



In the shade

WHERE
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GUYS?

NEWSLETTER OF THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER

Vol. 37, No. 3

September, 2013



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When a client asks me about a tree problem, it's usually for one of three things: insects, disease or a nutrient deficiency. Trees add beauty and value to their property, and the last thing my customers want is to lose one. That's why Mauget is a key part of my treatment plan. Mauget products are effective and easy to use and with Mauget, I can quickly help the tree regain its good health and leave knowing my customer is happy.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Susan Henson



Fellow International Tree Experts,

I hope that our members remember that we belong to an international organization. I was reminded of this fact again when I attended the International Tree Conference in Toronto. Networking and learning from individuals, speakers and groups from around the world was so invigorating, and definitely recharged my batteries! Sometimes we forget that we are not in this fight alone. People from all over the world face the same problems we do on a daily basis; only the trees, environment and people change.

Speaking of conferences, our annual conference is coming up soon in Waco. This year's theme is "Branching Out," continuing our theme of reaching out to fellow environmental organizations. This year's conference will include municipal, commercial and utility tracks. There will be something for everyone's interest, presented by some of the best speakers in our professions from across the country and world. The speakers are ready, vendors are fully equipped, the social events are planned and CEUs are sanctioned! We need you to make this the most successful conference ever. Check the website for more info for all the events. Last but not least please consider donating something to our silent auction! Ask one of your vendors to donate or maybe you have something. The monies raised go toward research projects that we fund. Please become part of the fun and join us in Waco!

We set many goals this year as my term started, and many have been met. We are forming new policies and procedures, and increasing local workshops. Committee chairs are writing procedure books to hand to the next chair. We had board training from International headquarters, and planning has begun for the International Conference to be held in Fort Worth in 2016. The climbing championship has grown to include educational opportunities, and judges' training is being developed. Join us at the conference and we will have all the details of what your board has accomplished this year.

Last but not least please keep a lookout for your ballot to elect new board members. We will be attempting online voting this year for your convenience. We realize some members still require a paper ballot so we will make these available also.

What a year! I look forward to seeing you at conference October 2-4. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to be your president and I hope that if you have questions or concerns you will contact me and we will work it out together.

– Susan J. Henson, President

NEW MEMBERS

Raymond D. Kitzmiller, Longview

Craig Sick, Flower Mound
(Town of Flower Mound)

Brice Key, Lubbock

Kelly Futrell, Lubbock

Ramiro B. Dorantes, Austin

Chris Barneycastle, Snellville
(Barneycastle Forestry Services, Inc.)

David E Perkins, Fort Worth
(At Your Request Landscaping
and Tree Service)

John Aregood, Hunt
(El Coyote Ranch)

Jose Gerardo Balli, McAllen
(Rancho El Mexicano)

Cecil F. Jorns, Katy
(JNJ Pest Control and Grounds Care)

Jessica Robertson, Marble Falls
(Backbone Valley Nursery)

Tracy Allison, Austin
(Sid Mourning Tree Service, Inc.)

John Robinson, Austin

Larry Lee Casias, Midland
(Alldredge Gardens)

Jason Weisman, Dallas

Jesse Neumann, Austin

Justin E. Horwath, San Antonio
(Tree Wise Men)

COVER PHOTO

The guys on the cover (Pete Smith, TFS College Station, and John Walters, City of Pearland) were in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, attending the ISA conference. The conference was right next to the CN Tower, Toronto's most famous landmark and one of the tallest buildings in the world. The Texans met an architect who was a student when they built this; it was a continuous concrete pour for eighteen months straight, 24/7! Photo by Mark Duff.

See you at the 2013 Texas Tree Conference

by Michael Sultan

Every year the ISAT Board of Directors works hard to provide an educational and networking experience that is both valuable and memorable. With more than 750 ISAT chapter members, it is always a challenge creating an academy and conference program that we feel will benefit and serve the interests of our diverse membership.

This year's conference theme is "Branching Out." We are celebrating the idea of building partnerships across arboriculture and urban forestry disciplines, and the sharing of ideas and experiences outside of our industry.

This year's pre-conference academy is a return to the traditional classroom setting, and we have two incredible presenters and topics. Dr. Kim Coder, an ISAT favorite, will be sharing information about the complex relationship between lightning and trees. Dr. Frank Telewski, from Michigan State University, is an expert in the field of biomechanics and thigmomorphogenesis – ya, look it up – a field that is gaining attention with its relationship to tree defects and the elevated interest in the ISA's new tree risk assessment qualification. Additionally, in the spirit of our conference theme, we are partnering with the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) to provide a second pre-conference event on Wednesday. This will be the first time that we are offering an opportunity for



people to attend an Electrical Hazard Awareness Program (EHAP) that will provide valuable information about working around electrical systems. Of course, the Wednesday evening social at Cameron Park is an event that you won't want to miss either.

The tree conference itself is going to be one of the best programs ever. With the variety in presenters and topics, it is too much for me to mention specifically. I encourage you to visit isatexas.com for more information and to register online. Following the first day of the conference there will be a reception with exhibitors, giving everyone ample time to cruise the exhibitor hall, peruse the ISA bookstore, bid on silent auction items, and test their diagnostic skills at Dr. Appel's tree disease display, which is back by popular demand. The conference will wrap up Friday with a half day of presentations in the morning, and a full afternoon that consists of concurrent Texas Tree Schools (English and Spanish) and an ISA Certified Arborist Exam.

As the conference chair, I am really proud of the quality of the program that your conference committee put together this year, and I am looking forward to seeing many familiar faces and meeting new friends too. Don't wait. Register now. We'll see you October 2–4 in Waco!

Call for auction items! (supports ISAT research projects & scholarships)

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

ISAT is currently seeking large and small items of interest to tree professionals – anything from a gift certificate for your services to artwork, maybe a tree from your operation or a 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 knick knacks, or tree art? Small items are OK – we can put them together with other items to make a great package.



The conference is October 2–4. We would like to have confirmation of items by the week of September 23. Please contact ISAT board member Terry Kirkland at 432-528-1208 or tkirkland@midland.edu if you have ideas or items available for the auction.

EHAP saves lives

TCIA's Electrical Hazards Awareness Program (EHAP) seeks to educate owners, managers and production personnel on how to identify, understand and avoid electrical hazards. The program focuses on the following areas:

- electricity and the utility industry
- recognizing electrical hazards
- emergency response and aerial rescue
- safety standards



EHAP is an ideal way to keep crews aware of electrical hazards to reduce injuries and losses, plus keep them trained and ready. It is vitally important that arborists receive proper training so that they may go home to their families at the end of every day.

"Even arborists who don't perform line clearance work are exposed to electrical lines and must be trained to avoid this deadly hazard," says Bob Rouse, TCIA's chief program officer. "To prevent fatal accidents, we encourage all professionals involved in the pruning or removal of trees to participate in this training."

EHAP also helps companies meet OSHA standards and ANSI safety requirements. Additionally, EHAP is often required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in order to qualify for storm-related clean-ups.

ISAT is offering the EHAP training at the Texas Tree Conference in Waco. The class will be held Wednesday, October 2, from 8 am to 5 pm. Class size is limited. Register online at isatexas.com.



EDITOR'S NOTE by Oscar Mestas

What are we doing to help our customers conserve water?

That question was brought up during a recent telephone discussion I had with ISAT Board member Vincent Debrock. Vincent was asking me about a rare tree, *Quercus graciliformis*, also known as Chisos oak or graceful oak. He is trying to find alternative, more drought tolerant trees to introduce into the urban setting.

Rain has been spotty around the state, and some areas are still experiencing drought conditions. Our streams and reservoirs are still not full and most are well below capacity. The rains have helped but not enough; some Texas cities are in stage II watering restrictions and getting ready to go to stage III. What do we do as arborists? What do we tell our customers?

I hope most of you are teaching your clients how to take best advantage of their limited supply of water to help keep the largest and most valuable part of their landscape – their trees – alive. This issue of *In the Shade* has several articles on where the future may take us if we don't begin to think and act now in our best interest as stewards of our lands. We all need to get involved in educating our clients, city leaders, ourselves, and fellow green industry professionals.

We don't need to go to extremes, like some do here in El Paso, and rip out everything and replace it with rock and cactus. We do need to think rationally and conservatively about our water resource, encouraging good design and planning to keep our communities green. Think out of the box . . . ever heard of a curb cut or bio swale?



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The Current State of Municipal Forestry in Texas

by Keith O'Herrin

The purpose of this research study was to assess the current state of municipal forestry programs in Texas. Additionally, this survey was designed to be repeated in the future so that Texas can track changes in these measures of municipal programs over time, the way other states such as California and Oregon have done. The four major factors this research study measures and compares against each other are 1) measures of municipal forestry program success, 2) measures of municipal spending on urban forestry activities, 3) quantity of assistance received from the State Urban Forestry Program, and 4) the size of each city.

Discussion of 1) Municipal Forestry Program Success

The first major factor this study measured was 'program success' which could be fairly difficult to quantify objectively, so the presence of six key municipal forestry program elements were selected as tangible measures of success. 1.a) An appropriate amount of dedicated and qualified *staff* is critical to a municipal forestry program where they serve to coordinate, communicate, and act as subject-matter experts. 1.b) *Tree ordinances* regulate the planting, maintenance, and removal of public trees, and in some cases private trees, and those regulations are routinely enforced. 1.c) *Advocacy* is critical to municipal forestry program because advocates help staff communicate and network in methods

and forums where staff is prohibited from doing so; this is especially important during budget decisions. 1.d) An *urban forest management plan* is critical because it sets goals and priorities for staff to work towards, allowing for efficient allocation of time and resources. 1.e) A *tree inventory* is critical to an urban and community forestry program for the same reasons an inventory of utility lines is critical to an electric utility agency; if you don't know what you have, then you don't know what you need. 1.f) The *position* of the urban and community forestry (U&CF) program within the larger municipal structure can greatly affect the status given to that program's budget.

Results of 1) Municipal Forestry Program Success

Among cities with population 30,000 or greater, the average number of city residents per one dedicated staff member is 55,000 residents per staff member; this average was about 8,600 residents per staff member in communities with less than 30,000 residents. Strong tree ordinances are relatively common in Texas municipalities, including municipal codes that protect trees on private property during construction activity (about 48%) or regulate the removal of trees on private property (about 43%). Tree ordinances are especially strong in cities with a population of 500,000 or greater. Community tree boards (about 40%) and non-profit groups (about 41%) are both fairly common as well, and both become more common as city population increases.

Urban forestry management plans are very uncommon (about 13%) and there appears to be a strong connection between high spending rates and the presence of management plans; only about 8% of communities of any size have a mandate in city code requiring a management plan be developed. The same connection to high expenditure rates isn't seen with tree inventories of street trees

or park trees, which are also uncommon (about 20% and 22% respectively), whether they are comprehensive or sample inventories. Despite this lack of inventories, about 47% of all communities have their street trees on a proactive cycle and about 60% have their park trees on a proactive cycle.

About 70% of responding communities indicated that their urban forestry program resides within the Parks and Recreation Department, 20% in Public Works, and about 10% in other assorted departments. On average, the head urban forester is three steps removed from the mayor or city manager.

Discussion of 2) Municipal Spending on Urban Forestry Activities

The second major factor this research study measured was municipal spending on urban forestry activities relative to the size of that city, which allows for an apples-to-apples comparison of all cities across Texas. These measures were pioneered by Kielbaso et al in the 1970s when conducting nation-wide surveys of thousands of municipalities. The two measures used from Kielbaso are 2.a) expenditures on urban forestry activities per capita and 2.b) expenditures on urban forestry activities as a percentage of that municipalities total budget.

Results of 2) Municipal Spending on Urban Forestry Activities

Municipal expenditures in Texas on urban forestry activities are low compared to the findings of the related literature and represent a continued downward slide. On average, Texas cities of any population are spending less on urban forestry per capita today than the average U.S. city was spending at any period previously recorded in nation-wide surveys; 1974, 1980, 1986 or 1994. If the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA expenditure requirement of \$2 per capita (set in 1974) is adjusted for inflation, it rises to \$9.38 in 2012 dollars; only about

◀ 13% of respondents currently meet or exceed this adjusted value. Additionally, spending on urban forestry in Texas as a percentage of a municipality's total budget is quite low as well.

Discussion of 3) Quantity of Assistance Received from the State Urban Forestry Program

The third major factor this research study measured was the quantity of assistance received from the Texas A&M Forest Service Urban Forestry Program (the state) in the form of 3.a) *Financial assistance* such as grants and scholarships, 3.b) *Technical advice* such as how to draft a community's first tree ordinance, and 3.c) *Educational or training assistance* such as attendance at the Texas Tree Conference.

Results of 3) Quantity of Assistance Received from the State Urban Forestry Program

There appears to be a strong connection between a city receiving assistance from the state and those cities currently possessing the critical elements of an urban and community forestry program (staff, ordinances, advocacy, etc). Also, the larger a city is, the more likely it is to receive assistance; however it is unclear if this means larger cities reach out for help more often or if this is because larger cities are more likely to have a dedicated staff member to communicate with the state.

The entire report can be found on the Texas State University-San Marcos website: <https://digital.library.txstate.edu/handle/10877/4603>

Table 1

Assistance	\$ per Capita		% of City Budget	
	Reporting	Average	Reporting	Average
Financial				
Did	7	\$ 10.01	7	1.05%
Didn't	36	\$ 4.24	31	0.36%
Technical				
Did	29	\$ 6.14	28	0.53%
Didn't	22	\$ 3.68	18	0.34%
Educational				
Did	27	\$ 6.96	26	0.73%
Didn't	25	\$ 2.87	21	0.25%

Table 1 shows how expenditure benchmarks vary according to the quantity of assistance received from Texas A&M Forest Service. Note that in both expenditure benchmarks those cities that did receive assistance from Texas A&M Forest Service outperformed those cities that didn't receive assistance, across all three assistance groups: Financial, Technical, and Educational.

Table 2

City Size	\$ per Capita		Total % of City Budget	
	Reporting	Average	Reporting	Average (%)
Small	28	\$ 6.71	24	0.58
Medium	23	\$ 2.11	21	0.29
Large	13	\$ 6.21	12	0.69
Mega	4	\$ 2.06	4	0.08
Overall	68	\$ 4.78	61	0.47

Table 2 shows how two expenditure benchmarks vary according to city size. Small and Large size category cities shared comparable '\$ per capita' rates at \$6.71 and \$6.21 respectively, while Medium and Mega size category cities shared comparable '\$ per capita' rates at \$2.11 and \$2.06 respectively. Small and Large size category cities shared comparable 'total % of city budget' rates at 0.58% and 0.69% respectively. Mega size category cities had the lowest rates of both expenditure benchmarks.

In the Shade

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Voices of Urban Forestry

Angela Hanson Is New City of Austin Forester

Editor's note: Angela Hanson is the new City of Austin Urban Forester; a position once held by our own ISAT Executive Director, John Giedraitis.

"I feel fortunate to be working with a team of urban forestry experts to manage Austin's public urban forest, and I also feel fortunate to be working in a community that is highly engaged in civil affairs, and values and cherishes their trees," says Angela Hanson, the new City of Austin Urban Forester. "This really is a dream job." she says.

The urban forester's duties include managing the public urban forest, overseeing and supervising city departments' urban forest management activities, and ensuring preservation and replenishment of the public urban forest.



"Urban foresters are generalists and specialists at the same time," says Angela. "We need to understand the various needs and desires of the entities that affect the urban forest, and we need to work collaboratively to provide solutions that are mutually beneficial."

Partnerships and interdepartmental collaboration are key to successful urban forest management since almost everything the city and the community does touches the urban forest. Those partnerships take time to develop and foster. "I'm in it for the long haul; the challenges we face in the fastest-

growing city in the nation cannot be addressed with 'quick fix' solutions," says Angela.

Angela's career began with natural resource management work in Minnesota. She holds a B.S. in Ecology from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and is a 2013 graduate of the Municipal Forestry Institute. She has been with Austin's Urban Forestry Program since May, 2010.

Angela believes that trees are an essential asset for urban communities, and it is her mission to engage the community in recognizing the important role of Austin's urban forest, from urban cooling, to energy savings, to stormwater management, to property value improvement, to city connectivity.

The Urban Forestry Program is in the process of establishing a Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan and is also playing lead roles in the development and implementation of the Invasive Species Management Plan, Imagine Austin Green Infrastructure Priority Program, the Climate Protection Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan, among others.

— Leah Haynie

TFS Names Two New Urban Foresters

Brad Hamel

joined the Texas A&M Forest Service in July as the Central Texas Regional Urban Forester. Brad graduated from Oregon State University in June with a Master's Degree in Urban Forestry; Paul Ries was his advisor. He also earned a Bachelor's degree in Forest Management with a minor in Fish & Wildlife from OSU in 2011.



During his summers as a student, Brad held an SMA urban forestry internship (2012) in Glencoe, IL, where he assisted the village arborist and worked with the tree crew. He also worked for Paul Ries at the Oregon Department of Forestry (2011) where he assisted with projects in six cities throughout Oregon.

Brad is excited to be working for TFS and to be helping Texas cities build and manage their urban forests.



Formerly the City Forester of McAllen, **Mark Kroeze** has joined the Texas A&M Forest Service and will be serving the San Antonio region.



He is excited to be working in a dynamic region like San Antonio and looks forward to getting to know the people and trees in this area.

Prior to McAllen, Mark worked in Auckland, New Zealand as an arborist and for the City of Minneapolis as a forestry technician. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and the Municipal Forestry Institute.



Online voting for ISAT Board members coming your way soon!

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Viewpoint on Urban Growth: Balance our Economy with our Environment

by Steve Houser, Consulting Arborist
and Dallas area native

A prosperous and robust economy can coexist with a healthy environment, but to achieve balance requires an informed public and the collective will to change how we grow our communities. Why is the balance important? Growing communities with a mindset geared exclusively to pro-development and pro-business principles can lead to an unhealthy environment.

China's current air quality issues prove the point. Citizens are wearing dust masks to go outside, birth rates are negatively affected and driving is being restricted, as is the use of fireworks (*Dallas Morning News* articles 2-5-13 and 2-10-13). On a positive note, Singapore recently developed 10 principles for living in high density cities.

Few people are involved in how our communities develop or redevelop. They are not aware of the resulting long-term consequences to the health and well-being of our children. Education is critical in stimulating public awareness of future growth and its effects. Our best

hope is that the public conscience will ultimately drive us to build responsible and balanced communities.

According to Dr. Richard Jackson, Chair of the Environmental Health Science Department at UCLA, the way we build structures and communities is creating health problems which are greatly increasing health care costs. Dr. Jackson provided an excellent presentation on the subject in Arlington recently (2-15-13).

Today, better
builders know how
to build greener.

According to the North Texas Council of Governments, our regional population is expected to double to 12 million people by 2050. Expert planners at Vision North Texas say we are headed for traffic nightmares, poor air quality, increased urban heat island effect (energy demand) and other negative effects if we continue to

develop our communities as we have in the past. Vision North Texas is a public, private and academic partnership created to serve as a forum for dialogue and action on these important issues.

Since we all breathe the same air and use the same water and soil, it makes sense to have a shared regional vision of socio-economic and ecological goals. These are some of the most important issues of our times. We have a moral obligation to work together to leave the world in a better condition than we found it.

A few years ago, when developers were asked why they were not building more "green" or "sustainable" projects, they responded that they did not know how to build greener or how to make money doing so. They added that their clients were not asking for green projects.

Today, better builders know how to build greener, and good developers know how to develop more responsibly. Building greener may cost more short-term, but it is a wise investment that provides cleaner air and water, plus a better quality of life long-term.

The best builders and developers understand the important role that trees and healthy urban ecosystems play in providing a sustainable urban infrastructure for the future. For those who are observant, the very essence of nature provides sound guidance for reaching urban sustainability.

In the future, increasing numbers of people will want to live where both the economy and environment are vibrant and sustainable. Each community can choose whether to grow smart or watch people relocate into communities that plan for balanced and responsible growth. We can change tomorrow, but only with an informed and involved public working to find answers for the common good.

To learn more about DFW regional efforts to plan for future sustainability, 10 principles of development excellence, "Greenprinting" and much more, visit www.visionnorthtexas.org.

Austin's Urban Forestry Board seeking community input

The City of Austin's Urban Forestry Board is seeking to engage the community to develop Austin's first comprehensive urban forest plan. This plan will help shape and protect the future of Austin's urban forest. Information about the plan can be found at www.austinurbanforestry.org.



The Urban Forestry program staff has been hard at work facilitating this process, collaborating both with the Office of Sustainability and the Public Information Office. Visit the website to see the draft plan, view public opinion surveys, and view an online discussion.

Public outreach props include a 3-D cutout tree and "I love trees" t-shirts. These have been a hit!

—Emily King



"Trees and People – Growing Stronger Through Diversity"

Report from ISA International Conference, Toronto

Article and photos by Paul Johnson, Texas A&M Forest Service

This year's conference might have been a little harder to get to, thanks to Customs and Immigration, and might have been a little more expensive... a sandwich and a beer costs how much in Toronto? (Even in Canadian that was a bit of a shock to this admittedly frugal soul). It was worth the time and effort to attend.

I know many of you haven't attended our Texas Tree Conference, much less the International conference, but I encourage you to attend. Both. I'm not just saying this as a member of the ISA Board of Directors, but as someone who has been privileged to experience the amazing opportunities an international organization provides. The annual conference is one of the best places to experience the "T" in the International Society of Arboriculture.

Luckily many of us will have a chance to attend in 2016 when the ISA comes to Fort Worth, but you don't have to wait. Start planning now to attend next year in Milwaukee, Wisconsin or in 2015 in Orlando, Florida.

Why should you attend? It is all about the people – we really do grow stronger through diversity. One evening I had a

great conversation about tree preservation with Dave from Sweden and Helga from Austria, after David and Mark from New Zealand retired for the evening. There were at least 30 countries represented in Toronto. These after-hours interactions are an integral part of the experience.



This year several Texans were in attendance. I saw and visited with el presidente Susan Henson, John Giedraitis, Margaret Hall Spencer, Guy LeBlanc, Kevin Basset, Abram Zies, John Walters, Mark Duff, Pete Smith and Rebecca Johnson. Take a moment and ask a couple of them about their experiences, and please forgive me if I visited with you and forgot to mention you here.

I have now had the privilege to attend three ISA conferences and recommend showing up early so you can observe the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC). These amazing athletes from all over the world are fascinating to watch and it is a great opportunity to pick up a new technique or two. I particularly enjoyed the head to head footlock race on Sunday – 50 feet straight up in 15-17 seconds is impressive.

Sunday night kicked off the conference with the opening ceremony recognizing year's award winners, including winners of the Alex L. Shigo Award for Excellence in Education and the Early Career Scientist Award. Then the trade show opened with a reception and a chance to visit with vendors and organizations in our field.

The educational opportunities kicked off on Monday, unless you took advantage of the pre-conference academies on Saturday and Sunday, with a great keynote by Karl J. Niklas, *What We Don't Know about Tree Biomechanics: A Biophysical Perspective on Why Trees Fall Down*. This talk was a great way to open three days of education and helped me remember that I don't know what I don't know, so I need to attend, listen, and consider each speaker's message. One talk that stood out to me was by Frank Rinn, the originator of the Resistograph. How can a salad can help you model how trees stand and fall? Do you know how a tree is like a carrot? Or celery? Or a banana? Maybe we need to extend an invitation to Germany for next year's Texas Tree Conference.

The conference concluded on Wednesday with a full day of Garden Professors Symposium, Tree Inventories and Assessment Tools, Tree Adventures and Tourism, Utility Arboriculture, Research Presentations, SMA Educational Tour, and SCA History and Modern Arboriculture Tour. There was a plethora of options and CEU opportunities.

I hope to see you in Waco in October and Milwaukee next August.

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Pete Smith records a tree on SMA Tour.



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Street trees need all sorts of protection.



Members of the first ISA TRAQ class in Texas.

First Texas Course Keeps ISAT Members on TRAQ

by Michael Sultan

On July 12, 19 ISAT members and ISA Certified Arborists completed the first ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification course offered in Texas. The Fort Worth Botanic Garden provided the ideal classroom setting and outdoor resources, and we had a great group of commercial, municipal, utility, and consulting arborists, plus representatives from the Texas A&M Forest Service in attendance. Skip Kincaid, presenter at the 2012 Texas Tree Conference and one of only eight qualified TRAQ instructors in North America, led the group through two and a half days of combined classroom and field instruction, and the final practical and written exams.

For those not familiar with the new ISA qualification, it evolved from the Pacific Northwest (PNW) ISA Chapter's Certified Tree Risk Assessor program, TRACE. This course was very successful and the gold standard for arborists seeking a professional credential qualifying them as trained to identify and assess risk associated with trees. While the PNW's program was very successful, it primarily served its own chapter members and other ISA Certified Arborists who were close enough geographically to take advantage of the program. Recognizing a demand for the training and the opportunity to offer a new educational opportunity to

members worldwide, ISA developed the new Tree Risk Assessment Qualification.

The TRAQ course was designed as an opportunity for arborists to expand their understanding of basic tree biomechanics, how to identify and interpret risk, and how to apply the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) A300, Part 9 *Tree Risk Assessment Standard*, and the ISA *Tree Risk Assessment Best Management Practices*. The recently published tree risk assessment standard and accompanying best management practices represent a paradigm shift in how the arboriculture industry evaluates risk. Taking into account how other professional industries assess risk, ANSI created a qualitative standard that

measures the likelihood of an event, and then considers the consequences if that event should occur. This is similar in principle to previous tree risk assessment methods, but the big change is moving from a quantitative valuation of the risk to a qualitative measure and the ability to share with your client the information they need to determine their risk threshold.

As more property owners and tree managers realize there is a need to identify, evaluate, and address risk related to trees, there will be a greater need for professional arborists who are trained and qualified to help them make informed decisions. The next TRAQ course in Texas will be held in Austin during the first part of November.



TRAQ practical exam gets underway.

Meet the incoming ISAT President



Many arborists and foresters grew up in outdoorsy households. Michael Sultan, ISAT president-elect, did not. He grew up in Chicago, and then Dallas, doing city stuff instead of camping and hiking. When he went off to college he selected business marketing as his major.

During his third year in college, Michael learned of an opportunity to participate in a summer work program through the Student Conservation Association. The following summer his life changed forever when he worked as a volunteer with the US Forest Service in New Hampshire. He experienced a different way of living and met some fascinating

people. That fall he changed his major to forestry.

After graduating college, he worked for a tree care company in Colorado, before moving back to Texas where his career included serving as chief arborist for the City of Dallas, and urban forester for the City of Plano. “The City of Plano offered me what I thought was my dream job, and it was very difficult to leave,” Michael explained. But after considering an opportunity to join Davey Resource Group, he felt it was a challenge he had to explore.

“Municipal work was about half indoor and half outdoor,” he says, “and I did enjoy that balance.” Now he spends more time designing projects and communicating with clients, although he still gets out in the field to actually touch trees.

As project developer for Davey Resource Group’s central southwestern region, Michael helps utilities, municipalities, universities and other organizations manage trees and vegeta-

tion. These projects can vary in scale and scope, from small local projects to large regional or even multistate projects. What he enjoys most is the connection created between trees and technology – for example, using technology to better understand tree populations, quantifying what trees do for us, and communicating that information to policymakers and other stakeholders.

Working with ISAT is also something Michael enjoys. Colleagues had long advised him to become active in the chapter but he didn’t take their advice right away. “I always used the excuse that I needed to develop more relationships and gain more experience to be an effective board member,” he says, “but in spite of the benefits of being more established, I wish I’d done it sooner.”

“I’d like to encourage others to get involved early in their career. You don’t have to make a two-year or longer commitment to the board; you can just volunteer for something and get to know people in your field. It feels good, it’s fun, and it is important to give back.”

Looking ahead, Michael has high hopes that the chapter will build on past successes and keep working to improve what they offer to members. He sees the chapter continuing to provide workshops and other educational activities. “We held the first TRAQ workshop in July, and the registration filled up in one day,” he says. “This is a really popular topic.” He also says the chapter is reevaluating its role and considering expanding its support of research.

One of the things Michael is most proud of is ISAT’s recommitment to utility arborists. This is the third year ISAT is offering a separate utility track at the Texas Tree Conference, which is appealing to many of the members who work in the utility industry. “I think that says a lot about our recognition that we are all arborists working to provide quality tree care and management in a safe and effective way.”

Michael has a bachelor’s degree in forestry from Texas A&M and is a graduate of the Municipal Forestry Institute. He served on the Texas Statewide Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Committee, is the past President of the Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council, and serves on the board of the Texas Urban Forestry Council. He is an ISA Certified Arborist and Municipal Specialist, and a member of the Society of Municipal Arborists and the Utility Arborists Association.

While Michael would like to get more involved in recreational tree climbing, work and family are taking up most of his time. He and his wife, Kimberly, live in Farmers Branch with their 14-year-old twin girls, Ani and Lily.

PEST POST



Mosquitoes rest in shady areas of the landscape until they begin actively searching for a host.

West Nile virus perspective

by Dr. Mike Merchant,
Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension entomologist,
Dallas

This week I attended the West Nile virus survivors support group, hosted by Dr. Don Read and his wife Roberta at the Medical City Dallas Hospital. The group meets every two months or so and provides a

forum for learning about the disease and allowing victims to share their experiences and learn from other people who have been down the same rough road.

This month's meeting ended up being very moving, hearing the stories of several people who came down with the illness last summer. One woman in her mid-thirties, another man in his fifties, and another older gentleman were all healthy, active individuals who thought West Nile virus was something they would never have to worry about, much less the most severe form of the disease. For each it has been a life-changing experience and one they all said "they would not wish on their worst enemies."

At the meeting there was good news in the form of a presentation by Dr. Robert Haley, epidemiologist from Southwestern Medical School and Past-President of the Dallas County Medical Society. Dr. Wendy Chung of the Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Haley and several other colleagues recently published an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* documenting last year's epidemic in Dallas county and offering hope for how to predict future epidemics.

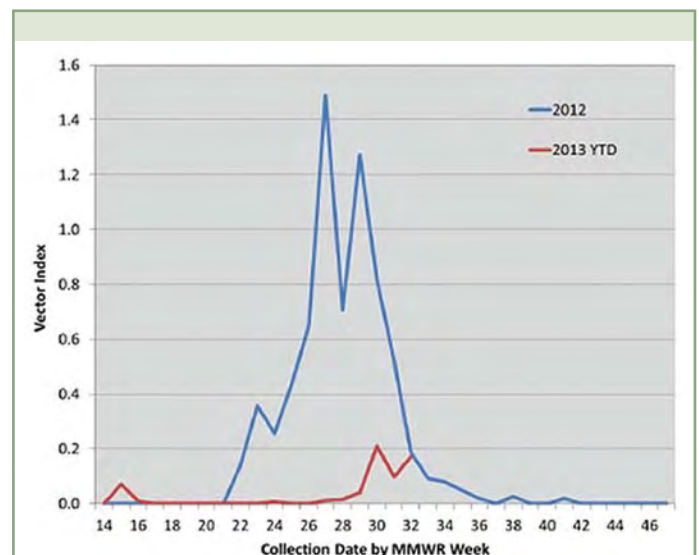
You've heard that every cloud has a silver lining. In the case of last year's WNV outbreak this was certainly true, thanks to Drs. Chung and Haley, and their team's hard work. The large number of cases last year (nearly 400, with 19 deaths) allowed researchers to look at disease trends and to generate some statistically strong numbers that, if known at the time, might have prevented many illnesses and deaths.

I wanted to share two of the findings with you and evaluate this year's situation in light of what was gleaned from 2012. First, the research gave support for use of a relatively new index used to monitor the course of the disease. It's called the *Vector Index* (VI) and it is derived from data on the

abundance and infection rates of mosquitoes caught by city health departments. Because this number includes both infection rate *and* mosquito abundance information, it is a more accurate predictor of disease in humans than either measurement alone.

The team discovered that the VI is highly predictive of human epidemics, and that a VI of 0.5 or higher seems to precede large numbers of human cases—at least in Dallas. Although numbers of adult *Culex quinquefasciatus* mosquitoes this year have trended higher than even last year, the rate of mosquito infection has been lower. This is reflected in much lower VI values for 2013, and if Dr. Haley and his team are correct, WNV risk appears to be much lower this year than last year at this time.

The other significant aspect of their work was data showing that dire health consequences of aerial spraying on human populations was a non-event. During the height of the spraying last summer there was no noticeable or statistical increase in either skin rashes or asthma-like complaints reported to hospitals. Officials last year assured the public that aerial spraying would be safe, and the data clearly support that promise.



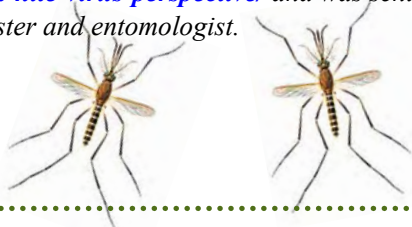
Weekly changes in the Vector Index in Dallas County in 2012 and 2013. Notice how low the 2013 values are in comparison to 2012. Researchers believe that an index of 0.5 or higher is predictive of human outbreaks in the Dallas area. Data and graph courtesy Dallas County Health and Human Services, and special thanks to Dr. Wendy Chung and her team.

◀ So while we don't expect any big West Nile headlines this summer, this does not mean that there is no risk. Mosquitoes and WNV are nothing to sniff at, and all it takes is a bite from one infected mosquito to change your life.

Personally, I'm staying inside more this summer in the evenings, and when I do go out, even for a few minutes, I spray myself with OFF. I find that the only time I get bitten when wearing OFF is when I've missed treating an area of skin. (I react to most mosquito bites and know when I've been bitten. Not everyone knows if they have been bitten.)

Be sure to use repellent, and continue to police your home and environs for mosquito breeding sites. And visit the soon-to-be-updated Mosquito Safari website—mosquitosafari.tamu.edu/—to learn more about what places in your own backyard might be contributing to this summer's high numbers of mosquitoes.

This article originally appeared at <http://citybugs.tamu.edu/2013/08/10/west-nile-virus-perspective/> and was sent to us by Joe Pase, forester and entomologist.



Chipper Operator Specialist Workshop

When: Friday, September 27
8 am – 12 noon

Where: Vermeer
3025 State Highway 161, Irving, TX 75062

Cost: \$25 (includes lunch)

Instructor: Kris Rasmussen, CTSP

CEUs: ISA & CTSP: 4 for attending program + 2 for completing the manual and receiving certificate

Accidents involving brush chippers are a significant concern. This workshop was designed to train tree care employees in hazards, as well as accepted practices for brush chipper operation and associated tasks. Fee includes TCIA Chipper Operator Specialist manual (a \$35 value), classroom and hands-on instruction, refreshments and lunch.

To register go to tcia.org/training/tree-care-academy. For more information, call Margaret Spencer at 281-513-5224 or email mspencer@tcia.org.

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Bandera Hanging Tree

Article and photos by Stephanie F. Sword

It was 150 ago, under what is today known as the Bandera Hanging Tree, when the lives of eight confederate soldiers were needlessly cut short. Using the live oak tree for gallows, a group of rogue soldiers from Camp Verde hung seven men and brutally shot the other about two miles southwest of Bandera. The victims, travelers from Williamson County, were all but forgotten—until now.

Bandera Hanging Tree owner and San Antonio attorney Phil Watkins knew it was important to mark the 150th anniversary of the tragedy. On July 21, the Watkins family held a special event on their property honoring the victims and shining a spotlight on a story long since forgotten. Close to 300 people attended, including historians and numerous descendants of the victims.

“Having the families here makes it all worthwhile,” said Watkins, owner of Hanging Tree Ranch since 1981. “I’m glad I was in a position to do it; I’m glad I had the support of so many people to help me do it. Just to have the opportunity to do something like this for the community, for the state, for the relatives of the victims ... it’s a joy.”

Even today, the motive for the July 25, 1863, slayings is fiercely debated. Were the eight men deserters? Were they innocent victims of murderous men? Why wasn’t anyone held accountable? The gathering didn’t answer these questions, but it did provide a sense of closure for many.

“The victims were murdered, regardless of the reasons. The men who hung and shot them were criminals, and this was one opportunity to honor those who died,” said Arlene Van Winkle,

a local writer who helped organize the event. “One hundred and fifty years later we’re finally able to bring them some respect.”

Descendants shared stories of the incident as it was explained to them over the years. Judy Matthews of Tomball is the great-great granddaughter of William Martin Sawyer, the lone man who was shot. She was told the eight men were on service leave and going back after gathering some supplies.

“Evidently this was debatable, because so many people said they were deserting. But the family story was, no, they were not deserters,” Matthews said. “At this point we may never know the truth.”

Historical documents and memorabilia, including Texas A&M Forest Service’s *Famous Trees of Texas* book, were also on display. Many visitors took time to gaze upon the single headstone listing the names of the eight victims, their mass grave now sheltered by the Bandera Hanging Tree.

Trees like this one remind us of the stories, the lives, and the history that might otherwise be forgotten. The connection to our state’s historical trees is no more apparent—and no more important—than it is now.

Since the third edition of the *Famous Trees of Texas* in 1984, which profiled 88 famous trees, 27 have died. Texas as a whole has lost more than 300 million rural forest trees and more than five million urban trees as a result of the 2011 drought. Texas A&M Forest Service is actively seeking your help in identifying additional trees of historical and cultural significance. Trees may be nominated as Famous Trees through famoustreesoftexas.tamu.edu.

Texas A&M Forest Service will be celebrating its centennial in 2015, making this the ideal time to promote and protect our Famous Trees. For more information, contact Gretchen Riley, griley@tfs.tamu.edu, or Pete Smith, psmith@tfs.tamu.edu.



The victims’ mass grave is marked by a single headstone under the tree.

People gathered on July 21 to observe the 150th anniversary of the tragedy.



Clarifying the rules for “What’s the Big IDEa?”

Last time we had multiple winners due to timing and a little confusion on how to post on the Facebook site.

The official winner posted his answer under the photo of the Big Idea on July 9 at 11:26 am, 10 minutes after the photo was posted on the Facebook page.

The other two winners posted the correct answer in the message section of the ISAT page after receiving their newsletters but before the photo was posted on Facebook. (One person posted July 6 at 4:27 pm and the other posted July 8 at 7:33 am.)

So let’s clarify the challenge: If you post to the message board before the photo of the Big IDEa tree is posted to the Facebook page, you will not be considered eligible to win. You must wait for the Facebook posting and then write your answer in the comment section.

A look at the Urban Tree Growth and Longevity Working Group

The goal of the Urban Tree Growth and Longevity Working Group is “to use a coordinated approach to provide involved professionals with information they need to make decisions that improve tree performance. Understanding how factors interact to influence tree growth, mortality and longevity is fundamental to actualizing the value of urban forests through:

1. tree selection (matching trees with site conditions)
2. modification of site conditions to foster desired tree performance
3. targeting tree care and monitoring to improve return on investment
4. predicting tree replacement needs due to mortality
5. modeling of tree benefits and costs.

The organization is currently leading an initiative to develop monitoring protocols for urban trees. Membership is open to all, at no cost. More information is available at urbantreegrowth.org.



Can you identify this native Texas tree?

What’s the Big IDEa?



If you know this tree, look for the photo on our Facebook page and correctly identify it in the comment section under the photo. If you don’t know it, check the page for the answer in a few days!

Hint: Naiads and foliar fruit flagging



July winners



July’s Big Idea tree was Anacahuita, *Cordia Boissieri*. Three people had the correct answer: Mike Quinn of Texas A&M; Peter Pierson, ISA Certified Arborist; and Nevic Donnelly of They Might Be Monkeys. Mike was declared the official winner because he submitted his answer after the tree photo was posted on Facebook. The others posted after seeing the tree photo in the newsletter but before it appeared on Facebook. See “Clarifying the Rules” in the column to the left.

Bajo la Sombra

El Cuidado de la Salud de las Plantas (Plant Health Care) – Parte 1

por Mark Duff

El Cuidado de la Salud de las Plantas (PHC, por sus siglas en inglés) es un concepto nuevo y de gran impacto en el paisajismo profesional. Es un acercamiento holístico al cuidado de las plantas, enfocado a la salud, el crecimiento y la belleza de las mismas, y está dirigido por el cliente. Esto genera una gran cantidad de información que facilita la toma correcta de decisiones.

Admirar las plantas leñosas en el paisaje genera una gran satisfacción. Éstas proveen una multitud de beneficios personales y sociales, y son bienes de importancia que aumentan el valor de las propiedades. Por desgracia, ahora más que nunca, los árboles y los arbustos están sujetos a una variedad de factores estresantes como son el suelo pobre y alterado, la sequía, las técnicas inadecuadas de siembra, la compactación del suelo, la contaminación del aire y muchos otros. Estos factores tienden a debilitar los sistemas naturales de defensa de las plantas dejándolas vulnerables a enfermedades y ataques de insectos. Si estos problemas no se detectan y se tratan pueden causar daños serios e inclusive destruir las plantas.

Hasta hace poco tiempo se recurría a profesionales (arbolistas) y a especialistas en el cuidado del paisaje sólo hasta que los problemas de los árboles eran severos y muchas veces, para salvar las plantas, era ya necesario tomar medidas drásticas que a menudo fracasaban.

El PHC ofrece cambios que mejoran

La primera premisa del Cuidado de la Salud de las Plantas estipula que, si uno mantiene una planta de manera apropiada, evitándole estrés al proveerle el sitio correcto, luz solar, buen suelo, humedad y protección contra plagas, la planta prosperará. Con el PHC, los

arbolistas y otros profesionales del paisajismo establecen condiciones ideales para el crecimiento de las plantas que mantienen; eliminan los factores de estrés que drenan la energía de una planta y aumentan sus defensas naturales, determinando y satisfaciendo los requisitos esenciales. Al modificar los elementos básicos del crecimiento de una planta, el especialista en PHC puede transformar plantas debilitadas en ejemplares vigorosos y sanos.

La salud humana y la de las plantas: una analogía

En muchos sentidos, el PHC está a la par con los avances en el cuidado de la salud humana. No hace mucho, la gente estaba dispuesta a tomar medicinas cada vez que se enfermaba. Sin embargo, ahora existe la tendencia a prevenir las enfermedades, recurriendo a los medicamentos sólo en un último caso. La gente está consciente que hay muchos factores que intervienen en el mantenimiento de la salud, entre los que se encuentran: revisiones médicas periódicas, dieta adecuada, ejercicio, suplementos vitamínicos y evitar el estrés. La prevención ahora ocupa un lugar primordial muy por encima de los medicamentos, tratamientos y terapias.



El Cuidado de la Salud de las Plantas también enfatiza el mantenimiento preventivo, dejando las intervenciones químicas como último recurso. Tanto el PHC como la medicina preventiva, utilizan enfoques holísticos para establecer y mantener el vigor y la salud. Ambos tienen principios fundamentales básicos como: Cuidado preventivo:

- Monitoreo frecuente (revisiones).
- Detección temprana de problemas.
- Decisiones basadas en información previa.
- Tratamientos integrales para proporcionar soluciones estables a largo plazo.

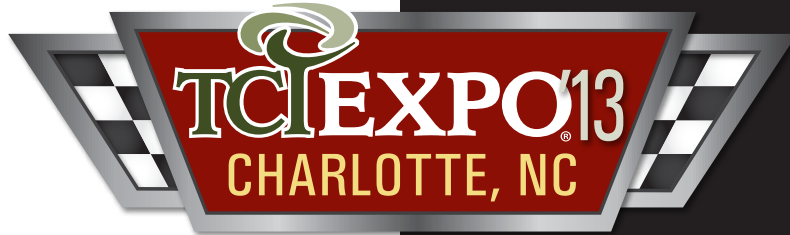
Además, así como la gente espera contar con profesionales en salud responsables y dedicados, ahora es posible encontrar el mismo nivel de servicio y atención personalizada para sus plantas de ornato.

El origen del PHC

El Sistema del Manejo del Cuidado de las Plantas es un método multifacético en el mantenimiento de paisajes que fue dado a conocer en 1992. Fue desarrollado por un equipo de expertos en el cuidado de las plantas después que un estudio de las áreas verdes urbanas en los Estados Unidos hizo algunos descubrimientos alarmantes y sugirió la necesidad de muchos cambios, algunos de los cuales son: cambio en la actitud y mentalidad de los encargados del cuidado del paisaje; cambios del enfoque (reactivo) de control de plagas a uno que enfatice la prevención en la salud de las plantas; cambios que favorezcan la metodología de conservación del ambiente y que aumenten la disponibilidad de fuentes de información para los proveedores del cuidado de las plantas. Después de varios años de desarrollo, el Cuidado de la Salud de las Plantas ha logrado todos esos objetivos iniciales y otros más. Veamos algunas características y ventajas que usted puede esperar de un programa de PHC:

a continuación . . .

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Denton Honors Citizen Foresters

The recently completed 2013 citizen forester class (TFS Ft. Worth urban region) was recognized by the City of Denton at a recent city council meeting.

Mayor Mark Burroughs (l) read a proclamation acknowledging the program and the time given to the city by these volunteers. Also present were (l to r) Angie Kralik, Urban Forester, and four graduates of the program: Linda Woosley of Flower Mound; Angela Quijano, student at the University of North Texas; and Liz Moyer and Pat Moyer, both of Flower Mound.

Demand for the class in Denton has necessitated conducting a second session of classes this fall. The citizen forester program is similar to master gardener programs around the state except it is tree-specific. Students receive 40 hours of hands-on training in all aspects of tree care, and in return give back a minimum of 20 volunteer hours each year on tree-related projects in their local community.

– Courtney Blevins, CF, CA, Ft. Worth Regional
Urban Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service

