove more than a ton of CO² over its lifetime."

The Will Clayton Parkway Forest Facelift is part of the Houston Area Freeway Forestation Project sponsored by Congressman Ted Poe. For information on Arbor Day and the Will Clayton Parkway Forest Facelift, or the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call 713-845-1135 or visit www.houstonparks.org.

Last-Minute Change of Speakers Fails to Spoil North Central Texas Urban Forestry Conference

Maybe rain or sleet or snow can't stop the mailman or Superman, but it can certainly stop headline speakers stranded at an airport in Ohio!

The night before the North Central Texas Urban Forestry Conference, we found out that Dr. Edward F. Gilman's plane was grounded in Columbus and he would not be able to make it to Dallas for his full day of presentations. A bit of a problem? You might say that, or so we thought.

I did mention that rain, sleet or snow couldn't stop Superman, and turns out our "other" speaker filled in for the entire day and was an enormous success. Our own Superman, Dr. Todd Watson, battling the flu and an upper respiratory infection, extended his original two hours to fill the entire day with four fantastic presentations. Starting with Safety Practices he never let up as he continued with Trees & Drought Stress, Mistletoe and Ball Moss Control and finally, Trees & Construction. The talks were highly entertaining and even the mundane-sounding Safety Practices kept the audience in stitches.

About 250 people attended from all over the state and received 5.5 CEU hours from ISAT and SAF. Next year we will hold the 14th annual conference again in February and probably in Grand Prairie.

-Courtney Blevins, CF Regional Urban Forester, Texas Forest Service



FOR SALE 1999 Chev 3500 with utility box. Blue book list \$ ~ 8.000.00

Will sell for \$4750.00 or best offer. Call Pat Wentworth M-F 512-291-8844.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

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June 4-7, 2007

Join us in Austin, Texas for the 2nd National Oak Wilt Symposium (NOWS), to be held at the Austin Hilton Hotel

Sponsored By:



International Society of Arboriculture, Texas Chapter

Cooperators:











22 ISA CEU Credits



For more information, or to register; On the Web at www.isatexas.com

or

Contact Mike Walterscheidt at (512)587-7515

Gene Gehring at genegehring@hotmail.com