



The 32nd Texas Tree Conference:

"Building Bridges through Arboriculture" Waco Convention Center October 5-7

Join us in Waco October 5-7 for the largest and best Texas Tree Conference ever! We anticipate over 500 attendees as we "build bridges" to include a track for utility arborists, sessions focusing on landscape architecture with trees in mind and irrigation with trees in mind, and a tree school for Spanish-speaking arborists. In addition, we will continue our history of providing outstanding education programs featuring nationally known speakers, the latest in tree research and arboriculture, an awards luncheon, and numerous networking opportunities.

Learn from national leaders in research, arboriculture, utilities and urban forestry. Featured speakers include **Dr. John Ball**, Professor of Forestry at South Dakota State University; **Dr. Kim Coder**, Professor of Tree Biology and Health Care, University of Georgia; **David Dockter**, Managing Arborist, City of Palo Alto, CA; and **Derek Vannice**, VP of Operations, CN Utility Consulting.

We are expecting the best trade show yet, with all exhibitors located inside the convention center. Breakfast with the exhibitors – included with your registration – will be Thursday and Friday. Plus there will be a reception with the vendors Thursday night, including a free keg.

And don't forget the important "extras" like the Wednesday evening fajita dinner and social, the silent auction, and the ISAT bookstore. Download a brochure at isatexas.com Register online at shop.isatexas.com

Texas Tree Academy

Wednesday, October 5

The Texas Tree Academy will be held the Wednesday before the Conference. Two all-day tracks:

Track A—Municipal Tree Academy: Connecting Urban Forestry and Landscape Architecture—David Cristiani; A

Sampling of 30 Re-purposed

Parking Lot Designs &

Sites Using Structural

Soil for Shade Trees—

David Dockter; Large

Trees, Suspended

Pavement and

Stormwater

Management—Peter

MacDonagh.

Track B—Arbori-

culture Tree Academy: Tree

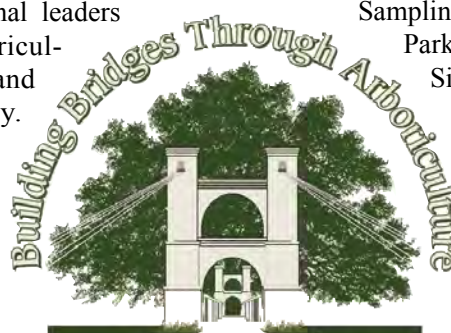
Diagnostics—Dr. John Ball. The

Tree Academy requires a separate

registration from the Conference. It

includes lunch. Details at isatexas.com

Register online at shop.isatexas.com



Texas Tree Schools

Friday, October 7

This year there will be two all-day tracks at the popular Texas Tree School:

Track One: Aerial Rescue Workshop, a combination of classroom and hands-on

Continued on page 3

at last year's Texas Tree Conference



2011

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Incline Village, Nevada

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Todd Watson



Stick a fork in me. I'm done (well, almost)! I've had a great year serving as the president of ISAT. I am grateful for the opportunity to give back a little to the profession that has given me so much. I would like to say that I was 6 ft tall when I took this job and that it has worn me down to a nub, but you know better than that. First off, the last time that I towered above 5 ft tall was during the disco era when I owned a pair of platform shoes. Second, and most importantly, I am surrounded by a great Board of Directors that you elected. I hardly had to do any work this year. They're awesome!

I wanted to give you a recap all of the things that the ISAT Board did this year, but the list is too long. Let me just mention some of the high points. In addition to putting on a great annual conference and tree climbing championship, we offered several high-level workshops for our members and some of our clients and industry partners. We updated the Texas Approximation to the Guide for Plant Appraisal. We have also given talks and hauled our new trade show booth around to several allied trade shows and conferences to help educate our partners and improve our visibility within the Texas Green Industry. If you attended the Texas Nursery Landscape Expo this year, you might have noticed that we worked with TNLA to create an entire educational session about trees.

Yes, there's more. We developed a new working relationship with Habitat for Humanity. We participated in and promoted the Texas Tree Trails. We funded our first research project, and we will hopefully have some useful results to give you in the future in spite of an exceptional drought that made a difficult project even harder. We produced documents on oak wilt and the drought for our members and the general public. We started keeping track of ~~shenanigans~~ legislation going on in the Texas Legislature and publishing information that would be of interest to our members in our newsletter. Speaking of the newsletter, how have you liked the full-color editions with improved content and delivery? And yes, we did all of this while making tough budget decisions in uncertain economic times.

Whew, I'm tired just writing down all of that stuff, and that's not nearly everything that your Board accomplished this year. Even more importantly, we did all of this without raising the debt ceiling even once! That's not to say that we couldn't use a little increase in revenue. The best way that you can help (next to sending a big wad of cash) is to come to the Texas Tree Conference in Waco on October 5th – 7th. If you've seen the schedule, then you know that we have a great lineup of internationally renowned speakers. We've even got a new educational track for our utility arborists. While you're at the conference, let your Board members know how much you have appreciated their efforts. A pat on the back goes a long ways towards showing your appreciation. Buying them an adult beverage goes even further.

So, I've nearly reached the end of the trail. At the end of the conference, I will be put out to pasture. Unfortunately, the grass on the other side doesn't appear to be a lot greener. Jim Carse, your current past president, has been working like crazy all year, so it looks like the work is not over for me yet when I pass the gavel to Keith Brown at the conference. Based on the nominees that I saw on the ballot for the ISAT Board, it looks like it will be another banner year, regardless of who is elected. Thanks to all of you for continually stepping up to the plate and making ISAT better and better. Now as I ride off into the sunset, "Happy trails to you..."

Yours treely,
Todd Watson

Tree Conference

Continued from page 1

learning taught by Guy LeBlanc.

Track Two: A Spanish language workshop covering tree biology, soil science, tree selection, installation and establishment, pruning, diagnosis and plant disorders. Speakers include Salvador Alemany, Mark Duff, and Micah Pace.

Registration for the Tree School is separate from the Texas Tree Conference. Details at isatexas.com and online registration at shop.isatexas.com

Texas Tree Awards

Luncheon Thursday, October 6

**Nominations due by
September 16 at 5 pm**

Arborist of the Year, Arboricultural Project of the Year, and Gold Leaf Awards in two categories: Outstanding Arbor Day Activities and Outstanding Landscape Beautification Activities. Details and nomination forms at isatexas.com

• • •

The Waco Hilton and the Courtyard by Marriott are the Conference hotels

If you would like to exhibit at this year's conference, contact Jim Carse at 512-339-4618.

Contact Keith Brown, 2011 Conference Chair, at 512-996-9100 to volunteer or for more information.

Last year's attendees earned up to 16 ISA Certified Arborist CEUs and 17.5 SAF Certified Forester CEUs !

REGISTER ONLINE

for the Texas Tree
Conference, Academy,
or Tree School at
shop.isatexas.com

By Popular Demand: SAAA Tree Climbing Workshop

by Booker Arradondo, President
and founding member SAAA

The San Antonio Arborist Association (SAAA) is at it again. A tree climbing workshop is being given by former Texas Tree Climbing Champion Guy LeBlanc September 15. Come and learn the latest in tree climbing skills. In working with him, I learned in five minutes what it would take months to learn on my own.

This is the first tree climbing workshop held in San Antonio in years. Tree climbers here have expressed the need for upgrading their climbing skills, so the SAAA will make it happen. The SAAA intends to help all tree workers increase their skill levels and enjoy more safety procedures while working in trees.



Also The SAAA will host along with ISA a Certified Tree Workers test November 11 and 12 at San Pedro Park in San Antonio. Keep up with the updates on our website, sa-aa.com

The SAAA is now open for membership. To join, go to sa-aa.com, download an application and send it in with the \$40.00 annual membership fee. General Liability insurance is required.

Tree folks can work together and move forward in a positive direction. Thanks to all members and others in supporting our goals. We look forward to bringing more events to the San Antonio area.

TVMA 2011 October 3–5

The Texas Vegetation Management Association (TVMA) Annual Conference is being held at the YO Conference Center in Kerrville October 3–5! This is a great venue for vegetation managers of all kinds to come together and share experiences and learn about other operations around the state.

The conference is about 75 per cent educational and the rest is social. You can come away from the experience reloaded and return home in the ‘thinking mode’. The CEUs for Pesticide Applicators and ISA Certifications are a strong bonus. The really great part is being able to listen to mainstream vegetation managers and educators share their knowledge with you. It is personal, professional and well worth your time.

Special training sessions are available to help you get your newer employees taught and thinking in a way that will help them pass the Pesticide Applicator’s test. It is not easy by any means, but this training is intense, fun and productive.

Managers who want the opportunity to develop leadership abilities can volunteer for committees and even Board positions. There is no mistake: this will help you on your resume and increase your value to an employer! Take advantage and sign up now at tvma.net

—Steve White, Davey Tree Surgery Company, Past TVMA President

Panhandle News

Bad news first: Few parts of the Texas Panhandle have had adequate moisture, and most areas could use a lot of rain. The drought stress, combined with high temperatures, has spider mites thriving in everything from junipers to oak and elm. Brian Scott, TFS staff forester says, “They feed even more under the dry conditions, while most of their natural enemies are stressed by our arid conditions.”

Spider mite injury can resemble herbicide injury or a foliar disease, but characteristic signs are tiny yellow spots and the presence of honeydew shining on the leaves. As the injury becomes more severe, leaves turn yellow, then brown, and finally die and drop off. Spider mites are often mistakenly treated with insecticides which are not very effective at reducing outbreaks and may actually flare up the mite population. So don’t kill the wrong bugs, and remember spider mites are arachnids.

Scott recommends that if you haven’t already done so, start scouting trees now using a hand lens, or shake leaves on paper to see if mites are present, then use insecticidal soap and miticide applications to control these pests.

Some good news is that the hard freezes we had last winter and early spring made a significant kill in the bagworm population. And also, six participants took the ISA Certified Arborist Exam in mid-August, translating into better tree care and safety in the future for West Texas.

—Brian Scott, TFS Forester



McDonald Observatory Fire

Wildfire Season Summary

So far this fire season, more than 3,435,963 acres of Texas land have burned. More than 629 homes have been lost in addition to 1,850 other structures.


The seven-month period between October 2010 and April 2011 was the driest seven-month period in Texas history since 1895.

Six of the top 10 largest fires on record in Texas history occurred in 2011. We've seen fires jump railroads, highways and bodies of water. We've seen hundreds of families evacuated, not knowing if they'll have an opportunity to return home. Texas Forest Service officials have recounted stories of seeing burned and fatally-wounded livestock while assessing damage after a fire.

We've seen a lot of tragedies – and we've also seen the kindness and gratitude of Texans across the Lone Star State. After putting out a blaze that was threatening homes in Hale County, a homeowner hugged all 15 engine crew members and a regional fire coordinator before allowing them to leave the property. Residents across the state have approached firefighters in restaurants and convenience stores, offering to pay for their meals, buy their fuel or just say thank you.

While many Texas homes and structures have been lost, more than 23,000 homes and 11,000 other structures have been saved.

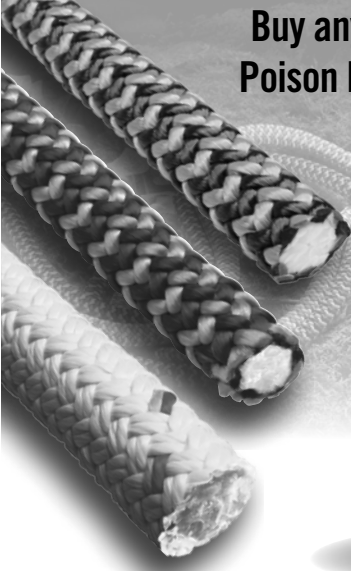

– from the Texas Forest Service. Look for more TFS fire photos & stories in our next issue.



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Benny's Trees Workday November 5

by Melanie R. Kirk, Extension Natural Resources Education Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

I would like to formally invite everyone to a Benny J. Simpson Collection Clean-up at the Texas A&M Research & Extension Center in Dallas on Saturday November 5, beginning at 9 am.

We ask arborists and tree care professionals in the DFW Metroplex to come and help us make the collection more aesthetically appealing and clean out the dead limbs in an effort to extend

their viability while allowing a clearer view of the invaluable drought-tolerant species he introduced to this area.

If you are interested in participating, please email your name and contact information to Jennifer Leone at jennifer.leone@agnet.tamu.edu or call her at 972-952-9258. You will receive a reminder, liability waiver, and additional details as the event gets closer.



Benny J. Simpson

40-year career at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Dallas. He was legendary for his plant investigations in the wild, primarily the Trans-Pecos and far West Texas.

Benny's official titles were "research scientist" and "ornamental horticulturist," but he called himself a "plant hunter." He collected seeds and cuttings that he then devoted years to adapting for use in the landscape. His research led to nine formerly wild species of native plants being introduced into commercial production as ornamentals under Texas A&M trademarks.

In June of 1996, The Dallas Research and Extension Center dedicated the Benny J. Simpson Native Plant Collection in honor of Simpson. The collection demonstrates more than 20 years of Simpson's research in Dallas, representing 345 plants in 84 genera.

His book *A Field Guide to Texas Trees* was published in 1990 by Texas Monthly Press. The book includes 225 native Texas trees. Pictures and information on each species can be viewed at:

aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/natives/

.....

Read more about Benny Simpson and his horticultural achievements at: aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/natives/about.html

One Hot and Dry Summer

Around the Austin area we have definitely noticed a smaller population of insects this summer. Wasps, beetles, ants, walking stick, praying mantis and others just seem much more rare compared to last year. General species of fungus are appearing to be suppressed, too.

Everyone that can should put out some water for the birds and animals to help them get through this unusual drought.

Be very aware of the weak-wooded tree species like chinaberry, sugarberry (hackberry), pecan and cedar elm right now. Limbs are breaking as the trees are getting more and more stripped of their inner moisture.

— Steve White and the vegetation managers at Davey Tree Surgery

In the Shade is published six times a year by the Texas Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture.

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TWO SEPTEMBER DEADLINES

Need silent auction items by week of September 26

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

We can use 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 round of golf 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 knickknacks, or tree art? Small items are OK – we can put them together with other items to make a great package.

The conference is October 5– 7. **We would like to have confirmation of items by the week of September 26.**

Please contact ISAT board member Heather Brewer at 512-930-6113 or heather.brewer@georgetown.org if you have ideas or items available.



Need nominations for Texas Tree Awards by September 16 at 5 pm

Know someone who's doing an outstanding job? Nominate that person for the 2011 Texas Community Forestry Awards.

Awards will be presented at the Awards Luncheon October 6 at the Texas Tree Conference in Waco. The Awards Program is sponsored by the Texas Forest Service and the Texas Chapter ISA.

Three categories are Arborist of the Year, Arboricultural Project of the Year, and Gold Leaf Award. Details and forms are available at isatexas.com. **Deadline for nominations is 5 pm September 16.**

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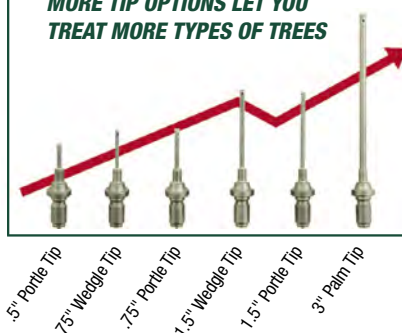
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Arborist, horticulturist, educator + a few more

by Jeannette Ivy

Susan Henson is an arborist, a horticulturist, and a one-woman municipal whirlwind in Grand Prairie. Her days are filled with community projects, programs and events, yet she's always ready to help individual homeowners and business owners with tree-related concerns. "My job is to educate – one person at a time, one yard at a time," says Susan.

Susan is the horticulturist/arborist for the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Grand Prairie. She spends more than half her time on tree-related issues, the rest on horticulture, events, and community liaison. She also shares her knowledge of plants and trees through the landscape and garden show "Let's Get Growing" on Grand Prairie's TV channel, GPTV. Current shows and program archives can be viewed at gptx.org/gptv

Susan is currently working with the Parks and Recreation Tree Board to rewrite the city's tree ordinance. She's in favor of incentive-driven ordinances that give more say-so on commercial development to companies that plant trees. She's also worked with the Texas Forest Service on a two-year grant for a major tree inventory. They've already GIS-mapped 52 of 56 parks and all right-of-way and median trees in Grand Prairie.

She's active in the Trinity/Blackland Urban Forestry Council, the Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council, and is currently president of The Texas UFC. "Vendors and contractors come to me and say they want to get involved in the arborist community to build their business. I urge them to join urban forestry councils." She's the vice president of the Texas Chapter ISA, and by the way, she's also a certified applicator and a certified

playground instructor! And she writes articles too.

Susan's influence is far-reaching, and don't think you can escape it by getting arrested; she assigns community service work to offenders from municipal court, and they usually end up picking up litter – 850 tons of it a year.

Grand Prairie: Dream Big, Play Hard

Susan can't stop singing the praises of Grand Prairie and its very proactive Parks and Recreation Department. Places, programs, statistics, people – she itemizes them so fast I can hardly write them down, even illegibly. Here are a few:

- The Summit – the largest LEED gold certified building in the United States built for adults age 50 and older, with state-of-the art fitness areas, infinity edge pool, sauna and more. Plans include a prairie restoration and a memorial forest and over 700 trees planted at this location to date. The Summit is located in the 172-acre, award-winning Central Park.
- Tree the Town – the biggest tree initiative in the country, involving 30 cities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Plans are to plant 3 million trees in 10 years, all to be GIS-mapped. Each community has made a different commitment to the program, and Grand Prairie plans to plant 6,000 trees a year for the next 10 years.
- Tree City USA – This honor goes to communities that have made the commitment to invest in their trees. Grand Prairie has had the Tree City USA designation for 27 years and has received the Growth Award for 10 years. It's the second oldest Tree City in Texas.
- Grand Fun Club – a way Grand Prairie folks can get emails or tweets about upcoming Parks and Recreation events. Susan tweets tree and horticulture information on a regular basis.
- Kirby Creek Nature Center – Every school child in Grand Prairie goes there once a year to spend a whole day doing science. The curriculum includes composting and recycling, water quality testing, environmental restoration (currently restoring prairie and wildflower areas), how to plant and maintain a vegetable garden, and how to inventory trees. In addition the Sensory and Kitchen Garden and native and adaptive areas allow the children to see the garden from a new perspective.
- Downtown – They're going to redo the whole downtown, including a brand new Farmers Market, structural soil under the sidewalks so people can plant trees in tree wells, and special loans to property owners to spruce up their businesses.
- Shade Makers – a group that provides citizen forester training. "Don't push volunteers away," she says. "They can do a lot with proper training."
- NRPA gold medal – The Parks and Recreation Department won the National Recreation and Parks Association gold medal in 2008/2009. This is the highest national award that a parks and recreation department can receive and is based on master planning, quality of facilities, new developments, creative programs, marketing, community partnerships, environmental stewardships and several other categories.

Continued on next page

Susan Henson

Continued from previous page

“We give trees out at every event,” says Susan. “We motivate and recruit volunteers. We dedicate a quarter cent of the sales tax directly to infrastructure development. The motto of Grand Prairie is ‘Dream Big, Play Hard’.”

A Plant Person's Career Path

As a child in Fort Worth, Susan planted some coleus seeds in a shoebox and they all germinated. That was the beginning of her horticultural activities. She worked at a friend's nursery while attending Tarrant County Junior College, and later she was a greenhouse attendant for the City of Fort Worth. There she potted plants, mixed potting soil (one scoop of this, one scoop of that), took cuttings, and planted trees. She also ran the tree spade, backhoe, and shredder, and gathered seeds and insects for genetic testing by the Texas Forest Service, but says there are some things she just doesn't add to her references any more.

Susan decided she really liked trees and took a class in urban silviculture from Larry Schaapveld, who was the first Urban Forester for the Texas Forest Service. She learned how to pace off a property, how to evaluate the flora and fauna, and how to come up with uses for that piece of land. Then she moved to Dallas and went to work for Mary Kay Cosmetics as head of their landscape department.

Mary Kay had eight buildings, each with its own interior gardener, plus outside crews. There were 800 employees and every one of them at all levels had to go to marketing meetings and had to know all the company's products. During her five years at Mary Kay, Susan learned management skills and how to work with different kinds of people and organizations. This is how she summarized their corporate culture: When asked “How are you?” there were only three correct answers: “Fantastic,” “Great” or “Marvelous.”

When her son was young she started her own landscape maintenance business and ran it for three years, then went to work for the City of Grand Prairie in 1989.

When she first went to Grand Prairie the horticulture crew planted 45,000 tulip bulbs. Then budget cuts came, and horticulture is always cut first. They started losing crew, and all their people were eventually switched to park maintenance. More emphasis on trees and shrubs made sense at the time, and continues to be a practical alternative to huge flower beds.

Susan got more and more into trees because their legacy lasts. Plant them, come back in 20 years, and they're still there. She decided she needed to become a certified arborist so that's what she did. Advantages of certification include increased credibility, getting out and networking with the arborist community, and completing projects that one person can't do alone.

Looking at the changing field of arboriculture,

Susan has some concerns. One problem is that tree nurseries and farms don't always grow to our specs. Another problem is that everybody wants to plant trees but not everybody understands that a planting program needs to include a maintenance program. There are good changes too; most people these days see trees as a positive. People are becoming more sensitive to the value of trees and to their need for special care in cities, where trees

have a shorter lifespan and need all the help we can give them.

How does she do it all? “I don't know – I just do it,” she says. One of her specialties over the years has been cutting through red tape, armed with the philosophy, “Lead, follow or get out of the way.”

At home are Susan's husband, dogs, birds, rabbit, and a 30 x 30 greenhouse with tropical plants. Palm trees against a wall are protected from winds and in a bad freeze they are wrapped in burlap with Christmas lights. I made the mistake of telling Susan I always kill palms, and she said everybody lost them last winter except those who wrapped them with burlap + Christmas lights + another layer of burlap + plastic all the way up the trunk.

There she goes again, educating one person and one yard at a time. ■



Susan Henson

Dollar signs

Growers must convey the value of trees

by Kelli Rodda

This article was originally published in the June 2011 issue of Nursery Management. Visit them at nurserymanagementonline.com

It's time for trees to be the powerhouse of the industry. Sales have been minimal while nursery burn and compost piles have been excessive. It's been a frightening and maddening situation.

As the downturn slowly rights itself, albeit painfully slowly, tree growers need to push the message of the value of trees to anyone with a pulse. Trees are a necessity, not a luxury.

Study after study points to the millions of dollars trees provide in benefits to cities.

- The New York City Parks Department determined the nearly 600,000 street trees in its five boroughs provide an annual benefit of \$122 million – more than five times the cost of maintaining them.
- Studies by Geoffrey Donovan, an economist and research forester at the Pacific Northwest Research Station, and David Butry, an

economist with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, found that Portland's street trees have a capital value of \$1.1 billion, which translates to \$45 million in benefits annually.

- The Ohio State University Extension's Why Trees Matter Signature Program discovered Toledo's street trees provide \$15.1 million in annual benefits, including energy benefits (electricity and natural gas savings) and stormwater remediation.
- In Minneapolis, street trees resulted in savings of \$6.8 million in energy costs and \$9.1 million in stormwater treatment. The trees also increased property values by \$7.1 million.
- Shade trees in Washington, D.C. provide more than \$10 million in annual carbon, air quality, stormwater, energy and property value benefits.

Although these amounts are impressive, let's take it down to the homeowner level. Tell the buyer how trees put money back in their accounts.

Homes shaded by trees have 10–30 percent savings in air conditioning costs compared to homes without shade. And homes with trees sell for an average of 10–20 percent more.

The city of Portland wants to plant 33,000 yard trees and 50,000 street trees by July 2013 as part of its five-year, \$50 million Grey to Green initiative. The city's Treebate program offers a utility-bill credit to homeowners who plant trees in their yards. And it's still funded for this year. Applications will be available in September.

These are quantitative dollar amounts that consumers can grasp.

Bailey Nurseries in St. Paul, Minn., created a tag and point-of-purchase program called Trees are Cool. The program informs customers that a healthy tree cools the air equivalent to 10 room-sized air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

Urban trees also provide natural resource management jobs including tree inventory, inspection and care, landscape maintenance, and environmental impact field work and planning.

Street trees benefit business. Studies show that consumers are willing to spend 12 percent more in stores with trees in front of them than without.

Other benefits

Spring Grove Nursery in Mazon, Ill., touts the benefits of its trees to current and future customers. Owners Becky and Jamie Thomas spend a lot of time at schools teaching children how trees clean air pollution, provide oxygen and offer a home for wildlife. The Thomases also teach the school-agers how to plant and care for trees in the landscape.

“Being involved in the community and making sure our trees are part of

Continued on next page

TAKE CARE OF THE TREES

Finding a new way to market trees and getting them planted is only the beginning. The entire green industry, from growers to landscape architects to contractors, must also stress maintenance and care. With the proliferation of the million tree campaigns, maintenance and care is critical to make these programs successful. Groups such as the Ohio State University Extension's Why Trees Matter Signature Program are working with volunteers to explain proper planting and maintenance techniques.

Dollar Signs *Continued from previous page*

the community is important to our business,” Becky said in between sessions at the ANLA Management Clinic this year.

Treed neighborhoods reduce crime compared to those without trees. Research also shows that trees reduce stress in the homes, schools and even behind the wheel.

The message must be simple. Use a couple of talking points that speak to the customer’s wallet and their conscience. There’s no need to use scientific terms such as amelioration or transpiration.



There are about 60-200 million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO₂ every year and saving \$4 billion on energy costs.

—NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Possible partnerships

The Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) was created to promote sustainable land development and management practices that can apply to sites with and without buildings. And trees are an integral part of these projects, such as local, state and national parks; conservation easements and buffer zones; transportation rights-of-way; industrial, retail and office parks; military complexes; airports; and public and private campuses.

SITES will provide tools for those who influence land development and management practices and can

address increasingly urgent global concerns such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and resource depletion. They can be used by those who design, construct, operate and maintain landscapes, including but not limited to planners, landscape architects, engineers, developers, builders, maintenance crews, horticulturists, governments, land stewards and organizations offering building standards.

This effort began as separate projects of the Sustainable Design and Development Professional Practice

Network of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. In 2005, the two groups joined forces to hold a Sustainable Sites Summit in Austin, Texas.

In 2006, the United States Botanical Garden (USBG) joined as a major partner in the Initiative. A steering committee representing 11 stakeholder groups was selected to guide the Initiative.

There are more than 150 projects participating in the SITES two-year pilot program through June 2012. These projects represent a diverse cross-section of project types, sizes and geographic locations in various stages of development from design to construction and maintenance.

One of the SITES pilot projects is Casey Trees’ offices in Washington, D.C. The Casey Trees Brookland headquarters design uses trees to maximize canopy cover and manage stormwater. The site design showcases trees in various applications including infiltration planters for trees along 90 linear feet of sidewalk, two rain gardens with a diverse planting of trees, and soil cells that create large soil volume for tree growth under the

Continued on next page



Maintenance is critical to the success of million-trees campaigns.



Nurseries are adapting to the new order of shade tree marketing.

sidewalk. At maturity, the tree canopy will increase by 25 percent. The goal of the project is to demonstrate what is possible when public and non-profit institutions work together.

For more: Spring Grove Nursery (springgrovenursery.com) Bailey Nurseries, (baileynurseries.com) Sustainable Sites Initiative (sustainablesites.org).



Shade trees in Washington, D.C. provide more than \$10 million in annual carbon, air quality, stormwater, energy and property value benefits.

D.C.'S URBAN FOREST

In 2009, Casey Trees performed a tree inventory of Washington, D.C.'s urban forest. By using the urban forest effects model, the group found that D.C. has 2.6 million trees, compared to 1.9 million in 2004. The most common species during the 2009 inventory were American beech, Callery pear and tulip tree. These 2.6 million trees reduced building energy costs by \$3.5 million a year and stored 540,000 tons of carbon.

Casey Trees is a nonprofit committed to restoring, enhancing and protecting the tree canopy of the nation's capital. It has pledged to perform a tree inventory every five years. For more: www.caseytrees.org

Photo courtesy of Casey Trees



Get a free adult beverage ticket at the 2011 Texas Tree Conference in Waco!

Bring your old ISAT event photos and we will give you a free beverage ticket for the Thursday night reception. We are looking for photos from past tree conferences, workshops, climbing competitions, or local events ISAT helped to sponsor. One ticket per person, not per photo.

Photos can be printed or on CDs. The higher the resolution, the better. Please save files as a jpg or a format that can be edited. We will take photos from recent past events but are really hoping for some photos from waaay back. We will want to know what the year was and what the event was. If you can ID any people in the photos, that would also be helpful. Photos can be emailed in early to heather.brewer@georgetown.org or hand-delivered at the conference to Heather Brewer, chapter historian.



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EDITOR'S NOTE by Paul Johnson

This summer has given me several opportunities to travel and you know what that means... windshield time. Lots and lots of windshield time. What do you do when you are driving across this great state of ours? Do you listen to music, spend your time on the phone, stare at the road, or listen to audio books? Or do you listen to podcasts?

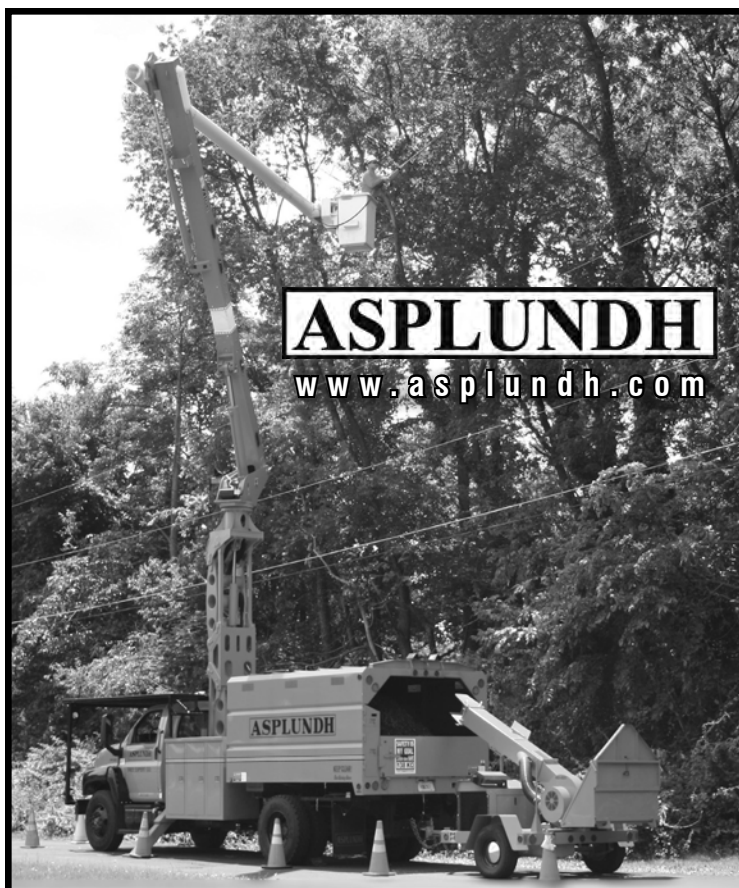
With the proliferation of smart phones, podcasts have gotten more and more popular. Even my inexpensive phones can also play mp3 audio files. You can find podcasts about music, personal finance, food, and trees. The ISA has produced a series of podcasts called ArborPod that you can access through iTunes or the ISA website at bit.ly/qpr6er

There are four series Detective Dendro®, Climbing and Rigging, Science of Arboriculture, and Arbor Views. If you like Detective Dendro in Arborist News, now you can listen to him puzzle out the perplexing pest or problem in this month's episode. I don't recommend the Climbing and Rigging podcast for road trips unless you are the passenger because they are videos.

I have found the Science of Arboriculture podcast to be particularly interesting. These are presentations from previous conferences and workshops from the leading speakers across the world. The latest podcasts are 'Soil Mechanics 101' by Dr. Tim Newson, University of Western Ontario, and 'Can Changes in Branch Allometry and Material Properties lead to Structurally Safe Branches?' by Dr. Gregory A. Dahle, Rutgers University. I don't know about you, but I haven't been able to attend all of these conferences and I appreciate the opportunity to learn from these speakers.

You can even purchase a quiz for \$9.95 (for members) to earn CEUs from each podcast. There is a 'secret' code at the end of each recording to unlock access to the quiz. The only downside to this product is that sometimes the presenter refers to a visual from the PowerPoint that we as listeners can't see. For me this has been a minor issue and shouldn't dissuade you from listening.

From the ISA website Arbor Views is "an interview-style, ArborPod series featuring field experts who offer practical information on a broad range of arboricultural topics." Keep listening and maybe our chapter will do something similar in the future. I hope you will join us in Waco in October. This is going to be a great Texas Tree Conference. See you in Waco!



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Tree Planting in Fort Davis:

They Didn't Let the Fire Have the Last Word

Members of the Big Bend Native Plant Society and the West Texas Urban Forestry Council (WTUFC) came together on Saturday August 13 to distribute, deliver and plant trees for homeowners who lost homes and



One Chinkapin oak, one peach tree and two pomegranates were planted at Mr. & Mrs. Rodriguez's lot in Fort Davis off Hwy 118. They lost their home but visit the property everyday to water and care for the surviving plants. Shown here are Beth Francell and John White.



Mrs. Rodriguez, John White, Beth Francell, Pollyanne Melton, Oscar Mestas, Mr. Rodriguez (left to right)

vegetation during the devastating Rock House fire in Jeff Davis county this past April.

WTUFC donated \$2000 and the Native Plant Society offered a garden tour / fund raiser, collecting \$400. Together with tree donations from Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, the 21 homeowners went home with at least two 15-gallon trees. Alice Stevens, owner of One Way Nursery in Alpine, acted as the distribution point and holding facility for the trees.

The day of the event homeowners came to the nursery and selected their trees and shrubs. Oscar Mestas, Regional Urban Forester with the Texas Forest Service, and John White, Botanical Curator for the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at UTEP, were available to answer questions and help make selections. Later on that day volunteers delivered and planted trees for those needing assistance. The victims of the fire were grateful for this event and repeatedly thanked the volunteers for doing this.

— Submitted by Oscar Mestas, Regional Urban Forester.
Photos courtesy of Max Kandler.

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ISA Annual Conference: Trees Down Under



by Keith Brown

Every now and then, life gives us a little treat. For me, this came as a trip to Australia for the 2011 ISA Annual Conference. The trip was great! If there is one place in this world most like Texas, it is Australia. The people speak a (hardly understandable) version of English, beef is the main food, and the people couldn't be nicer. They say it has been the worst drought remember-able in Australia, too.

Fortunately, the good tree karma brought to them by the world's best arborists also brought them rain. Just in time for the tree climbing championships. Saturday was on and off light rain all day, but not too much to tolerate. The competition went off on schedule with no interruptions. Our Texas representative, Abram Zies, made Texas look good. Preliminary results were not released, but I watched

Abram set a personal best in footlock, breaking the 15 second barrier. Scott Forest from New Zealand took home the trophy. Some of you may have met Scott if you attended the 2007 Texas Tree Climbing Competition. Scott was a guest competitor that year in Texas.

The conference tracks were very well done. I got a sneak peek at Kim Coder, who will be presenting at the Texas Tree Conference in early October (sign up online now @ shop.isatexas.com). Arboriculture in the down-under is obviously very advanced. The Aussies cover all angles: municipal, consultants, advanced climbers – you name it, they're doing it. I was very impressed at how serious professional arboriculture is taken there. One consultancy firm in Sydney is actually developing a technique to treat and subdue stem decay. Their preliminary

results are showing to be successful; this could be a groundbreaking advancement, hopefully coming to the states sometime soon.

If you ever get a chance to visit Australia, I highly recommend it. My experience was great. Be sure to look the right way when you cross the street. They drive on the wrong side of the road there. And they aren't shy about pointing and laughing when they see you looking the wrong way (that's for you Kevin Bassett)!

Above photos by Keith Brown. To see more of Keith's Australia pictures go to bit.ly/qnwKgX



John Giedraitis, Keith Brown, and Mark Duff at the ISA 2011 Conference in Australia.

Save the Date

September 15, San Antonio

TREE CLIMBING WORKSHOP. One-day workshop with Guy LeBlanc, sponsored by San Antonio Arborist Association. sa-aa.com

September 16, 5 pm

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2011 TEXAS TREE AWARDS. Details and nomination forms at isatexas.com

week of September 26

DEADLINE FOR TTC SILENT AUCTION ITEMS. Heather Brewer, 512-930-6113 or heather.brewer@georgetown.org

October 3-5, Kerrville

TEXAS VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE. tvma.net

October 5-7, Waco

32ND TEXAS TREE CONFERENCE. "Building Bridges through Arboriculture." isatexas.com

October 7, Waco

ISA CERTIFICATION TEST. isatexas.com

October 20, Las Cruces, NM

SUN COUNTRY LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE, "Green is the New Gold." Co-sponsored by West Texas Forestry Council and New Mexico State Forestry. wtufc.org

November 5, Dallas

WORK DAY, BENNY J SIMPSON COLLECTION, TAMU RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER. Jennifer Leone, jennifer.leon@agnet.tamu.edu or 972-952-9258.

November 11 & 12, San Antonio

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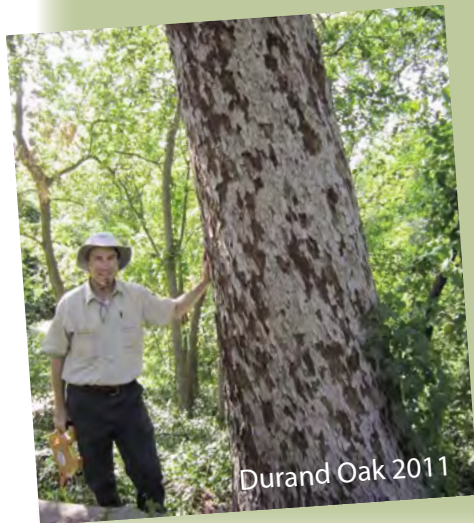
See you at the Training Center!



Durand Oak 1968



Durand Oak 2005



Durand Oak 2011

Forty Years of Bark-ing

by Gretchen Riley, Texas Forest Service

Recently I had the opportunity to visit champion trees in Cameron Park, Waco, with Big Tree Registry Coordinator Pete Smith. We remeasured a former champion Durand oak and noted piles of bark chips at the base of this otherwise very healthy tree. The three accompanying photos show this tree in 1968 when it was nominated for the Big Tree Registry, in 2005 during a remeasurement, and again in 2011. There are an increasing number of sloughed off patches as time progresses. We've considered hypoxylon, smooth patch, sunscald, frost, and oak borers as causes, though nothing jumps out at us. It'll be interesting to see this tree in another 5 to 10 years when it's up for remeasurement!

Oh No! Bark is Piling Up at the Base of My Tree!

Gretchen Riley, Texas Forest Service

Don't panic! There are several reasons bark can be sloughing off and piling at the base of a tree and not all of them are fatal (see Forty Years of Bark-ing).

Sloughing or peeling of the bark can be a normal process, especially in the spring when the tree increases growth. Bark may peel or fall off the tree in sheets, plates, strips or blocks depending on species. Smooth patch is a disease typically caused by the fungus *Aleurodiscus oakesii*. The fungus breaks down the dead bark of an oak tree and uses it as a food source, causing the bark to fall off. Smooth patch may cause the oak to appear unsightly, but it is not a threat to the tree's overall health.

Sunscald and frost cracks can also cause splitting and sloughing of bark. Both sunscald and frost cracks are localized bark injuries that often occur on the southwest side of younger trees, and normally heal on their own. Usually not fatal themselves, sunscald and frost cracks can allow the entry of bacterial pathogens or insects which may cause harm to the tree.

Sometimes, sloughing of bark is cause for concern. Extensive infestations of borers can cause sloughing of bark and result in death of young or newly transplanted trees. Typically evidence of borer infestation is observed as sawdust found beneath exit holes in the trunk and large branches, or sawdust-filled tunnels beneath the bark. Damage often manifests as sparse and yellowing foliage.

Hypoxylon canker, caused by the opportunistic fungi *Hypoxylon atropuntatum*, also results in sloughing of bark in infected trees. Tan, olive green, or reddish-brown powdery spores can be seen where the bark has sloughed off and the bark chips are found at the base of the tree. Hypoxylon is quick to colonize weakened or damaged wood and is often more prevalent during drought. Typically, by the time the symptoms are apparent, it is too late for the tree.

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