



3 views of the Texas Tree Climbing Championship

The Event *by Keith Brown, ISAT President and 2012 TTCC Chairman*

The weather in Austin made for two great days in the park as climbers vied to be crowned the Texas Tree Climbing Champion of 2012. This year's ArborMaster prize package was combined with some donations for Vermeer of Texas to help gear up our winner to go on to the International competition this year. Stihl rejoined the Texas Tree Climbing competition this year as a sponsor after missing the last few years. I'd like to make a special thanks to **Poston Equipment**, **JL Matthews** arborist supply, **Vermeer of Texas** and **Stihl** for sponsoring our event. It's refreshing to see the best industry vendors show up for our local event! I have thoroughly enjoyed and been honored to volunteer along with Nevic Donnelley as the chairman for the Texas Tree Climbing Championships for 4 of the past 5 years, however it is time to pass the reins along to someone new. It has been fun! No doubt, Kevin Bassett and Guy LeBlanc are the two best guys for this job. I look forward to working under their leadership. ■

The Results *by Guy LeBlanc, Head Judge*

The top four preliminary finishers from the chapter, from first to last, were **Miguel Pastenes**, **Abram Zies**, **Vicente Peña**, and **Jackson MacIntosh**. This qualified them to compete in the Masters' event to determine this year's champion.

This year it was decided that unlike previous years, out-of-state competitors would not qualify for placement in the preliminary events. However, in the future we will most likely go back to allowing them to place in the preliminaries. The top out-of-state point-scorer



Champ Miguel Pastenes "wowed the crowd and judges."

Continued on page 10.

The Future *by Kevin Bassett, 2013 TTCC Chairman*

First, I would like to acknowledge the extreme pride I feel about being associated with the Texas Tree Climbing Championships. The people involved in organizing and executing this event did an outstanding job of making this year's competition live up to a high standard. Keith Brown, Guy LeBlanc, and Nevic Donnelly invested an incredible amount of time and effort into the event—and it showed. If you missed the seminar on Thursday with three-time ITCC champion, Mark Chisholm, you missed a great opportunity to improve your climbing skills and knowledge. During the day, the primary goal of providing first-rate educational opportunities for our members was met and exceeded.

Friday was Preliminary Day. From registration and gear-check to the last aerial rescue and work climb, the five preliminary judging and tech teams functioned flawlessly. The team was able to get all of the preliminary events completed on Friday, which allowed Saturday to be a great day for a great Masters' Challenge. Congratulations to our four finalists and our guest climbers. These men did a fantastic job of displaying the tools, skills, strength, agility, intelligence, knowledge, and courage needed to be an outstanding

Continued on page 10.



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Keith Brown



Just in case you didn't notice, the year is half over. Where did all the time go? It hasn't been wasted here at ISAT! Lots of new stuff coming down the pipe. If you haven't been coming to the annual conferences lately, you should make a point to attend this year's conference in Waco September 26-28. There's going to be more than one interesting announcement. If you've been wavering about whether or not to get involved in the ISAT, now is a good time jump. There are several good programs developing that need motivated professionals like yourself. Nominations for the upcoming board of directors election are due this month. You should nominate yourself if you are interested in serving. Or, if you just want to get your feet wet, check out the different active committees on the website (<http://isaTexas.com/Members/Committees/Committees.htm>) and pick one that sounds interesting to you. Contact me directly at keith.austintree@gmail.com and I'll get you in touch with the leader of your chosen committee.

Also, don't forget, ISAT is a good mechanism to get your messages to the international level of ISA. Our very own John Giedraitis is *your* liaison to ISA international. Did you know that John G. is also the ISA Council of Representatives secretary? That means he's right in the middle of what is going on at the international level. Who better to deliver your message to our fearless leaders?

For the past six years that I have been involved in ISAT on the board of directors level, I've seen a constant state of growth in our organization. That's growth in our membership, number of certified arborists in Texas and attendance at our annual conference. The ISA certification program started over 20 years ago. Today, in my hometown of Austin, arborists are finally being recognized and treated as true professionals through the city's development department. I think the ultimate goal is that arborists are looked at in the same light as engineers or architects, which means that trees will be viewed as critical infrastructure in our cities. I think it's safe to say that arboriculture has one foot firmly planted in the community. The next 20 years are going to be critical so that the second foot is firmly planted and arborists and trees are given the authority they deserve. For this second step to happen, every individual member of our community (you) must engage and collaborate with each other. All y'all old timers need to come share your experiences and the newcomers need the opportunity to follow the paths laid down. The ISAT is your local forum for this.

Chasing down specialized certifications is another way you can improve the public's view of arborists. The more BCMA's, Certified Tree Workers and Municipal Specialists we have, the better the general public will understand what an arborist is and how broad the stroke of our brush. I was slow to accept the idea of specializations within ISA, but decided to take a few tests to see what it was all about. Ultimately, I've begun requiring these programs for my staff. The underlying goal here isn't to *prove* yourself to anyone. The goal is to recognize the importance of knowledge and skills and fulfill two basic needs: 1) A mechanism for the general public to find someone to fill their needs, and 2) a ladder that workers and professionals in the industry can climb.

New Texas ISA Members

From April issue, *Arborist News*

Andrew G. Trimble, Waco
Angela R. Hanson, Austin
Chris Steele, Southlake
Danny D. Howell, Spearman
Drew Budz, Dallas
Edgardo Zavala, San Antonio
Ford James, Dallas
Jackson B. McIntosh, Austin
Jake A. Jarzombek, Bulverde
Jesse Neumann, Austin
John Marron, Carrollton
Jorge Arturo Campos, Channelview
Joshua T. Finley, Gun Barrel City
Kevin L. Saunders, Fort Worth
Levi K. Fromme, Nursery
Michael R. Hart, Colleyville
Mike Hale, Greenville
Nancy Ritter, Fort Worth
Nathan Laurence, San Marcos
Randall LaHaie, Trenton
Ryan Crosby, Southlake
Steven W. Taylor, Nursery
Timothy P. Hamilton, Saginaw
Valente Alvarez, Nursery

From June issue, *Arborist News*

Aaron Lightner, Wylie
Andrea Renfree, Porter
Christopher Hamilton, Keller
Coyne Gibson, Kerrville
David Berkowitz, San Antonio
Douglas Dear, Buda
Frederick Zarate, Dallas
Greg Giebel, Bellville
Hal Watson, Dallas
Jared Janicek, Bellville
Jesse Simmons, Allen
Jorge Garcia, Houston
Kymberli, Herron, Dallas
Maria Gonzalez, Johnson City
Meggan Fattig, Arlington
Mike Ayala, Johnson City
Morgan Herd, Corinth
Nina, Walther, Johnson City
Orion Stahlbaum, Austin
Phillip Morris, Spicewood
Rudolfo Batilla, San Antonio
Shawn Riley, Sherman
Steven Dennis, Bulverde
Steven Wright, Wylie

Mark Your Calendar: 2012 Texas Tree Conference

by Margaret Hall Spencer

2012 Conference Preview

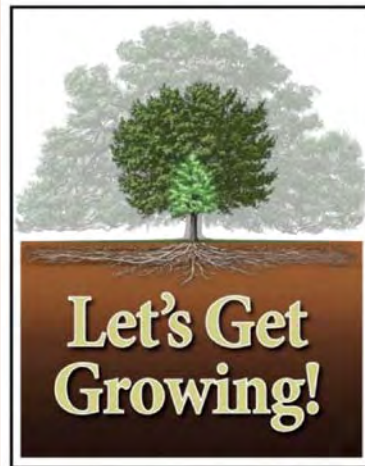
JOIN US IN WACO September 26-28 for what has become a premier event in the tree care industry. We anticipate over 500 attendees as we continue to grow our knowledge, our outreach and our partnerships. At this conference we will also continue our history of providing outstanding education programs featuring nationally and internationally known speakers, the latest in tree research and arboriculture, an awards luncheon, a reception with exhibitors and valuable networking opportunities.

We had excellent response to our Spanish speaking Tree School in 2011 and are offering it again this year, as well as tracks on Municipal, Commercial, and Utility education.

Wednesday's Tree Academy will be a combined Commercial/Municipal program with classroom sessions in the morning and field stations in the afternoon offering the opportunity to gain knowledge in a broad range of areas including: tree risk assessment, disease, biology, pruning, and electrical hazard awareness.

This year's keynote speakers include Dr. Ed Gilman, Professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, University of Florida; Bryant Scharenbroch, Soil Scientist with The Morton Arboretum; and Anne Beard, Manager & System Forester with Public Service Company of New Mexico/Texas-New Mexico Power Company.

Check your mail for the conference brochure, or find more information online at isatexas.com.



Call for Auction Items

This year's Tree Conference will have for the first time an exciting LIVE Auction at our Thursday evening reception with exhibitors.

The Live Auction is a significant means for ISAT to extend the important research work we fund.

ISAT is currently seeking large and small items of interest to tree care professionals—anything from a gift certificate for your services, to artwork, a plant or tree from your operation, or a round of golf at your home course. Perhaps a friend or family member owns a business that would donate a prize, or your city's tourism board has a gift package that spotlights your town or the local college. Small items are okay as well. We can combine them with other items to make a great package.

The Conference is September 26–28, and we would like to have confirmation of the items by September 17.

Please contact ISAT board member Patrick Brewer at pbrewer@bartlett.com if you have items available for the auction.

Urban forester will pedal for research dollars

South Texas forester Salvador Alemany commutes 60 miles a day on a bicycle, from his home in McAllen to his office in Weslaco and back. Later this year he will compete in the Stihl Tour des Trees, a 585-mile bicycle trek through the Oregon mountains to raise money for the TREE fund.

Each rider must raise \$3,500 in donations. The fund finances tree research and scholarships.

To donate to his ride, visit the tour website, stihltourdestrees.org.

More at themonitor.com/opinion/research-61248-rod-dollars.html.

San Antonio Needs To Plant a Million Trees

A lengthy article on San Antonio forester Michael Nentwich includes background on Nentwich and his tree advocacy work, plus his reasons why San Antonio needs to plant a million trees.

Read the article by Monika Maeckle at: [San Antonio needs to increase our urban tree canopy from 38% to 40%](#).

Even Small Things Are Bigger In Texas

by Gretchen Riley, Staff Forester, Texas Forest Service

The Texas Big Tree Registry, administered by Texas Forest Service and part of American Forests' National Big Tree Program, seeks to acknowledge the largest specimen of each recognized tree species. Trees are ranked in the Registry according to an index compiled from circumference (inches), height (feet), and ¼ of the average crown spread (feet). Texas sports some 91 national champions. Many, including the Montezuma baldcypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*), Rio Grande cottonwood (*Populus deltoides ssp. Wislizeni*), and Texas live oak (*Quercus fusiformis*) are impressive trees. At an average of 336 inches (28 feet) in circumference there is no doubt that those three are Texas-size trees. Arguably, the biggest tree in Texas is a baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) in Real County. It has a circumference of 441 inches, stands over 91 feet tall, and its average crown spread is 115 feet, for a whopping index of 564 points.



Champion Reverchon Hawthorn

Champion Texas Live Oak



But Texas also has the biggest of the smallest trees in the country. With an index of just 21 points, our Reverchon hawthorn is the smallest champion on the National Register of Big Trees. Our champion huajillo (*Havardia pallens*), index 32, is the tallest of the smallest trees. And the small but mighty Texas trees don't stop there: we've got six different hawthorn species (*Crataegus spp.*) champions alone, and two Mexican buckeyes (*Ungnadia speciosa*) are co-champions at indexes 24 and 29. Although to our everlasting shame the national champion Texas redbud (*Cercis canadensis var. texensis*) is in Connecticut; we don't even have a state champ!

And speaking of champlessness, of the 319 species on the Texas native and naturalized tree species list, nearly one-third have no state champion at all. If we crowned just a few of those we could have the most of the biggest in the nation (a distinction which currently belongs to the only contiguous state that has a tropical climate), in addition to the biggest of the smallest. Who knows? A new champ might be just down the street or in one of our wonderful state parks. Searching for champion trees is a great way to get to know your species. And it's a good excuse to get some fresh air and enjoy Texas' vast and varied outdoors. So arm yourself with a good tree ID book and let's go big tree hunting!

For more information check out the Big Tree Registry at txforestservicetamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1336.

Bring the Crown Back to Texas

by Gretchen Riley, Staff Forester, Texas Forest Service

We've got the national champion Texas ash, Texas buckeye, Texas ebony, Texas hawthorn, Texas Hercules-club, Texas madrone, Texas mountain-laurel, Texas live oak, and Texas persimmon. But according to American Forests, the national champion Texas redbud (*Cercis canadensis var. texensis*) is in Connecticut.

And what a paltry champion it is: Its circumference is just 12 inches, height is just 12 feet and



crown spread is a measly 14 feet (see photo above). Contrast that to our former, now deceased, Texas redbud champion (photo below) that had a circumference of 81 inches, height of 20 feet and crown spread of 39 feet.

It may be hard to find a Texas redbud as glorious as our former champ, but surely we can do better than the yard tree in Connecticut. Keep in mind that we are looking for true champions; all Texas species have minimum circumference thresholds. For the redbud it is 60 inches. Arborists and tree aficionados accept the challenge to bring the redbud crown back to Texas! To nominate a tree go to txforestservicetamu.edu and click on Big Tree Registry.



The 2012 ISA Annual International Conference is August 11–15. You are invited to be a part of this networking and educational event with expanded opportunities for newcomers as well as returning attendees.

Weekend Activities

Tree Academy workshops will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 11 and 12. Don't miss these hands-on workshops. Choose from a variety of topics each day. Additional this year are two all-day

Tree Academies to choose from on Saturday. Visit the J. Frank Schmidt Nursery for the *Tour the Future of Urban Trees: It All Starts in the Nursery* workshop led by Gary Watson. Or travel to the World Forestry Center for *Forensic Assessment of Trees: Field Skills and Technical Data Collection* with Scott Baker.

You can also check out the International Tree Climbing Championship at Laurelhurst Park. While you are there be sure to visit the Arbor Fair and Arbor Market to browse interactive educational displays, and crafts by local artisans.

Students and Early Career Professionals

Students and early career professionals will now have time to network with each other as well as with industry leaders. On Sunday, August 12, prior to the conference opening ceremony, there will be a student and early career networking reception. Attendees will be welcomed by ISA leaders, and have a chance to learn about all the opportunities available to them each day of the conference.

A mentoring lunch on Tuesday, August 14, will provide time to interact with professionals from different arboriculture practice fields. Students and early career professionals will be able to learn about commercial, municipal, and utility arboriculture, and research as career options. Additional networking and follow-up can be done all day Monday and Tuesday in the student and early career networking hub.

Educational Sessions

Attendees who want to pack as much education into three days as possible will benefit from the symposia that have been incorporated into the Monday and Tuesday educational tracks. Symposium 1: Trends in Soil Sustainability is scheduled for Monday, August 13, and features seven presenters. Symposium 2: Urban Tree Monitoring for Growth and Longevity and Symposium 3: The Nursery Industry and Urban Trees will be held on Tuesday, August 14.

In addition to the symposia, you can choose from numerous other topic tracks including: Arboricultural Tools and



Photo courtesy Travel Portland

Technology, Sustainability in Tree Planting, New Perspectives on Tree Risk Assessment, Sustainability in Urban Forestry, Challenges of Managing Mature Trees, Soil: Sustainable Practices Below Ground, Arborists as Athletes: Health, Safety, and Wellness, and many more.

And don't forget about the Professional Affiliates day on Wednesday. Enjoy a day full of research presentations during the AREA track or learn more

about utility vegetation management at the UAA sessions. You can join SMA for a morning of municipal arboriculture education and then tour Portland with stops at several parks and other landmarks to learn more about the city's sustainable urban forestry initiatives. If commercial arboriculture is your interest, then join the SCA and Terrill Collier for an all-day tour of Collier Arbor Care in Clackamas, Oregon.

Enjoying the Pacific Northwest

Located in the beautiful Pacific Northwest region of the United States, Portland, Oregon and the surrounding area have a diverse geography which includes several mountain ranges and lush extensive forests with some of the largest trees in the world.

When planning your trip to the ISA conference, be sure to plan some additional time to spend exploring the area around Portland. This year's host chapter, the Pacific-Northwest Chapter of the ISA, has arranged to offer attendees numerous tours that allow you to experience the best of the region. Visit Multnomah Falls and other Gorge waterfalls, tour the northern coast, visit Mt. Hood, or take in a wine tasting tour.

If you plan on arriving early, participate in the old-growth ecology tour. The PNW-ISA chapter invites attendees to participate in a three-part tour organized and led by the Ascending the Giants expedition team. Tour the Wildlife Care Center, take a guided tour through Wildwood Trail/Forest Park, and then embark on a 180-foot ascent to the top of an old-growth forest that includes an ancient grove of towering Douglas fir, grand fir, and western red cedar.

Don't miss these great networking and educational opportunities at the ISA Annual International Conference. You can still pre-register by July 23rd to receive discounted pricing.

For detailed information on conference activities, educational session, tours, and registration, visit the ISA Conference site at www.isa-arbor.com/conference. See you in Portland.

– thanks to ISA for this overview

Drought Contingency: Do You Have a Plan?

by Terry Kirkland, Grounds Superintendent, Midland College

From my understanding of the current situation in far West Texas, we are still in the throes of a one hundred year drought. That being said: 1. Do you have a plan? 2. What is your plan?

Midland College chose to be proactive and started thinking about water and water usage five years ago, long before the drought of 2011. It all began when the citizens of Midland, Texas voted to allow improvements to the college. Infrastructure as well as buildings were included and approved in the 2005 bond issue.

A new state-of-the-art central irrigation system with a 550,000-gallon storage tank was installed. The tank includes three possible inlets: one for potable water, one for well water, and one for reclaimed water. E. C. Design Group from Des Moines, Iowa was the irrigation consultant with Tanto Irrigation from New York being the successful installation bidder.

This project was the beginning of a water saving plan for the city of Midland, as Midland College was one of the largest users of potable water. We were irrigating 100 acres of turf and over 6,000 linear feet of flower beds. The total installation was built on the premise that we would use reclaimed water when it becomes available. Purple pipe and valve boxes were installed.

The City of Midland is installing the newest water reclamation technology in a package plant adjacent to the college. Water from this 150,000 gallon per day (GPD) plant will be used exclusively for irrigation. Two wells have been drilled for possible ground water use. One is of very poor quality and one will take approximately one mile of pipeline. These items were still under construction when the drought of 2011 became the worst drought on record.

The city implemented stage one of its drought contingency plan, which only allowed us to water two days a week between 10 pm and midnight. This left us with the no alternative and we were only capable of watering the campus at 45 percent of the recommended water for our turf and beds. By the spring of

2012, drought contingency plan stage two was enforced: water for two hours once a week. That would not sustain our already stressed trees.

What could we do? We were fortunate to have installed a “two wire” central irrigation control system, which meant we could add valves to the system anywhere there was a main line with a control wire. We chose for the good of the community and Midland College to forgo watering the turf and concentrate on saving our most valuable resource—our trees. That being said, it was too late for some of the already stressed trees such as a 40-year-old Arizona cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*) (Fig 1) and some misplaced loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) (Fig 2). Our goal was to save the southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), Texas red oak (*Quercus buckleyi*), Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*), and pecan (*Carya illinoensis*).

In the early spring of 2012 we began installing additional valves (Fig 3), and 17mm Netafim piping at the drip line of the trees (Fig 4). We placed approximately 100 feet of drip line, installed on each tree in a double row. This 100 feet of piping with emitters generates .9 GPH per emitter, with one emitter per foot. This means that each tree would receive 180 gallons of water each week. To date we have installed seven of our estimated 15 valves needed, and the project continues.

As you can see in the photos, in order to minimize root disturbance we chose not to bury the drip line around the trees, but instead lay it on the surface. This did create a maintenance issue but not one that couldn't be overcome. Since this is a temporary and portable design, when we begin receiving our reclaimed water (estimated date, June 2013), plus the well

water, we will pick up and store the drip piping while leaving the valves and lateral lines in place in anticipation of future droughts (after all this is West Texas).

Bottom line: we had a plan. Maybe we didn't get the plan implemented as fast as needed, but we did have a plan. Do you have one?

Fig. 1

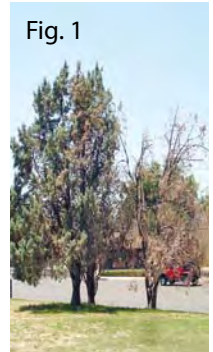


Fig. 2

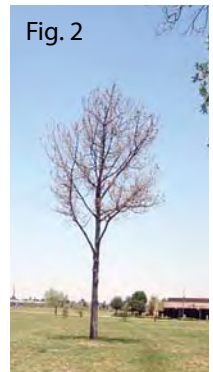


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



COOL TOOLS by Patrick Wentworth

Doesn't seem like that long ago, we went from a wired phone attached to the truck (blew the horn when you were away from the truck) to hand-held wireless devices so small there is always the danger of losing the thing. Everyone these days seem to have gone to the "smart phone"— a Droid®, or iPhone® or some such device that allows you to do multiple tasks.

For all of their attributes, smart phones are subject to breaking when dropped and they have problem with water. My old phone was chosen because the ad on TV showed someone talking on it while submerged in a swimming pool. It proved to be very waterproof (sweat proof) and lasted a very long time. Today's smart phones? Not so much.

Waterproof cases such as the Otterbox® are interesting but can add significantly to the bulk of the device.

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EDITOR'S NOTE by Oscar Mestas

Summer has arrived and some of the things I like about this time of year are celebrating the 4th of July and sitting in the shade of my trees. One of my traditions, passed on to me from my abuelo (grandfather) Pablo Samaniego, is to fly the American flag on all appropriate holidays. Paul, as he was known, was a WWII and Korean War veteran. The flag that I have been using and will use for this 4th of July is the one which was draped over his casket and given to me after his interment in 1995. As a young boy (muchacho) I watched and learned as my grandfather would always be involved in different events or activities leading up the celebration for the 4th. I would follow him around and watch him fixing things; mowing the lawn; butchering (una matanza) a sheep, goat, or pig; cooking for the festivities; or walking in the downtown parade with the local VFW chapter. When the day ended and before the fireworks, we would enjoy sitting in the shade of trees eating cold watermelon and sipping a favorite cold beverage. At the time his was either Falstaff or Hamm's and mine was usually an orange or grape Fanta. My favorite beverage has changed as I've matured. Deme una cerveza fría (give me a cold beer) these days and I'm content.

This topic of shade and my Hispanic heritage leads me into the newest venture for this newsletter. During ISAT Board meetings we discuss a lot of business and occasionally someone will come up with a new idea or suggestion for the newsletter. At a recent meeting Margaret Hall Spencer noted that the Florida chapter newsletter had a Spanish page and maybe we should look at doing something similar. The Board asked me to look in that direction to see what we can do. I went and visited the Florida web site to see what they were doing. In their newsletter, it appears to me that the Florida Chapter will select an article in English and then translate it into Spanish.

In this issue you will find a new page and I hope it will become a continuing series. We are adding a Spanish page titled "Bajo la Sombra" (Bah-ho la soam-bra), which translated into English means "under the shade." The purpose of this new running series is to reach out to our Hispanic coworkers and employees whose first language is Spanish and hopefully offer something useful and educational. The page will be designed so that it can be cut out of the newsletter; copies of the article can then be made and handed out or posted on your bulletin board. Remember that thanks to you and all your hard work every day, the people of Texas get to enjoy the great benefit of shade.

If you have any comments or suggestions, let me know what you think about the newsletter. Please send your feedback and comments to me at omestas@tfs.tamu.edu.



Fallen Leaves

At the 2011 Texas Tree Conference we began recognizing and honoring our fellow Texas arborists who passed away during the year. If you know of someone in the industry who left us this past year, please contact Dr. Todd Watson at todd-watson@earthlink.net.

TTCC Results *contd. from p 1*

was **James Earhart**, this year's Mid-Atlantic chapter champion. James was also the overall highest point scorer in the prelims, which shows that Texas still has work to do if we want to take home a world championship.

Defending champion Zies went first in the Masters'. He had quite a bit of difficulty setting a line, taking five tries to do so. He then opted to install a second line near one of the stations on the other side of the rangy 75-foot pecan the event was in. While that second line set-up went well, Abram lost a lot of time setting up both these lines. He ascended the second line beautifully, and eventually transferred over to his first line.

Unfortunately, the course was set to be run quickly with a 23-minute deadline, and he timed out before reaching the last station.

Former champ Miguel Pastenes went second, and wowed the crowd and the judges with a stellar performance. He chose a single entry point technique, set his line on the second try, and swung like a gorgeous primate through the entire course. While he got dinged by the judges for a not-so-hot pre-climb assessment and one swing that was a little too aggressive, he made it through the event with over a minute to spare, and had the crowd cheering.

Next up was first-time finalist Vicente Peña. Vicente looked like he was off to a great start, installing his line in the very top of the tree on his first try, and away he went. Unfortunately, he got his line hung up on some interfering limbs between two stations and took too much time to free himself. This caused him to run out of time before reaching his final station.

Last of the Texas competitors to run was another first-time finalist, Jackson MacIntosh. The most senior of the group in years, Jackson is actually fairly new to the industry, with just a handful of years experience under his belt. Unfortunately, after he also got off to a great start with

a quick line installation, Jackson got to the top of his KM3 ascent line only to discover he had left his climbing line on the ground. He decided not to work the tree on the KM3 (which is not regarded as a good working line for trees), and so he quit and descended.

As we often do when time allows, we invite our top out-of-state finisher to also make a Masters' run. James Earhart chose to try to work the tree exactly as Abram had, by setting access lines in two separate parts of the tree. Unlike Abram, James installed his first line very quickly, but then spent many long, precious minutes setting his second one. So in the end the result was the same; he ran out of time with one station left.

With only one contestant having completed the event this year, there was no surprise as to the winner.

Miguel Pastenes will be returning to ITCC to represent Texas once again. Abram Zies took second, and Vicente Peña third. This year's ITCC is in Portland, Oregon. I hope to see you there.

I thank all of our volunteer staff for their time and professionalism. Your hard work and commitment are what made things run like a clock this year. Well done! ■

TTCC Future *contd. from p 1*

climber and tree worker. The public had a great opportunity to learn about arboriculture.

Guy and I have made a commitment to the Texas Chapter of ISA to take on the task of organizing and producing the TTCC for next year, and hopefully, beyond. I have agreed to serve as chairman of the event and Guy has agreed to serve as overall head judge. Together, it is our hope to build on past successes and make the event live up to its lofty goals and purpose.

Plans for the 2013 TTCC began before the 2012 event started, and suggestions for improving the event are being solicited. As chairman, I hope to encourage a larger

participation in the event by the chapter members—this means YOU!

Some major decisions on next year's event remain to be finalized, but we hope to hold it in Dallas in concert with Earth Day celebrations in April. The date is not cast in stone, so I encourage you to contact me with comments, suggestions, or other feedback regarding the venue or the time frame for the 2013 TTCC. A final recommendation will be presented at the ISAT Conference this fall.

Now is the time for your input. Consider joining the TTCC team. Volunteer to be a judge, tech, or to help with operations. I promise you will get more from the experience when you are involved and committed.

I look forward to the many challenges this task provides. I also look forward to working with Guy and the chapter leadership to make the TTCC achieve all of its goals and be the best event that we can conceive and achieve together. One thing is certain: The greater the membership involvement, the better the TTCC will be. If you are a tree worker, arborist, or arboricultural consultant, student, educator, urban forester, tree service owner or employee; or if you work in utility, municipal or commercial arboriculture, you will benefit from the experience. I promise.

Here is my contact information: Kevin Bassett, kbassett@arborillogical.com, 972-877-0358. I look forward to hearing from all y'all. ■



2012 TTCC WINNERS

Masters' Challenge

- 1 Miguel Pastenes
- 2 Abram Zies
- 3 Vicente Peña

Work Climb

- 1 Miguel Pastenes
- 2 Vicente Peña
- 3 Rafael Narvaez

Belayed Speed

- 1 Miguel Pastenes
- 2 Abram Zies
- 3 Jimmy Saucier

Foot Lock

- 1 Miguel Pastenes
- 2 Abram Zies
- 3 Vicente Peña

Aerial Rescue

- 1 Jackson MacIntosh
- 2 Abram Zies
- 3 Oscar Dorantes

Throw Line

- 1 Jim Maddox
- 2 Gustavo Salmeron
- 3 Jackson MacIntosh

Spirit

Jeremy Williams



Vicente Peña



Abram Zies



Jackson MacIntosh



Miguel Pastenes, 2012 Champion



Jim Maddox



Gustavo Salmeron



Jeremy Williams



Oscar Dorantes



More photos of TTCC at isatexas.com

Pest Post: Wood Borers NOT Killing Oak Trees

by H. A. (Joe) Pase III, CF, Regional Forest Health Coordinator, East Texas Region, Texas Forest Service

People involved with tree care in East and Central Texas are receiving numerous calls about insects killing their oak trees. I have also been getting calls and e-mails about this.



I am seeing a lot of activity from metallic or flat-headed wood borers on recently dead, dying and declining oak trees (and other trees). These borers are basically scavengers on these trees. Some trees that may still have some live limbs will attract these beetles to the parts of the tree that are dying, declining or recently dead.

The larvae of these beetles initially infest the cambium and then bore into the wood. In order for them to successfully infest the cambium, the cambium cannot be healthy. That is why treating for the beetles to prevent additional attacks is “after the fact” and does little if any good. The borers are there because the trees have other problems and the other problems usually relate back to lack of water and the 2011 drought. These borers are NOT killing the trees.

I have read and heard some reports that when the beetles are present in large numbers they will feed on foliage to the extent that the tree may be partially defoliated. The adults (beetles) only feed on foliage. The larvae are what actually bore into the tree.

The borers are the insect family Buprestidae and the genus *Chrysobothris*. They have a bronze metallic underside and the wings (elytra) on top are a gray to black color. When they spread their wings to fly, they reveal a bright metallic green color on the top of their back (abdomen).

The drought of 2011 has caused tremendous problems for trees, and various fungi and insects are responding to the drought-stressed trees. The metallic wood borers you are seeing are a part of this complex of insects and fungi. *Chrysobothris* is a large genus that



contains at least 134 species in North America.

Here is a link to information about one of the common *Chrysobothris* species. It has a large list of hosts including oaks, even though its common name is flat-headed apple tree borer.

http://insects.tamu.edu/extension/publications/epubs/eee_00027.cfm

6th RGV Urban & Community Forestry Conference

by Salvador Alemany

The 6th annual Rio Grande Valley Urban and Community Forestry Conference came to life June 12 in the City of Edinburg. Salvador Alemany, TFS Regional Urban Forester for the valley; Ed Kuprel, Edinburg City Forester; and Juan Lopez, Planning Director, led and formed a working group which included the office of Sustainability from UTAPA, Hidalgo County Master Gardeners, AgriLife Research and Extension Service, Valley Proud Environmental, and a group of sponsors that made the event possible.

Edinburg Mayor Richard Garcia opened the program, talking about why the city is going green. He concluded by telling the audience how a living memorial tree had been planted in honor of a city councilman, Noe Garza, who passed away in January. The tree will stand as a reminder to future generations about his years of service and the need to give back to the community.

About 100 people attended, and seven speakers kept the audience's attention with interesting and informative topics.

Speakers and their topics included Grant Ehlen, AEP-Texas, *chain saw safety* ▶



◀ RGV Conference contd.

and planting the right tree in the right place; Steve Walker, Texas Department of Public Safety, *landscaping in state highway right-of-ways*; Dr. Raul Villanueva, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, *native and invasive bugs threatening Texas trees*; Erasmo Yarrito Jr., Rio Grande watermaster, *the source of South Texas water*; Dr. Andrew McDonald, University of Texas Pan American, *a history of the Valley's urban forest*; Margaret Spencer, landscape and arboricultural consultant, *introduction to arboriculture*; and Alemany, who discussed *the proper watering of trees*.

Dr McDonald commented about the lack of forest canopy in the area and illustrated the importance of protecting the few remnant patches of natural forest the area still has. "Our forest is tropical," he said. "The species distribution of our trees in the valley clearly indicates that, and unfortunately the rich tropical forest along the riparian zones has disappeared." McDonald concluded by emphasizing how trees would encourage people to exercise more by creating a favorable ambience, reducing the health problems and costs related to obesity.

Another speaker, Margaret Spencer, told us that among the many benefits of trees to our health and environment, a recent study showed that expectant mothers who had access to an urban forest had less complicated deliveries. Trees are a win-win for communities, especially here in South Texas where it gets so hot.

Four award categories recognize individuals and groups who promote urban forestry. This year's awards and winners include: **The James Matz Award**, Barbara Storz, AgriLife Extension; **Rio Grande Valley Landscaping Project Award**, Don Hugo Produce, Edinburg; **Annual Tree Conference Committee Award**, City of Brownsville; and **Mixed Tree and Garden Planting Project Award**, University of Texas-Pan American's Veterans Wildscape Garden.

First SA Bilingual Workshop

by Mark Duff,
CF, BCMA

On May 24th the Texas Forest Service, ISA Texas, CPS Energy, Davey Tree Surgery, San Antonio Arborist Association, Bartlett Tree Experts, Asplundh, McCoy, Starbucks and TNLA sponsored the first fully bilingual workshop for tree care workers in San Antonio. There were 187 in attendance.

Eduardo Medina, safety instructor for Davey Tree out of Chicago, was the featured speaker. The event began with a technical take-down of a large hazardous pecan in the parking lot of the City of San Antonio Toolyard. Mark Duff emceed the event.

All attendees were treated to a hot lunch sponsored by Davey Tree, McCoy Tree Surgery and Asplundh. As an added benefit, all of the attendees received a copy of ISA's *Glossary of Arboriculture Terms: English-Spanish/ Spanish-English*, purchased by a grant from the City of San Antonio. A raffle was held that included chainsaws, ropes and five 40-gallon live oaks. Numerous attendees made very positive comments.

Over the past two years similar events were held, but differed in that those were entirely in Spanish. Nearly 90 percent of the tree care workforce in the region use English as a second language.

The speakers for the topics were:

Kick-off motivational speech – Jorge Gomez (ISA Certified Arborist, McCoy Tree Surgery)

Rigging and Removal – Eduardo Medina (Davey Tree instructor)

COSA Tree Ordinances – Armando Cortez (COSA Tree Ordinance Inspector)

Tree Values – Salvador Alemany (TFS Regional Forester, Rio Grande Valley)

Tree Identification and Drought –



Listening to a talk in the main hall of the Toolyard.



Eduardo Medina in the hazardous pecan.



After the tree is down.

Micah Pace (TFS Regional Forester, Dallas)

Trees and Electricity - Eduardo Medina (Davey Tree instructor)

Oak Wilt and Pruning - Mark Duff (TFS Staff Forester, Alamo Region)

Learn How to Write an Ordinance That Helps Qualify Your Town for Tree City USA

by Pete Smith

Texas Forest Service has recently launched a new web tutorial on writing a tree care ordinance that will help a community qualify for the Tree City USA program. This national award program of the Arbor Day Foundation recognizes communities that meet four key standards for community tree care each year. The new web-based tutorial will help cities meet the all-important standard of passing a tree care ordinance governing the trees on public property.

Public tree care ordinances differ from tree preservation or landscaping ordinances because they focus on the trees owned by the city, including street trees, park trees and trees at city-owned buildings. Tree preservation ordinances focus instead on protecting or replacing trees during the development of private property. Some cities attempt to combine these themes into a single ordinance, but it is often more practical to first set

standards for the care of trees on public property – a duty cities already have.

Considerations addressed by the tutorial include delegating responsibility for tree care operations to a city forester or other official; creating a citizen tree board; standards for planting and care; adjacent landowner responsibilities; and nuisance trees requiring action by property owners or the city. The tool also includes a fillable form of a model ordinance that can be used as a draft document for public comment, as well as optional clauses for certain sections of the ordinance.

To access the new public tree care ordinance tutorial, go to the Texas Forest Service's Tree City USA page (<http://txforestservicetamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=15471>) and click on the link for the Model Public Tree Care Ordinance Tutorial under the section titled, "Standard 2: A Public Tree Care Ordinance."

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2012 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package

Thanks to the following companies for the 2012 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package, designed to help equip chapter champions for the International Tree Climbing Championship Competition in Portland.

This year's prize package includes:

- Petzel Vertex Helmet with Professional Hearing Protection, Eye Protection and Climbing Gloves provided by Husqvarna
- 150' ArborMaster® Climbing Line with eye splice from Samson
- Silky Tsurugi 300mm with Large Teeth (and leg strap)
- Buckingham \$50 Gift Certificate
- OREGON® POWERsharp® Precision Saw Chain Sharpening System
- ArborMaster® Choking Lanyard System
- 50% savings for an ArborMaster® 2-Day or 3-Day Hands-On Training Module



CERTIFICATION TESTS

These are the remaining certification tests scheduled for 2012:

July 27	San Antonio
August 10	Amarillo
August 15	Round Rock
Sept. 28	Waco

Certification information and an application form can be obtained at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx

As with all Certification Examinations the application must be in the ISA office 12 working days prior to the Exam.

The ISA Certified Arborist computer-based exam is now available in Texas. To view computer-based testing locations please go to www.isa-arbor.com/certification/benefits/credentialsExplained.aspx

In order to schedule a computer-based exam, you **must** submit your application and/or retake form to ISA.

What's the Big IDea?



Summer is here and many of you may head to the great playgrounds of west Texas. Don't forget to take your boots with you! While there you might just encounter this species. If you know this tree, correctly identify it on our facebook page. If you don't know it, check the page for the answer in a few days! Hint: It is naturally found at one of Champ Hunter's favorite places; this link may give you an IDea: <http://picasaweb.google.com/117164653749730932159> .



How to enter: Log onto our facebook page and type in both the common and scientific name. We will check the page daily until the tree has been correctly identified, confirming the correct answer.

Last month's winner

A. McNeil Marshall with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and Slade Strickland, Director of Parks, Town of Addison, Texas, both correctly identified the May tree as hoptree, Wafer ash or zorillo, *Ptelea trifoliata*.



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CLIMBING LINES by Guy LeBlanc, Certified Arborist

It's been over four years since my last Climbing Lines piece on friction savers, and there is a relatively new entry to the market, so I thought it was time I revisited them. Last year the "pulleySaver" became available in the U.S. Developed by the folks at Treemagineers and manufactured by the German company Teufelberger, the pulleySaver is the hottest new thing in the friction saving arena, based on how many folks on TreeBuzz are singing its praises (and trying to make their own).

It was shortly after I started in this business that the first friction saver was marketed, sometime in the 70s. It was a simple tube made out of leather, and its main purpose was really to eliminate damage to the cambium from the climbing line, hence its name: Cambium Saver. It didn't reduce friction on the line a whole lot, but it is still the easiest type to install and retrieve from the ground. Now there is a new version of the Cambium Saver for sale at Sherrill that is essentially a piece of electrical conduit. I tried one of the prototypes a few years ago and found that it worked pretty darn well (with Blaze, anyway).

Then came the ring and ring style of friction saver, which was a huge step forward. Essentially a heavy duty webbing strap with a ring on each end, the climbing line hung in the rings, which substantially reduced friction, making movement in the tree on one's line much easier while increasing the life of the line, and it was still retrievable from the ground.

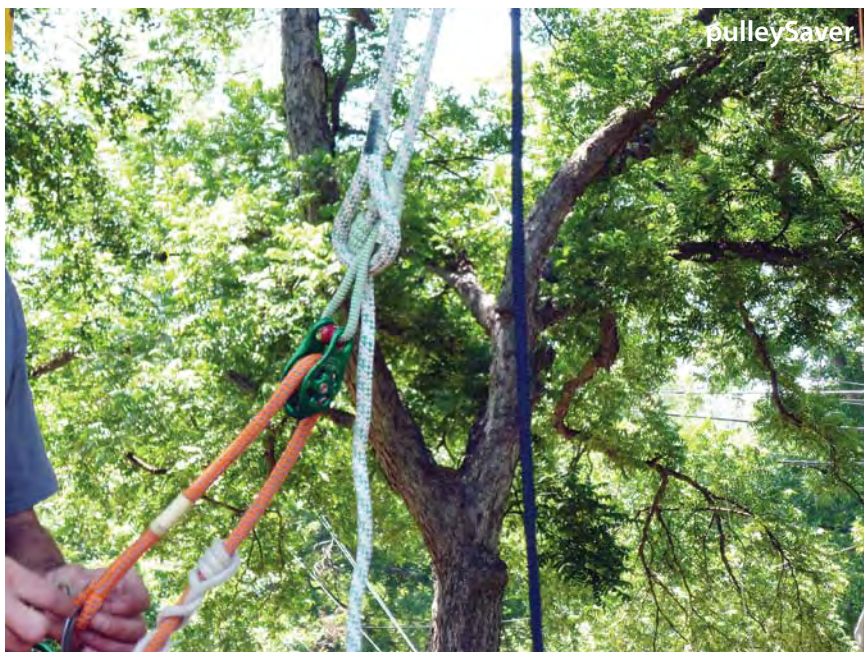
For years, there have been numerous variations on this second generation, including the replacement of the strap with rope. Another huge innovation was attaching one of the rings to

a short prusik, which allowed the length of the device to be adjusted.

Then came what I would call the third generation of friction savers: those that incorporate a pulley that your line runs on. There is still a large ring on one end of the device (usually made of rope, but sometimes still a strap) and the pulley, which is attached to the rope or strap by some type of adjustable tether, is draped through the ring and your climbing line runs on the pulley alone. The Rope Guide by ART was one of the first of this type. In 2007 I said that one of my complaints with the RG was that the length adjustment was made via mechanical device, which I wasn't (and am still not) a fan of. Since then there have been many variations of this type of friction saver that uses a hip prussik to attach the pulley.

The difference between running on a pulley, especially the DMM Pinto pulley utilized in the pulleySaver, and rings is like the difference between through the rings and running without a friction saver at all. The near complete lack of friction actually takes some getting used to because it is so much faster.

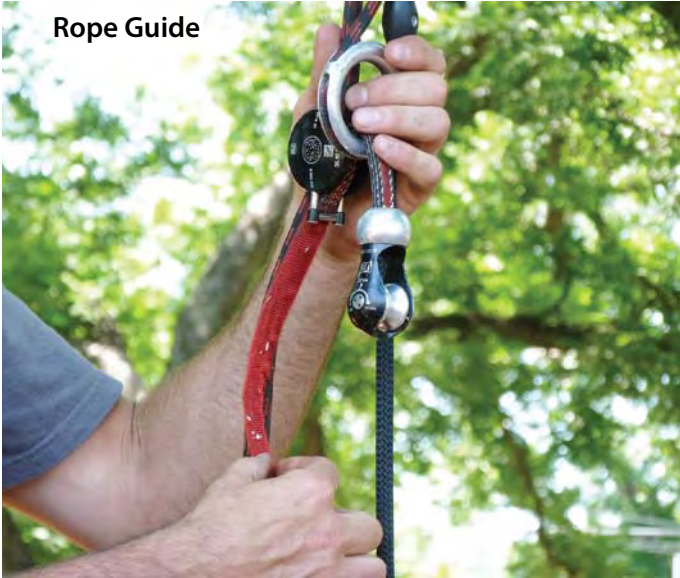
Another big advantage of this third generation of friction savers is that by threading the pulley through the larger ring, a choker affect is achieved, allowing them to be used on a spar way more efficiently than second generation adjustable friction savers. However, because a larger ring is necessary for the pulley to be able to pass through it, the odds on getting the saver stuck becomes even greater when retrieving from the ground.



This is one of the biggest objections to friction savers: that they often become stuck. Especially in tree species with lots of narrow codominant unions like ash or pecan, the probability of it can discourage you from using one altogether. There are ways around it, like pre-installing a throw line set up to lift the large ring end out of the branch union, but this takes time and forethought and another line floating around in the tree. However, this technique also keeps the device from free-falling, something you really shouldn't allow to happen to life-support equipment made out of metal.

This is one of the big advantages of the pulleySaver. Instead of a large metal ring, the pulley is draped through a large eye splice. What makes this innovative is that

Rope Guide



Treemagineers have incorporated some type of rubber support inside the part of the rope making this eye. This holds the eye open, like a big ring, but also allows it to compress for retrieval through tight spots. Word on TreeBuzz is this thing never gets stuck, and word from the manufacturer is that the “eye-opening” material has been tested to last over 1000 cycles.

Another big problem with third generation friction savers is that they cannot be set from the ground and used as they were intended to be, that is with the climbing line only running through the pulley. When setting one from the ground your rope will run through both the pulley and the ring, which sit side-by-side, much like a second generation saver.

Retrieval is performed by a small clip located on the end of the pulleySaver, which is clipped around your climbing line upon installation. When ready to retrieve, a small plastic ball is attached to the end of the climbing line detached from your saddle, and then the line is pulled through the pulley. The ball passes through the pulley, which your rope is now entirely free from, and then the ball is caught by the clip. Then the pulley is pulled out of the eye quite easily due to its open nature.

I have looked at at least a dozen homemade variations of the pulleySaver on TreeBuzz in which folks have used a variety of things inside the eye to keep it open, or just a large metal ring, like the RG. I guess if you are extremely adept at splicing you could save a lot of money by making something kinda sorta like the pulleySaver yourself. But at \$200, the pulleySaver looks like a bargain next to the Rope Guide, which costs \$375.

For a great instructional video on the pulleySaver, see the Teufelberger video of it on YouTube. And as always, **go low and slow until you know.**

Guy 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.

SMA Awards Committee Seeking Nominations

The SMA Awards Committee is seeking nominations for awards and honors that will be presented at the annual conference in Sacramento CA, Nov. 11-13, 2012.

Nominations will be accepted for individuals and organizations that deserve recognition for their efforts to enhance the urban forest through leadership, public outreach, education, and volunteerism, or for their exemplary service to SMA. Nominations are due by Sept. 1, 2012.

Nominate online. Members only, login required. sma.memberclicks.net

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2012 Texas Chapter ISA – Call For Nominations

Nominations are being sought from the ISAT membership to fill ten positions on the ISAT Board of Directors. You may nominate yourself or another qualified ISAT member interested in serving on the ISAT Board.

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 September 28, 2012. A form that can be filled-out and printed or emailed is available at: http://www.isatexas.com/Members/ISA_Directors.htm

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BEFORE 5:00 PM, FRIDAY JULY 27, 2012

Nominee Name	
Address	
Phone (day)	
Email	
Title	
Employer	
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)* [*Prior Board of Director experience recommended for officer positions] <input type="checkbox"/> Director – 4 positions available (two-year term) <input type="checkbox"/> Council of Representatives Liaison – 1 position available (three-year term) <input type="checkbox"/> Certification Liaison – 1 position available (three-year term)

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



Mail, fax, or email this form to: Todd Watson, 2012 Nominations Committee, PO Box 524, Millican, TX 77866. 979-218-0783 (office), 936-825-2312 (fax) dendrodoc@earthlink.net

Bajo la Sombra

La Identificación de los Árboles – Parte 1 por Micah Pace

Introducción:

Bienvenidos a la nueva sección de Bajo la Sombra tu fuente de información de arboricultura en español. En esta edición yo les ofrezco la primera parte de un serie sobre la identificación de árboles Q' estén atentos y compartan con nosotros!

La identificación de especies arbóreas es el primer paso antes de decidir sobre cualquier actividad de mantenimiento de un árbol. Los arbolistas deben poder identificar un árbol antes de intentar un diagnóstico o una recomendación de tratamiento. La identificación de la especie de la planta es un requisito para la aplicación legal de pesticidas. La identificación precisa requiere una combinación de conocimientos y experiencia. Una vez que se haya adquirido la habilidad de identificar los árboles, la pericia viene con la práctica y el repetido contacto con plantas leñosas durante diferentes épocas del año.

Objetivos:

Los objetivos de esta lección son:

- Entender cómo se clasifican todas las plantas y cómo los nombres científicos se basan en el sistema de clasificación.
- Explicar qué son los nombres científicos, por qué se usan y cómo se escriben.

La clasificación de las plantas

La clasificación de las plantas, o taxonomía, se basa en las características biológicas de las mismas. El nivel más alto de clasificación es el reino y, como es de esperar, los árboles se incluyen en el reino de las plantas.

El segundo nivel de clasificación es la división (filo). Este nivel separa las plantas vasculares (plantas con xilema y floema) de las plantas sin tejido vascular.

Las plantas vasculares se subdividen entre aquellas con semillas cubiertas por un ovario (fruto), o angiospermas, y las de "semillas desnudas", o gimnospermas. Las coníferas, o plantas que producen conos, son gimnospermas. Las plantas que producen flores, grupo en el que se incluye la mayoría de los árboles deciduos y los perennifolios de hojas anchas, son angiospermas.

Las angiospermas

Las angiospermas se dividen en dos clases, las dicotiledóneas (dos hojas cotiledonares) y las monocotiledóneas (una hoja cotiledonar). Las dicotiledóneas incluyen la mayoría de las especies de árboles, salvo las coníferas y las palmeras. Las monocotiledóneas incluyen pastos, lirios, orquídeas y palmeras. Los tejidos vasculares de las monocotiledóneas se encuentran en haces, dispersos a lo largo del tallo. Ya que estos haces no aumentan de grosor, los tallos de las palmeras no aumentan fácilmente en diámetro.

Las clases de plantas se separan en órdenes y familias, respectivamente. Las plantas de la misma familia tienen características comunes, de las cuales las más destacables son sus tipos de flores y frutos. Ambas las acacias (*Gleditsia* spp.) y

las ciclamores (*Cercis* spp.) pertenecen a la familia Fabaceae (leguminosas). Sus flores se parecen morfológicamente, y ambas producen sus semillas en vainas.

Las plantas estrechamente relacionadas presentan características parecidas, particularmente en sus estructuras reproductivas, y se pueden clasificar en el mismo género. Por ejemplo, todos los robles se reproducen mediante bellotas y se clasifican en el género *Quercus*.

La especie es el nivel que identifica una planta específica. El nombre de la especie es una combinación del nombre del género y el epíteto específico (nombre). Algunas personas usan un dicho común para ayudarles a recordar la jerarquía taxonómica del reino hasta la especie:

“El **R**ey **D**ebe **C**omer **O**veja y **F**aisán con **G**isantes y **E**spárragos”

Clasificación del *Quercus virginiana*, el encino

Reino: Plantae

División (Filo): Magnoliophyta (angiospermas)

Clase: Magnoliopsida (dicotiledónea)

Orden: Fagales

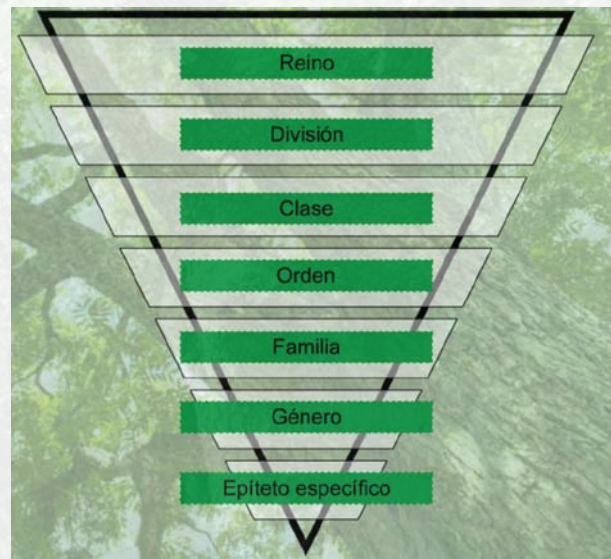
Familia: Fagaceae

Género: *Quercus*

Epíteto específico: *virginiana*

Género + epíteto específico = especie

Quercus virginiana



Tener un conocimiento general de la clasificación de las plantas puede ayudar al arbolista a aprender como identificar plantas. Las plantas estrechamente relacionadas tienen características parecidas. Este conocimiento puede ser útil para el diagnóstico porque con frecuencia los árboles de la misma familia son susceptibles a las mismas enfermedades, insectos dañinos, plagas y otros desórdenes.

A continuación . . .

**THE NEWSLETTER OF
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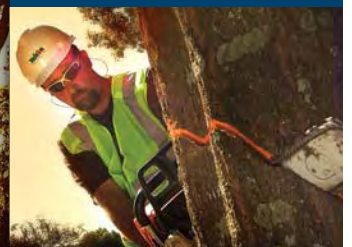


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