



Texas Tree Climbing Competition

Abram Zies will be defending his title as Texas Tree Climbing Champion at the 2011 Texas Tree Climbing Competition May 19–21 in Ft. Worth's Trinity Park. Reward for the victor is the opportunity to represent Texas at the International Tree Climbing Competition in Australia this summer. Airfare, hotel and entry fee for the winner to go to Australia will be paid by the chapter.

Also, you can use the climbing competition as an opportunity to mark off one of the requirements to become ISA Certified Tree Worker (CTW). Complete the aerial rescue, throw line and work climb events, and you'll get a waiver for the skills exam portion of the CTW. You don't need to win the event to get your waiver. In fact you can get last place; as long as you complete the event, you get the waiver.

Thursday the 19th will be the pre-competition workshop. Exact details of the workshop are not yet nailed down. Watch isatexas.com for more details. Sign up for the workshop and competition online at shop.isatexas.com.

—Keith Brown

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To volunteer or for more information on the Texas Tree Climbing Competition, contact Nevic Donnelly at 512-445-2614 or at texastreecare@hotmail.com

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Tree Risk Assessment Workshop

Do you want to stand apart from the crowd? Take your arboricultural career to the next level? Add to your growing list of credentials? If the answer is yes, then the Texas Master Series Tree Risk Assessment Workshop might be for you!

Led by distinguished consulting arborist, Dr. Julian A. Dunster, of Victoria, Canada, this workshop will help prepare you for the new ISA Certified Tree Risk Assessor program currently in the works at ISA headquarters. Dr. Dunster is the lead instructor and course designer of ISA-PNW's Certified Tree Risk Assessor program, which is in the process of being adopted by ISA for use throughout the world.

This two-day workshop will cover Perceptions of Risk, Risk Factors, Measuring Risk, Documenting Evidence, Photography, Professional Practice, Legal Concepts, and Development/Construction issues. Hands-on field work will be included to help you put your new knowledge into practice.

More information will be available soon, but don't forget to save the dates: April 11 and 12 at the Ft Worth Botanical Gardens and April 14 and 15 on the campus of Trinity University in San Antonio.

The program will qualify for 4 CEUs on day one and 4.25 CEUs on day two for a total of 8.25 CEUs for the workshop.

See you there!

—Greg David

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Todd Watson

Remember the good ole days when we used to complain about how slow it was during the winter? We spent our time planning and preparing for the year ahead and wishing that we had more work during the winter so that we could pay the bills. Well those days are gone, even in our current bad economy. Everybody I've talked to still seems to be staying busy. Be thankful that you live in Texas.

I want to let you know that ISAT is busier than ever, thanks to an excellent Board of Directors. These folks are moving so fast that I can barely keep up (It must be the short legs). I used to think that I was losing hair because I was getting older. Now I'm starting to suspect that it is just sliding backwards because I'm moving forward so fast (which explains the extra hair on my back).

The ISAT Board met at the end of January, and we accomplished a lot in record time. One of the things we did, which was long overdue, was to update the *Texas Supplement to the Guide for Plant Appraisal*. We decided to post the supplement on our website to make it more available to you. This *Third Approximation* is available free of charge to ISAT members. It pays to be a member.

For several years, ISAT has set aside funds to support research that benefits Texas arborists. In January, the Board voted to provide some funding for an oak wilt study to increase our knowledge of various injection methods. Hopefully, this will provide valuable information to our members when it is complete. And speaking of oak wilt, the Board has been working with our members, the Texas Forest Service, and Texas A&M University on a document to help clarify oak wilt recommendations for communities and other organizations. This document was approved at our last meeting (details elsewhere in this issue).

Start getting prepared for a year of excellent educational opportunities. You've got folks on the Board and members at large that are working on several workshops for arborists, urban foresters, and our employees in the field. These will be posted on the ISAT website and in the ISAT newsletter as they become available. Expect the Texas Tree Conference to be the biggest and best yet. It will be in Waco on October 5-7. We already have some excellent speakers lined up, and we are planning to add a session for our utility arborist brethren (and sistern??).

Oh yes, there's more. Lots more! Unfortunately, there is not enough room to tell you everything without hogging the entire newsletter. Check out ISAT's website at isatexas.com for the latest news. John Giedraitis has done a great job of uploading information to the website to keep you informed. While you're there, sign up for some of the great events and contact us to renew your ISAT membership. Your society needs your support so that we have resources to continue to offer you great service.

Yours treely,
Todd

Help the New Texas Arboretum

This is an open invitation to ISA Certified Arborists to showcase their skill in the Mollie Steves Zachry Texas Arboretum at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin.

Scheduled to open in spring 2012, the Texas Arboretum will be an interpreted collection of native Texas trees that will serve as a resource for tree identification, field trips, classes and professional development. Details about this project including description, images and landscape design are available online at wildflower.org/arboretum/

The Arboretum is seeking highly trained arborists with an interest in supporting this project to provide professional tree care service for each specimen oak on the Arboretum site. High profile trees along the Arboretum trail will be adopted quickly on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Texas Arboretum will be open from 8 am to 5 pm every Tuesday and Thursday in February and March, 2011 to facilitate your crews. All arborists must be licensed and insured and must complete an application form and provide a liability waiver to participate. Preference will be given to arborists with Texas Oak Wilt Certification.

Participating arborists will be recognized on the Arboretum website and at Arboretum-specific events such as the April 30, 2011 dedication featuring Tom Boggus, Director of the Texas Forest Service. For more information about the Arboretum or to submit an application, please contact Damon Waitt, PhD, Senior Director, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, dwaitt@wildflower.org, 512-232-0110.



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New Tree Worker/Aerial Lift Credential

A new credential—Certified Tree Worker/Aerial Lift Specialist—is now available from ISA. Several chapters have started offering the exam in their areas, and chapter interest is a driving force in making the exam more available.

The new exam is made up of two components—written knowledge and skill. If you have already obtained your Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist credential, you will only be required to take the skills component. The knowledge exam is based on 50 multiple choice questions, and the skills exam is made up of a truck inspection and set-up, tree and site inspection, three work stations, and knot tying.

If you are interested in preparation materials for the exam, ISA offers a Tree Climbers' study guide and an Aerial Lift skills test preparation DVD.

Reasons to become an Aerial Lift Specialist:

- Increase productivity, quality, and safety in the workplace
- Prove your knowledge of aerial lift operation
- Professional development
- Step up on the competition

For more information, please visit isa-arbor.com or call 888-ISA-TREE.

... will soon be available in Texas!

A group of people from our chapter are getting a program off the ground for ISA's Certified Aerial Lift Specialist credential. By May there should be evaluators for the program available in the state of Texas for individuals to obtain this new certification. You'll need your own bucket truck to take the exam and it must pass all inspections. Stay tuned for more.

—Keith Brown

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Texas Supplement to Plant Appraisal Guide

by Greg David, RCA, BCMA - Chair

What rhymes with "Bird Intoxication" but doesn't leave a mess on the sidewalk? Why, it's the "Third Approximation," of course!

Actually, it's the *Texas Supplement to the Guide for Plant Appraisal, Third Approximation* – to be precise – and it's available now. The Texas Regional Plant Appraisal Committee recently revised the previous 2003 Supplement in two relatively minor, but very significant ways:

1. Although the previous species ratings were left unchanged, the appraiser is now encouraged to adjust species ratings on a case-by-case basis, as needed, to reflect how a particular species typically performs in a given locale. This change was critical in order to make the supplement more amenable for use during litigation proceedings.
2. The trunk formula method's Unit Tree Cost has been set at \$76.00 statewide. This change was introduced in order to reduce inconsistencies in large tree valuations across the state.

While the RPAC discussed the need to update several of the species ratings in the previous supplement, the decision was made to delay all species revisions until direction is received from CTLA regarding the forthcoming 10th Edition of the *Guide*. The RPAC hopes that the changes implemented in this *Third Approximation* will offer the appraiser both updated cost data and a more flexible document for use while performing tree appraisal work in Texas.

ISAT members may obtain a free copy of the *Third Approximation* by calling ISAT Executive Director Mike Walterscheidt at 512-587-7515, or by emailing isat@eccwireless.com. Non-members may purchase a copy of the *Third Approximation* online at shop.isatexas.com.

G'day Mate! ISA Conference July 23-27

The **ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show** provides a forum for the exchange of information and opportunities to network with others in the arboricultural profession.

The Conference and Trade Show features a lineup of educational sessions led by industry leaders from around the globe, sharing their thoughts and views about the newest trends in equipment, practice, technology and research.

This is the premier event for arborists from around the world. Consider attending as a way to build your business network, meet the industry's leaders, and learn from the best in the profession.

Highlights of the conference include:

- International Tree Climbing Championship
- Arbor Fair
- Educational Sessions
- Indoor Trade Show
- Tree Academy Workshops



Visit isa-arbor.com and click the “Trees Down Under” button.



Approval Milestone for Dallas Tree Ordinance

On January 24 the Quality of Life Committee of the Dallas City Council unanimously approved the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee's request that recommended changes to the Dallas tree ordinance be sent forward to the Zoning Board. This step is a major one in gaining approval of the recommended changes, and is the result of long and dedicated leadership of Steve Houser and Bill Seaman.

—Bob Curry, UFAC Chair



Tree Care Workshop Returns to West Texas

A tree care and safety workshop will be held in Amarillo April 26 for tree care companies and municipalities interested in improving their levels of tree care, employee safety and customer service.

Another purpose of the workshop is to provide TDA Licensed Applicators and ISA Certified Arborists a way to maintain their CEUs and keep current about proper techniques without having to travel long distances. Presentations have been selected to help establish urban forestry practices, create a safe working environment, re-establish proper tree care practices, promote tree planting, restore declining trees, and enhance a business's bottom line.

This workshop is entering its 7th year and it's a great opportunity for businesses and municipalities to stay current. It can be a management tool that affects every aspect of the urban forest from parks and street trees to the individual homeowner's prized tree.

Registration is \$25 and comes with a Chick-fil-A lunch, TDA and ISA CEUs, and a goodie bag. It's hosted at Amarillo College Business and Industry Center and is open to the public. For more information call the Texas Forest Service at 806-651-3477 or Amarillo PARD at 806-378-9397.

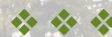
—Brian Scott, TFS Staff
Forester II, Canyon



2011 Texas Tree Conference

Have you marked your calendar for the Texas Tree Conference October 5–7 at the Waco Convention Center?

- Keynotes: John Ball and Dave Dockter
- We're teaming up with UAA – network with new people!
- Tree Academy and Tree School
- Exhibitors & sponsors can sign up online at shop.isatexas.com



Meet the San Antonio Arborists Association

The San Antonio Arborists Association (SAAA) was started to upgrade tree care and to share knowledge among tree folks and the community. SAAA is a nonprofit organization and was awarded a 501(c)3 tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service September 24, 2008.

Most members are certified arborists. Others are studying to become one, or are in the organization to support the industry and give or gain information.

Requirements to join are only general liability insurance for business owners and a burning desire to upgrade tree care in San Antonio. A small amount of dues—\$40.00 annually—helps cover SAAA expenses. One advantage for a business to join is internet presence of their company on the sa-aa.com website and the credibility of coming together to move in a positive direction in the tree industry.

With support from Paul Johnson and Mark Duff from the Texas Forest Service, city arborist Mark Bird, inspector Armando Cortez, and city forester Michael Nentwich, the SAAA was able to co-sponsor, with ISA Texas, the first-ever Spanish-speaking-only tree worker event in San Antonio. We will have the second May 24.

The SAAA is currently sponsoring, along with San Antonio College, a Certified Arborist Test Preparation class at Botanical Gardens. Thanks to all instructors teaching these classes.

This is a fact: there are many folks that care about the tree industry and will spend countless hours in preparing events for all who are interested.

I would like to take this moment to say “Thank you” to all who support us.

Have a nice tree day.

—Booker Arradondo, president and founding member, SAAA





My five fave trees–part 5

by Oscar S. Mestas, TFS Regional Forester, El Paso

This was tough having to pick **ONLY** five of my favorite trees, but my last choice is probably . . . *Chilopsis linearis* (Cav.) Sweet, desert willow.

As many of you know, desert willow is not a true willow but in the catalpa family. Just take a look at the seed pod and the flower and that will give it away as to what family (*Bignoniaceae*) it belongs. A native to the deserts of the southwest (don't ask me why Georgia is on the range map), in its native habitat desert willow is normally found as a small multi-trunked tree reaching 20 to 25 feet tall. Our Texas champion can be found growing here in El Paso on Fort Bliss property. Topping out at 39 feet tall, with a 38-foot crown spread and a 96-inch circumference, our champion shows that with a little extra TLC, desert willow has the genetic potential

to get larger than most realize, especially under cultivation.

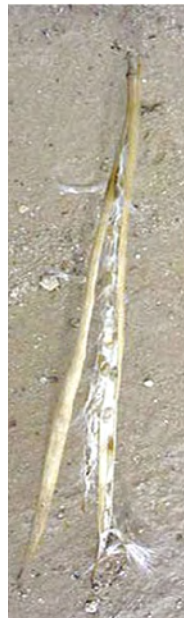
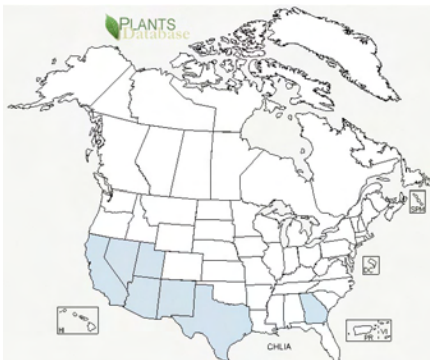
I really like this tree, its open form, willow-like leaves, and beautiful flowers. Flower color is usually pink, but with all the cultivars on the market you can find a variety of colors in shades from white to dark burgundy. With cultivar names like 'Bubba,' 'Pink Star,' 'Marfa Lace,' 'Burgundy,' and 'White Storm,' there is something for everyone. Some folks hate the lingering seed pods but I think of them as added decoration during the winter. For those of you who find the pods a mess or unsightly, again the nursery industry has an alternative called Art's Seedless™.

This desert native is normally found growing in our West Texas



arroyos (dry washes) and prefers rocky, gravelly, well-drained soils, but in our area of Texas will tolerate clay soils. The only drawback for this tree would be the cold, found mostly in zone 7 and higher. This tree starts to bloom in the late spring and continues blooming on and off throughout the growing season. At dusk, I notice a pleasant mild scent in the air when walking near the tree. So if you need a tree that will tolerate full sun, poor soils and hot dry conditions, this may be the one for you.

This ends the series of my favorite five. As I said at the beginning of this article, it was tough to pick only five, as I have many favorite trees and I didn't even get to one of my favorite genera, *Quercus*.





The Houston Area Urban Forestry Council sponsored a Tree Pruning and Tree Worker Safety Workshop in early February. Instructor Guy LeBlanc of Arbor Vitae Tree Care, Austin, taught worker safety, tree biology and tree pruning to over 50 attendees. Clear Energy Texas provided an eye-opening electrical hazard awareness demonstration. The workshop was put on with the assistance of the Texas Forest Service and AgriLife Extension Service. Special thanks to Mickey Merritt of the TFS for coordinating the workshop.

—Guy LeBlanc; Photo: M. Merritt

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Harvesting Urban Timber *by Mark Duff*

Are you a member of the prestigious NADDUM (National Association of Dumpster Diving and Urban Mining)? If not, you could be. After an arduous probationary period, they finally LET ME IN. Ever since, I've been trying to salvage as much usable urban timber for my saw mill, lathe and formal sample collection (xylarium) as I can. Harvesting urban timber is rewarding in several ways. You: don't have to pay for wood, avoid costs to dump material at the landfill, learn a lot about wood ID and handling, make friends in the tree care industry, and get some great exercise.

My friend Dan Keierleber and I bought a saw mill and 12-foot trailer several years ago. Our buddies Michael Nentwich (City of San Antonio), Jordy Hagan (Tree Wise Men), David Vaughan and Ed Etter (Etter Tree Care), Tim Jackson and Tom Silito (Davey), John Worell and Jacob West (Bartlett) and others, let us know when and where a prize specimen needs to be removed. If we are lucky with our timing, our arrival to the worksite will coincide with the ground crew during cleanup, and we can get help

loading the logs onto the trailer. The crews are usually happy not to have to cut the larger logs into cookies to be thrown into the chipper truck and hauled away. The best material comes from big diameter logs that are sound, straight and with little taper. We are especially excited when we get an escarpment cherry, walnut, mesquite, Texas ebony, deodar cedar or smooth sycamore. We have also cut live oak, Ashe juniper, pecan, cedar elm and Shumard oak. Unknown to most in the lumber industry are many smaller trees that have exceptional wood, such as American smoketree, all the sumacs, bluewood condalia, Christ thorn, jujube, huisache, Texas redbud, pear, Texas mountain laurel, guayacan and even the rare Texas snowbell

(only from dead material of course). These are usually reserved for sample specimens, small turnings or pens.

Recently I have been turning pens out of rare, historic or champion trees. They are of most significance to the owners or those who have a connection to the trees. If you happen to collect a sample of this wood during a deadwooding event or an unfortunate removal, big enough to yield several pens, send it to me. I will make you a pen. Look for wood that is free of checks, cracks and decay that is about 4 inches in diameter and 13 inches long. This will yield a couple of standard wood samples (6" x 3" x 1/2") and several pens.



Small set of exotic wood samples.



Live oak and mesquite pen sets on cherry burl.



Jordy Hagen
and Dan
Keierleber
slabbing a
deodar cedar.

Jordy Hagen
ready to cut
an escarpment
cherry burl.



Raffling off pecan
slabs at an Arbor
Day celebration in
San Antonio.

ISAT, TFS Agree on Pruning Guidelines for Oak Wilt Prevention . . .

by Guy LeBlanc

Recently, representatives of ISAT met with TFS and AgriLife Extension Service reps to amend the guidelines for oak pruning which are intended to reduce the risk of oak wilt spread. Amendments were desired by many commercial arborists, particularly those in areas most seriously affected by oak wilt, to clarify the basic recommendations that state agencies have made for nearly 30 years. The initiative for an agreement with these agencies grew out of efforts by Austin area arborists who lobbied for passage of a similar statement at that city's Urban Forestry Board, where it was passed unanimously.

The state agencies' pruning recommendations have consisted entirely of two brief points: avoid pruning in the spring, and paint all fresh wounds on oaks. Many commercial arborists believe that more information should have been provided over the years, primarily to explain the circumstances under which pruning in the spring can be acceptable and may even reduce disease risk. These situations would include: limbs at risk for wounding over streets, or of rubbing against buildings or other limbs in the canopy. Language to this effect was put into the revision, which also explains that dead branch removal is also acceptable in the spring (oak wilt spores require live wood to develop).

In addition, the amendment explains that other sources of potential wounding exist, such as weather events and animals. Many ISAT members felt this was important so that tree pruning was not perceived by the public or municipalities as the only source of oak wilt spread.

The amendment does recommend that non-essential pruning be avoided from February 1 through June 30, and that all wounds be painted on all oaks at all times of the year. It also emphasizes the importance of making proper pruning cuts and avoiding injurious practices such as over-thinning regardless of oak wilt risk.

In January, Keith Brown, Gene Gehring and I, on behalf of ISAT, met with Jim Rooni and Dr. Ron Billings of the TFS, and Dr. Dave Appel of Texas AgriLife Extension Service and created the amendment, which will be available on ISA and TFS websites. I will be happy to discuss any questions about the guidelines, and can be reached at 512-301-8700.

. . . and they did a good job

by Keith Brown

Since oak wilt was diagnosed in Texas nearly 30 years ago, pruning recommendations to help prevent spread of the dreaded disease have changed frequently. Up until now there have not been any specific guidelines published regarding pruning practices. In fact the only language regarding pruning on the current oak wilt brochure is, "avoid pruning between February and June." Uneducated homeowners reading this would be left thinking it is better to leave low hanging limbs in the street to be struck by passing trucks rather than to go ahead and take care of their pruning needs in the spring.

The new document does a good job of dictating specific pruning practices that should be executed in the spring, and when pruning should wait to be done outside the "no wounding" period. To read the document in its entirety go to texasoakwilt.org and click on *Pruning Guidelines for Prevention of Oak Wilt in Texas*.



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Touchdown for Trees



Touchdown for Trees, a January 24 event in Arlington, wrapped up the Super Grow XLV program, which sponsored the planting of more than 6,500 trees in 12 North Texas cities.

The most extensive urban forestry program in Super Bowl history, Super Grow XLV was a partnership of the NFL Environmental Program, Texas Forest Service, North Texas Super Bowl Host Committee, and Texas Trees Foundation. It was designed to help offset environmental impacts associated with the production of Super Bowl XLV.

Super Grow XLV included one tree-planting project in each of 12 host cities and a grand finale tree planting project near Cowboy Stadium. Thousands of volunteers helped out, and thousands of school children were given seedlings to plant during the seven-month project.

Participating cities were Addison, Arlington, Dallas, Denton, Farmers Branch, Fort Worth, Frisco, Grapevine, Irving, Lewisville, Plano, and Richardson.

"A man does not plant a tree for himself, he plants it for posterity," said former Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Drew Pearson, who was the master of ceremonies for the Touchdown luncheon. "That's what we did with the Super Grow XLV initiative."

Super Grow XLV Helps Kids Plant Trees

Parents dropping their children off at Amos Elementary in Arlington any time after December 16 have noticed something that wasn't there before. New trees. Three of them, to be exact.

They now sit on campus grounds, courtesy of the Texas Trees Foundation and a partnership that includes the Dallas Cowboys. Amos was part of a campaign supported by the National Football League Environmental Program and Super Grow XLV.

Through this project, Texas Trees Foundation along with the city of Arlington provided 600 small tree liners to every Amos student, handing them out as the students paraded out of a fact-filled assembly presentation. Each student received instructions on how to plant the trees while the fifth-grade classes headed outside to help plant the larger trees on school grounds.

The pumped up fifth graders watched as workers quickly dug large round holes and placed the trees inside. Students were selected to help with the digging.

"Giving the kids trees is great but planting these bigger trees at the school really adds to the campus and adds meaning," said Amos Principal Rodney Rinn, who watched his students dig out dirt around the trees to get them securely inside the ground. "We'll always know what the meaning was and how these trees got here. And that they helped. Most of these kids have never experienced anything like this so it's a great learning experience for them."

Matt Grubasich of Texas Trees Foundation spoke to the students and teachers in attendance about the importance and benefits of trees. How they produce oxygen, for instance. How they clean the soil, control noise pollution, even slow storm water runoff.

"We couldn't exist without trees," Grubasich told the students. "Trees act as a giant filter that cleans the air we breathe."

The energy company Oncor, one of the sponsors, gave awards to winners of a student art contest as part of their Know Before You Grow program. The winner was fifth grader Gabriela L., whose winning poster moves on to another competition.

"This is just great all around," Rinn said.

—from Matt Churches



Fifth graders Thalia J., Anthony M. and Jason A. help plant a tree at Amos Elementary School in Arlington.

To see tree trails from the 12 Super Grow communities, go to greattexastreetrail.org/supergrow/supergrow_2011_tree_data.htm



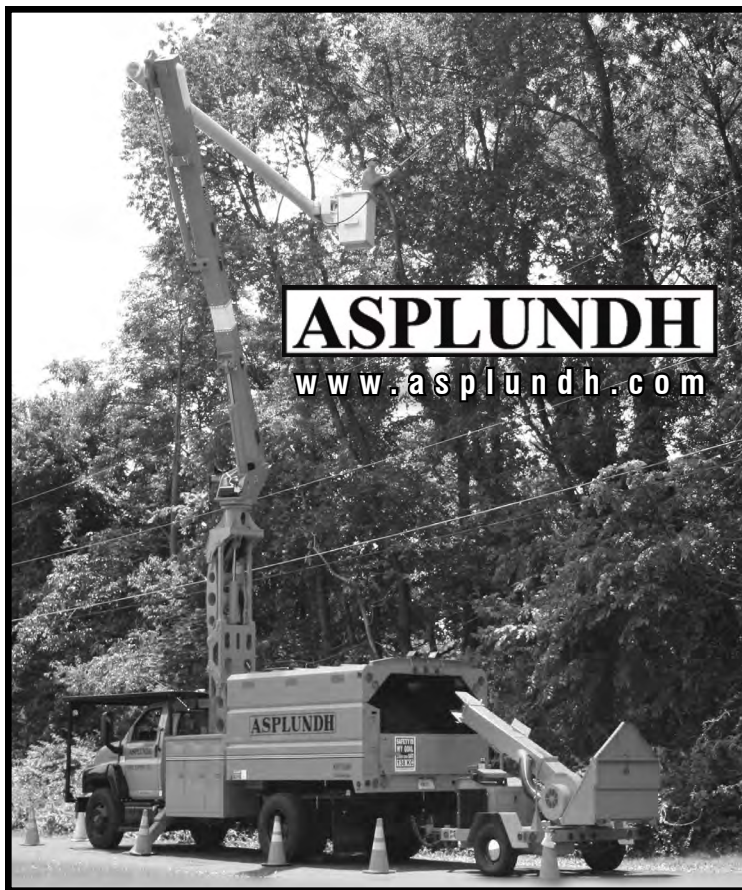
EDITOR'S NOTE by Paul Johnson

We work in a great industry! We get to help people grow better communities. Between tree adoptions, rebate programs, planting, pruning, and removal, we make for a greener and safer community.

What are you doing this month that helps someone? Have you volunteered for Habitat for Humanity? Have you planted trees in a local park? Have you taught a tree training class? Service is important for both personal and professional reasons. Personally, helping others improves self image, self worth, and sense of community. Professionally, helping is inexpensive, yet effective marketing. Does the possibility of professional benefit lessen or negate the service? No, it doesn't. You are still helping people. The benefits are just the bonus.

Know a good story? Is someone you work with helping people through trees? Let's share our stories. We held a fruit and nut tree adoption at Pearl Farmers Market in San Antonio on Saturday February 12. This was a great event. We distributed 330 trees in two hours. The list of trees included peaches, pecans, apricots, walnuts, persimmons, citrus, and more.

A woman, Susan, approached me towards the end of the event and said 'Thank You!' She was so happy to have a new tree to care for that would soon be able to care for her. Food security is a very real issue for many people. There is nothing fresher or more local than a tree producing food in your own backyard. Thanks to the many volunteers from Alamo Forest Partnership, City of San Antonio, San Antonio Food Bank, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists, we were able to help 330 families grow a healthy snack at home.



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On January 22, the City of Houston celebrated 25 years of being a TreeCity USA by planting 25,000 trees with over 2,200 volunteers. As part of the celebration, the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council held its annual Bayou Region Tree Planting Competition in which sixteen teams participated and planted 1,600 trees. The winning teams were: Professional Division– Bio Landscaping; Amateur Division–University of Florida Gator Club (Houston Alumni Group); Student Division– MacArthur High School.


–Mickey Merritt



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John Reis at 815 341-0485

Urban Forest, Urban Form *by Emily King, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department*

The City of Austin, Austin Urban Forestry Board, Texas Forest Service, and Keep Austin Beautiful teamed up to bring the 2011 State of the Urban Forest Summit to over 60 local and regional stakeholders at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center January 21.



The goal of the summit was to explore the relationship between the urban forest and the urban form and how the City of Austin can integrate both for the benefit of the urban environment. Attendees from varying backgrounds collaborated to bring different perspectives to the conversation. Ultimately the highest priority challenges and solutions will guide input to the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.

Dr. Kathleen Wolf gave several presentations to aid in keeping conversations focused on the “big picture,” and participants formed breakout groups to identify and prioritize challenges and solutions. A presentation about the city-wide tree canopy cover analysis further framed the conversation. Professional facilitators took the lead in each breakout group and proved to be invaluable resources for framing goals, keeping groups on topic, and maintaining organization.

For further information visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/forestrysummit.htm

Promoting public education and outreach about proper tree care is always in fashion for ISAT. If you have any photos from an event that ISAT has helped sponsor please email them to: heather.brewer@georgetown.org

FLASHBACK *by Heather Brewer, Urban Forester, City of Georgetown*



Some things change with time, like Dr. Todd Watson's career path, but white tennis shoes, trench coats and mustaches will never be out of fashion. In 2003 ISAT helped sponsor a public outreach day with the Texas A & M Student Society of Arboriculture.



CLIMBING LINES by Guy LeBlanc, CA, CTSP

King Size Problem for Kong: For those of you who have not heard, last year there were three product recalls that climbers must know about. Two involved some aluminum rings marketed (but not made) by the Italian climbing equipment maker Kong.

The back story on these rings, involved in at least two known failures, is quite alarming. Last year a climber in the Michigan tree climbing competition experienced a failure of one of these rings while using it in a friction saver. The climber has stated that between medical bills and lost work he incurred a loss of over \$14,000.00. In an attempt to be reimbursed by Kong, he was informed by them that because he was using the rings in a competition, they would not be responsible. This has led many experienced climbers to call for an ISA competition ban on all Kong products and last year, the Kentucky chapter did just that (according to posts on treebuzz.com). The reasoning of the judges there was that if Kong believes their equipment is unsuitable for competition, ISA cannot risk allowing competitors to use it.

Kong's response has led these same climbers to also express the opinion that equipment not suited to competition may not be suited to everyday work conditions, which are often much more demanding.

But the story doesn't end there. What has some of these climbers even more concerned is what Tobe Sherrill, owner of Sherrill Arborist Supply, who sold the rings to the injured competitor, found out about the source of the rings during his personal investigation of the matter. The rings, which have no markings on them, were actually manufactured for another market Kong has: shower curtain and purse handle rings! Somehow, they got mixed in with those intended for life support.

And it doesn't end there, either. These rings were also used in some earlier makes of Weaver Saddles' Cougar model, on which another failure of one of the rings was documented. Two recalls were issued for this saddle due to these rings, the second one coming last December.

The third recall is also related to the Cougar, and is for a replacement bridge made by Anchor Bridge Ropeworks. The extremely reliable folks at Anchor Bridge have always stood behind every product they make, and this was no exception. They immediately issued this voluntary recall after one failure of a bridge in which no one was injured.

Although these recalls are a few months old, many climbers may not have received notice of them. The actual recall notices can be found in treebuzz.com forums, and were not reproduced here due to space constraints. You are advised to destroy any unmarked rings you have in use in any life support situation. If they were purchased from Sherrill or are on a Weaver saddle, you can contact those companies for free replacement. If you purchased a replacement bridge for a Cougar saddle from Anchor Bridge, contact them immediately.

The author is the owner and operator of Arbor Vitae Tree Care in Austin. He has over 30 years experience and is available for worker safety and tree care workshops. He may be reached at 512-301-8700.

When times are tough you need a higher profile

ISA has improved its feature for credential holders to advertise themselves and list themselves "For Hire." When you obtain your certification, ISA automatically creates an account for you on their website that is tied to "Verify a Certification" and "Find a Tree Care Service." Only current credential holders appear in the listing and this eliminates misuse of one's credential.

The information ISA puts into your listing is very basic; it requires you to log in with your ISA username and password in order to update your information. Please be sure the information shown is what you want the public to see. Don't forget to check the "For Hire" box if you would like to be contacted by customers in your area. Searches through this website can be done by last name, postal code, location, or Certification ID.

ISA will conduct job analysis this year

Each ISA credential is developed from an initial Job Task Analysis, which is updated every five years to find out what has changed in the industry that might require changes in the certification exams. In early 2011 ISA will survey the industry again for these credentials: ISA Certified Arborist, ISA Certified Arborist/Utility Specialist, ISA Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist, and ISA Certified Tree Worker/Aerial Lift Specialist credentials.

Individuals will receive an e-mail including the link to the corresponding credential survey. The results of those surveys will indicate how the exams may change for exams held July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2016. These surveys ensure that ISA is testing individuals on relevant information.

Calendar

March 10 in San Antonio; April 21 in Round Rock; July 21 in San Antonio
Next three Certification exams. Information and applications available at www.isatexas.com/members/certification_information.htm

April 7 & 8, Brownsville

Rio Grande Valley Tree Conference. This year features a conference, tours, a bi-national Arbor Day and a Ride for the Trees bike tour. Go to isatexas.com for more information.

April 11 & 12 at the Ft Worth Botanical Gardens and April 14 & 15 at Trinity University in San Antonio
ISAT Masters Series Workshop on Tree Risk Assessment with Julian Dunster. Stay tuned to isatexas.com

April 16 & 17, University of Texas, Austin

Certified Tree Worker Climber Specialist Certification. Contact Larry Maginnis for more information., 512-475-7756.

May 19 – 21, Trinity Park, Ft. Worth

Texas Tree Climbing Competition (pre-competition workshop on the 19th). More information at isatexas.com. Online registration will be available at shop.isatexas.com

May 24, San Antonio

2nd Hispanic Tree Care Workshop. More information at isatexas.com.

June 2, Waco Convention Center.

Planning the Urban Forest. An ISAT, ASLA, APA and TFS event. More information and registration materials will be available soon through ISAT and other sponsoring organizations.

through July

ISAT Board Nominations. Nominate yourself or someone else. Elections in July. Go to isatexas.com/members/isa_directors.htm for more information.

July 23–27, Sydney, Australia

ISA Annual Conference and Trade Show. The premier event for arborists from around the world. go to isa-arbor.com and click on "Trees Down Under" logo.



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It's Greener Now In the Shade

In addition to providing color, *In the Shade's* new printing process is also relatively kind to the environment. *In the Shade* is now printed on recycled paper using bio-renewable vegetable-based inks. Our new printer, Powell Offset of Austin, is also green behind the scenes. They use a chemical-free platemaking system and recycle all unused paper scraps, printing plates, ink waste and solvents.





The Nominations Committee will select the slate from the nominations received. Elections will be held in July and newly-elected Board Members will be installed at the membership meeting held at the Texas Tree Conference on October 7, 2011. A form that can be filled-out and printed or emailed is available at: http://www.isatexas.com/Members/ISA_Directors.htm

Please provide a few comments regarding why this candidate should be considered for nomination:

18

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Contact **Dean Morris**
952-252-0506 dmorris@treecarescience.com

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Climbing Prize Package

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Announcing the 2011 ArborMaster Climbing Prize Package for the Texas Tree Climbing Champion, held in conjunction with ISAT's 2011 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event. This climbing kit is being offered to each chapter champion (both man and woman, if applicable)! The package is intended to help equip the chapter representative(s) for the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) Competition. Each prize package will include:

- Petzel Vertex Helmet with Professional Hearing Protection provided by Husqvarna
- 150' ArborMaster® Climbing Line with eye splice from Samson
- New Lanyard w/Positioner (made w/Lava Rope) & RopeBoss Wingman Stretchtop from SherrillTree
- Buckingham \$50 Gift Certificate
- Silky POCKETBOY 170 (med teeth)
- OREGON® POWERsharp® Precision Saw Chain Sharpening System
- 50% savings for an ArborMaster® 2-Day or 3-Day Hands-On Training Module

