

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

July, 2010 • Vol. 34, No. 2

# In the Shade



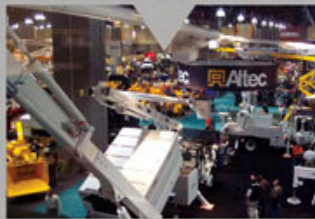
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*President's Corner by Jim Carse*

## ISAT Wants YOU to be a Board Member

I thought I would take a minute and give you a brief overview of what's been happening in the Texas Chapter since last September's Tree Conference in Round Rock:

- We've given four ISA Certified Exams around the state, with two more scheduled before end of year.
- The Chapter co-sponsored the 121st Texas State Arbor Day celebration at the Alamo in San Antonio April 30.
- We hosted the 2010 Texas Tree Climbing Competition in Plano, May 20-22.
- We hosted a Spanish language tree care workshop in San Antonio, with 100 attendees, on June 4.
- We've been busy planning the 2010 Texas Tree Conference that will take place September 22-24 in College Station. We have some great things planned: Dr. Kathleen Wolf will give lectures and walking tours; many exhibitors and vendors will be on hand to answer questions and show off new products; there will be a silent auction, a great

Wednesday social, and much more.

- The board voted and decided to partner with Habitat for Humanity to give grants to certified arborists to assist with tree care and planting at new homes around Texas.
- We will also support the American Youthworks program and provide scholarships to young men and women interested in pursuing a career in arboriculture.
- The chapter is looking into the details regarding submitting a bid to host the 2016 ISA Convention.

The main reason for running through these things is to give you some perspective on what our chapter does and what we discuss at our board meetings.

We need nominations for officers and board members right now. So, if you've ever benefited from any of the above events, or think you want to become involved in an organization that helps promote and build your profession, please

consider nominating yourself or someone else.

To nominate someone, fill out the nomination form on page 7 of this issue, or go to [http://www.isatexas.com/Members/ISA\\_Directors.htm](http://www.isatexas.com/Members/ISA_Directors.htm)

and download a form you can type into and email, or print out and fax or mail.



Send forms to:  
Heather Brewer, Chair  
ISAT 2010 Elections  
City of Georgetown  
Parks and Recreation Dept.  
PO Box 409  
Georgetown, TX 78627

Fax: 512-930-3566

Email: heather.brewer@georgetowntx.org

Forms must be received by Friday, July 31.

Take care,

Jim Carse, President  
Texas Chapter ISA



# Abram Zies is 2010 Texas Tree Climbing Champion

by Keith Brown

The 500 year old trees in Plano were good to us for this year's Texas Tree Climbing Championships. Abram Zies of DFW ArborCare did the best job of taming a 90-foot-tall pecan to win the Master's Challenge and take home the Houser Cup as 2010 Texas tree climbing champion.

The turnout was great! Steve Houser of Arborological in Dallas helped corral a number of journalists to report on the event. Coverage ranged from local news, to ESPN to Neil Sperry's garden show. We had close to a dozen different reporters in all. This was great for helping educate local consumers about professional working arborists and to generate awareness of trees in general.

Our prize packages for this year was the best it's been in a long time. We

gave away two Stihl chainsaws from Stihl Blue Mountain, 10 Kask hard hats, t-shirts from ArborWear, and a barrage of climbing gear. Thank you J.W. Matthews, Poston Equipment and Vermeer Equipment of Texas for your support of the event. We couldn't do it without you guys!

Here were the winners from the preliminary events:

Footlock: Abram Zies

Belayed speed climb: Miguel Pastenes

Throw line: Kenny Baldwin

Aerial rescue: Jimmy Pritchard

Work climb: Miguel Pastenes

Here were this year's Master's Challenge qualifiers:

Abram Zies, Miguel Pastenes, Jimmy Prichard, Jimmy Saucier

I'd also like to send out a special thank you to Chris Brewer. Chris dedicated a tremendous amount of time and energy making sure all the trees were set up properly for the contestants. We had some of the best events ever this year. Thanks for all your hard work, Chris!

## Links to Some Media Coverage of the TTCC

Wylie News: <http://www.wylienews.com/articles/templates/news.asp?articleid=2166&zoneid=4>

Dallas Morning News Weekend guide: <http://listings.guidelive.com/plano-tx/events/show/117334825-texas-tree-climbing-championships>

Note; DMN also ran small "in column" articles on Friday & Saturday that served as great reminders.

DMN Jeff Mosier article: [http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/DN-treeclimbers\\_23met.ART.Central.Edition1.1938f492.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/DN-treeclimbers_23met.ART.Central.Edition1.1938f492.html)

ESPN (a few inaccuracies in this one due to assumptions by the reporter): <http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/page2/story?id=5210518>

DMN Andy Jacobsohn video: <http://www.dallasnews.com/video/dallasnews/hp/index.html?nvid=414242&shu=1>

DMN Ted Kim article: [http://www.planocvb.net/main/news\\_detail.php?newsid=355](http://www.planocvb.net/main/news_detail.php?newsid=355)

Channel 11/21 CBS: <http://cbs11tv.com/video/?id=54556@ktvt.dayport.com>

Neil Sperry mentioned the event on his show on the Sunday before the event and on Saturday of the event (KRLD) plus noted it on his Facebook page.

—Steve Houser

Below left: Bryan Brock on limb walk in work climb.

Below right: Cormak Nagen bringing down the dummy in aerial rescue.





Far left: Miguel Pastenes in the work climb.

Left: Jimmy Prichard on footlock.

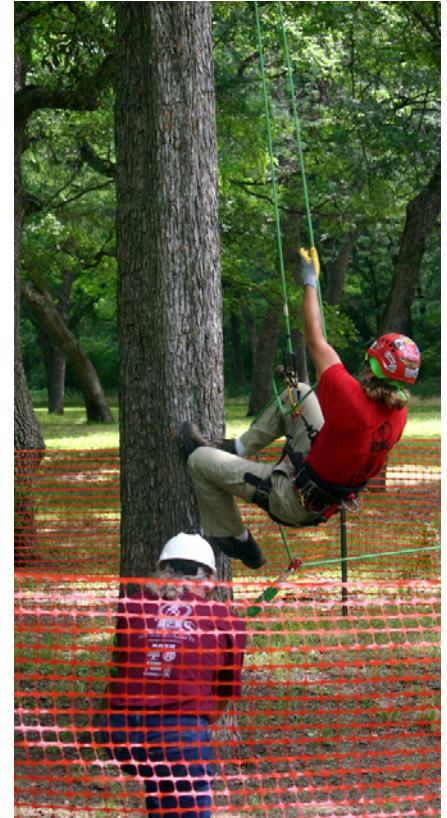
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Above left: Abram Zies on footlock. Abram won the footlock event as well as the 2010 championship.

Middle: Jimmy Saucier in the work climb.

Right: Bryan Brock on belayed speed climb.

## TTCC Photos

### On the Cover:

The photo on the cover of this issue was taken by Dallas area journalist and photographer Allen Crenshaw – [www.acrenshaw.com](http://www.acrenshaw.com) – used with permission.

### On pages 4, 5, and 6:

All photos accompanying the TTCC article were taken by Paul Johnson. For more of Paul's TTCC pictures, go to:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/stexastree/TexasTreeClimbingChampionship2010?authkey=Gv1sRgCOfcPe-7LjqFQ&feat=directlink#>

### Other photos & slideshow:

Check out: [http://www.isatexas.com/Members/TTCC/TTCC\\_Gallery.htm](http://www.isatexas.com/Members/TTCC/TTCC_Gallery.htm)

Nominations are being sought from the ISAT membership to fill 6 positions on the ISAT Board of Directors. You may nominate yourself or someone else that has expressed a desire to serve on the ISAT Board. The Election Committee will fill the slate from the nominations. Elections will be held in July and the Board members will be installed at the annual membership meeting held at the Texas Tree Conference on September 24, 2010. A form you can type into and printout or email is available at [http://www.isatexas.com/Members/ISA\\_Directors.htm](http://www.isatexas.com/Members/ISA_Directors.htm)

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Title	
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Position (check)	<input type="checkbox"/> President Elect (one year term, becomes President in year two) <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President (one-year term) <input type="checkbox"/> Editor (one-year term) <input type="checkbox"/> Director – 3 positions available (two-year term)
Type/write a short description about why you or another candidate should be considered for nomination. The nominee will be contacted by the Committee for more information if they are placed on the slate.	

**Nominations due to Heather Brewer by Friday, July 31' 2010 at 5PM.**

Mail or fax this form to: Heather Brewer, Chair, ISAT 2010 Elections  
City of Georgetown, Parks and Recreation Dept, PO Box 409, Georgetown, TX 78627  
Tel: (512) 930-6113, Fax: (512) 930-3566, [heather.brewer@georgetowntx.org](mailto:heather.brewer@georgetowntx.org)

# Despite Major Windstorm in San Antonio – Hispanic Tree Worker Workshop a Success

by Mark Duff, Texas Forest Service

The winds and lightning started around 8:30 pm Wednesday June 2, just as we finished our dinner outdoors at the new La Gloria Restaurant just north of downtown San Antonio at the restored Pearl Brewery. Ten minutes later, the tablecloths were airborne, and glasses, plates of food and silverware crashed to the floor as Tim and Lee Anne Jackson, Eduardo Medina, Derrick Lopez, and Mark and Beth Duff took cover from the 60 mph winds that ripped into town, causing the worst storm damage to city trees in over 10 years.

Our dinner meeting was to cap off our plans for the first Hispanic Tree Worker Training Workshop for San Antonio to be held 36 hours later. By the time we drove through the storm and got to our home without power, we figured that of the 200 attendees we expected at the event, maybe 40 would be able to free themselves from the cleanup job that lay ahead and show up at the workshop. Much to our delight, we had over 100 participants.

The first Hispanic Tree Worker Workshop for San Antonio, sponsored

by San Antonio Arborist Association and ISA Texas, was held Friday June 4 at the VFW Post 9186, south of downtown next to Mission San José. The featured indoor session speakers included Armando Cortez, Tree and Landscape Inspector for the City of San Antonio, who gave a presentation on the city tree ordinance and the benefits of trees. Salvador Alemany, Urban Forester from the Texas Forest Service based in Weslaco, spoke on tree biology, and Mark Duff, also from the Texas Forest Service, MC'd the event and spoke on oak wilt identification and management and pruning techniques.

The outdoor event was conducted by Eduardo Medina, safety trainer and recruiter from the Davey Tree Expert Company of Chicago. Eduardo provided two hands-on demonstrations on tree climbing, pruning, rigging and chainsaw safety.

A big thank you goes to the following for making this workshop possible, and providing door prizes and scholarships: City of San Antonio, City Public Service, San Antonio Arborist Association, Texas Chapter of ISA, San Antonio Urban Forestry Partnership, Lissa Martinez, Davey Tree Experts, Asplundh, McCoy Tree Service and the Texas Forest Service.



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Editor: Paul Johnson  
Regional Urban Forester, Texas Forest Service  
pjohnson@tfs.tamu.edu • 210-494-4771

Associate Editor: Jeannette Ivy  
jkivy@austin.rr.com • 512-292-4402

Advertising Representative: Brian Pancoast  
brian@thepancoastconcern.com • 585-924-4570

# My “Tree of the Year:” Chinkapin Oak

by Mark Peterson, San Antonio Water System

SMA recently named its Tree of the Year, Eastern redbud. Nothing against this tree, but after 24 months of the worst drought on record, followed by the sixth wettest winter on record, redbuds in San Antonio were dropping like tourists on the Riverwalk.

Surprisingly, a tree not noted for its drought tolerance fared quite well in San Antonio parks and neighborhoods – chinkapin or chinquapin oak (*Quercus muhlenbergii*).

Chinkapin oak favors well-drained soil but seemed to do well on moderately heavy soils when mulched and supplied with an occasional supplemental irrigation. On heavy clays, they are prone to cotton root rot infestations.

Granted, chinkapin oak is aesthetically not everyone’s cup of tea. They have a tendency to produce numerous dead twigs throughout the canopy, and frequently woodpeckers and sapsuckers drill several lines of holes on the trunk and major limbs. On the other hand, its white bark and unusual leaf shape distinguishes the chinkapin oak from all other South Texas trees.

While many South Texans demand fall color from their trees, chinkapin positively thumbs its nose at the concept, displaying color only once every six or seven years. Rather than fall color, the greater benefit is its resistance to oak wilt. This white oak should be planted everywhere east of US Highway 83 to mitigate the effects of oak wilt.

Make sure chinkapin oak is in your species toolbox – it’s in mine.



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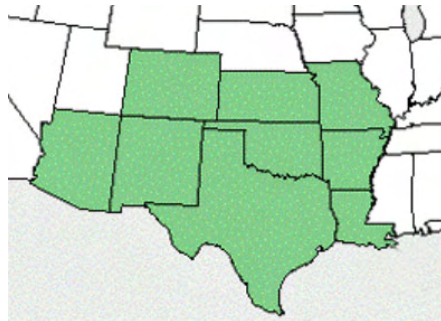


# My Five Fave Trees–Part 1

By Oscar S. Mestas, Regional Urban Forester, Texas Forest Service

My number one tree is *Sapindus saponaria* L. var. *drummondii* (Hook. & Arn.) L.D. Benson, western soapberry.

Why do I like western soapberry? As you can see by the map it has a large range. It adapts well to most sites, tolerates many different soil types will take our heat and will survive once established on the little bit of rain that we get. For those of you visiting Marfa



there is a beautiful specimen growing across the street from the Town & Country gas station (see photo). There are actually two of them, very stately and well shaped. These are great examples of what a great street and shade tree they can be.

The trees naturally grow in clumps made up of root suckers and are clones of each other. This can be a problem if you have very loose gravelly or sandy soils. The flowers on the female trees are creamy white, appearing in late

spring. The flowers attract the steel blue with orange wings cicada killer wasp. Before dropping their leaves in the fall most soapberries will usually turn yellow. The berries or fruit are the size of a small rosary bead. The seed is black surrounded by a translucent yellow covering. This attracts the box elder bug which is not detrimental to the tree but can be a nuisance.

The only precaution these days is the soapberry borer, which has made its appearance in Texas and unfortunately is killing the tree. But don't let this stop you from planting or using the tree, just use it wisely. We have been fortunate enough to dodge the borer out here in West Texas.

You'll have to wait until the next four editions of *In the Shade* to find out my other favorites. It's actually very hard to just pick five. Try it for yourself; if you could only plant five trees for the region that you live in, put them down on a list. It really makes you think.



## Texas Arbor Day in San Antonio



Above: Vice President Keith Brown represents ISAT at Texas Arbor Day 2010 in front of the Alamo.

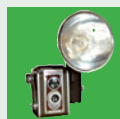


Above right: Children entertain with songs.

Right: The Arbor Day piñata has just the right shape.

Photos by Paul Johnson. For more photos of this event go to [http://picasaweb.google.com/stexastree/TexasArborDay2010?authkey=Gv1sRgCO\\_v-s3A6tyU7QE&feat=directlink](http://picasaweb.google.com/stexastree/TexasArborDay2010?authkey=Gv1sRgCO_v-s3A6tyU7QE&feat=directlink)





## Historical Flashback

by Heather Brewer

### NOLAN, SMOKEY & COURTNEY

Back in 1992 Courtney Blevins (r), a Regional Urban Forester for the Texas Forest Service, escorted Smokey Bear to a Texas Rangers baseball game to throw out the first pitch. Smokey Bear was played by TFS Forester Mahlon Hammeter who practiced his pitch in the umpire's dressing room before going out to the field. Apparently, the practice paid off because Smokey represented the Forest Service well – fake fur and all! – and pitched the ball over the middle of the base. Nolan Ryan was nice enough to pose with Courtney and Smokey before the game.



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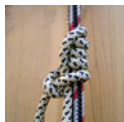
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## *Climbing Lines* by Guy LeBlanc, CA, CTSP

# SRT: PART THREE

For this final part of my series on Single Rope Technique, I spoke more with **Tom Dunlap** (see Part Two) about anchoring techniques. I'll also discuss some of the pros and cons of working from SRT.

One of the main benefits of SRT in my opinion is that a ground anchor allows a ground-based rescue of a climber in need. But this requires adequate rope length and an anchoring method that allows a rescuer to undo the line *and control it* while lowering the climber. A descending device like the Eddy or Gri-gri is often employed for this. These provide a good way to maintain the load while releasing the line. But this of course is yet another piece of gear to buy and maintain, and requires a somewhat knowledgeable person to operate. Tom and I prefer something that even an (almost) totally inexperienced person could quickly, intuitively figure out. So here are two other options.

Both involve a sling around the anchor

tree. The eye must be very tight against the trunk to minimize play in the system, which is undesirable for ascending and working. The first technique is one Tom shared with me, and its simplicity is beautiful. It does involve the use of a mechanical device, but this device, called a rack, is one in which the entire rope is visible, making it easier to understand how to use (see *Photo 1*). It is also much less expensive than descenders that "hide" part of the rope. The climbing line is wrapped around the anchor point several times. The rack is attached to the sling, and the climbing line is simply woven through it and backed up with a Mule knot, which is a type of slip knot that is backed up with an overhand knot. The Mule knot is easily deciphered, undone, and the climber lowered. There is no emergency "lock-off," as with many other descenders, but the trunk wraps and rack provide much, much more friction than, say, a Munter hitch would.

The second option does not require any descender and is my variation of another anchor system Tom showed me. It requires a bit more thinking to figure out than the above technique, yet I believe it is still more intuitive to use than a descender for an inexperienced operator. Again the climbing line is wrapped around the anchor trunk several times. Then a short (about 18 inch) Prusik loop is put on the line with a Klemheist. This is then attached to a rated carabiner

and rated sling (see *Photo 2*). The Klemheist is backed up with a Mule knot in case it is released by rubbing on the trunk. The wraps take some of the friction off the Klemheisted Prusik, which will grab the line should the rescuer let go. In Tom's version, a regular-length Prusik is used, and the carabiner end just clipped back onto the climbing line itself. Another good tip Tom recommends when working SRT is to put a slip knot in your line several feet down in case of a mechanical failure.

I have discussed some of the pros and cons of ascending in the previous parts of this article. Now I will focus more on actually working from SRT. As mentioned in Part Two, perhaps the three most common systems for doing this are: some version of RADS; some version of the F8 revolver; or the Unicender. And also as mentioned before, the Unicender is hands-down winner for simplicity and versatility.

A mention of the benefits of the other techniques is warranted. I had previously said that **Dorian Davey** (see Part Two) and I hadn't had much luck with the fate or "F8" revolver system (again, see Part Two). At my Pruning and Advanced Climbing workshop last month, I asked **Rich Hattier**, instructor and splicer extraordinaire from Kentucky, to demo the F8 system for the class. And true to form, Rich did that and then some, demonstrating three different versions of the F8, each a bit more responsive than the last. In the most responsive version, Rich uses a Fixe pulley and rigging ring instead of a revolver and Figure 8. Rich told me the keys to success with this technique are getting the tether length exactly right, and using the right Figure 8 or rigging ring. Advancing the hitch and the F8 does take some practice, he added. He said the development of this technique



(by **Kevin Bingham**) has changed him into much more of an SRT proponent, because in his opinion, one of the biggest disadvantages of SRT is that mechanical devices are never as smooth as rope hitches. I agree.

Also at the workshop, Dorian demonstrated the RADS technique with a Rig descender. He says he finds himself using the technique more often and that it offers excellent 3-to-1 advantage for coming back in on limb walks. This is one disadvantage to the Unicender in an SRT system; you don't even have the 2-to-1 advantage of a traditional doubled rope technique (DdRT). When limbwalking however, you are not lifting 100% of your weight as you haul in, so this is not the problem it is during an ascent, and Dorian says it is something he has adjusted to. **Jimmy Pritchard** of Fort

Worth says that he finds that this can lead to the "bad habit" of "hauling in" too much of your single line before taking up your slack.

Even still, both Tom and Dorian feel that the Unicender is far superior for all around ascending, working and descending. Most other users that I talked to consider both SRT and the Unicender just two of many climbing systems that they employ as they deem appropriate.

In descent mode, all SRT systems seem to work about as well as the traditional DdRT. One issue I have with descent on the Unicender is that it takes quite a bit of practice to just compress the links and descend in a controlled manner. This is why a wrap is usually

*Continued on next page*



Photo 2



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## ***Climbing Lines Continued***

taken around the upper “lever” of the Unicender. The falling end of the rope is then used to control descent in a belay fashion. The problem with this, and in my mind it is significant, is that sometimes the wrap stays on the upper lever when you let go of the rope, keeping the unit compressed and keeping you in fall mode. *Me no likey!* Dorian and Tom have agreed there is some potential for this. I believe that if the “T” prongs on the upper lever were milled to have less of a right angle to them, this flaw could be eliminated.

This series has been intended merely as an introduction to this advanced climbing technique. Do not attempt it solely based on the information here. And remember, ***go low and slow until you know!***

*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.*

## **Crack the Case with Detective Dendro!**

Detective Dendro, the Diagnostic Sleuth, has been a highly popular printed series as a regular feature in *Arborist News* magazine. Now, this educational and entertaining series is available in podcast form.

Join Detective Dendro as he uses his professional knowledge of tree science, his expert diagnostic skills, and the gut instinct of a “hard-boiled detective” to investigate and identify his clients’ biotic and abiotic tree disorders.

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You can find Detective Dendro, Climbing and Rigging, the Science

of Arboriculture and Arbor Views podcasts here:

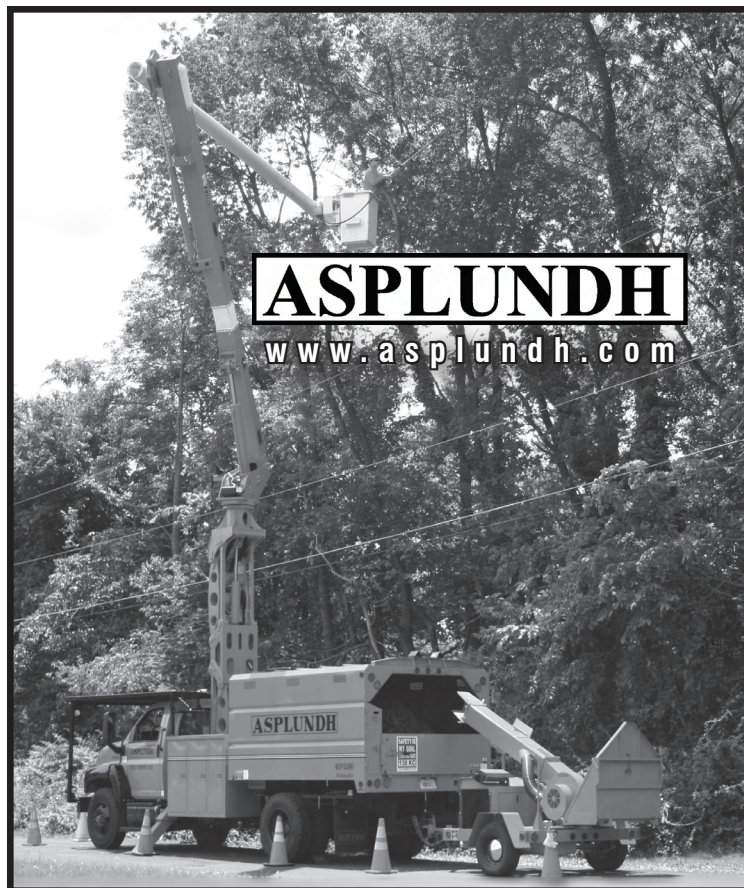
<http://www.isa-arbor.com/podcast/ArborPod.aspx>

## **Biking 500 Miles for Trees**

You can help Salvador Alemany, the Texas Forest Service regional urban forester in the the Lower Rio Grande Valley, raise money for tree research.

Salvador, who is riding in the 2010 Tour des Trees July 18-24, says:

“Humbly I am asking for a donation in my name. Each rider has to raise \$3,500.00, which will go to the Tree Fund Endowment for research and education. You can go to <http://stihltourdestrees.org/event/riders.html> and my picture is second in the list. Press the donation button below my picture and a window will open and give you the instructions. You can even leave a message if you want. Thanks.”



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## National Register of Big Trees Published

*American Forests* recently published the 2010 edition of the **National Register of Big Trees** as an online document (<http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/BigTreeRegister2010new.pdf>) for the first time in the 70-year history of the program. Texas fared well in the latest contest, with 11 of our recent nominees making it to the national list. Our great state now counts 77 trees among 68 different species that are the biggest in the country, placing Texas third behind Florida (99) and Arizona (91) for the most national champs. Congratulations to all of the owners and nominators of these first-time champions from Texas!

Of course, as soon as the list is published it's out of date. Our champion Texas redbud (*Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis*) since has died and we already have identified a couple of state champs that eclipse the listed national champ. There are also a few errors on the national list.

For more about the national champs plus other tree news—including links to some great Big Bend photos taken on a tree-hunting expedition by Oscar Mestas (El Paso) and Pete Smith (College Station)—see the summer 2010 issue of *The Big News – Happenings in the World of Texas Champion Trees*. Download it from <http://txforestservicetamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1336>.

—Pete Smith

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## 2010 Texas Tree Conference Call for Silent Auction Items!!!

(fundraiser supports ISAT research projects & scholarships)



Dear ISAT Members, Conference Sponsors & Exhibitors:

The Silent Auction at the annual Texas Tree Conference is an important means for ISAT to extend the great research work we fund each year, and provides resources for educational scholarship opportunities to deserving individuals.

ISAT is currently seeking large and small items of interest to tree professionals – anything from a gift certificate for your services to artwork, maybe a tree from your operation or a golf round at your home course. Perhaps your spouse, a friend or family member owns a business that would donate a prize? Does your city tourism board have a gift package that spotlights your city or the local college? Do you have any awesome things laying around your house that a fellow tree person would love to bid on – like rare tree books, tree knick knacks, or tree art? Small items are OK – we can put them together with other items to make a great package.

The conference is September 22nd – 24th. We would like to have confirmation of items by the week of September 6th.

Please contact ISAT board member Heather Brewer at (512) 930-6113 or [hbrewer@georgetowntx.org](mailto:hbrewer@georgetowntx.org) if you have ideas or items that would be available for the auction. All contributors will be listed in the conference program. And, a drawing for a great gift will be held at the conference. The winner will be one of the contributors to the silent auction – we'd like that person to be YOU!

## A Favorite Tree for South Texas

Few plants bloom almost year-round, but the Texas Olive (*Cordia boissieri*) does, and its spectacular white blossoms attract both hummingbirds and butterflies. Historically, this tree grew no further north than certain lower Rio Grande Valley counties, including Hidalgo, Jim Hogg and Willacy. It is native to no other state in the United States. Trees may live well over 100 years.

In a severe frost, Texas Olives may lose their leaves. Past severe winters, such as the freeze of 1983, caused

many of the Texas Olives to freeze and die in San Antonio. Because of cold tolerance, it is probably best to locate the tree close to the house, where heat may be better retained. Occasional pruning may be needed to create a single-trunk erect specimen.

It's my favorite tree.  
<http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/HomeHort/F1Column/2006%20Articles/MAR26.htm>.

— David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent - Horticulture, Bexar County

# Invasive Tallowtree Spreading Rapidly Across Gulf Coast; Nonnative Tree Species Could Harm Coastal Prairies

*from the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station*

A study by a USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station scientist shows the numbers of nonnative Chinese tallowtree in Louisiana, Mississippi and east Texas grew by about 370 percent over a 16-year period. The spread of the invasive plant may create problems for plants and wildlife along the Gulf coast.

Tallowtree is a deciduous plant with heart-shaped leaves that grows to 60 feet in height. It invades stream banks, riverbanks and wet areas like ditches as well as upland sites.

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## Hurricane Preparedness in McAllen

*by Mark Kroeze, City of McAllen Urban Forester*

In January of 2009 the City of McAllen hired an Urban Forester through the support of the City Commission and the help of a grant from the Texas Forest Service. I am honored to have been the candidate they accepted and have enjoyed working with the great community we have here in the Valley. For those of you still learning your Texas geography, McAllen is located about 60 miles west of the Gulf of Mexico along the Rio Grande River, which also serves as our border with Mexico. We take hurricane preparedness very seriously here in McAllen and one of our tasks in Urban Forestry is to maintain the operation of the major thoroughfares. As such, we got into an interesting job during the last week of May, 2010.

These works took place along Bicentennial Boulevard, which serves as a major conductor of North-South traffic within the central part of the City. Also, we have our Emergency Operations Command (EOC) based off of this road. In April of 2010, an assessment was completed along Bicentennial to find any trees that were prone to breaking in a storm. Criteria that we looked for were species and the “body language of the tree.” By body language we are looking for cracks, leans, cankers, crossers, and general decline in the tree. We coordinated with the Regional Urban Forester, Salvador Alemany, to give us a second opinion on our decisions. We decided that it was in the best interest of the City to complete the required works through our Tree Crew in Public Works.

In total we trimmed 29 trees and removed 15, totaling 235 cubic yards. Local television and newspapers provided press coverage. All in all, it was a good tree job and it has been much appreciated by the residents and City Hall.

Large seeds containing oil are spread by numerous large bird species. The tree is native to China and was introduced to South Carolina in the 1700s. There are approximately 457,000 acres of tallowtree in nine of the 13 southern states. Experts say tallowtree can change the chemical properties of soil and alter the composition and structure of native plant communities. Additionally, litter from the plant may alter habitat in invaded wetland areas, which could affect some frog and other amphibian species.

“I examined Forest Inventory and Analysis data from plots measured in the 1990s and within the last five years and found the increase in tallowtree to be dramatic across the three states,” said Sonja Oswalt, a research forester with the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program based in Knoxville, TN. “For example, between 1991 and 2005, the number of tallowtree plants in Louisiana increased by more than 500 percent.”

From 1994 to 2006, the number of tallowtree plants increased by 445 percent in Mississippi. In east Texas, the number increased by 174 percent between 1992 and 2007.

The total number for Chinese tallowtree in Louisiana grew from a maximum of 46 million stems (plants that were one inch or greater in diameter) in 1991 to a maximum of 280 million in 2005. In Mississippi, the number grew from a maximum of 9 million in 1994 to a maximum of 49 million in 2006. In east Texas, the number of individual tallowtree plants grew from a maximum of 102 million to 279 million.

The number of tallowtree saplings multiplied by six-and-a-half times in Louisiana, by six times in Mississippi, and by three times in east Texas. Most of the tallowtree seedlings were concentrated in southern Louisiana and Mississippi,

Tallowtree fruit and seed. *Photo by James Miller*



and the southeast plots of east Texas – close to the Gulf of Mexico.

The dataset included 2,413 timberland plots from Louisiana in 1991 and 2,250 in 2005; 2,056 timberland plots in east Texas in 1992 and 1,983 in 2007; and 3,185 timberland plots in Mississippi in 1994 and 3,231 in 2006. Data were obtained from the FIA database in September 2009.

Jim Miller, a Forest Service ecologist and leading expert on invasive plants in the South, says the expansion of tallowtree in Louisiana, Mississippi and east Texas could adversely affect flora and fauna along the Gulf of Mexico and beyond.

“This is the first report to show how infestations are composed of thousands of small stems per acre that tightly grip lands in a near monoculture, excluding diversity with little potential for wood resource value,” said Miller. “The crisis is worsened by the plant’s rapid occupation of the highly diverse wetland prairies and marshes in east Texas and Louisiana, which are special habitats for many rare plants and animals and often productive native grasslands.”

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Tallowtree is moderately difficult to control, but . . . there is a new herbicide that targets the species and leaves most other native trees and plants unharmed.

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Tallowtree is moderately difficult to control, but Miller says there is a new herbicide that targets the species specifically and leaves most other native trees and plants unharmed. He says landowners can help prevent the spread of tallowtree by not purchasing and planting the tree for ornamental or other purposes. Miller encourages landowners who already have tallowtree on their property to remove the tree and replace it with native species. He says landowners can work with a consulting forester to develop a control or prevention program if the species threatens to spread onto a landowner’s property. Miller believes organization of a coordinated tallowtree management program among impacted states is needed to safeguard the biosecurity of southern and eastern forests.

Miller believes the rapid spread of tallowtree poses a serious threat to the diversity and productivity of the South’s forests. He says as temperatures rise because of climate change, the probability of tallowtree moving farther north increases. Miller adds that bird-carried seed and ornamental plantings by unsuspecting homeowners will likely contribute to the northward spread of tallowtree.

More information about Oswalt’s study is available online at <http://treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/35000>. The research

paper is titled “Chinese Tallow Population Expansion in Louisiana, East Texas, and Mississippi.”

Jim Miller is co-author of a paper, published last year in the *Canadian Journal of Forest Resources*, titled “Invasion of Tallow tree into Southern US forests: Influencing Factors and Implications for Mitigation.” The paper is found online at <http://treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/33603>.

A copy of this news release is posted online at <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/news/447>.

*Headquartered in Asheville, NC, the Southern Research Station is comprised of more than 120 scientists who conduct natural resource research in 20 locations across 13 southern states (Virginia to Texas). The Station’s mission is “...to create the science and technology needed to sustain and enhance southern forest ecosystems and the benefits they provide.” Learn more about the Southern Research Station at: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/>.*

*More information on the tallow can be found on the ISAT pest page: <http://www.isatexas.com/Members/Pests/Pests.htm>*

*– John Giedraitis*



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*From the Editor's Desk by Paul Johnson*

## WE NEED TO ADVERTISE

I hope the summer finds you as busy as you want to be. It has been a busy year so far for many of us. We are still recovering from the drought of the last two years, the coldest weather in years, snow, ice, wind, and flood damage. The silver lining is that each of these events has created business opportunities for many arborists.

I have a question... how many of you advertise? How do you advertise? Do you spend money on websites, yellow pages, radio, television, newspapers, or direct mail? How can we raise money to sell our industry and our products? Any of you willing to commit \$1 from each job you sell?

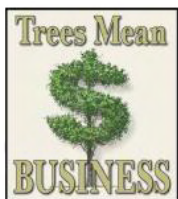
Every time I see an ad for Happy Cows come from California or the Incredible Edible Egg I wonder why we, the tree care industry, don't do the same thing. We have a product worth selling. Trees, and particularly well cared for trees, are extremely beneficial. Most people don't invest enough in the care of their trees. We all know that a well cared for tree has less risk of failing during a snow, ice, or wind storm. We need to do a better job of helping the general public understand what we know.

Think about what we could do with \$100,000. What about \$1,000,000? We could take our message to the masses. Each metropolitan area could have a tree-related radio show. We could produce a quality tree care television program to run on public television. We could put up billboards encouraging people to prune their trees during the dormant season. Just think about it. We could eliminate the slow season. We could actually prune our trees during the best time of year.

We can make more money. We need to advertise. One way we can advance our industry is to represent ISAT at the TNLA Nursery Landscape Expo in San Antonio August 20th-22nd. Call or email me (pjohnson@tfs.tamu.edu) if you can work our booth on any of those dates. This is our opportunity to raise the visibility of proper tree care in our state.

## Hold these Dates: Sept. 22-24, 2010

Learn from national leaders in research, arboriculture, utilities and urban forestry at the the 31st Texas Tree Conference at the College Station Hilton. If you are a vendor or nonprofit interested in exhibiting at the conference, contact Larry Maginnis at 512-789-9509 or at larry.maginnis@austin.utexas.edu.



## Take the Earth-Kind Challenge

Is your landscape kind to the earth? Go to Agri-Life Extension at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/> and take the Earth-Kind Challenge. It will help you find out how much your landscape contributes to a healthy and sustainable environment.

— David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent - Horticulture, Bexar County

## TFS Street Tree Inventory for Midland

*by Randy Myers, Urban Forester, City of Midland*

Eight to ten foresters from the Texas Forest Service will be coming to Midland July 26 through 30 to do a street tree inventory. With the help of volunteers, they will take a statistical sample of street segments and produce a report on the stocking, size, condition and value of our street trees.

Monday and Friday will be travel days for the foresters, who are coming from all over the state. They will spend Tuesday laying out the sampling system and working out the sampling methods, and Wednesday and Thursday conducting the survey.

One or two volunteers per forester will be needed to work from 8 am to 5 pm July 28 and 29. Foresters and volunteers will meet at the Beal Ranch House at 5200 W. Wall St. in Midland. Volunteers will get a one-hour orientation and then go out with the foresters to help them measure trees or take down information.

This project will give the city government and the general public an idea of the hidden resource we have. For more information, call me at 432-685-7366 or email [rmyers@midlandtexas.gov](mailto:rmyers@midlandtexas.gov).



## Plant your Tree Online

The Texas Grove is a web site and online community created to encourage citizens to plant trees and protect the urban tree canopy. Inside The Grove—sponsored by the Texas Urban Forestry Council—you can set up a profile, create photo “groves” of trees you have planted, and join tree groups. Make sure you join the Texas group once you create your profile. Go to <http://www.americangrove.org/tx/>.

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The City of Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department staff and more than 195 community volunteers turned out on Arbor Day to plant 55 trees at Kensington Park. Volunteers who helped out at the event received brown T-shirts saying "May the FOREST be with you" on the back, with a raccoon wielding a light saber on the front. The shirts are on sale at the PARD office for \$10.