



In the Shade

Vol. 33, No.1
May, 2009

Fun in the Sun May 29–30

Don't Miss the TTCC!

The 26th annual Texas Tree Climbing Championship will be held in Govalle Park, 5200 Bolm Rd, Austin, on May 29-30. This will be a great site for the contestants, judges, families and the general public. There are great trees, permanent restroom facilities, plenty of picnic tables and parking, all within about 200 yards.

There is a limit of 30 contestants, and registration deadline is 5:00 pm, May 15, 2009. Contestants may register on line at www.isatexas.com. If you have any problem, you may also call James Tuttle at 806-785-8733. Preference will be given to Texas competitors, but "foreign" competitors will be allowed, as space permits.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL CONTESTANTS to familiarize themselves with the International Tree Climbing Championship rules. The Texas winner will win an entry and paid trip to the ITCC, so it just makes sense that our contestants know and are judged by those rules. If anyone has questions about rules or gear, contact Nevic Donnelly at 512-922-7058.

There will be a new award this year. The Spirit Award will be given to the contestant who exhibits the greatest degree of sportsmanship and enthusiasm.

Exhibitors and vendors will bring the latest equipment and gear. They often give show discounts, plus you normally save freight as well. So come prepared for a great weekend of fun in the sun and see the latest in equipment and climbing techniques.

There will be an Aerial Rescue workshop on Thursday, May 28, taught by Guy LeBlanc, former winner of Texas Tree Climbing Championship and a head judge at the International Tree Climbing Championship. Check www.isatexas.com for the details and registration information.

—James Tuttle

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President's Corner by John Giedraitis

TAKE THE TIME . . .

THIS IS THE BUSY TIME OF YEAR for tree people so this month's message is a short one.

Take the time to really live, love, learn and leave a legacy.

Stephen Covey reminds us that these are the four universal needs, and wouldn't you know it, ISAT can help you out in them all.

- ◆ Living (physical/economic). Folks who are involved and support their profession see what other successful people are doing and have stronger businesses or programs and make a better living.
- ◆ Loving (social). Even though I am your President, my power to make you loved is limited. Especially for some of you extra crusty arborists. But, by networking with other arborists around the state you can build relationships and friendships that can support you as you advance in your business/career.
- ◆ Learning (mental). This is where your Texas Chapter can really help you out. In fact, our mission is to improve the practice of professional arboriculture through science, education, and public awareness. All that mental stuff like workshops, seminars, conferences, webinars can actually be fun to help out with. All of our extensive educational offerings in Texas are produced by volunteers. Didn't know that? We need you to help sustain and grow our educational services.
- ◆ Leaving a legacy (future). There are few things as certain as your time being limited on this planet. Will the world be a better place when you move on? Being part of ISAT helps to grow our understanding and appreciation of the beings we spend the most time around – trees. Get involved with your Texas Chapter and give something back to your profession.

Call or email me today to get involved with your Texas ISA Chapter. We can help you fill your four universal needs.

— John Giedraitis, President ISA Texas
979-458-6650, jpg@tfs.tamu.edu

YES, WE'RE ONLINE !

If you're currently reading our print edition, don't forget this newsletter is also posted on the ISAT website. Download this issue *in color and with clickable links* at <http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Newsletter.htm>

Previous issues are also available.

Swedish Style Tree House



This is a concept for Harads, a tree hotel created by Swedish architectural firm *tham & videgard hansson arkitekter*. The cube design incorporates a kitchen, sleeping area, living area and a terrace.

The exterior skin will be polished aluminum to reflect the surrounding forest.

For more information go to:

<http://www.designboom.com/weblog/cat/9/view/5342/harads-tree-hotel-by-tham-videgard-hansson-arkitekts.html>

— Pat Wentworth

Florida Tree Service Worker Killed

A man delivering mulch for a tree service was killed in Florida when a boom on his truck touched a power line, causing a fire in the cab, according to an article in the *Gainesville (FL) Sun*.

Officials believe the man may have been electrocuted leaving the truck, possibly having a hand on the metal of the truck and a foot on the ground.

According to a utility official, it's better to stay in the vehicle, but in this case the vehicle was on fire.

— James Koenig

Buda Cement Kiln Turning to Alternate Fuels

by Asher Price—AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF—Friday, March 20, 2009

Note: The excerpt below from the Austin American Statesman is what we at CPS Energy tried to set up with one of the cement plants in New Braunfels quite a few years ago (the early 90's) but it never got off the ground. We were having difficulty finding an outlet for our wood refuse at the time. Good to see this might now happen.

—James Koenig

From the ninth-floor catwalk of the cement kiln facility in Buda, a person can see the past and possibly the future of industrial manufacturing.

At the terminus of a rail spur sit piles of coal and petroleum coke, old-school combustibles used to heat the kiln, a metal furnace 13.5 feet in diameter and 190 feet long. Inside the furnace, limestone rock melts at temperatures up to 2,700 degrees, or nearly a quarter of that of the outermost part of the sun.

On the other side of the plant, a conveyor belt bears what the plant's environmental manager calls "green fuel," a combination of wood chips and shredded tires.

The fuel experiment is the product of the unlikely partnership of a longtime cement man and one of the founders of the Save Our Springs environmental movement. If successful, it could blaze a path for manufacturers to cut their carbon emissions and costs at the same time.

The experiment comes in one of the nation's most carbon intensive and polluting industries. Cement kilns release carbon dioxide not only in the burning of coal to heat the kiln but also through the changing of the composition of limestone. Concentrations of carbon emissions nearly double that of some coal-burning power plants.

Initial results show that if the company uses the "green fuel" to displace 20 percent of the coal

burned at the facility, it says it will cut its carbon emissions by at least 20,000 tons a year, or 5 percent of its total emissions. It is burning enough to displace 10 percent of the coal.

To read the entire article, go to:

http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/local/03/20/0320kiln_.html

Trail of Trees at the Texas Capitol

The latest edition of the brochure *Trail of Trees at the Texas Capitol* was co-sponsored by the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, the Texas Forest Service and the State Preservation Board.

The guide is designed to help you recognize and appreciate 25 tree species found on the historic Capitol grounds. The trail starts at the State Seal of Texas located on the steps just outside the south Capitol entrance door. The trail can be traveled comfortably in one hour. The map inside the front cover should help you find your way.

Thousands of these brochures will be available at the Capitol to help educate about trees and tree care and to increase the public's appreciation for trees.

To download the brochure, go to http://isatexas.com/Members/Trail_of_Trees_at_the_Texas_Capitol.htm

San Antonio Training

A cooperative Certified Arborist Training class was sponsored by the City of San Antonio, San Antonio Arborist Association, San Antonio Botanical Garden and the San Antonio College Service Trade and Industry Center.

Demand exceeded class size limits, with 30 students beginning weekly classes on March 20 and finishing on April 22. A wide variety of local professionals shared their knowledge and expertise in true tag-team fashion, including the City of San Antonio Forestry staff, current and former State Urban Foresters, Ag Extension staff and local botanical garden specialists. The SA Botanical Garden proved to be a perfect classroom and field training site for the class.

Forty-two applicants are scheduled to take the Certification test in San Antonio on May 1, with a majority of them being graduates of this special training session. This training class was well received and will definitely continue in the future; a list has already been started for the second offering. For information, contact Armando Cortez, City of San Antonio, 210-685-1811

—James Koenig

New Videos Available

Texas Forest Service has developed some three-minute demonstration videos illustrating common homeowner tree planting questions. Videos include *Selecting a Tree*, *Right Tree Right Place*, *How to Plant a Tree in Your Yard*, *How to Plant a Tree in a Right-Of-Way*, and *How to Care for Your Tree*.

Videos can be viewed for free at <http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/>. Click on "Tree Planting Tools."

—Erin Harris

ISA Searching for the “True Professionals”

Are you one of the tree care’s “True Professionals?” Do you know someone who is? If so, you are encouraged to enter the ISA “True Professionals of Arboriculture” initiative, which will honor ISA members who demonstrate the truly professional manner in which today’s arborists do their work.

“ISA’s highly skilled members are practicing the profession at a remarkable level, in ways that ensure the safe and effective care of our world’s trees—and help people to understand the importance of trees and the necessity for their proper care,” said Jim Skiera, Executive Director of ISA. “We want to honor those ISA members who advance our profession through education, communication and outreach.”

“ISA is dedicated to making

arboriculture better by teaching people about trees and why they need professional care,” he continued. “We created this initiative to recognize our ambassadors, celebrate their efforts and learn from them.”

An independent panel of leaders from the tree care industry and business community will select the winners, who may be contacted for more information. Winners will receive recognition in their hometown newspaper and acclaim as role models for other tree care professionals.

“Our judges will look for those who do an especially good job of working with clients of all types, of inspiring their trust and putting the profession in the best light,” explained Skiera. “We also believe there is a place for the managers of tree care companies

and others who excel at talking with their customers about proper tree care to apply.”

Winning companies will also be featured in case studies that will be publicized in *Arborist News* and on the ISA website. They will be able to use the recognition in their marketing and recruiting efforts. Winners will be contacted in early July, 2009, and invited to attend an announcement ceremony at the 2009 ISA Conference in Providence, Rhode Island.

Those interested in entering themselves or another person in the recognition program can download the entry form posted at www.isa-arbor.com and www.treesaregood.org. The entry form will require no more than 30 minutes to complete for most people. Entries must be submitted by May 31, 2009 to be considered.

Questions about the ISA True Professionals of Arboriculture can be directed to Sonia Garth, ISA Public Relations Manager, at 217.355.9411, ext. 217, or sgarth@isa-arbor.com.



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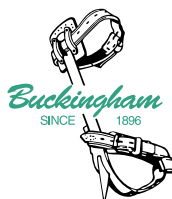
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Links from Patrick Wentworth:

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_prune/prun001.htm

USDA Forest Service site on tree pruning . . .

<http://bookstore.gpo.gov/subjects/sb-086.jsp>

US Government publications on trees, forest management

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_haz/ht_haz.htm

Hazard tree identification – USDA Forest Service bulletin

<http://www.bioworksinc.com/botanigard/botanigard.html>

Biological controls

http://www.mushroomexpert.com/trametes_versicolor.html

Mushroom ID

http://www.treehugger.com/files/2008/04/the_diesel_tree_grow_your_own_oil.php

Diesel tree. Tap them like a sugar maple for 50 -60 liters of fuel per year.

<http://www.argus-electronic.de/English/index.html>

Decay detection device

<http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/pubs/html/97241202/97241202.html#borescope>

Decay detection devices – USDA report.

www.treesarecool.com

Tree lists – ISA Florida Chapter

Links from John Giedraitis:

<http://www.techshout.com/science/2009/26/solar-botanic-unveils-artificial-trees-to-harness-solar-and-wind-energy-through-biomimicry/>

Artificial trees convert wind and sun to electricity

<http://www.news-medical.net/?id=46839>

Drug derived from magnolia trees prevents blood clots

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Time Trip

Here are three photos from the 1989 Texas Tree Conference in Kerrville—all from the conference social hour. All the people aren't identified, but a few are:



Jim Houser (far right) looks like he was the life of party back in 89.



Russell Peters (far left) looks as if he was caught in the act.



Pat Brewer (far right) looks like he was giving a side lecture to Pat Wentworth (second from left) and other conference attendees.

- Sent in by Heather Brewer, Urban Forester, City of Georgetown, and ISAT Historian



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How to Use the ISA

There are many questions about how to use the logo and how to advertise correctly. Strict rules and guidelines have been put in place to protect you and let you use and wear the emblem proudly. The Certification logos represent knowledge and competency in the field of arboriculture and let you set yourself apart from others in a competitive profession. Below are frequently asked questions that will address the most important points to remember when advertising or reporting improper usage.

Use it...
Use it...



Who gets to use the logo?

The ISA Certification logos are registered trademarks and the 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.

Why display the logo?

Consumers are becoming more educated, and they are demanding a way to make better choices when they are looking for professional services like tree care. Naturally, as certification programs become successful, more and more organizations will want to become involved in the credential process. Using the ISA Certification logo to set you apart from all other professionals in the arboricultural field lets the consumer have an easier time choosing a qualified Arborist to hire. The ISA Certification logo and trademark stand out, and your knowledge is backed by the International Society of Arboriculture. We require ongoing education to stay in good standing and that shows dedication and love for the profession.

How to display the logo?

There are many options to advertise using the ISA Certification registered trademark and/or word mark “ISA Certified Arborist.” The most popular advertisements are business cards, letterheads, apparel, yellow page ads, web sites and truck decals. It is your personal preference where you like to display your credential as long as you follow the guidelines below.

What are important things to remember when using the logo?

The most important thing to remember is to include your name and Certification ID number. An ISA Certified Arborist receives a Certification ID number only after passing the ISA exam, and it is as essential as a driver’s license number when it comes to an individual’s arboricultural background. ISA offers an *ISA Branding and Style Guide* that explains everything you and your printer need to know. If you would like a copy, contact us or you may print it from the ISA web site at the Certification Announcements section.

How do you get a copy of the logo?

Arborists newly certified by ISA will receive a certificate, ID card, advertising logo sheet, hard-hat decal, and a patch. Individuals already ISA-certified would just have to contact our office and verify their certification information before obtaining the logo. If you are looking for electronic copies of the logo for your printer or personal use you can email us at cert@isa-arbor.com or call 888-ISA-TREE.

Certification Logo

Don't abuse it...
Don't abuse it...



What NOT to do with your logo.

Please remember that ISA Certification is the credential of an individual who has passed the exam – not the company or employer. Non-ISA Certified personnel are not permitted to wear the logo on uniforms or shirts. Company owners who are not certified, but employ an ISA Certified Arborist, may not claim to be ISA Certified Arborists and may not use the logo on their personal business cards.

The use of the ISA Certified Arborist logos and the words “ISA Certified Arborist” are also not permitted on company vehicles or other advertisements without the names and Certification ID numbers of those employees certified by ISA. Failure to follow these guidelines will be considered a violation of trademark law.

How do you spot a perpetrator?

If you come across a flyer, advertisement, or anything else implying that someone is certified and you believe that they are not, contact the ISA or start by running their name through the ISA website under “Verify a Certification.” If you notice someone using the ISA Certification logo without the name and Certification ID number of the designated arborist then please report it to the ISA so we can follow up. Please know that some people may opt not to be listed but you can call or email us for verification.

How do you go about reporting someone who is dishonestly claiming to be “certified” or misusing the ISA Logo?

As ISA Certifications are growing and the credential is becoming more of an asset to the individual, the reasons to use it illegally are growing too. ISA has a staff member in charge of investigating false advertisement and logo misuse. A claim form is available on the Certification Announcement page of the web site. We require proof that the ISA logo and/or the words “Certified Arborist” were used so we are able to contact the individual or company with the violation of our trademark. You can send in any type of advertisement with the incriminating information. **You are not required to leave a name, and we respect your choice to stay anonymous.**

What actions does the ISA take when a claim is turned in?

First and foremost we follow up on the claim to verify that it is legit and indeed a violation of our policy. We go through ISA records to make sure that we have valid information to back our accusations. Then we proceed with the first notice, a cease and desist letter. This is when the information you provided becomes important; we send a copy of the information along with the cease and desist letter to show proof of the misrepresentation. The individual or company is given 10 business days to contact us regarding the violation. If no response is received, a second notice is sent letting the recipient know that it is their last chance to resolve the matter without getting our attorney involved. Last but not least we turn the claim over to ISA’s attorney.

Please contact ISA for more information on logo use and misuse.

Anne Jerutka
Certification Coordinator,
Compliance & Promotions
Phone: (217)355-9411 Ext: 207
Fax: (217) 531-2859
ajerutka@isa-arbor.com

If you would like to stay anonymous, please send information to:
International Society of Arboriculture
Attn: Anne Jerutka
P.O. Box 3129
Champaign, IL 61826-3129

ISA appreciates your support in upholding the integrity of this organization and the profession.



City of Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee

Tree Inventory Research Project

by Steve Houser

SINCE THE CITY OF DALLAS currently has very limited tree inventory data regarding public trees, the acquisition of the information is an important priority for the city. We cannot manage an asset that we do not fully understand.

In researching the topic a few years ago, it became clear that a traditional survey using a contractor and/or volunteers to survey public trees could provide the baseline data required to manage public trees. However, in speaking with other communities, we found that survey data was sometimes lost (computer crash) or less than accurate (depending on the contractor and the volunteers utilized) and often involves a “sampling” of a percentage of public trees, then multiplying the results times the percentage of land not surveyed.

Around the same time, we were working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other authorities in an attempt to reach federal air quality standards for our State Implementation Plan (SIP) in the DFW region. In essence, we were

trying to convince them that trees capture and hold carbon, nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide, also known as biogenic sequestration. However, since trees also emit Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), we could not fully quantify the exact relationship between our regional trees and air quality.

VOC emissions (or biogenic emissions) are important because they are precursors to the formation of ozone. They include isoprene, benzene and others in the turpentine family of compounds. At the time, we checked into existing computer programs that provide photochemical modeling data but found that the experts did not accept the results as Weight of Evidence (WOE) for the SIP in our region. Current modeling software is showing promise but the results rely on the accuracy of local or regional baseline tree inventory data. A number of our local communities have baseline data only on public trees or park trees, making any photochemical modeling data generated from it difficult and possibly inaccurate. However, the information remains very important to public tree management, the question being: do we need the information only to manage public trees or to fully quantify environmental benefits as well? Keep in mind that private interests own around seventy percent of the urban forest in most communities.

With research regarding the full effect of each species of tree in

our region on air quality (biogenic emissions and sequestration of various materials), along with the number of each tree species in the region (both public and private), we would have the data required to complete photochemical modeling research that is likely to be accepted by authorities. We will also learn which species of tree are better for air quality as well as what species should be encouraged or discouraged in the future. As a result of current research, I suspect that drought-tolerant trees and plants will be better for air quality because their biological function as well as VOC emissions may decrease as it gets hot. It is during the hot summer months that VOC emissions are a bigger problem for local or regional air quality.

Since the City of Dallas contains 385 square miles of land and 22,000 acres of park land, a tree inventory of public and/or private trees would be costly and time consuming. Current research shows that some of the tree inventory data can be gathered using images of various types; therefore we explored the subject at length.

We found a newer type of color-based imagery known as “hyperspectral images,” and questioned numerous experts regarding its usage for a complete tree inventory. The response was that it is possible given the higher resolution of images currently available, but it has never been

Continued on next page

Tree Inventory Research

Continued from previous page
attempted before. However, we were looking for an efficient and economical way to inventory trees in a large urban area.

After a complete review of all existing research and many discussions with various authorities, we decided to authorize a pilot project covering a 20-square-mile area working with Dr. Fang Qiu, Associate Professor of GIS and Remote Sensing, Geospatial Information Science with the University of Dallas. A power point presentation he recently provided during the EPA's Sustainable Communities Conference covers much of the background research and describes what we hope to accomplish.

To review the presentation click on www.DallasTrees.org/lisfiles.asp and find "UFAC Presentations 2008-2009, Dr. Qiu"

Since hyperspectral images are color-based, there is a potential for other uses such as determining water quality, determining when the marking paint on streets needs repainting, and vegetation management around power lines. As a result, there may be an opportunity to work with other infrastructure managers who can use the information to offset the expenses for a Dallas tree inventory or an inventory for the DFW region.

Considering the growing carbon credit offset market and current discussions regarding "carbon cap and trade" requirements, there may be a need in the future to accurately quantify the biomass (or leaf area) of some or all trees in a community or region. Carbon credits are based on biomass calculations which is why it is one objective of Dr. Qiu's research.

In planning for the urban forest of the future, baseline tree inventory data provides an important foundation for the development of sound environmental and forest management strategies. Trees and environmental health are interrelated, and urban planning for projected development/

redevelopment will have a direct affect on both in the future.

Steve Houser is the City of Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee Chair.

Website: www.DallasTrees.org

Email: Steve.Houser@DallasTrees.org

Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee Annual Report and Other Links

The City of Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee recently submitted its annual report – including our one- and five-year strategic plans– to Mayor Tom Leppert and city officials. The report can be downloaded at:

<http://www.dallastrees.org/Ourfiles/Final%20annual%20report%202008.pdf>

The following link takes you to a list of presentations and all committee documents: www.DallasTrees.org/lisfiles.asp
Keep this link to stay informed about current activities in the future.

To see Dr. Fang Qiu's presentation on use of new imaging techniques for urban tree inventory, click "next" until you reach "UFAC Presentations 2008-2009, Dr. Qiu." (For some background on this research project, see my article Tree Inventory Research Project on page 10 of this issue of *In the Shade*.)

If other arborists want to know a little about our tree ordinance and its history, they may want to click on the following link to a *Dallas Observer* article:

<http://www.dallasobserver.com/2009-03-19/news/dallas-wants-to-be-a-green-city-so-why-not-save-some-trees>.

John Giedraitis has a great quote in it.

The annual report, other committee documents and Dr. Qiu's presentation may help other arborists focus on their local needs and priorities.

– Steve Houser, City of Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee Chair

Calendar of Events

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

May 13-14

The ISAT Master Series: Tree Appraisal Theory and Practice, Georgetown

The first of a series of advanced workshops to help prepare Certified Arborists to become Board Certified Master Arborists. Our instructor, Scott Cullen, helped write and edit the 9th Edition of the *Guide for Plant Appraisal*. Involved in the tree care industry since 1971, he is currently a registered consulting arborist based in the New York area. He is a licensed real estate appraiser and the leading lecturer worldwide on tree appraisal theory. Two-day seminar intended for an advanced or experienced audience. Apply online at <http://www.isatexas.com>.

May 29

Aerial Rescue Workshop (Pre-TCCC), Austin

Participation will qualify attendees for the aerial rescue test portion of the Certified Tree Worker exam, and offer competition contestants a chance to hone their rescue skills with classes followed by hands-on sessions. Instructor: Guy LeBlanc, Certified Arborist and Certified Treecare Safety Professional, former International Tree Climbing Championship contestant and head judge. Go to http://www.isatexas.com/Members/TTCC/2009_TTCC.htm for workshop and competition registration form.

May 29 & 30

Texas Tree Climbing Championship, Austin

Come to Austin and compete with the best in Texas. For more information visit http://www.isatexas.com/Members/TTCC/2009_TTCC.htm or contact James Tuttle, TCC Chair, at 806-785-8733.

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. On-line registration is available at the ISAT website, <http://www.isatexas.com>.

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.

Webinars

May 5 – 11:00 am EST

Topic: Setting Up a Formal Employee Training Program
Keith Sheriff

Learn to apply effective management principles to workplace safety. These ideas will also provide an excellent backdrop for training and advancing employees, which will help grow your company. Sponsored by Tree Care Industry Association.
<http://tcia.org/webinars/>

May 12 – 11:00 am EST

How to Grow Your Business through Commercial Contracts
Peter Sortwell

Corporate and commercial contracting is very different from the typical residential contract. How you look, act, dress and market your company is all important in the corporate world of tree care. Sponsored by Tree Care Industry Association.
<http://tcia.org/webinars/>

May 12 – 11:00 am CDT

Marketing Green!

Dr. Jennifer Dennis, Purdue University

The “green” marketing strategies you need to thrive in a maturing marketplace! Third in a series about making better managerial decisions in the midst of an economic downturn, sponsored by the Ellison Chair in International Floriculture and Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

<http://ellisonchair.tamu.edu/webinar.htm>



Cross Timbers Tidbits



by Courtney Blevins

For those with an interest in the Cross Timbers forests of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, here are a few tidbits I picked up at a recent conference.

There was a day of presentations, mostly by researchers from OU, OSU and U of Arkansas (the latter is where the Ancient Cross Timbers Consortium is headquartered). As I said, these aren't anything deep, just "tidbits."

- Most of us know that the two primary tree species that define the region are post oak (*Quercus stellata*) and blackjack oak (*Q. marilandica*) but it seems that has not always been the case. Bruce Hoagland from OU compared inventory data for the Arbuckle Mountains from 1870 to that only 20 years later in 1890. (Arbuckles are about 2 hours north of Ft Worth). Both years showed post oak dominant, however in 1870 the #2 species was black oak (*Q. velutina*) and there was almost no blackjack oak. In 1890 these two species flipped.
- The 1870 survey found no juniper and the 1890 only in 3 locations.
- Other common species of the region today are Ashe juniper and Eastern redcedar; American, slippery, cedar and winged elms; Shumard & Texas red oaks, and netleaf hackberry.
- DeSantis from OSU reported on changes in vegetation of the entire Cross Timbers region.
- Post and blackjack oak seedlings densities have dramatically decreased since the 1950's, from 70% of the stand to only 20%, while juniper has increased.
- Decrease in fire frequency is thought to be the main reason. Juniper is not as fire resistant as the oaks. More closed canopy forests now ("Mesophication").
- What's really interesting is this trend does not seem to be occurring in the confirmed stands of ancient crosstimbres (old, undisturbed woodlands)
- Dr Thomas from OSU compared region in 1870 to now in relation to effects of urbanization.
- He also noted the replacement of black oak with blackjack oak over that time period.
- Interesting theory on why: Maybe black oak decline is due to cultivation since that species indicated the best soils for farming at settlement time. OR, drought could be contributor.
- Old growth shortleaf pine in the Cross Timbers: McCurtain County in SE Oklahoma has largest stand left in the US.
- Tree Ring Chronologies of Eastern Redcedar by Jessie Edmondson, U of Ark.
- Can get very old, older even than the ancient post oaks of 300 and 400 years.

- 630-year-old redcedar found near Cedar Hollow, OK.
- Kelly DeRemaux of OSU spoke on 10-year research plot on Nature Conservancy land. Land managed with fire and buffalo grazing.
- Found 20% mortality of post oaks and 40% mortality of blackjack oaks. Only 5 new trees became established during the decade, all post oaks. Maybe a more natural state since there is fire and grazing?
- Fire frequency: 250 years ago North Central Texas had a 2–4 year interval.
- Tree ring records and false rings in post oaks by Dr Stahle from U of Ark. Post oaks have about 20 false rings per century. Occurs whenever temps drop to 23 F or below in the springtime after tree break dormancy.
- Basal sprouts are much more common in blackjack oaks than post oaks. Therefore the relative reduction in numbers of blackjacks to post oaks in the past 100+ years seems likely tied to the loss of fire.

Courtney Blevins, CF, CA, is Regional Urban Forester for the Texas Forest Service, Ft. Worth. For more information about the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council, visit www.ctufc.org

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Cool Tools by Patrick Wentworth

A Computer in a Pen

Despite owning a variety of PDAs, cell phones with cameras and recording devices, laptops, Bluetooth devices, backup devices, etc., I still rely on a handwritten backup for important notes taken during phone conversations or face-to-face meetings with clients.

Now there's a way of backing those handwritten notes up as well. A company called "LiveScribe®" has developed the new "Pulse Smartpen." A recording device is built into the pen to record conversations as you write that can capture as much as 200 hours of audio. Two microphones in the pen work to cancel out background noise. A built-in speaker allows for listening from the pen's recording, or an audio jack can be used for listening with a 3D headset. This alone, while impressive, doesn't seem very innovative. However, what it also does *is*.

When used in conjunction with a patented dot paper, it digitally records what you *write or draw* – up to 2 gigabytes of information that

can then be downloaded into your computer. An infrared camera in the pen's tip takes 72 frames per second to record everything you write or draw. With a USB cradle, you can upload your notes in the field to your laptop or wait until you get back to the office. There is even a search function in the software to locate individual words.

And by tapping anywhere on your notes, you can hear what was being said at the time. A computer in a pen – \$ 199.95. Moreover, it works on Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Mac OS 10.5.

Check it out at: <http://www.livescribe.com/>



Don't Let Your Bark Slip!

Every year, once the new spring leaves grow to full size and start making food, trees begin to add new trunk wood. To make room for new woody tissue in the outwardly growing rings, the tree's bark loosens, or "slips."

The bark-slip period can last for several weeks during late spring and early summer, and during this vulnerable time young trees are at great risk of serious injury from mowers and tractors.

Mower damage is never a good thing, but hitting the base of a young tree during the bark-slip period often results in a huge basal wound. As the vascular tissues behind the wound plug up, the top of the tree can suffer from moisture and nutrient stress, while the roots below the wound can slowly starve and die.

It's a good idea to remind landscape maintenance crews to be extra careful around tree trunks from now through June.

– G.P. David, RCA/BCMA
from ArborNews, April 2009

I think that I shall never see
a billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall
I'll never see a tree at all.

– Ogden Nash, Song of the Open Road, 1933

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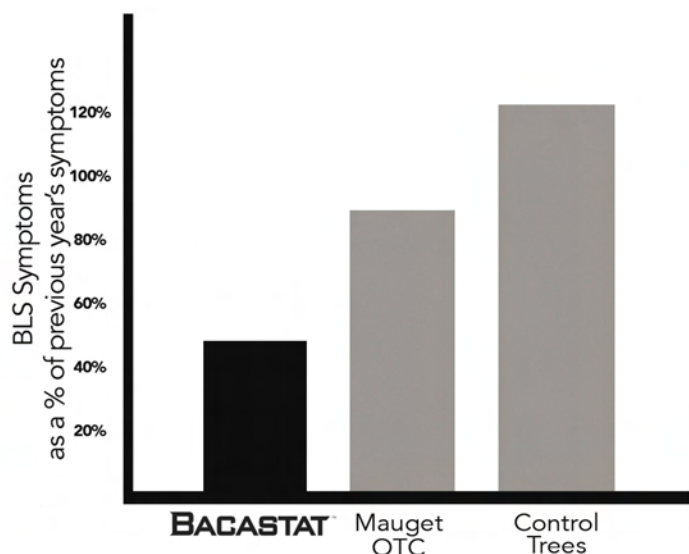
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evaluations were made Oct. 2, 2007; 4 months after treatment
Dr. John Hartman, Univ. of Kentucky.

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