



# In the Shade

Vol. 32, No.6  
March, 2009

## Mark Your Calendar:

## TTCC Will Be May 29 & 30 in Austin

The 2009 Texas Tree Climbing Championship will be held May 29 & 30 at Govalle Park in Austin, with a workshop on May 28. The cut-off date for registering will be May 15. Watch for more information on the website and the next issue of *In the Shade*.

Below are some smiling faces from last year's Tree Climbing Championship in Ft. Worth (l to r.): Steve Houser, award for technical support; Guy LeBlanc, award for 2002-2005 honorable chairman; Kevin Basset, award for over 10 years dedication and service.



### Inside This Issue:

#### Just what you wanted: more **Pests!**

Previously we talked about chalcid wasps and soapberry borers; this time it's gypsy moths, emerald ash borers and raspberry crazy ants (We think that's the right spelling -- if not, let us know!) . . . . . 12&13

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*President's Corner* by John Giedraitis

## A HERD OF GOATS IN A TREE

DID YOU EVER WONDER where you can:

- advertise for more business?
- get certified?
- ID Texas tree pests?
- find out when and where tree education will be in your area?
- get a scholarship or grant?
- network with other arborists?
- see a video of a leprechaun in a tree?
- learn how to split a 6-foot diameter log with black powder?

Well, the source for all things Trees in Texas is [www.ISATexas.com](http://www.ISATexas.com).

All the information to keep you up on the latest in arboriculture and urban forestry is included. The site is a public filing cabinet for the Texas Chapter that not only has a calendar of events but also has the back issues of these newsletters. You can see pictures of Texas Tree Award winners, sign up for the Texas Tree Climbing Championship, and find every municipal tree ordinance in the Lone Star State. You can also sign up here to receive the free monthly ISAT email newsletter.

Working smarter can give you an edge in these tight economic times. [www.ISATexas.com](http://www.ISATexas.com) can help you get that edge. If you have something you want to share with other Texas arborists, send it on and I'll get you posted: [jpg@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jpg@tfs.tamu.edu)

So check it out. In fact, **the first five folks to email me the name of the 2009 Convention Chair, I'll send a *Famous Trees of Texas* book.** BTW (by the way), the tree climbing goats are under the 'Tree Videos' link.

– John Giedraitis  
President 2008-2009 ISAT

### YES WE'RE ONLINE !

If you're currently reading our print edition, don't forget this newsletter is also posted on the ISAT website.

Go to <http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Newsletter.htm> to download this issue *in color and with clickable links*.

Previous issues are also available.

## Partners in Community Forestry Presentations Available Online

The National Arbor Day Foundation and Home Depot hosted arborists and community forestry supporters from cities nationwide at its recent conference in Atlanta. Some of the valuable topics presented at the event included: success building with trees; new strategies to preserve trees during land development; storms and urban forests; integrating nonprofit development and community tree efforts; how to activate tree boards through recognition and education; and connecting trees to water quality and stormwater management.

Visit the conference website and view the presentations at:

<http://www.arborday.org/shopping/conferences/photos/pcf/2008/presentations.cfm>

## Save the Dates: ISA Conference July 24–29

Six reasons why you don't want to miss the 85th ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show in Providence, RI:

1. Hear more than 50 different speakers from around the globe
2. Earn CEUs (60+ opportunities)
3. Network with arborists and top industry professionals worldwide
4. Experience the International Tree Climbing Championship and ISA Arbor Fair for FREE
5. See cutting-edge industry products and techniques
6. Participate in a variety of hands-on workshops providing 8 hours of valuable education and training

The latest information is available at:

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

## Houston Astros Plant Trees at State Capitol



Following in the reduced-carbon footprints of the “Play Green” campaign they initiated last year, the Houston Astros organization made a commitment to plant trees in communities along their annual “Astros Caravan” this year. On January 28 the caravan made a stop in Austin and they provided not only the trees but some distinguished manpower as well. Jeff Bagwell, Mike Hampton, Mark Saccomanno, and Milo Hamilton were on hand to help plant some bur oak and chinkapin oak trees on the southwest lawn of the Texas State Capitol.

The event also garnered attention from politicians and staffers including State Representative Dwayne Bohac from Houston. Following the tree planting, a smattering of applause prompted Milo Hamilton to quip, “I’ve been shoveling it for years, but I never got that big of a hand.”

The Astros launched their Play Green campaign last year on April 22, Earth Day. They committed to being more environmentally friendly with their day-to-day operations and they partnered with Keep Houston Beautiful to plant dozens of trees around the city.

– *Eric Copeland*  
*Regional Urban Forester, Austin*

## ISA Certified Arborist Oak Wilt Training

ISAT in conjunction with the Texas Forest Service and Texas AgriLife Extension will provide a workshop for Certified Arborists to get in-depth training in the identification, biology, and management of oak wilt disease. The workshop will be held in Austin at the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center on June 10–11. Dr. David Appel and TFS Staff Foresters will be conducting the training. Registration will be available on the ISAT web site in April.

This is the fourth year that the Forest and Extension Services have held this training. To date, 139 arborists in Texas have become Oak Wilt Certified.

– *Jim Houser*

## Marketing Your Way Through a Recession

“This is not the time to cut marketing. It is well documented that brands that increase advertising during a recession, when competitors are cutting back, can improve market share and return on investment at lower cost than during good economic times.”

That’s one bit of advice from “Marketing Your Way Through a Recession” by Harvard professor John Quelch. For all eight tips, see [http://ellisonchair.blogspot.com/2009/02/marketing-during-recession\\_15.html](http://ellisonchair.blogspot.com/2009/02/marketing-during-recession_15.html)

The tips are quoted in a blog called “Making Cents of Green Economics” by Dr. Charlie Hall, current chairholder of the Ellison Chair in International Floriculture at Texas A&M. Dr. Hall’s blog is designed to help people in the green industries stay competitive during a time when margins are getting tighter.

## Utilities and Trees Conference April 6–8 in Dallas

Join utility professionals, community foresters, and concerned citizen groups in Dallas for the Trees & Utilities National Conference, April 6–8. This growing conference, hosted by the National Arbor Day Foundation, offers a unique opportunity to:

- Learn about innovative communications, public relations, and education efforts undertaken by other utilities and communities.
- See exemplary programs for tree planting and vegetation management.
- Exchange ideas and perspectives with other professionals interested in utility arboriculture and community tree management.
- Explore new research and practices designed to prevent the spread of insects and diseases to other trees.
- Learn about the role of utilities and communities in urban forestry carbon offsets and planting trees for energy efficiency.

You can find out more about the conference and register online at [www.arborday.org/tu](http://www.arborday.org/tu). Early registration ends March 6.

## Trees & Stormwater

Virginia Tech, Cornell University, and the University of California at Davis are promoting a new stormwater management technology for paved areas. The method uses structural soils and urban trees to improve water quality.

The project website (<http://www.cnr.vt.edu/urbanforestry/stormwater/>) includes a downloadable 55-page manual, a 10-minute visual presentation, highlights from demonstration sites, research results, and links to stormwater management and urban forestry resources.

# In Memoriam: Ned Fritz

## Ned Fritz, Noted Environmentalist, Dies at 92

It is with a very heavy heart that I report the loss of environmental icon, Mr. Ned Fritz. He was a brilliant, tough, visionary leader and a source of inspiration to many of us throughout our lives. It is a sad day for naturalists as we weep with the elements of nature for which he dedicated his life:

[http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/121908dnmetnedritz.7bd6c99e.html#slcgm\\_comments\\_anchor](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/121908dnmetnedritz.7bd6c99e.html#slcgm_comments_anchor)

– Steve Houser,  
Dallas Urban Forest Advisory  
Committee Chair

## Champion Nominator of Champion Trees

Edward C. (Ned) Fritz nominated some 47 trees over the years (one of which he owned), mostly on public property like the National Forests. Ten are still state champs or co-champs and two are listed as national champs or co-champs. Some have died, some were misidentified, some will never be found again due to his mapping skills, and many were mismeasured, but he was a strong advocate for those wild places in Texas that might harbor a big tree – no matter how small!

He often focused on those forgotten species that never get very large and are easily overlooked by the novice, like mayhaw, sweetleaf, or wildgoose plum... possumhaw, witchhazel, or swamp cyrilla. He tromped through thickets and swamps throughout East Texas to locate and document unusual plants to make a stronger case for the establishment of wilderness areas on the National Forests in Texas, an effort that put him at philosophical odds with the agency (TFS) that continued to send him nominator certificates for each new champion discovered.

As an attorney, his lawsuits against the US Forest Service angered the forestry community, but led to increased protection for the red-cockaded woodpecker and a sharp reduction in the practice of clearcutting. Newly established wilderness areas torched by a southern pine beetle outbreak (SPB) in the mid 1980s brought a new fight from Fritz to “let nature take its course” no matter the outcome, at least on people.

For better or worse, forestry in Texas – and the Texas Big Tree Program – would not be where they are today without Ned Fritz. We say Godspeed and farewell to a true champion of the forest.

– Pete Smith,  
Coordinator,  
Big Tree Program

## Big Trees Nominated by Ned Fritz

SC=State Champ, SCC-State Co-Champ, N=Nat'l Champ, NCC=Nat'l Co-Champ, D=Decesased

Devil's-Walkingstick	SC
American Witchhazel	SC
Riverflat Hawthorn (Mayhaw)	SC
Bitternut Hickory	SC
Sweetbay	SC
Overcup Oak	SC
Pawpaw	SC
Northern Spicebush	SC
Black Hickory	SC, N
Dwarf Palmetto	SCC, NCC
Southern Red Oak	
Common Sweetleaf	
Common Sweetleaf	
Common Sweetleaf	
Farkleberry	
Farkleberry	
Possumhaw	
Cherrybark Oak	
Shagbark Hickory	
American Holly	
American Witchhazel	
Wild Goose Plum	
Pecan	
Red Maple	
Texas Buckeye	
Texas Buckeye	
Florida Maple	
Florida Maple	
Bluejack Oak	
Hercules-club	
Green Hawthorn	
Green Hawthorn	*also owner
Water Hickory	
Carolina Basswood	
Green Ash	
Swamp Titi	
Eastern Hophornbeam	
Post Oak	
Rusty Blackhaw	D
Yaupon	D
Shagbark Hickory	D
Devil's-Walkingstick	D
Sugar Maple	D
Post Oak	D
Water Oak	D
Loblolly Pine	D
White Fringetree	D



# Computer-Based Certified Arborist Exam Now Available in Texas

Based on demand from members, ISA has begun offering the Certified Arborist exam online in select areas, including 15 locations in Texas.

Last year ISA signed a long-term contract with Pearson VUE, a testing firm, to provide authorized testing centers for computer-based exams. With this new system, applicants can:

- Take the exam on a day that works for their schedule.
- Sign up for the exam location that is convenient.
- Sign up and check testing center availability in the upcoming week
- Receive their score report before leaving the exam site

Applicants will no longer have to wait for open exam dates in their area and will be able to test closer to home. These advantages save valuable time and money for individuals and the companies they work for. For a minimal administrative fee, applicants can save on travel expenses and time away from work.

Candidates may take the Certified Arborist exam at any of 15 Pearson Professional Centers in Texas: Abilene, Amarillo, Austin, Bellaire (Houston), Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Houston (1960 W), Houston (SE), Hurst (Fort Worth), Lubbock, Midland, San Antonio, Tyler and Waco.

ISA is also in the process of preparing the other four exam credentials for computer-based testing.

“When an organization transitions from a paper-and-pencil testing

program to computer-based testing, there are many benefits for test takers,” said Robert Whelan, president of Pearson VUE. “ISA candidates can expect a high-quality testing experience in our test centers.”

“ISA is excited to move our certification process into computer-based delivery,” said Derek Vannice, ISA Director of Certification. “Our candidates will have more opportunities to obtain their certifications through the expanding Pearson VUE global network.”

Go to <http://www.isa-arbor.com/UrgentAnnouncements.aspx#162> for more information and to see the most up to date list of test centers around the country and elsewhere in the world.

## INFORMATION FOR GRANT SEEKERS

The Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund) is an international philanthropic organization that identifies projects and programs that advance knowledge in the field of arboriculture and urban forestry. They offer grants in support of root and soil management, planting and establishment, plant health care, risk assessment and worker safety, technology transfer, urban forestry, and arboriculture education and scholarships.

Visit [www.treefund.org](http://www.treefund.org) for grant guidelines and applications. For questions about the grant programs, the application process or selecting the right program category, contact M. Janet Bornancin, Executive Director, at 630-369-8300 ext. 201, or [jbornancin@treefund.org](mailto:jbornancin@treefund.org).

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<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/FreePublications/8228.aspx>  
Fire-safe landscaping ideas

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/LawnGarden/3420.aspx>  
Abiotic Disorders of Landscape Plants

<http://damncoolpics.blogspot.com/2007/03/amazing-weird-trees.html>  
Weird trees pictures

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/misc/wt/01/weirdtrees01.pdf>  
Unusual growths or growth patterns found in trees

<http://www.environmentalgraffiti.com/featured/30-creepiest-trees-on-earth-pics/1381/4>

More tree oddities. At bottom of page click on "pages 1,2,3" for more photos.

<http://www.treeclimbercoalition.org/>  
Tree climbing group

<http://www.newscientist.com/blog/technology/2006/03/tree-climbing-robot.html>  
Tree climbing robot. Will these things ever replace climbers? Click on the video link.

[http://www.metacafe.com/watch/65384/tree\\_climbing\\_human\\_vs\\_chimpanzee/](http://www.metacafe.com/watch/65384/tree_climbing_human_vs_chimpanzee/)  
"Man vs. Beast" tree climbing championship (Samoan vs. chimpanzee)

<http://www.fs.fed.us/treeclimbing/intro/1/>  
National tree climbing program from USDA Forest Service

<http://www.natlarb.com/pdfs/A300Part2FertArticle.pdf>  
Tree fertilization A-300 standard

<http://treecaretips.org/>  
TCIA site

– by Pat Wentworth

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# ISAT Board Meeting Highlights

Twelve members of the board and two others attended the ISAT Board of Directors meeting January 30 in Elgin.

Some highlights of the meeting:

**Newsletter:** Newsletter editor Courtney Blevins reported that advertising has increased, but not enough to pay for the newsletter.

**Convention 2009:** The educational services working groups reported that the program is coming together. The theme will include something about trees and risk.

**Tree Climbing Contest:** The event will be held in Govalle Park in Austin May 29 & 30 with a workshop on May 28. The cut-off date for registering will be May 15.

**Arbor Day:** It will be in Grand Prairie on April 24, with a lot of participation from local children.

**Certification:** Pat Wentworth reported on the success of the certification program in Texas. He was appointed certification liaison for three years.

**Membership:** Mike Walterscheidt reported that 2009 memberships are coming in. ISAT will likely have over 750 members.

**Educational Services:** Two workshops are being planned, one on appraisal and one on bare-root tree management. Certified Tree Worker training will continue in the major cities with the teams that have been trained.

**Historian:** Heather Brewer reported that she is working on the ISAT history, along with historical articles for the newsletter.

**Scholarships:** SFA and TAMU will each get \$2,000 in 2009. There was some discussion on participation of community colleges.

**TCIA Safety Program:** The board decided to have TCIA present their program around the 2009 Conference.

**Capitol Trail of Trees Brochure:** The board discussed contents of the brochure and voted to support the project with \$5,000.

**Support of Galveston Arbor Day:** The board voted to provide \$2,500 for this event.

**2009 Budget Approval:** The 2009 budget was approved.

**Next Board Meeting:** The board will meet on May 15 and 10 am at the Round Rock Marriott.

– Source: Mike Walterscheidt

## Tree Trimmers and Pruners Make the “Best Jobs” List

Tree trimmers and pruners made the list of best jobs for the hours of labor, according to an article on the MSN Careers website.

Americans still work an average of 8 hours a day, and the median annual income per household member is \$26,036 a year. However there are some jobs, even in this economy, where you can work less and make more than the averages.

To see a list of 20 such jobs, and the pay and hours for each, check out the article at:

[http://msn.careerbuilder.com/Article/MSN-1754-Salaries-and-Promotions-Work-Less-Earn-More/?sc\\_extcmp=JS\\_1754\\_home1&SiteId=cbmsnbp41754&ArticleID=1754&gt1=23000&cbRecursionCnt=1&cbsid=ab09a5042b894d47b8bb1622ed6bdf67-286452645-wj-6](http://msn.careerbuilder.com/Article/MSN-1754-Salaries-and-Promotions-Work-Less-Earn-More/?sc_extcmp=JS_1754_home1&SiteId=cbmsnbp41754&ArticleID=1754&gt1=23000&cbRecursionCnt=1&cbsid=ab09a5042b894d47b8bb1622ed6bdf67-286452645-wj-6)

Tree trimmers and pruners ranked 20th on the list. Their stats were: hours worked per week: 37.2; hours worked a year: 1,898, annual earnings: \$35,644

– Source: Erin Harris

## ... & They Live a Long Time Too!

At 81, Lloyd Coley of San Leandro, CA, is still working with his grandson in a tree service company they own and operate. He is believed to be the oldest tree worker in California and maybe the United States. For an article with photos, go to <http://savannahnow.com/node/651668>



# ISAT MEMBERS DONATE LABOR TO

## *Historic Treaty Oak Maintained by ISAT and Austin PARD*

“Arborists donate labor to spruce up beloved Treaty Oak.” Thus trumpeted the *Austin American-Statesman*’s Sunday edition on page one of the local section.

The Texas chapter of the ISA partnered with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department on January 24 to give one of the most famous trees in the United States a good maintenance pruning. Top Texas ISA climbers Guy LeBlanc, Nevic Donnelly, Keith Babberny and Keith Brown, along with PARD veteran climber Mauricio Segura, divided the old live oak’s canopy into five working areas.

Despite a wind-chill putting the temperature at 27 degrees at the start of the climb, two and a half hours later the grand old tree was a beautiful sight. Led by Austin city forester Walter Passmore, the event also attracted four television crews and a videographer. The evening news was full of arborists, ISA, and tree work.

The Treaty Oak was once considered to be an almost perfect example of a very large live oak. It was intentionally poisoned in 1989 by a person with mental health issues. It survived due to the efforts of many people. The work was led at the time by then city forester and now ISAT president John Giedraitis.

The grand old oak lost five sets of leaves in 1989, perhaps unprecedented in arboriculture, before stabilizing over the next decade. Eventually, one of the three major scaffold branches had to be entirely removed, as well as three or four other large branches.

A young live oak, started from a Treaty Oak acorn, was planted about 15 feet from the massive parent trunk on the south side where the scaffold was lost. It is growing well, despite major squirrel issues, and is filling in the opening on that side.

Mostly deadwood was removed during the official ISAT board-sanctioned work day. A new mulch layer was replenished under the tree to end the day.

In addition to the climbers, others participating were PARD employees Gerardo Diaz and Miguel Sanchez, and former veteran climber and 25-year ISA member Don Gardner.

“It was a very successful project,” said Passmore, “and we thank Texas ISA for coming out.” He estimated the value of the tree work to be between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

— Don Gardner, Consulting Arborist





# TRIM THE STATE'S BEST LOVED TREE

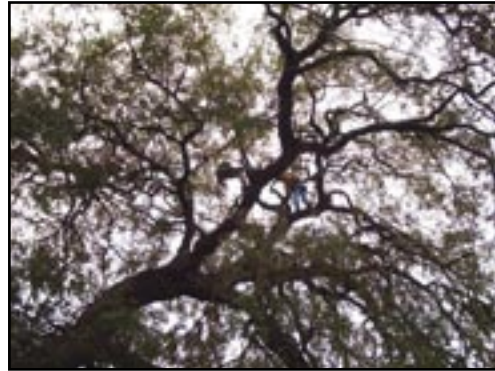
## *Treaty Oak Work Day*

Texans often say, "If you don't like the weather in Texas, just wait." That old adage applied more than ever on January 24 when several ISAT members came together for a service project at the most famous tree in Texas, the Treaty Oak. The day before, temperatures had been warm even for the typical Austin January at 80°F. By the next morning the temperature had dropped more than 40 degrees and combined with the cold north winds it felt like 27°F.

ISAT board members Keith Brown and Nevic Donnelly were part of the group of professional arborists that volunteered their time and expertise to provide some much needed work to the Treaty Oak. City of Austin forester Walter Passmore had several Austin Parks & Recreation crew members out to assist with the project. Keith Babberney, Guy LeBlanc and Don Gardner were also on site performing work.

Local print and television media braved the cold weather to cover the event. Overall, quite a bit of deadwood was removed and the Treaty Oak looked like a much healthier tree. All of the folks involved in this project did a great job representing our profession and organization. Thank you!

– *Eric Copeland*  
*Texas Forest Service, Austin*



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◀ (Photo on previous page) Spending a chilly Saturday morning pruning Austin's historic Treaty Oak (shown in the background) were (left to right): Parks & Recreation veteran climber Mauricio Segura; PARD employee Miguel Sanchez; Tree Climbing Championship head judge, ISAT board member and veteran climber Nevic Donnelly; PARD employee Gerardo Diaz; former state climbing champion Guy LeBlanc; former state climbing finalist Keith Babberney; ISAT board member and veteran climber Keith Brown; Austin city forester Walter Passmore; and consulting arborist Don Gardner.



*Climbing Lines* by Guy LeBlanc

## SADDLE UP!

The first saddle I owned was a Karl Kuemmerling. It was one of the old types with thick, heavy straps, copper rivets, and four D-rings that probably weighed a half-pound each. I used this saddle for about six years, and then converted to something made by Klein. It was ultra-light even by today's standards, with thin nylon webbing. The four or so fewer pounds made a huge difference while climbing, and I loved it. And the back support I had sacrificed didn't seem important to my twenty something bod.

Fast forward to late thirty something. As my third saddle (by a now-defunct manufacturer) had been declared verboten at the International Tree Climbing Championships, and back support had somehow become important to me, I reverted to the tried-and-true rhino harness. This time I went

with a Weaver, over six pounds including its wide leather backpad. When it became drenched in sweat, it weighed about eight. The weight slowed me down and made work a bit harder, but the back support was essential by then. When the integral bridge on this saddle became too worn, I bought another of the same exact kind. These saddles were nearly indestructible, and, I got over a decade of use between the two.

Last summer, tired of hauling around an extra three to five pounds, I looked more closely at the newest generation of harnesses. They look more like rock climbing saddles than the old school tree saddles, but unlike rock climbing saddles, they are rated to the strength capacities necessary for our industry.

Among the first of the new generations were the Butterfly

and the Glide. You can see the evolution of saddles by putting one of these two saddles between one of the oldest designs and one of the newest.

Gaining in popularity in the last two years is the treeMotion, designed by eight-time world champion Berndt Strasser and his partners at treemagineer of Europe. The treeMotion is considered the ultimate in ergonomics and materials by many in the industry. At around \$600, it is also certainly the ultimate in price. Its advantages include almost infinite adjustability and very wide back and leg pads that are very light weight, easily removed, and washable (what a concept!). One of the things I like the most about the treeMotion is the very easily (and inexpensively) replaced bridge. It is just a piece of rope that is slid through a hole in an aluminum anchor and then knotted (*see photo below*). I tried it out a few times, but never felt certain its price was justified, and I had heard there are some issues with durability.

Jimmy Pritchard, owner of Integrity Tree of Fort Worth, and annual Texas Tree Climbing Championship competitor, has owned a treeMotion for almost two years. He told me he is very satisfied with it, and thinks it has great mobility. He also said that even though he does not use the saddle daily he has experienced a bit more wear in the legs straps than he would have expected, but nothing serious.

Last year, Petzl came out with the Sequoia (*see photo at right*). I tried out the standard (non-SRT) version at last summer's competition in St. Louis and was quickly impressed. It does not have the





range of customizing options that Herr Strasser's saddle does, but its ergonomics seemed similar, while costing about half as much. Two things that concerned me about it were the buckles and the connecting rings that hold the saddle together. While the buckles are metal, the latching mechanism is made of plastic. I expressed my concern about this to the Petzl rep exhibiting the saddle, and his response was, "We'll replace them if they ever fail." Not very reassuring. And indeed, Jimmy P. told me that one of the plastic latches on a Sequoia one of his employees uses has broken, although he was not sure this wasn't due to extreme use.

My other concern was with the connecting rings. They are of a new design that allows very fast bridge replacement via a hex screw and plastic spacer that are quickly removed, leaving a gap in the ring which the bridge can be passed through (*see close-up, right*). The hex screw is very tightly threaded and Loc-tite is also required to assure its retention.

Despite my apprehensions, I decided to take a chance on this, one of the lightest of the new saddles at an even three pounds. At first there were some uncertain moments, when calls to Sherrill Arborist Supply, and then to Petzl, could not produce accurate answers as to whether the saddle came with Loc-tite already on the screws, and what type of Loc-tite should be used. Their very scary answer was, some had it, some didn't, and they didn't know about mine. (It did.) But after six months I'm glad to report that the Sequoia has held up very well to daily use, and there are no signs of abnormalities with the rings or

buckles. It is the most comfortable, work-friendly saddle I have ever worn. My biggest issue with it so far is that the buckles are not the most user friendly, but the fact that they are kind of tricky to undo means they are very unlikely to come undone accidentally. I give the Sequoia one and a half thumbs up.

Remember, as with any new equipment or technique, go slow and low until you're sure it's safe.

*The author has owned and operated Arbor Vitae Tree Care in Austin for over 25 years, and is also a TCIA Certified Treecare Safety Professional. He is available for tree care and worker training seminars and may be reached at 512-301-8700.*







## Cool Tools by Patrick Wentworth Award-Winning Saw Tool

This column is usually about the latest and greatest high tech gadget or tool I've found, but this month is a little different. As in the past, this month's selection is a combination or multi tool, but it's one most every crew in the field can use and is only expected to cost around \$20!

It's the "Universal Chain Saw Tool" by Jonathan Schwartz ([www.topsaw.com](http://www.topsaw.com)). Jonathan is a working arborist who was frustrated having to carry around five or six different hand tools to work on several different saws in his inventory. So he decided to put them all together in one tool.



It's 4.5 inches long, fits in your pocket (he's also going to include a belt sheath) and has a 13mm, 16mm, and 19mm socket; a small screwdriver; a large

screwdriver; a 4mm allen wrench; a T27 torx, and becomes a handle for a chainsaw file. The folks at Leatherman® liked it so much that they gave Jonathan the "2007 Leatherman's Innovative New Tool" award.

You can watch this simple tool being demonstrated by its inventor on YouTube by going to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3OeeRRNx28>

Still in production, this tool should be available sometime in late March or early April 2009.

### Crazy Ants

Oh great, another new exotic pest: Raspberry Crazy Ants. They have the potential to impact fish and wildlife. So far they have shown up in 11 Texas counties: Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange, Walker, and Wharton.

For more information go to [http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/exotic\\_tx.cfm](http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/exotic_tx.cfm)

### Exotic Ants Invading Southeast Texas

It may sound like science fiction, but it's true. A new exotic insect species, the Raspberry crazy ant, has invaded 11 counties in the Houston area since pest control operator Tom Rasberry discovered the ants in Pasadena in 2002. By 2008 they had spread to Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange, Walker, and Wharton counties, and they're being found in an ever-widening area.

At this time, the only way to slow the spread of these ants is through expensive professional pest control. Fire ant baits and other home pesticides are not effective.

As they continue to invade, Raspberry crazy ants decrease home and property values and could devastate the nursery industry and agriculture — both livestock and crops. Their activity could also damage critical electrical and computer systems in traffic signals, businesses, schools, airports, and hospitals.

Entomologists and researchers are seeking funding to develop better ways to control these ants, but in the meantime they need your help in identifying colonies and discouraging them from nesting in the landscape.

#### Here's What You Can Do

- Report suspicious ant problems in your landscape, and have ants identified by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.
- If your property is infested, remove all nonessential objects from the ground to discourage nesting.
- Do not move infested articles — such as potted plants, lumber, and yard waste — to uninfested areas.
- Keep plants free of aphids, mealy bugs, scale, and other insects that are a food source for Raspberry crazy ants.

#### About Raspberry Crazy Ants

- They are related to the Caribbean crazy ant, a serious pest in parts of Florida.
- About 1/2 inch long, reddish brown, and nest throughout the landscape. Queens, eggs, larvae, and pupae can be found under, or in, almost any object. Entire colony will move to a new site when disturbed. Multiple queens lay hundreds of eggs, so each colony may contain millions of ants.
- Spread mainly by ground migration, not by mating flights. Can be spread by almost any ant-infested container or vehicle.
- Bite, but don't sting. Can displace other ant species and affect wildlife such as honeybees and songbirds.

#### For more information, visit: [http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/exotic\\_tx.cfm](http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/exotic_tx.cfm)

#### Partners in Prevention

This information was developed on behalf of the Crazy Ant Task Force members from the following agencies and organizations:

- Texas A&M University Department of Entomology, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and Texas AgriLife Research
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Plant Protection and Quarantine
- Agricultural Research Service
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- Texas Nursery and Landscape Association

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This is a public service announcement from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. <http://agglifeextension.tamu.edu>

## Be on the Lookout for the Emerald Ash Borer

### TEXAS BEWARE!

The emerald ash borer (EAB) may already be here.

This non-native beetle kills ash trees and is well established in the Midwest. It has recently been detected in Missouri. Help protect ash trees in forested and urban areas of Texas.

(1/2 inch long)

- The insects may be transported long distances in firewood, so do not bring firewood into the state.
- Watch for symptoms of EAB infestation:
  - ash trees with dying or dead branches in upper crown
  - shoots or suckering along the trunk
  - bark splits with winding galleries and white larvae beneath the bark; heavy feeding by woodpeckers
  - "D"-shaped exit holes in bark
- Report dead and dying ash trees with these symptoms to your nearest Texas Forest Service or county extension office, or contact Joe Pase (936) 639-8170 in Lufkin.
- For more information, visit [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) or [www.texasinvasives.org](http://www.texasinvasives.org)

The flyer pictured above was recently circulated to foresters and extension agents, warning them about the emerald ash borer (EAB), an exotic pest of ash trees. The EAB has not yet been reported in Texas, but an infestation was detected in Missouri, presumably resulting from the interstate movement of firewood. So it may be just a matter of time before it shows up in our state.

The flyer can be downloaded from the ISAT website, [www.isatexas.com/](http://www.isatexas.com/)

Ron Billings, manager of TFS Forest Pest Management, says, "Please report any dead or dying ash trees with the described signs of infestation to Joe Pase in Lufkin (936-639-8170) or James Houser in Austin (512-339-4589)."

# Another Gypsy Moth Found at Port of Brownsville

(Source: By Ildephonso Ortiz, Brownsville Herald, November 7, 2008)

Brownsville, TX - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists have intercepted various adult specimens and eggs of a dangerous foreign pest aboard a ship at the Port of Brownsville.

According to CBP, the discovery was made Wednesday afternoon, during an inspection of a foreign vessel that had arrived from Asia. The specimens were collected and transported to the USDA Plant Inspection Station at Los Indios for identification. The specimens were also sent to other labs for molecular testing and the results came back positive.

According to CBP spokesman Eduardo Perez, the moth is dangerous because it's foreign and it doesn't have any natural predators.

"The danger is that if they are allowed to spread they will spread and spread," Perez said.

He said that agriculture specialists working at U.S. ports of entry ensure that incoming vessels and cargo are not contaminated with pests and diseases that could harm American agricultural products.

Perez said that the agricultural specialists take special precautions by treating the entire area with pesticides after removing the specimens.

This incident is the third time that the Asian gypsy moth has been found in Texas in the past year. The first interception was at the Port of

Houston on Aug. 18, and the second was in Brownsville on Sept. 8.

The Asian gypsy moth is even more damaging than the more commonly found European gypsy moth because it has more diverse appetites, consuming more than 500 plant species. Also, it can fly up to 20 miles, unlike its European relative, according to Brownsville Herald archives.

"Protecting trees and plants is CBP agriculture specialists' primary job as the front line in the fight against the introduction of insects, pests and plant diseases into the United States," said Michael T. Freeman, port director at the CBP Port of Brownsville.



## Note:

*According to Joe Pase, TFS, "This has happened at other ports in other states in past years. Apparently pupae are on crates or containers that are loaded on the ships. The pupae get there because the containers have been in a location where caterpillars have been feeding on trees. When the caterpillars mature, they will seek a location to pupate and spin a cocoon. While the pupae are in the cocoon, the container will be loaded on a ship. At some point, either out in the middle of the ocean or at a port, the adult moths will emerge. Then the adults will mate and the females will lay eggs. If the eggs hatch and there is no host material around for the caterpillars to feed on (middle of the ocean, eggs not on trees, etc.), then the caterpillars all die and that is the end of the story. Fortunately, that is usually the case.*

*However, if adults emerge after a ship arrives at a port, then the moths will mate and the females will fly off and lay eggs on a host plant. Also, adults could emerge in the hold of the ship and be trapped there until cargo is off loaded and then fly off to lay eggs. The female Asian adults are attracted to lights, so they may leave a port area and fly to a light source if conditions are right. That is when the trouble begins.*

*The biggest difference between the Asian and the European gypsy moths (GM) is that the females of the Asian strain can fly while the European females cannot. Males of both strains can fly. I think you can see how the situation could get out of hand. From what I know, the Asian GM has not become established in the Brownsville area or Houston or anywhere else in Texas."*

*This article, including the additional note by Joe Pase, appeared in the December, 2008 issue of PEST, a Quarterly Newsletter on Forest Pest Management Issues.*

As trustees, we  
ought to bequeath  
to posterity as many  
forests and orchards  
as we have exhausted  
and consumed.

– J. Sterling Morton

# Calendar of Events

**March 19**

## **ISA Certification Test, Round Rock**

The application must be in the ISA office 12 working days prior to the Exam.

[http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Certification\\_Information.htm](http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Certification_Information.htm)

**April 6**

## **ISA Certification Test, Fairmont Hotel, Dallas**

The application must be in the ISA office 12 working days prior to the Exam.

[http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Certification\\_Information.htm](http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Certification_Information.htm)

**April 6 – 8**

## **Utilities and Trees Conference, Fairmont Hotel, Dallas**

Join utility professionals, community foresters, and concerned citizen groups in Dallas to exchange ideas, explore ways to work together, and learn more about growing healthy urban forests and providing safe, reliable utility service. Learn more about the conference and register online at [www.arborday.org/tu](http://www.arborday.org/tu). (Early registration ends March 6)

## **2009 Building With Trees Seminar, Lone Star Convention Center, Conroe**

Saving trees during construction requires more than the right attitude – it requires the right action. Discover how to save trees, time and money. Register online at <https://tfsstore.tamu.edu/OnlineRegAdmin/Status/OpenRegistrations.aspx>

**April 24 – 26**

## **Texas Forest Expo, Lone Star Convention Center, Conroe**

Classes, workshops and interactive booths and exhibits for homeowners and landowners, plus learning activities for children. The expo's motto is "Building forests one backyard at a time." For details go to

<http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/conferences/texasforestexpo/> or register at <https://tfsstore.tamu.edu/OnlineRegAdmin/Status/OpenRegistrations.aspx>

**May 1**

## **ISA Certification Test, CPS Energy Training Center Auditorium, San Antonio**

The application must be in the ISA office 12 working days prior to the Exam.

[http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Certification\\_Information.htm](http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Certification_Information.htm)

**May 29–30**

## **Texas Tree Climbing Championship, Govalle Park, Austin**

Plus workshop May 28. Registration cut-off date is May 15. Watch for more information on [www.isatexas.com](http://www.isatexas.com) and the next newsletter.

**June 10-11**

## **ISA Certified Arborist Oak Wilt Training, Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin**

In-depth oak wilt training for Certified Arborists, conducted by Dr. David Appel and Texas Forest Service staff foresters. Sponsored by ISAT, TFS, and Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Registration will be available on the ISAT web site in April.

**July 24-29, 2009**

## **ISA 85th Annual Conference and Trade Show, Providence, Rhode Island**

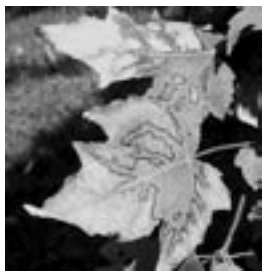
Visit <http://www.isa-arbor.com/conference/default.aspx> to get the latest information and special announcements.

## 3 WAYS TO SAVE

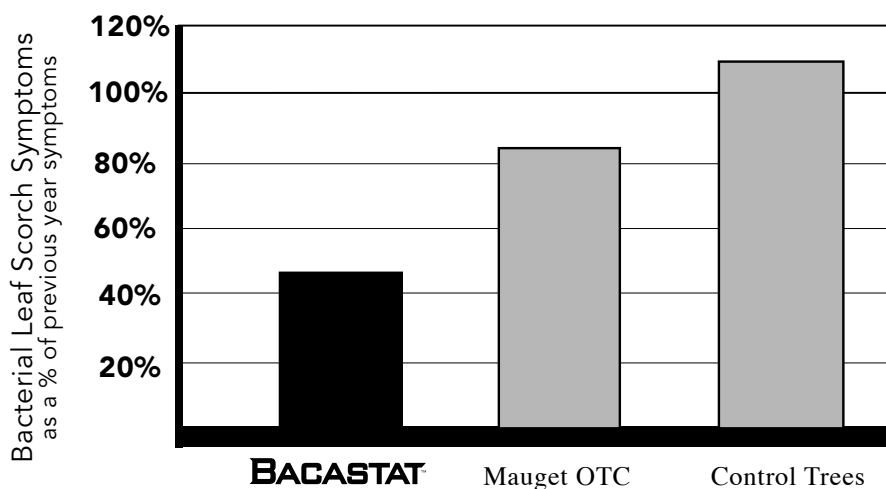
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Evaluations were made on October 2, 2007, which was 4 months after treatment Dr. John Hartman, U of Kentucky

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- Saturday Only — Arbor Fair: Public Educational Exhibits
- Sunday — Hands-on Tree Academy Workshops
- Sunday — Trade Show Sneak Preview
- Welcome Reception on the Trade Show floor

**Housing and Registration**

Housing: Westin Providence (Headquarters Hotel)  
\$199 single/double  
Providence Biltmore  
\$174 single/double  
Hilton Providence  
\$163 single/double

Registration: Early member\* rate:  
\$395 for full conference registration.  
\*Must be an ISA or New England Chapter Member at time of registration.

**Providence, RI  
JULY 24-29, 2009**

Visit [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com) for conference updates,  
detailed housing and registration packages and pricing.

## ***Illegal Use of ISA Logos***

ISA has seen an increase in false Certification advertisements and logo misuse. ISA takes the use of its trademark very seriously because individuals have taken the time to study and pass the exam to be able to use the logos proudly and help market themselves in the industry.

Unauthorized use of the logos by non-certified individuals creates many conflicts and jeopardizes the integrity of the ISA certification program. In today's economy certifications are a competitive advantage, giving unqualified individuals an incentive to use the credential illegally.

The ISA Certification logos are registered trademarks, and their use is restricted to individuals who have met the requirements to use the credential. The individual has to have met the requirements to apply, and then pass the certification exam in its entirety.

The next issue of *In the Shade* will have an article by a knowledgeable ISA staff member, clearly setting forth the guidelines for proper use of the ISA logo in your promotional materials, as well as procedures for reporting improper use of the logo.